

AWM52

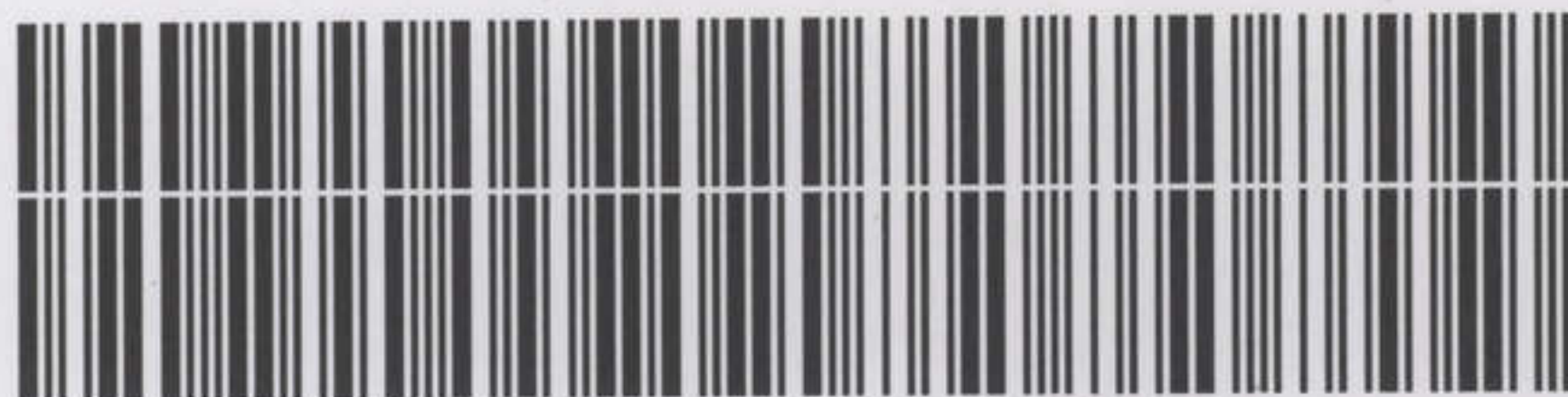
**2nd AIF (Australian Imperial Force) and CMF
(Commonwealth Military Forces) unit war diaries,
1939-45 War**

Miscellaneous - POW
Independent Companies

Item number: 25/3/3/11

Title: 2/3 Independent Company

July to August 1943



AWM52-25/3/3/11

25/3/3

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

JULY &
AUGUST 1943

ORIGINAL

PHOTOCOPIING
NOT PERMITTED

2/3 INDEPENDENT
COMPANY

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.211
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY. Date and Time.—From 1 JUL 43 To 1 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	1 JUL 43	0615	From BDE - Sitrep 80 to 0700 K/1.- C Coy casualties 2 killed 4 wounded - fired 20 - 3" Mortars, JAPS replied immediately -	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>UNIT R.O's PT I NO's 11-22 attached as APP 46</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W 3008 for month attached as APP. 47</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W 3009 for month attached as APP 48</i></p>
		0804	Est JAP casualties 14 killed, several wounded, captured documents being forwarded. 0804 From BDE - 3 Div Sitrep to 2330 K/30 - MARKHAM area to 1600 K/29 B Coy 24 Bn patrol established ambush posn mouth of BUANG R. B Coy P I B less 7 pl arrived TIMNE 1530 K/30 - ANGAU patrol to NEW CHIVASING reports village burnt, 3 canoes destroyed - no natives contacted but in vicinity. 0015 - 0100 K/30 1st & 2nd waves of Bn Combat teams 162 U S Regt landed NASSAU BAY- NO casualties- 17 LEVS & 1 I C B on beach probably wrecked. Coy C TABILE NO contact Coy A 1920 K/30. Movt BITOI ARM contacted unknown enemy, much equip lost in landing - McKECENIE NOT yet contacted D Coy 2/6 Bn other than beach parts 1430 K/20. Pl D Coy 2/6 Bn contacted booby traps 826826 MUBO 1/25000. 2 enemy MGs opened fire from 30 yds EAST & 1 LMG fired 2 rds from 628827 1510 K/30. Pl withdrew slightly.	
		0823	From WELLS OP 24 tps seen at NAMLING-ORODUBI. Movt 0655 NOT identified.	
		0900	From WELLS OP 0815, 70 our troops moved EAST from NAMLING, 15 ENEMY REMA remaining 0830 50 Coolies & Japs moved SOUTH to KOMIATUM.	
		1154	From BASE 3 - 6 sec to secure PIONEER JUNG. 5, & 4 Secs rem. BASE 4.	
		1200	FROM WELLS OP 1050 Bombs on Map Ref ASP13, M388. AA at H794, I397.	
		1735	FROM WELLS OP 1430 10 Japs moved from KOMIATUM, 1515 12 Japs moved from KOMIATUM. Heavy Mortaring direction ORODUBI.	
		1800	To WELLS OP - Give direction JAP movements.	
		1812	From 58/59 HQ - Courier arrived 1745 - advise future schedule.	
		1849	From 58/59 HQ. Allotment of Code names; - 58/59 HQ - DABU; QM - FATA A Coy - HOEA; B Coy - LORI; C Coy - DAPI; D Coy - FINA.	
		1938	From BDE - Def captured documents vicinity 699969 KOM 1/25000.	
		1943	115 Regt identified. 1943 From Bde - Sitrep to 1900 K/1. 2/3 Indep Coy HQ & C pl arrived MEARES CK. WELLS OP 50 Coolies & Japs moved SOUTH to KOM. Bombs dropped areas ASP 13 - M388.	
		2010	AA at H 794, I 397. 2010 From BASE 3 Caldwell & King to move from WELLS AM K/2 to recon track NAMLING-WELLS-DIERKE-BASE 4 view using same as L of C. Object (a) Note all parts open to view from KOM track (b) Find alternate route in these cases. BASES 3 & 4 to be notified of result. BROWN in charge at WELLS.	

1 OCT 1943

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 1 JUL 43 To 2 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	1 JUL 43	2111	From BDE - Sitrep 95 to 2045 K/1. 58/59 Bn - Coy occupied GWAIBOLOM 1130; ERSKINE CK 1300. NO enemy met. Disposns 7 Pl holding ORODUBI both flanks & vicinity track to NAMLING. 8 Pl perim def GWAIBOLOM. 9Pl ERSKINE CK. Patrol contacted Bn HQ 1130. C Coy 1300. B Coy 1530. Contacted party Japs (20) KOM track EAST ORODUBI result unknown. B Coy nothing to report. C Coy NO change. Enemy observed digging vicinity OLD VICKERS POSN 697968, patrol reports posn heavily defended by MMG Posts. Enemy fired 6 mortar bombs 1830 NO effect. Line Commn est with A & B Coys. D Coy - Patrol to NATIVE GARDEN 704980 where track turns SOUTH to OLD BOEDUBI NO Movt seen. Native report few Japs footbridge area. 150 Japs moved SOUTH along coast road towards LABABIA expected arrive morning	
		2103	2 JUL. Marine H Q vicinity EUROPEAN CEMETERY 761043. All Inf. To LEWIN from MEARES. Return BUGASU JUNG K/2. Ring MISSIM from	REPORT ON PATROL BY LIEUT LEWIN ATTACHED AS APP 49
		2245	ALIENS POST for further instructions. 2245 From Bde to Coy - 3 Div sitrep 151 to 2000 K/1. MARKHAM area 1230 K/1. B Coy P I B less 7 Pl arrived WAMPIT. SAL OP reports 1015 K/1. Allied A/c Bombed KE LA & SALAM area. Much troop movt Quarry to Town area.	
	2 JUL 43	0730	From BDE - Sitrep 86 - 2 enemy observed ORODUBI 1630 K/1. by A Coy 58/59 Bn - 40 Japs moved SOUTH towards KOMIATUM. D Coy reports enemy posns 703977 unoccupied. 18Pl patrolling track 698980 - 704983.	
		0825	From BASE 3 - 25 Hy explosions KE LA HILL - gun flashes 0705.	
		1140	Adv HQ & C Pl ALLENS CK. 1015.	
		1153	From BDE McKECHNIE force disposns Ref Map BADEN BAY 1" A Coy & Engrs 835812-827808; C Coy & MMG Pl 831797-827798 Comd Post 831807.	
		1422	From WELLS O P 1320 hrs. 38 persons moved SOUTH over footbridge 2 stretchers and 25 others moved NORTH over footbridge.	
		1442	From WELLS O P 1341 hrs. 1 plane scored near misses area map ref A S P 135288 Also bombed coast SOUTH of FRISCO.	
		1522	From WELLS O P - at 1445 Hrs 9 Japs moved SOUTH over footbridge. 7 Up track towards KOMIATUM - 1 Stretcher into SALAMAUA.	
		1530	3" Mortar fired from above NAMLING towards KOMIATUM track.	
		1600	From 15 Bde - 1400 K/2 McKECHNIE force-874 Japs now landed but no Arty - attacked by bombers - no effect.	

201-N.G.F.P.S.-5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From..... 2 JUL 43 To..... 4 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.		
MISSIM	2 JUL 43	1955	From BDE - sitrep 88 to 1900 K/2 A Coy 58/59 OP at GWAIBOLOM.			
		2055	From BDE - sitrep 89 to 2030 K/2 A Coy 7 Pl engaged ORODUBI at 1630 hrs. L of G established thru G Coy. Movement on COCONUT RIDGE.			
		2200	From 17 BDE PIMPLE area fighting patrol 1 Pl C Coy 2/6 Bn engaged enemy 695852. BITOI MOUTH Track base to MOUTH SOUTH ARM now clear			
	3 JUL 43		2050	of enemy. 3 Pl A Coy 162 Regt at BASE. 2050 From BDE - 3 Div sitrep 155 to 2000 K/2. McKECHNIE force on beach unsuccessfully attacked by Japs. Morning K/2 12 barges landed incl 1 Coy 162 Regt. 1300 Bulldozers & engrs started constn Jeep track WEST from SOUTH ARM.		
			0600	To BDE sitrep 97 to 0600 K/3 WELLS OP 1602 K/2 rifle fire direction ORODUBI- ceased 1630 K/2. Fog prevented observation.		
			0730	From BDE sitrep 90 0700 K/3 D Coy 24 Bn 16 Pl left DAHO 0600 to relieve 18 Pl ambush posn. 1 Jap recce plane over NUNNS POST DROP GD 0645.		
			0800	From Adv HQ. HQ & C Pl directed to left flank to protect 58/59 HQ		
			1020	Posns occupied by 1700 K/2. Coy HQ 677978 KOM 1/25000. C Pl fwd along WEST side of ALLENS CK & BURRIS R. 1020 From BDE D Coy 24 Bn to collect stores left MALAGOWAN by LEWINS PARTY. 4 Men.		
			1540	From BDE sitrep 158 3 Div 1400 K/3. MARKHAM area 1615 K/3 LAE OP reports 9 large barges approaching LABU. MUBO area by 1050 K/3		
			1750	1 Bty Arty landed NASSAU BAY. 1750 WELLS OP sitnor Fog prev obs.		
			1800	To BDE sitrep 98 1800 K/3. HQ at 677978. C Pl WEST side ALLENS CK & Burris R. to protect DABU (58/59 Bn HQ) No.1 Sec A Pl MISSIM.		
			1950	From BDE sitrep 91 1900 K/3. 58/59 BN 1150 1 casualty D Coy sniped from COCONUT RIDGE. 1330 11 Japs moved NORTH COCONUTS to CENTRE COCONUTS 703975. 1400 Patrol moving round NORTH of RIDGE to investigate. 1825 B Coy in action 705965 - NO details. GWAIBOLOM OP		
					1825 170 Japs crossed footbridge SOUTH. 1515 62 Japs NORTH 15 SOUTH crossed bridge. 1618 Twin eng monoplane landed on SALAMAUA DROME. 2/3 Coy HQ at 677978. C Pl at 680977. 1 Sec A Pl MISSIM. D COY 24 Bn 18 Pl DAHO 2; 16 Pl ambush posn 673033. Relief completed 1600.	
			4 JUL 43	0723	From BDE sitrep 160 2215 K/3. MARKHAM area 24 Bn Patrol at Mouth BUANG R. NO enemy seen to 0600 K/3. MUBO area McKECHNIES Casualties to 1200 K/1 are 29. 1335 - 1425 K/3 4 guns at BADEN BAY 835818 -	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 4 JUL 43 To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	4 JUL 43	0723	1 in map shelled mouth TABILE R; CAPE DINGA; LABABIA IS and the area from mouth SOUTH ARM BITOI R. to DUALI. 1629 K/3 A Coy 162 Regt arrived JUNC BITOI and BUYAWIM rivers. D Coy 2/6 Bn same area. C Coy 2/5 Bn at REEVES OP 4 Pl 2/5 Bn HOUSE BANANA. LAE OP 1745	
		1150	K/3 15 large barges LABU to LAE 1815 K/3 over 20 barges LAE HARBOUR. From 2/3 Indep Coy Adv HQ to BDE - Between 0650 & 0710 K/4 8 shells landed area SOUTH BURRIS R. & WEST ALLENS CK on flat NO casualties.	
		1511	From BDE from 0001 K/4 Brig H H HAMMER DSO assumes Comd 15 BDE.	
		1515	To 2/3 Coy Fwd HQ - Equipment for LEWINS Sec will reach here tonight	
		1910	Sec can move first light K/5. Awaits instns re destination. VEILS - W P A VEILS will take over 2/3 Coy Radio Gp from 1400 K/5	
			switch & Fullerphone move fwd 1300 K/5. Line Base 3 completed K/5	
		1925	Sigs MIKE (BASE 3) dismantle radio gear & fwd to VEILS.	
		2030	From WELLS - W. Cons - No observation all day. From 2/3 Coy Rear HQ For Winterflood - anticipate following movts Coy HQ; C Pl; 2 Secs A Pl. K/5 ALLENS CK. to NAMLING; K/6 NAMLING to DIERKE; K/7 DIERKE to BASE 4. 1 Sec A Pl move same route 1 day later. Ensure concentration B Pl at BASE 4 area	
			by K/7. Standing patrols at PIONEER JUNC.; MENZIES TRACK; & DIERKE. Expedite movt Coy stores BASE 3 & VEILS to BASE 4. Coy stores, rations, amm moving via NUNNS POST will arrive BASE 4 K/6 & K/7.	
		2301	From BDE MOST SECRET. DOUBLET. Summary of future ops ref KOMIATUM SAL 1/25000. Intention to drive enemy NORTH of FRANCISCO R. and isolate SALAMAUA by cutting coastal track LAE - SAL. Outline of tasks:- (1) P I B Coy bridgehead LOKANU 758957 also outposts LOKANU SPUR area 762953 and SOUTH HILL 753973. (2) 2/3 Indep Coy occupy posn Mt TAMBU SADDLE area sq 7091 and prevent escape NORTH & N.E. of enemy MUBO area. (3) 2/5 Bn 17 BDE move NORTH and contact 2/3 Indep Coy. (4) 2/5 Bn 17 BDE NORTH via main KOM - SAL track to area in vicinity Junc OSBORNE & BURALI CKS. 708965. (5) 2/5 Bn 17 BDE move EAST and secure high ground SOUTH of river in sq 7296. Op of this Bn to be supported by 15 BDE from BOEDUBI RIDGE area.	

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 4 JUL 43 To 5 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	4 JUL 43	2301	(6) 2/3 Indep Coy move HOTE area and take over role D Coy 24 Bn. (7) D Coy 24 Bn est a firm base on area WEST of MALOLO & carry our harrassing raids on coast track LAE - SALAMAUA.	
		2035	From BDE sitrep 95 1930 K/4 58/59 BN - A Coy recce patrol from 7 Pl left 1300 to cut track SOUTH of BOBDUBI to sever L of G at 699938. B Coy 1645 12 Pl from 704964 to track junc 706967 to ambush any enemy moving EAST from BOBDUBI. B Coy defense posns established astride Bench Cut 705966 to 704964. D Coy attacked COCONUTS 703975 at 1750. 0942 FROM BDE - MOST SECRET - 2/3 Coy will be prepared to move TAMBU area A M K/5. Advise urgently earliest date & time of strike. FROM 2/3 Coy to BDE - earliest time of strike first light K/8.	
	5 JUL 43	X 0942		
		X 1025		
		0600	To BDE sitrep 100 to 0600 K/5 . SITNOR.	
		0700	From BDE sitrep SECRET 96 to 0700 K/5. 58/59 BN D Coy captured NORTH COCONUTS 1830 K/4. 1 Pl dug in, our casualties 2 wounded NO estimate of enemy casualties. On start of attack enemy in OLD VICKERS POSN commenced heavy fire. 1 Mortar bomb hit enemy dump which burnt for 15 mins. 0730 From BDE 2 squadrons MITCHELLS attack ARMY HQ SALAMAUA 0900 K/5 Ref map SAL 1/25000 735014.	
		0730		
		1030	From 2/3 Coy sitrep to 1000 K/3. To forward positions.	
		1055	From WELLS OP Smoke and flash of Jap Arty observed from junc Located 100 yds inland from large outstanding tree KELA HILL.	
		1213	From WELLS OP at 1100 10 Japs occupied ORODUBI entering from gully S W of main HUT. Appears to be defenses under this HUT.	
		1255	From REAR DETAILS; READ & LINEHAM at Rear Details have had NO notice to move fwd. 1310 From BDE Air strike anticipated SAL-	
		1310	KOM track 0900 K/5. NO Bomb or strafing WEST of Grid line 72 SAL 1/25000. A Coy 58/59 to forward weather report as at 0630 K/5.	
		1420	From 1 A C R C. Cpl BROWN NOT required C M. Cancel movement.	
		1502	From WELLS - Weather report.	
		1523	From WELLS OP Bombs dropped in same area as last raid causing large volume of smoke. 1800 sitrep to 1800 to all fwd posts.	
		1800		
		1932	From BDE sitrep 98 to 1900 K/5. 58/59 BN GWAIBOLOM OP movement	

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 5 JUL 43 To 6 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	5 JUL 43	1932	across footbridge 0857 - 1545. 36 persons NORTH, 25 SOUTH. 1236 9 MITCHELLS bombed SALAMAUA, SOUTH side of airfield & behind KEELA HILL, causing smoke. B Coy 1455 approx 100 Japs moved from BOBDUBI to SAL. via KOM track Junc patrol. C Coy nothing to report D Coy Pl on NORTH COCONUTS attacked by 2 LMGs & 100 Japs. 2/3 INDEP COY Coy HQ C Pl 2 secs A Pl NAMLING 1 sec A Pl BASE 3. B Pl VEILS - BASE 4. D Coy 24 Bn patrol to MALAGOWAN did NOT reach objective. standing patrol 1 hr 20 min EAST of ambush posn 673033 reports believe enemy est camp at FIRST WATER on MALOLO track.	
		2305	From BDE sitrep 99 2245 K/5. 58/59 standing patrol from 10 Pl 0800 K/5 to 1240 at track Junc 705967 report N.M.S. 1200 K/ to 1740. 1345 102 fully equiped Japs moved WEST from SALAMAUA. Runty apparently fresh troops. 1545 120 Japs moving from ORODUBI carrying 3 stretcher cases. Fighting patrol 11 Pl est track Junc 707961. 0900 ambushed 3 Japs & killed same NO casualties, also cut Jap Commn line wire. D Coy 0802 29 shells in area SOUTH along FRANCISCO R to vicinity KUNDA BR & WEST side of river. Pl in COCONUTS area attacked 1215. casualties Japs 5 killed & 7 probables our 1 man missing. 1700 Jap movt observed to & from CENTRE, SOUTH & NORTH COCONUTS.	
	6 JUL 43	0600	From WELLS OP report what appears to be a plane projecting from main hangar SAL. DROME. 0725 From BDE sitrep 1000 to 0700 58/59 Bn Nothing to report. 0745 From WELLS OP. C196 plane first seen at 1400. Was under constant observation till fog at 1715.	
		0725		
		0745		
		0940	From BDE SECRET sitrep 101 2200 K/5. MUBO area. Landings morning 5 Jul. Remainder Arty incl 1 Bty & HQ personnel. 150 natives all Arty pers assisted with Jeep track. Tractor & Bulldozer temporarily out of action. Morning 5 Jul American patrol sighted 15 barges 10 mls NORTH DUALI. 2 fighting patrols have moved out NORTH of SOUTH of BITOI. 1107 - 1120 K/5 30 Mortar bombs fired into ambush posns JAP 695852 MUBO 1/25000. All bombs in target area. 1200 ration party 162 US Regt strength 40 were ambushed at approx 825827. Cas 3 killed 1 wounded. OBSERVATION HILL patrol reports	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 6 JUL 43 To 7 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	6 JUL	0940	VEILS track little used. Whilst observing single Japs to front patrol eas fired on from rear. NO Cas. A footbridge erected over BITOI 933664. MARKHAM area 24 Bn ambush mouth BUANG R. reports 1630 K/5 20 armed Japs arrived BUSAMA. Also 20 Japs stationed BUKUAP with LMG. Large numbers with AA guns on KELA HILL.	
		0943	From 15 BDE 2/3 Indep Coy may relieve pers at WELLS OP but must continue obs from VEILS OP. OPS 15 Bde then VEILS & GWAIBOLOMS	
		1500	From BDE Lieut EWART L O this HQ departs MISSIM 5 Jul to be attached 2/3 HQ. EWART will advise you daily of his work.	
		1633	From BDE Ref booby traps state where you intend to site same. NOT desirable to booby trap TAMBU area heavily.	
		1730	To BDE. Booby traps only for offensive purposes in our role on KOM	
		1930	track in TAMBU area. 1930 Sitrep No.100 1900 K/6 58/59 Bn. B Coy 1430 Jap patrol approached from BOEDUBI towards ambush 705967. Enemy patrol of 20 - 10 killed & 2 probable. 2/3 Coy disposns; Coy HQ; C Pl DIERKE; one Sec B Pl BASE 4; one Sec A Pl astride track between NAMLING & WELLS. 1000 carroer line ambushed by Japs near WELLS OP. Natives dropped cargo. 2 Secs A Pl engaged enemy from NORTH. 2 attempts by 2 secs B Pl to drive enemy from ambush were unsuccessful. Jap sitting astride track near Coy stores incl rations, 2 MMGs, 1 3" mortar. casualties enemy 5 killed own 1 killed 2 wounded.	
		2045	From BDE sitrep 101 2030 K/6. 58/59 Bn. A Coy 7 Pl relieved by 9 Pl ORODUBI. 8 Pl located Jap staging camp 714978. 7 Pl patrol to rear of ORODUBI unable to locate any track. B Coy ambush patrol track June 705967. 0730 - 1200 N.M.S. Recce patrol walked into large party Japs at 707961. C Coy disposns unchanged. D Coy patrol towards COCONUTS fired on at 1140 wounding 1 of ours. same patrol recovered telephone left at COCONUTS. Jap ambush posn 690932 KOM 1/25000. Our Cas now 1 killed 3 wounded. Est 30 Japs LMGs 1 light Mortar Natives returned NAMLING.	
	7 JUL 43	0835	From WELLS OP 30 Japs crossed bridge NORTH	
		1124	From Adv HQ 1 Sec A Pl arrived BASE 4 1100hrs.	
		1132	From BDE 3 Div sitrep 172 0800 K/7. WATUT VALLEY area. 6 Jul 1 sec	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted.)

Unit..... 2/3 AUST INDEP COY...... Date and Time.—From..... 7 JUL 43..... To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	7 JUL 43	1132	7 Pl P I B est standing patrol DESEN. Jap track now at 983344	
		1146	ROAMER 1 in. 1146 From WELLS OP 1145 50 Japs moving along track	
		1400	towards KOM. 1400 From WELLS OP between 1200 & 1400 43 Japs in small parties moved NORTH along track from MUBO.	
		1500	From WELLS OP Ref M1 6. Jap appeared to have moved into bush EAST of 2 small bamboo clumps at top of first rise from NORTH end of track.	
		1602	From WELLS OP 1600 K/6. 46 Japs pushing & pulling vehicles 16 doing same in another vehicle. 8 carrying large objects between them on shoulders also 20 spare carriers. Now at ASP 10259 moving toward KOM.	
		1630	From Adv HQ sitrep 1630. Coy HQ & C Pl STEPHENS JUNC moving to STEPHENS HUT. B Pl GOODVIEW camp. 1 Sec A Pl guarding MENZIES & GOODVIEW tracks. WELLS area Japs driven back to ORODUBI. some stores recovered. Telephone now at STEPHENS HUT. 1800 2/3 sitrep 1800 K/7.	
		1800	Sitrep 103 from BDE 2040 K/7. 58/59 Bn. 16 Pl D Coy map 704977	
		2107	repulsed 3 attacks 1125, 1153. 1215 K/7. 30 Japs in last attack. Cas Japs 2 killed Own NIL. A Coy 1750. 8 Pl driven from NAMLING. Report large No of Japs NO est given. 1500 K/7 our A/C dropped 22 Bombs BOEDUBI RIDGE area. 20 landed target area. Strafing followed. WELLS OP 0835 K/7 30 Japs crossed bridge going NORTH. 1145 K/7 50 SOUTH on KOM track. 1200 - 1400 28 NORTH from MUBO. Carrier line from WELLS arrived BASE 4. Stores delivered GOODVIEW JUNC & STEPHENS HUT. L/T to HUT. Disposns 1830 K/7 Coy HQ & C Pl at HUT. B Pl GOODVIEW JUNC. 1 Sec A Pl guarding MENZIES JUNC & GOODVIEW track. 1815 K/7 Jap pushed back from ambush posn 690933 to ORODUBI. some stores recovered incl 3" Mortar.	
		2230	From BDE sitrep 104 2200 K/7 58/59 Bn C Coy. 1 Pl moved round EAST flank OLD VICKERS POSN above village - held up by MMG & Mortar fire. 2 Pls round WEST flank to 60 yds from pillbox OLD VICK POSN. D Coy ref enemy attack 1130 K/7 enemy set off 2 booby traps 3 killed, 6 probable. 24 BN 16 Pl patrol 1 offr & 2 Ors to MALAGOWAN ambushed 20 mins past OP 672032. 1 enemy wounded - ours 2 ors missing believed NOT wounded. Lt THOMAS ret'd to OP & orig fighting patrol 1 offr 12 ORS. Fired on by 2 LMGs 15 min EAST of OP. 1 Jap killed	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 7 JUL 43 To 8 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	7 JUL 43	2230	1 wounded ours NIL. SGT WINTLES Patrol from 16 Pl, strength 8 ORs to est standing patrol on track at 703027 rpts enemy on track at 681029. Trying to by pass same. 2/3 Coy regained 2 MMGs, less 1 Cross head, 3" Mortar & ammn. Japs took Med Stores, Fld Ops & Chocolate.	
	8 JUL 43	0750	From BDE sitrep 105 0730 K/8. 58/59 BN. A Coy disposns 9 Pl prior to attack 1500 K/6 1 sec covering track WEST from ORODUBI with listening post. 1 sec on track from WELLS. 1 sec track from NAMLING. First mentioned sec attacked 1500 K/6 by 44 Japs. Sec withdrew NO support fire given by NAMLING Sec. Latest infm Pl withdrew 14 still missing at 2230 K/6. 4 Japs killed, 3 wounded. Action approx 1000 yds EAST of NAMLING. C Coy 3 pillbox posns located WEST end OLD VICKERS POSN. Neither gun flashes nor guns visible. Airstrike did NOT hit posn. Our casualties 2 killed, 2 wounded.	
		0830	sitrep to 0800 K/8 to adv HQ. 2/3 Coy.	
		1046	From Adv HQ. B & C Pls moved fwd to objective at dawn. Enemy parties contacted STEPHENS & GOODVIEW. B Pl killed 12 Japs & have gained KOM track. Digging in Pl gun covering track. C Pl holding STEPHENS track encircling SOUTH & N E of enemy posn on Junc STEPHENS track.	
		1130	Coy HQ 800 yds WEST this JUNC. 1130 From BDE Adv HQ 15 Bde opens	
		1340	at NUNNS POST 854972 1300 K/8. Rear HQ MISSIM. 1340 From Adv HQ 2/3 Coy. Ambush posn SOUTH of GOODVIEW killed party 5 Japs moving NORTH from MUBO. STEPHENS track still held by Japs. 2 Secs have bypassed them. NO contact. 1350 From BDE sitrep 107 1230 K/8	
		1350	58/59 BN A Coy 0700 K/8 Jap Mortar fire on GWAIBOLOM dec range on to ERSKINE CK area in 7 PL area. NO cas. Cant pin point Jap Mortar posn owing to mist. 0745 K/8 5 Japs contacted 8 Pl ambush posn 696944 - 4 Japs killed. 0930 7 Pl contacted A Pl. 1015 K/8 7 Pl reports Japs mortaring A Pl. 1030 MITCHELLS Bombed & strafed SOUTH of KOM. 1040 8 Pl digging in 696944. Time 7 Pl - 8 Pl 1/2 hr. 1100 MITCHELLS bombed SAL areas ASP 13 I272, I572, J073, J273. D Coy 16 Pl occupied 4 Secs posn 688960 - 687958. 1030 18 Pl rpts movt OLD VICKERS POSN. 1155 18 Pl bombed posn 697968. Japs buildin defenses	
				697968.

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AI ST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 8 JUL 43 To 9 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	8 JUL 43	1420	From Adv HQ- Result of action STEPHENS TRACK. 8 Japs killed own casualties Nil. Section which by-passed Jap position killed 5 Japs KOMIATUM TRACK. Japs on STEPHENS TRACK reinforced by 34 from KOMIATUM. Am holding STEPHENS TRACK and making GOODVIEW JUNC our stopper line.	
		1735	From 15 Bde- 3 Div sitrep 177 to 1400 K/8. WATUT VALLEY area. Dispositions troops landed TSILI TSILI 7 Jul. B Coy 57/60 Bn less 2 platoons. 987323 ROAMER 1". Det 15 Fld Coy 969279.A.D.S. 981245. MUBO area. C Coy 2/5 Bn contacted and attacking enemy 677855. B Coy 2/6 Bn on 2nd obj and consol at 692878. Patrols NORTH to BUISAVELLA and SOUTH to KITCHENS CREEK. Morning patrols from B Coy 2/6 Bn and C Coy 2/5 Bn fired on by enemy. A Coy 2/6 Bn attacking enemy positions SOUTH END OBSERVATION HILL. 0645 K/8 Mountain Batt fired 20 rounds into area 647871 MUBO 1/25000.	
		2000	From 15 Bde- Sitrep 107 to 1930 K/8. 58/59 Bn. A Coy NAMLING area 10 men remained there 6,7,8 JULY and did not withdraw, of which 4 still missing. Jap est perimeter camp SOUTH of NAMLING night 7/8 JUL, but patrol 8 Jul found no Japs. B.C.D.COYS- no inf to hand. 2/3 Indep Coy- Documents captured GOODVIEW JUNC will be forwarded later. Total Japs killed 1600 K/8 GOODVIEW JUNC area 4 STEPHENS JUNC 13 ours 1 wounded. GOODVIEW JUNC the stopper line. Japs on STEPHENS TK reinforced by 34 from KOMIATUM Platoon 2/3 Indep Coy on STEPHENS TK WEST of Japs. Contact patrol to 17 Bde reached SOUTH of CENTRE feature no contact. D Coy 24 Bn ref sitrep 104 2 OR's missing now returned ambush position 0900 K/8 one wounded.	
		1800	Sitrep 107 to 1800 K/8 to 15 Bde.	
		1835	From fwd H.Q.- Ration strength STEPHENS AREA 102 GOODVIEW 46 WELLS 29 BASE 4,20 VEILS 17. our casualties today one wounded (Pte COSTER) 6 Sick inc Major WARFE.	
		2131	From 15 Bde- six 58/59 Bn will contact 2/3 Coy by a patrol from	
		2321	NAMLING to WELLS OP. FROM 15 Bde- 2/3 Coy will contact 2/5 Bn	
		2333	by a patrol. patrol not return till contact made. FROM 15 BDE- Max no personnel possible MUST be concentrated in fight for KOMIATUM TRACK. possession MUST be gained 9 Jul for success of ops.	

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST. INDEP. COY.

Date and Time.—From 8 JULY 43 To 9 JULY 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	8 JUL 43	2341	<p>From 15 Bde - 3 Dir direct 2/3 Indp Coy will send small recce patrol to locate and report on track running NORTH EAST from TAMBU SADDLE via MT TAMBU to SCOUT HILL 753972. Patrol also locate track junction 750968 and track leading S.E. but not to proceed further than is necessary to obtain definite information that this latter track leads to coast in LOKANU area 7696. Advise earliest date you consider task can be completed. Ref map KOMIATUN 1/25000.</p> <p>From WELLS BARRY reports unable support 58/59 Bn without leaving left flank open 0940 In contact BARRY by runner. NO Japs seen NAMLING K/7. 1030 movt seen NAMLING HUE nearest track to ULIAP 1100 sighted Vickers at WELLS, only 750 rds stripless. sent patrol to contact NUNN & 58/59. HOLDING NAMLING -WELLS track as far forward as possible.</p>	
	9 JUL 43	0145	<p>From BDE POLYTECHNIC SIGS to be used for ground - air commn. Very lights or mortar flares WHITE - you are hitting our tps. GREEN - present posn foremost friendly tps. WHITE & GREEN cancel mission. From WELLS BARRY requires know who occupies NAMLING.</p>	
		0713	From WELLS BARRY contacting NUNN daily.	
		0715	To WELLS reduce OP strength to 3 & track force to 10. All others	
		0750	to proceed to GOODVIEW to join B Pl. 58/59 patrol to contact WELLS. 0940 Leave 3 men & 6 on track OP. 58/59 occupy NAMLING.	
		0940	From WELLS 10 coolies moving track from SAL to KOM 1150 K/9.	
		1156	From 3 Div sitrep KX 1400 K/9 - Extract ref LAE & MUBO only.	
		1645	From Bde sitrep to 1730 K/9 extract 2/3 Coy proposed to attack high ground EAST KOM TK. NO details map ref. Lieut Erskine left	
		1756	for REEVES OP. To Bde sitrep 109 to 1800 K/9.	
		1800	From 2/3 Adv HQ Sitrep 1700 K/9. B Pl on GOODVIEW RIDGE 714934	
		2050	2" KOM sheet. heavily attacked Jap MMG & Mortars, LMGs & SAF from commanding ground in triangle. Unable dig in & retired before enemy adv up WALPOLES TK. Cas at least 25 Japs killed ours 3 wounded. Patrol Sgt Maclean & 3 ORs & 2 native guides	

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 9 JUL 43 To 10 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	9 JUL 43	2050	set 1100 K/9 for Mt TAMBU area. Route via BOBDUBI RIDGE across KOM TK, NORTH KOM then by native track from 707947 KOM 1/25000 to track running N E TAMBU SADDLE. Task as in 15 BDE 0491. Rest of A PL arrived GOODVIEW 1500 K/9. 2215 From Adv HQ 1 wounded evacuated BASE 4, 2 wounded remaining on duty.	
		2215	From Adv HQ GOODVIEW area 1600 B Pl to KOMIATUM TK. 1745 - 1900 SA & auto fire heard direction GOODVIEW RIDGE 2000 L/T Commn made.	
	10 JUL 43	0600	Sitrep 110 to BDE to 0600 K/10.	
		0800	Sitrep to 0800 K/10 to 2/3 Fwd.	
		0800	From 3 Div. An attack BOBDUBI & KOMIATUM requested 10 JUL as shown in your 0520. TOT advise later. Weather report hourly from 0600.	
		0800	From 2/3 Fwd Attack on GOODVIEW RIDGE unsuccessful. Our fwd troops 300 yds WEST of KOM TK & cutting the track SOUTH to bypass Jap posns. Our casualties 1 killed 2 wounded.	
		0902	From Fwd HQ re I 311 our cas 1 killed 1 wounded. 8 sec on STEPHENS track 713937 (KOM 2") 9 sec 714936. 7 sec & 1 sec A Pl in triangle.	
		1435	Japs still holding June STEPHENS & MULE tracks. From 15 BDE sitrep 1230 K/10 58/59 food line ambushed 1 escort missing, D Coy mortared SOUTH COCONUTS - MG posn. KELA GUN fired 12 into D Coy; 2 into KUNDA IS.; 15 June ALLENS CK & FRISCO R.	
		1445	From Adv HQ Sitrep 1300 K/10. Ref 2" KOM. Composite force C Pl area dep GARLANDS posn 713937 at 1000 K/9, crossed MULE track leaving 9 sec to secure then EAST into NORTH of TRIANGLE. Contact KOM TK moved SOUTH parallel found enemy at SOUTH corner of TRIANGLE WEST side of KOM track. Enemy cutting timber & digging. 20 Japs with 3 MGs moving SOUTH. We attacked Jap posn 1000 K/10 killed 8 Japs rest dispersed. We then withdrew WEST crossed MULE track contacted 8 sec posn. Remainder moving WEST to establish base for further operations. If sufficient rations considering moving across KOMIATUM TK to high ground on EAST side. 4 & 5 secs. holding WALPOLE'S TRACK. 6s ec. & 3sec moving S.E. down EGAN'S TK (leaves WALPOLE'S TK 709931) to establish ambush position on KOMIATUM TRACK.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 10 JUL 43 To 11 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	10 JUL 43	1507	3 Div sitrep 183 2345 K/9. 1 Bty 2/8 Arty Regt at 764842 MUBO 2/6 Bn drove Jap from F D Ls SOUTH Slopes OBSERVATION HILL. patrol drove enemy from posn on track 600 yds SOUTH of H Q, Counter attack forced patrol out. 2/5 Bn attacked both flanks—repulsed.	
		1723	From adv Adv HQ 12 Pl 2/5 Bn arrived BASE 4 - No contact ERSKINES patrol. Pl comd reports coy dug in astride VEILS TK NORTH of OBS HILL. Patrol from Coy to contact us 8 Jul held up by Japs. Pl to return by VEILS & attack Jap posn from rear. Depart BASE 4 11.	
		1800	Sitrep 111 To Bde to 1800 K/10.	
		1812	Adv HQ report Japs arriving Stephens area & GOODVIEW area 10 Jul appeared fresh & dry clothed, NOT carrying heavy packs. May come from local camp in TAMBU area. 1817 Japs attacked fwd sec on	
		1817	WALPOLES TK 1745 with MMG & Mortar support fire. Appear to be encircling fwd sec right flank & threat to cut off 2 Secs EGANS TK.	
		1955	Sitrep fwd HQ at 1900 - Jap attack 1745 lasted 15 mins. Fwd sec held its ground. No encirclement. NO casualties. Jap fire heavy but inaccurate. Jap appear building pill boxes STEPHENS area.	
		2045	Sitrep from Bde - 58/59 Bn only.	
		2310	Sitrep 118 from Bde - 58/59 Bn only.	
		2210	From Div 17 Bde to send 1 Coy to reinforce 2/3 Coy & ensure enemy do not escape NORTH FROM MUBO. Coy to move via LIPNOS GARDENS or by VEILS if that track safe. Coy to come under Comd 2/3 Coy. When 2/5 Bn less 1 Coy arrive GOODVIEW CO 2/5 will assume Comd all troops that area. 2/3 Coy to advise Div of proposed use of Coy. 2/3 to provide Liaison Officer to meet Coy of 2/5 Bn due 11 JUL.	
		11 JUL 43	0055	3 Div sitrep 186 to 2000 K/10. extract 2/3 Coy patrol arrived REEVES OP from BASE 4 10 Jul. 1700 2/6 Bn & 162 US Regt made contact.
	0430	Fwd HQ report ref native report of lack of food SALAMAUA, Japs killed at GOODVIEW 8 Jul had an abundance of rations. 15 Bde op Instns 4 & 5 received and ack. 0800 Sitrep to 0800 to Adv HQ		
	0800	Adv HQ report 12 Pl 2/5 Bn departed BASE 4 0800 K/11 to rejoin Coy, move via VEILS TK. Took guide from 2/3 Coy. If unable to push through Japs & rejoin Coy L of C must be via BASE 4.		
	1000			

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY. Date and Time.—From 11 JUL 43 To 12 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	11 JUL 43	0755	sitrep from Bde 0730 K/11. 58/59 shelled by Mountain Gun & Mortared Cas 2 killed 4 wounded. Wells OP report 1515 K/10 Jap twin Eng	
		1111	Low winged Monoplane wheeled out of SAL hangar & took off dir LAE. 15 Bde report enemy documents captured GOODVIEW JUNC reveal identity	
		1320	of unit as 66 Regt. 1320 WELLS OP report SAL bombed ASPI3 K378.	
		1810	Adv HQ - sitnor to 1700 K/11.	
		2147	Bde sitrep received giving Bde dispositions.	
	12 JUL 43	2359	3 Div sitrep received giving MUBO disposns etc.	
		0810	From Bde to 0700 K/12 - sitnor.	
		0825	Adv HQ report carrier line from 17 Bde not yet at BASE 4	
		1130	From Bde to fwd HQ ref suitable dropping ground & handing over posn of rations from 17 Bde. Query ration & Amn holdings forward.. Time rations to reach meeting point.	
		1447	From Bde Enemy holding NORTH of 2/3 Coy posn astride KOM TK, NO estimate of strength but considered large. HMG EAST KOM TK. Japs well clothed, rationed & physically good probably staged Mt TAMBU area. Enemy NOT aggressive but strengthening posn. C Coy 2/5 Bn to take over 2/3 Coy posn on KOM TK. 2/3 responsible for closing STEPHENS TK from enemy movt WEST also to protect BASE 3 L of C to BASE 4 incl GOODVIEW JUNC L of C and also to concentrate main force in area A Coy 58/59 Bn. Route LIPNOS GARDENS - BASE 4 wide open for any move to cut off enemy in SOUTH. 1545 2/3 Adv HQ report 1 Jap from MUBO killed by 3 sec ambush. 1255 heavily camouflaged Japs moved cautiously towards MUBO - 13 killed by 3 sec ambush 3 escaped - 1 later seen going fast for MUBO. Our cas NIL. Adv HQ to Bde NO dropping ground area occupied by 2/3 Coy. Possible ground LIPNOS GARDENS on ERSKINES TK from PIONEER JUNC to BUIPAL CK, 2 hrs carry BASE 4. Carrier line required to arrive BASE approx 1300 hrs to allow split and delivery to fwd posns, also to allow carriers time to return to their base.	
1545	WELLS OP report NO movt KOM TK. 1600-1700 62 JAPS Moved SOUTH From SALAMAUA across bridge. Inform NAMLING force 63 Japs mover from ORODUBI in WESTERLY direction.			
1550				
1702				
1735				

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 12 JUL 43 To 13 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	12 JUL 43	1734	From Adv HQ 1500 1 Jap moving NORTH to KOM killed by 3 Sec. Japs digging in direction MULE TK, SOUTH of known posn JUNC MULE & STEPHENS TKS. From BDE advising 14 Pl 2/5 Bn & carriers arrived BASE 4. WELLS reports 1 Pl A Coy 58/59 will be disposed to meet 63 Japs who moved from ORODUBI & L Pl 2/3 Coy will be moved to WELLS by 0900 K/13 to overlook NAMLING. WELLS reports 64 Japs crossed towards SALAMAUA, 14 other way. 1005 column white smoke 3 mins then black smoke till 1035 at 705046.	
		1223	Sitrep from 3 Div giving MARKHAM & MUBO disposns & Patrol movts.	
		1224	From Adv HQ 14 Pl 2/5 Bn arrived at BASE 4 at 1115 hrs.	
		1528	Sitrep 125 from Bde to 1400. 58/59 disposns. Jap plane in WO	
		1839	river - pilot dead. 1839 From adv HQ - All C Coy 2/5 Bn at BASE 4 - strength 80. GOODVIEW area - patrol of 2 to contact	
		2058	US Regt returned - unsuccessful. 2058 Bde advises that from 2359 K/12 2/3 Coy will be supplied by 17 Bde. 15 Bde will continue to control carrier line at present fwd. 17 Bde carrier line will	
		2301	transfer cargo at BASE 4. 2301 2/5 Bn move GOODVIEW JUNC via BASE 4 13 Jul. Small HQ, W/T Set, Mortar Det, 1Pl to Base 4 14 Jul. 17 Bde will nominate Comd. 2/3 Coy will then be withdrawn under 15 Bde order. Thereafter 17 Bde controls Ops GOODVIEW.	
	13 JUL 43	1700	From adv Bde - 63 Japs moved WEST from ORODUBI K/12. 13 Jap ambush located area 690932 between WELLS JUNC & NAMLING. 20 Japs in consultation ORODUBI - 15 dispersed remainder studied 2 maps for some time. Continuous movt ORODUBI afternoon K/13. Enemy attack from ORODUBI 14 Jul likely. Own troops BASE 4 HQ 2/3 Coy WELLS JUNC C Pl 2/3 Bn Coy NAMLING 1 Pl C Coy 58/59 Bn. Relay portions 2/3 to be effected A M 14 Jul for move WELLS OP area. 2/3 will be responsible for WELLS - BASE 3 L of C and will clear enemy from WELLS - NAMLING track. 0345 Infm recd as follows :-	
		0345	5 Jul enemy decided to withdraw from MUBO. This order was later cancelled but instructions issued to prepare defences in KOM area also troops tps in KOM area to take offensive action against our tps BOEDUBI RODGE. Later order indicates more emphasis on defence	

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 14 JUL 43 To 16 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	14 JUL 43	0710	Sitrep from Fwd HQ to 0700:- Cpl VILLAUME & 2 ORs dep GOODVIEW 0630 for TAMBU - LOKANU area. Route S E from GOODVIEW, cross KOM TK tk then N E up long spur from KOM TK towards TAMBU. Hand over BASE 4 - GOODVIEW - STEPHENS area 0930 K/14.	
		1730	Sitrep from Fwd HQ 1730. Coy HQ -WELLS OP; A Pl WELLS JUNC; B Pl 20 mins SOUTH of Junc on Ridge tk. C Pl 20 mins NORTH Junc. Sgt MUIR & 6 men - NAMLING. Japs astride tk 300 yds NORTH C PL. strafing ORODUBI effective - 2 bombs fell in village. 5 guides with BENNETT.	
	15 JUL 43	0715	From Adv HQ A Pl left WELLS 0700 for NAMLING RIDGE. strength there	
		1345	will be 1 X 17. 1345 2/3 attack opened AMBUSH KNOLL. 1 3" mortar & 3 MMGs 1300 - 1330. CPL attacked 1400. Jap posn barricaded & strongly held. Japs using our grenades. Our Cas 5 wounded.	
		1545	Our Cas 15 JUL Lieut HARRISON K.I.A. 8 ORs wounded .	
		1730	1 Sec A PL reinforcement C Pl 1615 hrs. AMBUSH KNOLL posn now being engaged. Firing on right but NO contact with 5 sec yet.	
		2000	From fwd HQ 1830. C Pl driven Jap back & is digging in 50 yds from barricaded posn AMBUSH KNOLL. Enemy strength est 2 LMGs & 30 men cas unknown. B Pl contacted 1800. Cut Jap tk ORODUBI - AMBUSH KNOLL Jap attack from ORODUBI defeated 2 Japs killed. Japs on SUGARCANE RIDGE running EAST from BAMBOO KNOLL attacked. Our Cas 4 wounded enemy Cas unknown. B Pl holding tk. NO contact with sec at NAMLING.	
	16 JUL 43	0850	Sitrep from fwd HQ. Contact est A Pl NAMLING force. Is in occupation NAMLING RIDGE 15 JUL & engaged enemy on SUGARCANE RIDGE who were attacking to escape from AMBUSH KNOLL. Recce will move along tk to AMBUSH KNOLL at 0930. 0950 C & B Pls contacted on AMBUSH KNOLL at 0930. Posn clear of enemy. B Pl cons posn. Fighting patrol to intercept party 16 Japs with stretchers moving S E AMBUSH KNOLL. Further cas 15 JUL pte WRIGHT K.I.A. Lieut LILLIE wounded.	
		0950	Fwd HQ report enemy posn AMBUSH KNOLL well dug in perim defences 100 yds continuous trench 2 pillboxes log. Est enemy holding K/15 60. Enemy Cas 10 killed many wounded, ours prev advised. Captured material despatched. HQ - WELLS; 1 Sec A Pl DIERKES TK; 2 Secs 1 MMG NAMLING RIDGE; C Pl WELLS TK; B Pl 2 MMGs 1-3" mortar consolidating AMBUSH KNOLL. Fwd recce party to ORODUBI proceeding. Comm L/T	
		1300		

201-N.G.F.P.S.-5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 2/3 AUST INDEP COY.....

Date and Time.—From..... 16 JUL 43 To..... 17 JUL 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	16 JUL 43	1300	est VEILS - HQ - C PL HQ - B PL HQ - A PL NAMLING. W/T to WELLS.	
		1440	WELLS reports considerable Jap Movt between ORODUBI - GWAIBOLOMS.	
		1500	WELLS reports high flying dropped H. Bombs on AA Bty McDONALDS JUNG.	
		1635	WELLS reports more Jap movt. Jap Arty fired on ridge SOUTH of ORODUBI.	
		1720	Fwd HQ MMGs & Mortars engaged ORODUBI area from AMBUSH KNOLL & NAMLING posns. 1515 Jap Mt Gun fired on B Pl. NO Cas. 1605 NAMLING MMG fired on 23 Japs moving SOUTH up KOM Tk. MMG also engaged MT GUN. 1 sec Pl which moved to intercept Japs moving N E from AMBUSH KNOLL returned - arrived too late to contact enemy.	
		1810	WELLS reports 6 Japs NORTH & 3 SOUTH from KOM. 15 Japs without packs from TAMBU Gun posn down steps NORTH into bush. 1805 Auto fire heard.	
	17 JUL 43	2232	BDE SIGS advised three new code names for allotment BAKI, LAHO, LOBA.	
		0615	15 BDE advised Lieuts READ & LINEHAM arrived HQ. ETA MISSIM 20 JUL.	
		1140	Fwd HQ report 1800 K/16 NAMLING MMG had direct hit on MT GUN which has NOT fired since - crew dispersed - Gun now in new posn 100 yds NORTH of old one. 58/59 landed 8 mortar xxx bombs in ORODUBI. 0735 30 Japs moving NORTH from KOM fired on by NAMLING MMG - dispersed.	
		1435	Fwd HQ reports. Fwd HQ at NAMLING. B Pl left AMBUSH KNOLL 0900 to contact Jap L of C ORODUBI - BUIRALI CK. Lt BARRY & 10 men attacked GRAVEYARD 1050 3 Japs killed, No Commn with 58/59 GRAVEYARD forces. 6 ORs to reinforce BARRY. 1405 -1435 mortar & MMG fire on ORODUBI. NO airstrike eventuated - cancelled - our patrol too close.	
		1500	Fwd HQ report KOM Mt Gun in new posn, old posn now visible. patrol EAST from NAMLING RIDGE to ORODUBI & N E AMBUSH KNOLL - ORODUBI. 1300 Fighting patrol 3 men from WELLS to STEPHENS Track.	
		1600	WELLS reports Mt Gun now under most NORTHERLY clump bamboos. Fired 1110 - 1120 15 rds GWAIBOLOM RIDGE, 1530 7 rds GWAIBOLOM.	
		2030	Sitrep from fwd HQ. AM B Pl ambushed on bench cut - went bush & by-passed Japs. 1345 6 rds from our 25 pdr believed sited Mt TAMBU SOUTH landed near SOUTH KOM. 15 Japs moving SOUTH through ORODUBI fired on by NAMLING MMG. 1700 BARRYS force captured GRAVEYARD & repulsed 2 counter attacks killing 5 Japs. Our cas Nil. NO contact 58/59 Bn. C Pl recce patrol down Jap track found weapon pits and OP which gave Japs observation over AMBUSH KNOLL & NAMLING RIDGE.	

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 13 JUL 43 To 14 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	13 JUL 43	0345	than offence in KONIATUM area therefore in view of successful action on 12 Jul considerable movement can be expected NORTH into KOM commencing tonight or tomorrow and the critical phase of the operation is about to begin. Special instructions to all troops to stand fast and take maximum toll of retreating enemy.	
		0930	Fwd HQ sitrep to 0830 STEPHENS area - C Pl & det MMG dep Coy HQ 0700 for WELLS. I/T being laid BASE 4 - WELLS. 1 Sec A Pl securing	
		0935	STEPHENS TK. 0935 Sgt Macleans party TAMBU area struck Japs EAST	
		0936	of KOM TK - forced to fire and return. 0936 From Fwd HQ Sitnor 0600.	
		1052	Message from Bde with suggested plans for your consideration. On arrival B Coy 2/5 Bn. B & C Coys 2/5 Bn relieve 2/3 Indep Coy. Task relieving posns held by 2/3 Coy cutting KOMIATUM TK in TAMBU SADDLE area to prevent enemy movement NORTH & SOUTH. Your responsibility to include STEVENS TK - BASE 4 SOUTH L of C. 15 BDE responsibility L of C VEILS OP - WELLS - NAMLING area effected when OC your force satisfied release 2/3 Indep Coy probably NOT	
		1326	after 1200 15 Jul you then assume Command. WELLS OP reports During bombing raid A M wireless building approx 100 yds NORTH runway set on fire. Many hits ISTHMUS - AA fire. 1205 25 Japs & 2 stretchers moved NORTH over bridge to SALAMAUA.	
		1420	Adv HQ advise B Coy 2/5 Bn under Capt BENNET arrived BASE 4 1300 strength 100. departing GOODVIEW 1430. Handed over 14 JUL. 2/3 HQ	
		1800	at BASE 4 1800 Wells reports Mortar fire earlier now Obs as MOUNTAIN GUN.	
		1800	From Fwd HQ:- NO movt KOM TK. 7 sec patrol NAMLING heard enemy on TK 1/2 hr from WELLS at 1200. 100 yds SOUTH of former Jap Amb posn. Patrol to 58/59 Bn at NAMLING - GWAIBOLOM to bypass Jap posn WEST by scrub bashing. departed WELLS 1400. C Pl astride WELLS -NAMLING TK in depth and digging in 1 sec 300 yds SOUTH that posn.	
		1915	From fwd HQ patrol from GOODVIEW area located Jap camp at 702887 MWBO 1/25000. 3 Japs seen - camp would hold more.	
		0230	Unconfirmed report from P I B probable 700 Japs landed LOKANU.	
		0800	Mounatin gun on KOM TK opened on GWAIBOLOM - NAMLING RIDGE at 0700 and again 0740. Air strike 14 JUL requested.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 18 JUL 43 To 19 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	18 JUL 43	0905	Fwd HQ report Jap Mt Gun in NORTH clump BAMBOO 3 yds EAST of	
		0925	KOM TK. Ref ASP13 A843 - Well dug in. 0925 1 bomber dropped in	
		1230	area ASP13 A882. 1230 sitrep from Fwd HQ BARRY force in GRAVEYARD	
			attacked by Japs 2115, 2250 K/17 & 0100 K/18 - attacks repulsed-	
			Established Jap defences found along NORTH - SOUTH ridge & bench	
			cut EAST of GRAVEYARD & GWAIBOLOMS. Barry force moved to NAMLING	
			RIDGE A M. 0800 Patrol within 100 yds WEST ORODUBI. NO enemy	
			activity. Patrol from AMBUSH KNOLL heard Japs S W ORODUBI. Posn	
			being fixed. B Pl SOUTH ORODUBI. Shells bursting N W Mt TAMBU	
			suspected staging camp. 2/5 Bn advise Mt GUN firing from 20 mins	
			1235 SOUTH of GOODVIEW JUNC. 1235 Fwd HQ report Jap cas at GRAVEYARD	
	19 JUL 43		1730	K/17 12 killed - ours nil. Patrol to recce area SE GWAIBOLOM & to
		0715	contact 2/5 Bn 58/59 Bn. 1730 Lieuts READ & LINEHAM arrived P.HOUSE.	
		0800	BDE advise NORTH bombing line FRANCISCO R. T O T 0830. 6 BOSTONS.	
		1155	Sitrep fwd HQ 2055 K/18. Mortar & MMG fire GRAVEYARD. NO movt ORODUBI.	
		1240	MMG fire on JAPS in ORODUBI & KOM TK. B Pl to return NAMLING RIDGE.	
		1710	WELLS reports Jap MT GUN bombed & strafed 0915. Probable damage or	
		2142	destruction. 1240 sitrep Fwd HQ BUIRALLI CK, KOM Mt gun ERSKINES	
			CK bombed by 6 BOSTONS - hits observed. 1 Jap MT Gun posn killed	
			by A Pl MMG, also 1 on KOM TK. Heavy shelling etc MT TAMBU area.	
			C Pl patrol GWAIBOLOM area ref extent Jap posns along track EAST	
			of GWAIBOLOM to GRAVEYARD Ref 696947 - 695942) 58/59 Bn posn	
			200 yds SOUTH of GWAIBOLOM. 1710 Fwd HQ report A Pl MMG engaged	
			Japs in ORODUBI & at Mt Gun posn. 58/59 Bn mortaring GRAVEYARD.	
			1415 Mortar & MMG on ambush posn. 2142 Fwd HQ report heavy MMG	
			& Mortaring GRAVEYARD. 1500 - 1630 A & C Pl Mortars & MMG engaged	
			SUGARCANE RIDGE 696934. C Pl fighting patrol investigating .	
			Our Cas 1 OR killed. Jap posns well dug in, extensive earthworks,	
			fire lanes, perim 100 yds. B Pl at NAMLING 1300 K/18 established	
			and held ambush posn on Jap L of C ORODUBI - KOM Tk. NO movt.	
			Jap bivouac site 702936 estimated held 100 men. All footmarks	
			from BUIRALLI CK. led to ORODUBI. L of C is now track approx	
			200 yds SOUTH of old track.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 20 JUL 43 To 21 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.		
MISSIM	20 JUL 43	0820	WELLS OP reports following movements 1830 K/19 40 Japs SOUTH over bridge & 18 Japs with stretcher NORTH. 0710 K/20 19 SOUTH 8 NORTH.			
		0920	Fwd HQ report Japs on WELLS - NAMLING Tk engaged by C Pl, 12 seen. Japs on posn between AMBUSH KNOLL & WELLS - NAMLING JUNC also engaged by C Pl from AMBUSH KNOLL & WELLS JUNC. Coy disposns			
		1215	A Pl NAMLING RIDGE; C Pl & 2 Secs B Pl AMBUSH KNOLL; 1 Sec B Pl Junc of WELLS - NAMLING track. 1215 Japs at SUGARCANE RIDGE			
		1240	engaged C Pl. 1240 Frontal attack by Japs using MMG, LMG, MORTAR & Rifle held. NO casualties. Jap Mortar & MMG on C Pl.			
		1320	Jap attack from SUGARCANE RIDGE & WELLS - NAMLING Tk. SUGARCANE			
		1400	RIDGE engaged by our Mortars & MMG. 1400 1 sec C Pl NORTH towards Jap Tk posn encircled - scrub bashed out and back. WELLS MMG on			
		2000	to Jap posn. Jap Mortar on SUGARCANE RIDGE engaged from LULUAI HUT. Fwd HQ reports to 1830 - Continuous firing enemy MMG & Mortars			
				on to AMBUSH KNOLL & LULUAI HUT during afternoon. Movt through ORODUBI 27 from GRAVEYARD & 24 towards same. 12 Japs attacks held - our cas 2 wounded. Jap used heavy MMG and mortar fire.		
			21 JUL 43	0800	Jap movt ORODUBI - GRAVEYARD area. NAMLING village mortared.	
				0810	Jap MMG on VILLAGE. Coy disposns:- A Pl NAMLING RIDGE; 1 sec C Pl	
		1012	LULUAI HUT; 2 Secs B Pl & 1 Sec C Pl AMBUSH KNOLL; 1 Sec B Pl & 1 Sec C Pl on NAMLING - WELLS TK. and 1012 Fwd HQ reports Jap			
			attacks AMBUSH KNOLL at 0300 & 0400 replused. Mountain gun firing from Bamboo Clump towards GWAIBOLOM. A & C Pls MMGs on to enemy posns.			
		1300	Attack on AMBUSH KNOLL better off. MMG & A Pl fired on SUGARCANE RIDGE. WELLS MMG engaged Jap posn on track. A Pl Mortar on RIDGE.			
		1400	shells exploded amn dump MALALO area. Our cas to 1330 K I A			
		1815	Lieut Egan Ptes Forge, James B W H. 2 ORs wounded. B Coy 2/6 Bn moved EAST from JUNC. 1815 Attack on AMBUSH KNOLL repelled.			
			Disposns 2/6 Bn 1 Pl less 1 Sec DIERKE; Coy HQ & 1 Pl WELLS; 1 Sec & detail 2/3 Coy plus 3" Mortar crew 688928; 1 Pl & 9 Sec			
			2/3 Coy WELLS JUNC. Mountain gun fired towards A Pl Mortar using 2 lanes of fire - (a) NAMLING mortar, (b) AMBUSH KNOLL. A Pl Mortar posn to be known as MORTAR KNOLL ref 693938.			

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted.)

Unit..... 2/3 AUST. INDEP. COY..... Date and Time.—From..... 21 JUL 43..... To..... 22 25 JUL 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MISSIM	21 JUL 43	2210	Jap assault on AMBUSH KNOLL - 18th - driven off. Estimated very heavy Jap casualties. Ammunition shortage.	
	22 JUL 43	0130	Japs seen near NAMLING RIDGE track between A Pl & LULUAI HUT.	
0150		Jap attack on AMBUSH KNOLL held - Our cas 3 wounded.		
0430		Further Jap attack held - 20th.		
		1615	& Pl 2/6 Bn at NAMLING and left for AMBUSH KNOLL. KOMIATUM & BUIRALI areas heavily bombed and strafed. Shells bursting on Mt TAMBU.	
	23 JUL 43	1800	Jap mountain gun firing from new posn 900 yds SOUTH & EAST old posn.	
		0600	2/6 Bn patrol NORTH from WELLS JUNC to AMBUSH KNOLL contacted our troops. NO Japs in posns in between - 70 weapons pits with under ground comm found. 0700 patrol left AMBUSH KNOLL to investigate Jap posns SUGARCANE area. 0945 MISSION PT area bombed and strafed. 1250 Large party of Japs moved NORTH from SUGARCANE RIDGE.	
		0700	2/6 Bn assumed responsibility for OP over area SOUTH of line NAMLING - ORODUBI. Our troops WELLS & AMBUSH KNOLL moved to NAMLING, except for 1 offr & 11 ORs at WELLS, and 1 offr & 20 ORs AMBUSH KNOLL.	
		0945	Jap LMG on ridge silenced. A Pl patrols Nos 1 & 2 towards GRAVEYARD - ORODUBI - NO movt. 1420 large party Japs moved NORTH from SUGARCANE ridge.	
		1250		
		1330		
	24 JUL 43	1345		
		1420		
		1040	Fwd HQ reports sitnor.	
		1135	Firing from SUGARCANE area. 1 Pl 2/6 Bn occupied SUGARCANE PATCH.	
		1800	Enemy now dug in on knoll 200 yds N E of RIDGE. 2/3 Coy disposns:- HQ, A Pl & 1 sec C Pl at NAMLING; B Pl MORTAR KNOLL 693938; C Pl less 1 sec NAMLING RIDGE; C Os party GWAIBOLOM. Patrol left MORTAR KNOLL 1630 hrs to contact A Coy 58/59 Bn.	
	25 JUL 43	0800	5 persons left at WELLS OP. Rest of 2/3 Indep Coy SOUTH of line NAMLING - ORODUBI now relieved. 0700 A Pl and 1 sec C Pl & 1 sub-sec MMG departed NAMLING ETA GWAIBOLOM 1100. strength then 60.	
		0700	Cpl Stadens patrol to GWAIBOLOM returned. Est location enemy F D Ls 698946, and 58/59 F D Ls approx 698945. Further patrol to GWAIBOLOM 1045. New lateral track there 2 hrs. 25 pounders 2/6 fld Regt now registered on ORODUBI area. 1800 3 Jap planes flying low along coast from NORTH towards SALAMBUA.	
		1700		
		1800		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 28 JUL 43 To 28 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOEDUBI	28 JUL 43	0700	Listening Post from MORTAR KNOLL reports NO activity or movement heard during night 27/28 JUL. M M G NAMLING RIDGE engaged 7 Japs moving in ORODUBI - 1 Jap killed.	
		0800	Recce patrol from MORTAR KNOLL moved NORTH along direct track to PARERS BOWL and reached junc with DIVIDING CK. Patrol moved SOUTH along creek and heard Jap activity on ridge. Patrols from MORTAR KNOLL have now established that Jap positions at GRAVEYARD are continuous with Jap positions S E of PARERS BOWL. Activity now indicates that Jap is at all points along ridge from PARERS BOWL to ORODUBI also in re-entrant 300 yds WEST of ORODUBI.	
		0900	A Pl plus 7 Sec C Pl relieved A Coy 58/59 Bn at PARERS BOWL ref KOM 1/25000 698945. Two 58/59 Bn 3" mortars remain in posn and are attached to A Pl. Area being developed as defensive posn.	
		1130 1200	COY H Q closed at NAMLING and reopened at ref map KOM 1/25000 698946 GWAIBOLOM area. 1200 New track WEST of creek track cut direct along ridge from COY H Q to PARERS BOWL. Track known as TOJOS track. One Coy 2/7 Bn staged at KELLYS Camp E T A KUNDA BRIDGE 1730 K/28. WELLS O P reports 9 Japs and 4 out of SALAMAUA across footbridge, Motor Bike moved from area NORTH of Church through McDONALDS Junc towards KEIA and returned to ISTHMUS at 1225.	
		1230 1330 1615	NAMLING RIDGE vickers and mortars from PARERS BOWL and MORTAR KNOLL gave supporting fire to 2/6 Bn attack on SUGARCANE RIDGE. Jap mountain gun on KOM track fired 9 rounds into A Pl PARERS BOWL area. 1 OR wounded. NAMLING RIDGE vickers and PARERS BOWL Mortar replied. Mountain gun is now 250 yds SOUTH of old posn at ref ASP 11 D 555. 1740 12 Japs observed in GRAVEYARD area.	
		1740 1800 1830	PARERS BOWL mortar engaged GRAVEYARD area. 15 AUST INF BDE reports an attack was launched by A & B Coys 58/59 Bn on OLD VICKERS posn at 1500 K/28. The posn was captured. The enemy posn comprised a net work of PILLBOXES, foxholes and trenches. Jap mountain gun captured.	
		2000	Message to 58/59 Bn from 2/3 Aust Indep Coy "Congratulations on decisive success at OLD VICKERS posn."	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From..... 26 JUL 43 To..... 27 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	26 JUL 43	0630	WELLS O P reports 0630 39 Japs moved NORTH across footbridge, 1010 - 1115 A/C bombed KEIA area - A/A Guns replied.	
		1410	Between 1410 and 1440 - 3 inch Mortar and M M G at MORTAR KNOLL engaged GRAVEYARD area. 2 inch Mortar and L M G also engaged suspected enemy positions 200 yds WEST of ORODUBI.	
	27 JUL 43	0900	During afternoon Artillery shelled the ORODUBI area. Cpl Hooks recce party departed from BATTLE H Q to determine:- (1) If GRIFFS track was clear of enemy. (2) If Jap occupied pits 500 yds NORTH along BENCHCUT from junc GRIFFS track. (3) Enemy strength in area. (4) To find supposed Jap track running parallel with BENCHCUT on EAST side.	
		0930	Lieut READ and No. 1 sec A Pl ambush party departed BATTLE H Q.	
		1120	Cpl PEMBLE recce patrol proceeded down ERSKINE CK. Message from WELLS O P states During A M our heavy bombers heavily raided SALAMAUA area - Church destroyed. From 0930 - 1000 stream of Japs, estimated 300 moved EAST of Church to wooded area. 1015 Truck loaded with Japs moved from east towards KEIA from ISTHMUS. 0950 truck from ISTHMUS moved towards Church and returned at 1000. 1000 - 1100 party of Japs appeared to be salvaging stores from Church and 2 dumps NORTH & SOUTH of it. 1020 two trucks in direction of KEIA moved along ISTHMUS.	
		1530	Lieut READ and party returned to BATTLE H Q.	
		1545	Cpl PEMBLE'S patrol returned	
		1600	Capt HANCOCK arrived BATTLE H Q. Message from WELLS O P:- During P M trucks moving constantly between ISTHMUS and wooded area NORTH of Church also one trip with load of white packages to area NORTH of footbridge.	
		1630	Cpl HOOKS patrol returned to BATTLE H Q.	
		1800	WELLS O P reports between 1600 and 1800 49 Japs moved out and 49 into SALAMAUA across bridge in small parties. Truck movement in area NORTH of Church still continues including one load of timber from Church. 1815 further report from WELLS O P - 163 Japs in and 19 out of SALAMAUA across footbridge.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 28 JUL 43 To 29 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	28 JUL 43	2000	Message from WELLS O P - between 1515 & 1635 small parties of Japs totalling 43 including 1 being carried and 2 crawling moved across footbridge into SALAMAUA. During same period 2 moved SOUTH.	
			1445 AMERICAN Arty ranged on original mountain gun posn on KOMIATUM track possibly scoring 1 direct hit. AMERICAN gun commenced ranging on footbridge and with second salvo scored possible hit. 1659 ranging commenced on WIRELESS STATION NORTH	
	29 JUL 43	0600	of runway but fog prevented completion of task B Pl patrol from MORTAR KNOLL contacted B Pl listening post and investigated its report of Japs movement in creek WEST of GRAVEYARD. patrol did not contact Japs. A Pl listening post forward of PARERS BOWL report no sound of Jap on TIMBERED KNOLL	
	29 JUL 43	0600	during night 28/29 JUL. A Pl patrol to TIMBERED KNOLL fired on by Jap L M G patrol returned fire killing Jap.	
		0635	WELLS O P reports at 0625 Jap planes over SALAMAUA heading SOUTH along coast. Bombing heard soon after. 0632 1 plane returning made forced landing on SALAMAUA drome. 0635 AMERICAN Arty	
		0710	opened on plane. 0710 Jap mountain gun fired several shells into 2/6 Bn posn on AMBUSH KNOLL and SUGARCANE SPUR.	
		0900	At 2040 and 2230 K/28 flashes of light observed on ISTHMUS, between 0600 and 0900 15 Japs moved NORTH and 20 SOUTH across footbridge. Truck made two trips from ISTHMUS and one to McDONALDS JUNC and one to wooded area NORTH of Church. 0840	
			Allied A/C heavily raided MISSION PLANT; KEIA HILL; ISTHMUS & woods NORTH of Church and SOUTH side of runway. Bombs on ISTHMUS caused huge belts of flame followed by thick black smoke. A/A fire light and inaccurate.	
		0930	Direct telephone line from COY H Q to MORTAR KNOLL via RUSSELLS	
		1500	track complete. 1500 WELLS O P at 1308 truck from ISTHMUS to Church area. Between 1200 & 1500 56 Japs including 1 stretcher moved NORTH and 4 SOUTH across footbridge. 0955 2 Motor bikes at McDONALDS Junc one moved towards Church. 1010 MITCHELLS bombed footbridge area. 1035 Arty fired on party of Japs crossing bridge. Arty also fired on McDONALDS Junc - OIDEAS areas.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 29 JUL 43 To 30 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.		
BOBDUBI	29 JUL 43	1545	Our Mortars & Vickers opened on Jap posns GRAVEYARD & SOUTH PIMPLE.			
		1600	Lieut GARLAND and 20 men from NAMLING RIDGE arrived PARERSBOWL and took over A Pl defenses 1600 with Arty and Mortar support A Pl attacked TIMBERED KNOLL which is 250 yds SOUTH of PARERS BOWL. 1 sec were pinned down by Jap M M G and pill boxes.			
			3 sec moved SOUTH along BENCHCUT and attacked Jap from SOUTH to NORTH and cleared 20yds of foxholes before contacting Nos 1 & 7 secs which were attacking from NORTH to SOUTH.			
		1745	A Pl consolidating on TIMBERED KNOLL and looking down on Jap posn further towards ORODUBI. L/Sgt MUIR, Cpls HOOKS & BUCKINGHAM killed 3 ORs wounded. Report from TIMBERED KNOLL:- 1 Jap M M G .500; 2 2" mortars; several rifles; 1 L M G and enemy documents captured. 15 Jap bodies found. Jap was well dug in deep trenches underground communications and pillboxes. Although supporting fire a big factor in attack, hand grenades were responsible for most of success. 1745 WELLS O P Jap mountain gun fired 6 rounds towards AMBUSH KNOLL.			
		1745	1745 15 BDE patrol information 0630 patrol from OLD VICKERS posn to within 100 yds of SOUTH COCONUTS observed NORTH COCCNUTS, observed 1 pill box in centre COCONUTS with apertures towards SOUTH COCONUTS, also 1 Jap in foxhole. Trampled grass indicates much movt. Grass not trampled in centre & SOUTH COCONUTS. Could not observe weapon pits but pillbox observed at NORTH end of SOUTH COCONUTS. Ridge is 15 yds wide and is thickly timbered. Track 1 man wide at pillbox.			
		1800	WELLS O P reports 13 Japs moved SOUTH and 65 NORTH across bridge. Between 1725 & 1800 57 Japs NORTH & 7 SOUTH. 1750 truck moved from ISTHMUS to area NORTH of Church. 1755 AMERICAN Arty fired on bridge and area slightly NORTH.			
			0530	A Pl TIMBERED KNOLL cleared 3 more Japs from foxholes bringing total Japs killed in this action to 18.		
			0700	B Pl listening post from MORTAR KNOLL reports hearing Jap movt during night at GRAVEYARD AREA. NAMLING RIDGE reports Jap Mountain gun fired 9 rds into 2/6 Bn posn on AMBUSH KNOLL.		

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 30 JULY 43

To 31 JULY 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
BOBDUBI	30 JUL 43	0705	WELLS O.P. reports at 2015 and 2040 29 Jul light moved on BENCHCUT vicinity mouth of FRANCISCO RIVER. During night lights observed near Jetty on isthmus - KEIA - beach below and NORTH of O'DEAS HOUSE. During night throbbing of motor heard SOUTH of SALAMAUA, also explosion. 0620 30 Jul mountain gun fired 9 shells into AMBUSH KNOLL. 0625 hrs AMERICAN ARTY engaged mountain gun.		
		1000	0600 to 0700 5 Japs moved NORTH and 6 SOUTH across footbridge. WELLS O.P. reports 0700 to 1000 hrs 4 Japs moved NORTH and 8 SOUTH across footbridge. Truck movement from ISTHMUS to area NORTH of CHURCH.		
		1730	WELLS O.P. reports. Between 1525 and 1730 hrs 127 Japs NORTH across footbridge		
		1800	across footbridge. 1645 hrs 1 Liberator bombed vicinity KEIA. Lieut LEWIN conveyed A Pl's thanks to Mr DAMIEN PARER for his splendid effort carrying ammunition forward during the attack on TIMBERED KNOLL. Capt MEARES arrived Coy H.Q.		
		1830	WELLS O.P. reports- It was observed that the majority of movement NORTH across footbridge passed McDONALDS JUNC moving in direction of KEIA. From 1413 to 1810 hrs AMERICAN ARTY fired on this movement. 1820 2 Japs dive bombers passed over SALAMAUA from N.E. direction.		
		31 JUL 43	0635	Message from 2/6 Bn for MAJOR WARFE "Congratulations, an excellent job".	
		0700	WELLS O P reports lights observed on ISTHMUS and McDONALDS JUNC during night. 0600 large fires observed near JETTY lasting for 40 mins. 0620 Jap mountain gun fired 6 rounds. 0622 AMERICAN guns fired on mountain gun also on wooded area NORTH of bridge.		
		0810	Message from 15 BDE says 17 BDE observed at 0800 30 Jul 2 Japs with heavy loads including what appeared to be mortar Base plate moved towards ORODUBI from GRAVEYARD.		
		0900	A Pl patrol to areas WEST & SOUTH of TIMBERED KNOLL reports no Japs in creek WEST of KNOLL and have established forward positions 400 yds SOUTH of our posn. Jap well on ridge and BENCHCUT. GRAVEYARD is 450 yds SOUTH of KNOLL.		

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 31 JUL 43 To 31 JUL 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOEDUBI	31 JUL 43	0930	B Pl patrol from MORTAR KNOLL observed BENCHCUT WEST of ORODUBI. Visibility poor but no movement seen.	REPORT ON DOUBLE T PART I ATTACHED AS APP. 50
		1300	Lieut BURZACOTT and Sgt SWAN reced D Coy 58/59 Bn posn and exchanged local track information. Dispositions discussed and L of C established between D Coy and ourselves.	REPORT ON DOUBLE T PART II ATTACHED AS APP. 51.
		1800	Between 1640 & 1710 approx 90 Japs moved NORTH including 4 stretcher. Artillery opened on this movement.	
			<i>war diary</i>	

The information contained in this document is NOT to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the press or to any person NOT holding official position in His Majesty's service.

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1.

APPENDIX 46
SERIAL No. 5
NOS 11 - 18.

BY

MAJOR G. R. WARFE

COMD. 2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

H Q 2/3 AUST INDEP COY,
10 JUL 43.

-
11. COMMAND 15 AUST INF BDE.
As from 0001 hrs 4 JUL 43, Brigadier H H HAMMER assumes Command of 15 Aust Inf Bde.
12. ENDORSEMENT OF TROOPS MAIL - (NGF Order G 266)
1. Mail from troops in forward areas or any other places where stamps are NOT available may be endorsed "AIR MAIL - NO STAMPS AVAILABLE". When received from such areas mail endorsed in this manner will be forwarded by AIR MAIL throughout.
2. NO endorsement is required to gain advantage of free surface mail service from NEW GUINEA (up to 4 ozs per letter). All such mail is sent by AIR from NEW GUINEA to the MAINLAND and from there on as surface mail.
3. The use of such endorsements as "FRONT LINE MAIL" and "IN FORWARD AREA", or similar phrases, is forbidden.
13. UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF PARACHUTES - (NGF Order Q 262).
1. The continuous delivery of supplies and ammunition to certain forward areas is dependent on the quick return to Ordnance after use of parachutes supply dropping. The maintenance of fighting troops in the forward areas is being jeopardised by "souveniring" of parachutes.
2. Any member of the Allied forces who has now or at any time hereafter, in his possession without lawful authority any parachute or part of a parachute will immediately return it to his unit H Q for return to salvage.
3. Units will take disciplinary action against any member who is in possession of a parachute or part of a parachute without lawful authority.
14. TREATMENT OF NATIVES - (3 DIV RO 221)
Units will ensure that included in instructions to troops on treatment of natives is the value placed by natives on their pigs. On NO account will any pig, even if apparently wild, be shot or molested in any way.
15. SKIN CONDITIONS - (3 AUST DIV RO 322)
Commanding Officers will ensure that troops are inspected weekly by RMO or Medical Orderly to check the skin for skin conditions. Steps will be taken to ensure provide the maximum of ablution facilities and to ensure that they are used by all appropriate personnel.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES-NEW GUINEA

16. WEARING OF SHORTS - (NGF Order A 271)
NGF Order A 220/43 is cancelled and the following order substituted:-

1. The wearing of shorts is forbidden in MILNE BAY, BUNA, ORO BAY, MOROBE, BULLDOG and WAU-BULOLO sub areas.
2. Unit Commanders will ensure that all shorts are withdrawn from personnel stationed in or moving to these areas.

17. DISPOSAL OF SECOND CLASS MAIL.

1. Owing to restrictions on air transport, out of date newspapers, which have been undelivered to forward areas for one calendar month, are to be made available to Hospitals and salvage in MORESBY area.
2. This action does NOT apply to magazines etc which would still retain their news value.
3. Provisions for the above action exists in National Security Regulations.

18. DENTAL TREATMENT

A Dentist is now established at A D S MISSIM. Unit RAPS will authorise personnel requiring treatment to parade at A D S.

MAJOR.
C. O. 2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

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ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1.

SERIAL NO. 6

NOS 19 - 22

BY

MAJOR G. R. WARFE COMD 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

HQ 2/3 Aust Indep Coy,
28 JUL 43

19. CONGRATULATIONS:-

Message received by MAJOR WARFE from BRIG HANMER "Extremely pleased with the magnificent stand made by your Coy on AMBUSH KNOLL. It was a fine example of grit, determination and the will to hold on and fight it out".

20. DROPPING GROUNDS

All dropping grounds in Brigade area are out of bounds to all troops at all times unless prior authority to enter be given by an officer. All cargo will be handled by and is the responsibility of A A S C personnel located at each dropping ground.

21. AIRGRAPH LETTER SERVICE

Airgraph Letter Service is now available from AUSTRALIA including NEW GUINEA.

SCOPE OF SERVICE The Airgraph Service may be used for letters to Countries with which the necessary arrangements have been made. At present service from AUSEF is available only for communications;

(a) To Civilians in:-

Aden	Palestine	Uganda
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	South Africa	Mauritius
Bahrain	Tanganyika	Northern Rhodesia
British Somaliland	Transjordan	Nyasaland
Canada	Eire	Seychelles
Ceylon	India	Southern Rhodesia
Cyprus	Iraq	United Kingdom
Egypt	Kenya	Zanzibar

(b) To Members of the Forces of the Empire serving in:-

The countries included in the list above and:-

Syria	Malagascar	Occupied Territory of Eritrea.
Persian Iraq Force	Ethiopia (Abyssinia)	
Iran (Persia)	Somalia (Italian Somaliland)	

Further details regarding particulars of conditions governing this service can be obtained from any Aust Army Field Post Office or Unit Postal Station.

...with the... as the AUST PRESS, through...
 ...factual material...
 ...front in closer touch with...
 ...and service regulations...
 ...with factual stories...
 ...units or individuals from the...
 ...ers, HQ, will undertake...
 ...ponsorship and forwarding...
 ...as far as possible...
 ...with corresponding...
 ...Relations Officer at...
 ...let should be

MAJOR

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

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ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1.

SERIAL No. 5
NOS 11 - 18.

BY

MAJOR G. R. WARFE

COMD. 2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

H Q 2/3 AUST INDEP COY,
10 JUL 43.

-
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13. UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF PARACHUTES - (NCF Order Q 262).
1. The continuous delivery of supplies and ammunition to certain forward areas is dependent on the quick return to ordnance after use of parachutes supply dropping. The maintenance of fighting troops in the forward areas is being jeopardised by "souvenirising" of parachutes.
2. Any member of the Allied forces who has now or at any time hereafter, in his possession without lawful authority any parachute or part of a parachute will immediately return it to his Unit H Q for return to salvage.
3. Units will take disciplinary action against any member who is in possession of a parachute or part of a parachute without lawful authority.
14. TREATMENT OF NATIVES - (3 DIV RO 221)
Units will ensure that included in instructions to troops on treatment of natives is the value placed by natives on their pigs. On no account will any pig, even if apparently wild, be shot or
15. SKIN CONDITIONS - (3 DIV RO 223)
Commanding Officers ensure that all ranks are inspected weekly by RMO or Med orderly to check the incidence of skin conditions. Steps will be taken to ensure provide the maximum of ablution facilities and to ensure that they are used by all personnel.

16. WEARING OF SHORTS - (NCF Order A 271)

NCF Order A 220/43 is cancelled and the following order substituted:-

1. The wearing of shorts is forbidden in MILNE BAY, BUNA, ORO BAY, MOROBE, BULLDOG and WAU-BULOLO sub areas.
2. Unit Commanders will ensure that all shorts are withdrawn from personnel stationed in or moving to these areas.

17. DISPOSAL OF SECOND CLASS MAIL.

1. Owing to restrictions on air transport, out of date newspapers, which have been undelivered to forward areas for one calendar month, are to be made available to Hospitals and salvage in MORESBY area.
2. This action does NOT apply to magazines etc which would still retain their news value.
3. Provisions for the above action exists in National Security Regulations.

18. DENTAL TREATMENT

A Dentist is now established at A D S MISSIM. Unit RAPS will authorise personnel requiring treatment to parade at A D S.

MAJOR.
C. O. 2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

APPENDIX

2/3 AUST INDEP COY
3 JUL 43

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - NEW GUINEA FORCE

REPORT ON ACTION OF PATROL TO MALOLO AREA 27 JUN - 2 JUL

REPORT BY LIEUT J. E. LEWIN Ref Map SALAMAUA SKETCH 2" - 1 mile.

OBJECT:- ... area.
LAE TRACK
(a) Attack MALOLO patrol and enemy forces at BUKUAP.
(b) Attack and destroy any parties moving along coastal track either NORTH from SALAMAUA or SOUTH from BUSAMA.
(c) Destroy all enemy war materials, stores, dumps, barges & launches in MALOLO area. 34a

DURATION:- 0830 hrs 27 JUN - 1500 hrs 2 JUL.

PART 1.

- (a) 30 Japs attacked patrol 1640 hrs 29 JUN at MALAGOWAN.
- (b) Jap casualties 12 killed for certain; our casualties - nil.
- (c) When 40 Jap reinforcements arrived patrol commenced withdrawing towards TRACK O P.
- (d) 1 Bren, 2 Rifles, 3 T S M Gs were lost during action.

PART II. ORDER OF EVENTS:-

27 JUN 0830 hrs left MISSIM. 1500 hrs arrived HOTE, contacted Capt Whitelaw, Lieut Looker, Sgt Seale. Checked on future movement of 2 Secs 24 Bn who were to hold SWANS track, arranged for native carriers in case of casualties. Camped HOTE village night 27/28.

28 JUN 0515 left HOTE. 0600 reached T/L SWANS track. 1600 after checking MALAGOWAN village clear, patrol moved in to camp night 28/29. No movement, but smoke seen vicinity BUSAMA, BUKUAP, ASINI. Double guard throughout the night.

29 JUN Continuous observation throughout day. A M.L.M.G fire heard direction KELA HILL.
1030 6 Japs on beach BUSAMA.
1200 The native, GEORGE, joined us; later contacted Luluai WAMASU arranged for evacuation of all WAMASU natives to HOTE.
1300 8 Japs on beach BUKUAP.
1330 Launch with 8 Japs moved from BASAMA towards SALAMAUA.
1600 GEORGE returned with 1 boy & 1 mary. He told me that the rest were moving to HOTE during the night. Strict attention was paid to keeping under cover and all movement was reduced to a minimum. No fires were lit.
1630 Guards were withdrawn and final orders issued under the huts.

GENERAL PLAN:- One sub-sec to raid MALOLO, one sub-sec to raid BUKUAP, both parties to leave MALAGOWAN 1645 hrs and move to position close to objectives. Raids to take place 0630 hrs 30 JUN.
1st R V after raids MALAGOWAN.
2nd R V Junc SWANS track and alternate track.
3rd R V TRACK O P.
1640 While I was issuing final orders 30 Japs with 3 L M Gs attacked from 2 angles from direction MALOLO. I was the first to see them, 5 of whom were 10 yards from the huts. Immediately I called to the sections to collect their weapons and gear. Ptes Owen, Mansbridge and myself started firing. 2 Japs killed. In the meantime several others had got their weapons and some of their gear. The Bren gunner had the Bren, but a long burst of L M G fire hit it, one of the bullets ricocheting and striking the gunner on the lip and cheek. Further efforts to collect the gun were unsuccessful. The patrol was now divided into 3 groups:-
(1) 9 others and myself, positioned 5 yds WEST of the huts.
(2) Cpl NUNN and 6 others who went down the slope SOUTH of the huts.
(3) Sgt MACLEAN and 1 O/R also SOUTH of the huts.
The party of 10 stopped the advance of the Japs, killing 11 for certain, in the village.
Cpl NUNN'S party had struck several Japs in the undergrowth.

APPENDIX

2/3 AUST INDEP COY
3 JUL 43

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - NEW GUINEA

REPORT ON ACTION OF PATROL TO MALALO AREA 27 JUN - 2 JUL

REPORT BY LIEUT J. E. LEWIN Ref Map SALAMAUA SKETCH 2" - 1 mile.

OBJECT OF PATROL:-

- (a) To inflict as many enemy casualties as possible in MALALO area.
- (b) To cut any movement NORTHWARD or SOUTHWARD along SALAMAUA-LAE TRACK
- (c) Destroy any enemy war materials, dumps, barges and launches.

COMPOSITION:-

1 Officer, 1 Sgt, 1 Med Cpl, 16 O/Rs.

DURATION:- 0830 hrs 27 JUN - 1500 hrs 2 JUL.

PART 1.

- (a) 30 Japs attacked patrol 1640 hrs 29 JUN at MALAGOWAN.
- (b) Jap casualties 12 killed for certain; our casualties - nil.
- (c) When 40 Jap reinforcements arrived patrol commenced withdrawing towards TRACK O P.
- (d) 1 Bren, 2 Rifles, 3 T S M Gs were lost during action.

PART II. ORDER OF EVENTS:-

27 JUN 0830 hrs left MISSIM. 1500 hrs arrived HOTE, contacted Capt Whitelaw, Lieut Looker, Sgt Seale. Checked on future movement of 2 Secs 24 Bn who were to hold SWANS track, arranged for native carriers in case of casualties. Camped HOTE village night 27/28.

28 JUN 0515 left HOTE. 0600 reached T/L SWANS track. 1600 after checking MALAGOWAN village clear, patrol moved in to camp night 28/29. No movement, but smoke seen vicinity BUSAMA, BUKUAP, ASINI. Double guard throughout the night.

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1030 6 Japs on beach BUSAMA.

1200 The native, GEORGE, joined us; later contacted Luluai WAMASU arranged for evacuation of all WAMASU natives to HOTE.

1300 8 Japs on beach BUKUAP.

1330 Launch with 8 Japs moved from BASAMA towards SALAMAUA.

1600 GEORGE returned with 1 boy & 1 mary. He told me that the rest were moving to HOTE during the night. Strict attention was paid to keeping under cover and all movement was reduced to a minimum. No fires were lit.

1630 Guards were withdrawn and final orders issued under the huts.

GENERAL PLAN:- One sub-sec to raid MALALO, one sub-sec to raid BUKUAP, both parties to leave MALAGOWAN 1645 hrs and move to position close to objectives. Raids to take place 0630 hrs 30 JUN.

- 1st R V after raids MALAGOWAN.
- 2nd R V Junc SWANS track and alternate track.
- 3rd R V TRACK O P.

1640 While I was issuing final orders 30 Japs with 3 L M Gs attacked from 2 angles from direction MALALO. I was the first to see them, 5 of whom were 10 yards from the huts. Immediately I called to the sections to collect their weapons and gear. Ptes Owen, Mandbridge and myself started firing. 2 Japs killed. In the meantime several others had got their weapons and some of their gear. The Bren gunner had the Bren, but a long burst of L M G fire hit it, one of the bullets ricocheting and striking the gunner on the lip and cheek. Further efforts to collect the gun were unsuccessful. The patrol was now divided into 3 groups:-

- (1) 9 others and myself, positioned 5 yds WEST of the huts.
- (2) Cpl NUNN and 6 others who went down the slope SOUTH of the huts.
- (3) Sgt MACLEAN and 1 O/R also SOUTH of the huts.

The party of 10 stopped the advance of the Japs, killing 11 for certain, in the village.

Cpl NUNN'S party had struck several Japs in the undergrowth

The information contained in this document is NOT to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the press or to any person NOT holding an official position in His Majesty's Service.

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1.

SERIAL NO. 6

NOS 19 - 22

BY

MAJOR G. R. WARPE

COMD 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

HQ 2/3 Aust Indep Coy,
28 JUL 45

19. CONGRATULATIONS:-

Message received by MAJOR WARPE from BRIG MAJORS "Extremely pleased with the magnificent stand made by your Coy on ANBURN KNOLL. It was a fine example of grit, determination and the will to hold on and fight it out".

20. DROPPING GROUNDS

All dropping grounds in Brigade area are out of bounds to all troops at all times unless prior authority to enter be given by an officer. All cargo will be handled by and is the responsibility of A A S C personnel located at each dropping ground.

21. AIRGRAPH LETTER SERVICE

Airgraph Letter Service is now available from AUSTRALIA including NEW GUINEA.

SCOPE OF SERVICE The Airgraph Service may be used for letters to countries with which the necessary arrangements have been made.

At present service from AUST is available only for communications:

(a) To Civilians in:-

Aden	Palestine	Uganda
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	South Africa	Mauritius
Bahrain	Tanganyika	Northern Rhodesia
British Somaliland	Transjordan	Nyasaland
Canada	Eire	Seychelles
Ceylon	India	Southern Rhodesia
Cyprus	Iraq	United Kingdom
Egypt	Kenya	Zanzibar

(b) To Members of the Forces of the Empire serving in:-

The countries included in the list above and:-

Syria	Madagascar	Occupied Territory of Eritrea.
Persian Iraq Force	Ethiopia (Abyssinia)	
Iran (Persia)	Somalia (Italian Somaliland)	

Further details regarding particulars of conditions governing this service can be obtained from any Aust Army Field Post Office or Unit Postal Station.

22. PUBLICITY MATERIAL: AMF UNITS AND PERSONNEL.

Approval has been given for providing the AUST PRESS, through Service channels, with supplementary factual material concerning units and individual members of the AMF.

The intention is to keep the home front in closer touch with the Army. Within the usual censorship and service regulations, district newspapers are to be supplied with factual stories, paragraphs and group photographs of units or individuals from the area concerned.

The Directorate of Public Relations, HQ, will undertake through its Field Units the collation, censorship and forwarding for press publication of suitable material.

Commanders of units will assist these Units as far as possible. Unit photographers may be used.

Undeveloped negatives of such photographs with corresponding lists of names should be forwarded to Public Relations officer at 3 Div. Names of newspapers published in each district should be included.

MAJOR

G O 2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

also on SWANS track and ASINI CK. They tried to hold them but were forced back along the track by L M G fire. **AUSTRALIAN**
Sgt MACLEAN & 1 O/R withdrew SOUTH side of ASINI CK. I could hear L M G fire down on the track and concluded that the Japs were attempting to come up to a position in our area. **REAR**

At this stage 40 reinforcements were seen coming along the track.
1725 I ordered 6 of my party to withdraw WEST along the side of a spur and strike down onto the track to stop Jap movement along the track. Cpl PEMBLE and 2 others ordered to move round the rear of Japs NORTH of village, while the 6 & myself withdrew to an ambush position on the track 200 yds WEST of village. Waited there 20 mins but NO Japs came. As NO further firing was heard after my party left the village, I presumed Cpl PEMBLE's party had withdrawn to the track further WEST than our position. Footprints on the track indicated that at least 6 had withdrawn. My party then proceeded to 2nd R V where we again waited in ambush position. NO further firing was heard.
Moved on toward TRACK O P.

1815 T S M G, rifle and L M G fire was heard.

2000 2 heavy Mortar bombs exploded in the village, followed by L M G fire.

2100 Reached TRACK O P. Check on my section showed 5 missing:-

Cpl PEMBLE'S party & Sgt MACLEAN'S

Cpl NUNN had sent the 6 others of his party to contact 24 Bn secs and give warning orders for stretcher parties.

My Party plus Cpl NUNN camped TRACK O P.

Sgt MACLEAN scrub bashed onto the track and tried to contact others of the patrol but could NOT.

1730 Cpl PEMBLE'S party withdrew 30 yds WEST of village and waited for 45 minutes for Japs to enter. During this period NO movement was seen and there was NO firing.

1815 1 Jap crawled into village. Cpl PEMBLE, Ptes OWEN & MANSBRIDGE opened fire with T S M Gs and rifle. Japs returned fire with fire with L M Gs and rifles. Further silence to 2000 hrs when 2 heavy Mortar bombs exploded in village. The party withdrew to R V 2 and camped the night.

30 JUN First light we proceeded to 24 Bn camp at 1st water. Patrol was sent back towards MALAGOWAN to try and contact any of the 5 missing but had only travelled for 1 hour when Cpl PEMBLE'S party was met. 10 minutes later Sgt MACLEAN & the O/R met the patrol and all reported to me

First light Cpl PEMBLE'S party, finding nobody at R V 2 returned to position WEST of village and after observation for 30 minutes ~~of the position~~ saw NO sign of occupation. Entered village gathered equipment and packs and brought it out to position NORTH of village. NO signs of Bren, rifles, or T S M Gs.

A patrol was being arranged to salvage the lost equipment when I received a message to return in haste.

1700 11 of patrol at CISSEMBOB.

1 JUL A M I returned with 7 O/Rs to CISSEMBOB.

2 JUL A M Returned to MISSIM.

GENERAL REMARKS

I now consider that the Japs had seen MANSBRIDGE recce patrol the previous week and, expecting some further operation in that area, moved a force to MALALO, employing ASINI natives to watch SWANS TRACK.

*J. Lewis Lieut
ac. No 1 Sec.*

PART D. NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	APPOINTMENT	WITH UNIT?	IF NOT, WHERE?
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARFE	C O	YES	
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/c.	"	
"	VX 22404	W. A. NEARES	PL. COMD	"	
LT	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"	
LIEUT	NX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"	
"	VX 36927	P. B. HARRISON	ADJT-QM	"	
"	SX 21309	L. B. BURZAGOTT	SIG OFFR	"	
"	WX 6576	J. C. LILLIE	SEC COMD	"	
"	VX 34170	P. R. ALLEN	"	"	
"	NX 76246	K. D. R. STEPHENS	"	"	
"	VX 52496	D. D. ERSKINE	"	"	
"	WX 12436	E. J. BARRY	"	"	
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	NX 123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"	
"	VX 59445	A. L. EGAN	"	"	
"	NX 114931	S. READ		NO	At present with
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINEHAM		"	rear details Moresby.

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	UNIT	NATURE	ALLOWED BY WE
CAPT	NX 3485B	F. W. STREET	A.A.M.C.	R.M.O.	YES

2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

3 JUL 43.

.....
Signature of Commander

15 AUST INF BDE.

Serial No. 20.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

A.I.F. 111/100/1.
W.E. Reference

A.M.F.

Date 3 JUL 43

W.E. 18 X 272

Attached Allowed by W.E. 1 X 10

2/3 AUST INDEP COY Unit

PART A. — STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

1	2	3	4
Ranks and W.E.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels . . .			
Majors	<u>1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	
Captains	<u>6.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>1.</u>
Lieutenants	<u>13.</u>	<u>13.</u>	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	<u>38.</u>	<u>17.</u>	<u>1.</u>

* Insert detail of higher rank as necessary

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

Officers JOINED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause

Officers QUITTED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause

PART C. — DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED

Rank	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	(Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known))

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
MAJOR	VX 196	G. R. WARFE	C. O.	YES	
CAPT	VX 53990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/C	"	
"	VX 22404	W. A. NEARES	PL COMD	"	
"	OX 19133	J. S. WINTERFLOD	"	"	
LIEUT	MX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"	
"	VX 36927	F. B. HARRISON	ED. T.-ON	"	
"	SX 21369	L. B. BURZACOTT	SIG OFFR	"	
"	WX 3576	J. C. LITTLE	SEC COMD	"	
"	VX 34170	P. H. ALLEN	"	"	
"	MX 76248	K. J. R. STEPHENS	"	"	
"	VX 52133	D. D. ERSKINE	"	"	
"	WX 12433	E. J. BARRY	"	"	
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	MX 123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"	
"	VX 59443	H. L. NOAN	"	"	
"	MX 114931	S. READ		NO	} At present with } rear details } MORESBY
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINGHAM		"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	Date of Attachment	Nature of Attachment	Allowed by W.E. (Insert Yes or No)
CAPT	MX 34858	P. N. STREET	A.A.M.C.	MXND.	R.M.O.	YES

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

(Unit)

(Signature of Commander)

3 JUL 43.

(Date of Despatch)

15 AUST INF BDE

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

SERIAL No. 20.

3 JUL 43

WE AIF 111/100/1.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

WE 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A.

STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

RANKS	W. E.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
MAJORS	1	1		
CAPTAINS	4	3		1.
LIEUTENANTS	13	13		
	18.	17.		1.

111/100/1
 111/100/1
 111/100/1

111/100/1
 111/100/1
 111/100/1

PART D. — NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
MAJOR	VX 196	C. R. WARREN	C. O.	YES	
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	S 3/6	"	
"	VX 22404	W. A. BEARES	PL. COMD	"	
"	OX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"	
LIEUT	OX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"	
"	VX 36927	P. B. HARRISON	ADJT-QM	"	
"	OX 21309	L. B. BURROUGHS	SIG OFFR	"	
"	VX 6576	J. C. LITTLE	SIG COMD	"	
"	VX 34170	P. B. ALLEN	"	"	
"	OX 76248	R. N. R. STEPHENS	"	"	
"	VX 52495	D. D. BRISKINE	"	"	
"	VX 12436	E. J. HART	"	"	
"	VX 56409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	OX 123781	R. S. GAYLARD	"	"	
"	VX 53443	H. L. BOAN	"	"	
"	OX 114931	S. READ		NO	At present with Rear Details MORSEBY
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINELAN		"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	Date of Attachment	Nature of Attachment	Allowed by W.E. (Insert Yes or No)
CAPT	OX 34858	F. H. STREET	A.A.M.C.	XXXXXX	R.M.O.	YES

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

(Unit)

10 JUL 43

(Date of Despatch)

U. Stephen Lewis
(Signature of Commander)

15 AUST INDEP BDE

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

SERIAL No. 21.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W.E. 111/100/1.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

10 JUL 43.

W.E. 18 X 272

"ATT 1 X 10

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

RANKS	W.E.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
MAJORS	1	1		
CAPTAINS	4	3		1.
LIEUTENANTS	13.	13.		
	18.	17.	-	1.

PART D. NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	APPOINTMENT	WITH UNIT?	IF NOT WHERE?
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARFE	C. O.	YES	
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/C.	"	
"	VX 22404	W. A. NEARES	PL. COMD	"	
"	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"	
LIEUT	NX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"	
"	VX 36927	F. B. HARRISON	ADJT-QM	"	
"	SX 21309	L. B. BURZACOTT	SIG OFFR	"	
"	WX 6576	J. C. LILLIE	SEC COMD	"	
"	VX 34170	P. H. ALIEN	"	"	
"	NX 76246	K. H. R. STEPHENS	"	"	
"	VX 52495	D. D. ERSKINE	"	"	
"	WX 12436	E. J. BARRY	"	"	
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	NX 123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"	
"	VX 59445	H. L. EGAN	"	"	
"	NX 114931	S. READ		NO	at present with Rear
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINEHAM		"	Details, MORESBY

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	UNIT	NATURE	ALLOWED BY WE
CAPT	NX 34858	F. N. STREET	A.A.M.C.	RMO	YES.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

10 JUL 43.

H. Stephens

 SIGNATURE OF COMMANDER.

15 AUST INF BDE.

Serial No. 21.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W.E. Reference A.I.F. 111/100/1.

XXMEK

Date 10 JUL 43

W.E. 18 X 272

Attached Allowed by W.E. 1 X 10

2/3 AUST INDEP COY Unit

PART A. — STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

1	2	3	4
Ranks and W.E.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels . .			
Majors	<u>1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	
Captains	<u>4.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>1.</u>
Lieutenants	<u>13.</u>	<u>13.</u>	
2nd Lieutenants . .			
Quartermasters . .			
Totals	<u>18.</u>	<u>17.</u>	<u>1.</u>

* Insert detail of higher rank as necessary

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

Officers JOINED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause

Officers QUITTED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause

PART C. — DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED

Rank	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	(Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known))

PART D. NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	APPOINTMENT WITH UNT?	IF NOT WHERE?
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARFE	C O	YES
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/C.	"
"	VX 22404	W. A. MEARES	PL COMD	"
"	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"
LIEUT	NX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"
"	NX 76246	K. H. R. STEPHENS	ADJT-QM	"
"	SX 21309	L. B. BURZACOTT	SIG OFFR	"
"	WX 8576	J. C. LILLIE	SEC COMD	"
"	VX 34170	O. H. ALLEN	"	"
"	VX 52495	D. D. ERSKINE	"	"
"	WX 12436	E. J. BARRY	"	"
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"
"	NX 123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"
"	VX 59445	H. L. EGAN	"	"
"	NX 114931	S. READ		NO) AT PRESENT MOVING
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINEHAM		") FROM MORESBY TO) FWD AREA.

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	UNIT	NATURE	ALLOWED BY W E
CAPT	NX 34858	F. N. STREET	A A M C	R M O	YES.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

17 JUL 43.

SIGNATURE OF COMMANDER

15 AUST INF BDE.

Serial No. 22

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W.E. Reference A.I.F. 111/100/1.

X.M.F.

Date 17 JUL 43

W.E. 18 X 272

Attached Allowed by W.E. 1 X 10

2/3 AUST INDEP COY Unit

PART A. — STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

1	2	3	4
Ranks and W.E.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
* ..			
* ..			
Lieut.-Colonels ..			
Majors 1	1		
Captains 4	3		1
Lieutenants .. . 13	12		1
2nd Lieutenants ..			
Quartermasters ..			
Totals .. . 18	16		2.

* Insert detail of higher rank as necessary

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

Officers JOINED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause

Officers QUITTED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause
LIEUT	VX 36937 F B HARRISON	THIS COY	15 JUL 43	KILLED IN ACTION.

PART C. — DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED

Rank	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	(Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known))

PART D. NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	APPOINTMENT WITH UNT?	IF NOT WHERE?
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARFE	C O	YES
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/C.	"
"	VX 22404	W. A. MEARES	PL COMD	"
"	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"
LIEUT	NX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"
"	NX 76246	K. H. R. STEPHENS	ADJT-QM	"
"	SX 21309	L. B. BURZACOTT	SIG OFFR	"
"	WX 8576	J. C. LILLIE	SEC COMD	"
"	VX 34170	O. H. ALLEN	"	"
"	VX 52495	D. D. ERSKINE	"	"
"	WX 12436	E. J. BARRY	"	"
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"
"	NX 123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"
"	VX 59445	H. L. EGAN	"	"
"	NX 114931	S. READ		NO) AT PRESENT MOVING
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINEHAM		") FROM MORESBY TO) FWD AREA.

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	UNIT	NATURE	ALLOWED BY W E
CAPT	NX 34858	F. N. STREET	A A M C	R M O	YES.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

17 JUL 43.

SIGNATURE OF COMMANDER

15 AUST INF BDE.

Serial No. 22

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W.E. Reference 111/100/1.

A.I.E. XAME

Date 17 JUL 43

W.E. 18 X 272

Attached Allowed by W.E. 1 X 10

2/3 AUST INDEP COY Unit

PART A. — STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

1	2	3	4
Ranks and W.E.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
* ..			
* ..			
Lieut.-Colonels ..			
Majors	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
Captains	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
Lieutenants .. .	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>
2nd Lieutenants .			
Quartermasters ..			
Totals	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>

* Insert detail of higher rank as necessary

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

Officers JOINED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause

Officers QUITTED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause
LIEUT	VX 36937 F B HARRISON	THIS COY	15 JUL 43	KILLED IN ACTION.

PART C. — DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED

Rank	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	(Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known))

PART D. NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	APPOINTMENT WITH UNT?	IF NOT WHERE?
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARFE	G O	YES
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/C.	"
"	VX 22404	W. A. MEARES	PL COMD	"
"	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"
LIEUT	NX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"
"	NX 76246	K. H. R. STEPHENS	ADJT-QM	"
"	SX 21309	L. B. BURZACOTT	SIG OFFR	"
"	WX 8576	J. C. LILLIE	SEC COMD	"
"	VX 34170	O. E. ALLEN	"	"
"	VX 52495	D. D. ERSKINE	"	"
"	WX 12436	E. J. BARRY	"	"
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"
"	NX 123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"
"	VX 59445	H. L. EGAN	"	"
"	NX 114931	S. READ		NO) AT PRESENT MOVING
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINEHAM		") FROM MORESBY TO) FWD AREA.

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	UNIT	NATURE	ALLOWED BY W E
CAPT	NX 34858	F. N. STREET	A A M C	R M O	YES.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

SIGNATURE OF COMMANDER

17 JUL 43.

15 AUST INF BDE.

Serial No. 22

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

A.I.F. 111/100/1.
W.E. Reference XAME

Date 17 JUL 43

W.E. 18 X 272

Attached 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Unit
Allowed by W.E. 1 X 10

PART A. — STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

1	2	3	4
Ranks and W.E.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
* ..			
* ..			
Lieut.-Colonels ..			
Majors <u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		
Captains <u>4</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>1</u>
Lieutenants .. . <u>13</u>	<u>13</u>		<u>1</u>
2nd Lieutenants ..			
Quartermasters ..			
Totals <u>18</u>	<u>16</u>		<u>2.</u>

* Insert detail of higher rank as necessary

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

Officers JOINED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause

Officers QUITTED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause
LIEUT	VX 36937 F B HARRISON	THIS COY	15 JUL 43	KILLED IN ACTION.

PART C. — DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED

Rank	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	(Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known))

PART D. — NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARFE	C. O.	YES	
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/C	"	
"	VX 22404	W. A. MEARES	PL. COMD	"	
"	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"	
LIEUT	NX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"	
"	NX 76246	K. H. R. STEPHENS	AD. JT QM	"	
"	SX 21309	L. B. BURZACOTT	SIG OFFER	"	
"	VX 34170	P. H. ALLEN	SEC. COMD	"	
"	VX 52495	D. D. ERSKINE	"	"	
"	WX 12436	E. J. BARRY	"	"	
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	NX 123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"	
"	WX 2100	S. G. JEFFERY	"	"	
"	NX 114931	S. READ	"	"	
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINEHAM	"	"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	Date of Attachment	Nature of Attachment	Allowed by W.E. (Insert Yes or No)
CAPT	NX 34858	F. N. STREET	A A M C		R M O	YES

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

(Unit)

24 JUL 43

(Date of Despatch)

(Signature of Commander)

15 AUST INF BDE

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

SERIAL NO. 23

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

24 JUL 43

WE AIF 111/100/1.
WE 18 X 272
ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A STRENGTH, SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

RANKS	WE	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
MAJORS	1	1		
CAPTAINS	4	3		1
LIEUTENANTS	13	11		2
	18	15		3

PART B OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

WX LIEUT VX 59445 H. L. EGAN THIS COY 21 JUL 43 KILLED IN ACTION
" WX 8576 J. C. LILLIE " 17 JUL 43 WOUNDED IN ACTION
EVAC ADS MISSIM
17 JUL 43.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

LIEUT WX 2100 S. G. JEFFERY THIS COY 19 JUL 43 FROM 3 DIV REC CAMP
EX Con Camp EDIE CK.
" NX 114931 S. READ " 22 JUL 43) Joined Coy from
" VX 51663 E. J. LINEHAM " ") REAR DETAILS MORESBY

PART D. — NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARRE	C O	YES	
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/C	"	
"	VX 22404	W. A. NEARES	PL. COMD	"	
"	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"	
LIEUT	NX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"	
"	NX 76246	K. H. R. STEPHENS	ADJT QM	"	
"	SX 21309	L. B. BIRZACOTT	SIG OFFR	"	
"	VX 34170	P. H. ALLEN	SEC COMD	"	
"	VX 52495	D. D. ERSKINE	"	"	
"	NX 12436	E. J. BARRY	"	"	
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	NX 123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"	
"	NX 2100	S. G. JEFFERY	"	"	
"	NX 114931	S. READ	"	"	
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINEHAM	"	"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	Date of Attachment	Nature of Attachment	Allowed by W.E. (Insert Yes or No)
CAPT	NX 34858	F. N. STREET	A A M C		R M O	YES

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

(Unit)

(Signature of Commander)

24 JUL 43

(Date of Despatch)

15 AUST INF BDE

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

SERIAL NO. 23

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

24 JUL 43

WE AIF 111/100/1.
WE 18 X 272
ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A STRENGTH, SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

RANKS	WE	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
MAJORS	1	1		
CAPTAINS	4	3		1
LIEUTENANTS	13	11		2
	18	15		3

PART B OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

VX LIEUT VX 59445 H. L. EGAN THIS COY 21 JUL 43 KILLED IN ACTION
" WX 8576 J. O. LILLIE " 17 JUL 43 WOUNDED IN ACTION
EVAC ADS MISSIM 17 JUL 43.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

LIEUT WX 2100 S. G. JEFFERY THIS COY 19 JUL 43 FROM 3 DIV REG CAMP
EX Con Camp EDIE CK.
" NX 114931 S. READ " 22 JUL 43)
" VX 51663 E. J. LINEHAM " ") REAR DETAILS MORESBY

PART D. — NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WATTE	C.O.	YES	
CAPT	VX 58990	R. H. HANCOCK	S.I.C.	"	
"	VI 22404	W. I. HEARNS	PL COMD	"	
"	VI 10100	J. S. HINCHFLOD	"	"	
LIEUT	VI 76848	J. S. LEWIN	"	"	
"	VX 76848	K. H. R. STEPHENS	ADJ QM	"	
"	VI 21300	L. B. BURZACORN	AIC OPER	"	
"	VI 34170	R. J. ALLEN	SBC COMD	"	
"	VI 12430	R. J. BARRY	"	"	
"	VI 50400	G. H. LEVINGTON	"	"	
"	VI 123701	R. S. GARRARD	"	"	
"	VI 8100	S. S. GARRARD	"	"	
"	VI 114931	S. BEAD	"	"	
"	VI 51000	S. J. LINDHAY	"	"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	Date of Attachment	Nature of Attachment	Allowed by W.E. (Insert Yes or No)
EXP CAPT	NY 34858	R. H. STREET	A.A.M.C.		R.H.C.	YES

9/3 AUG 1943 (Unit)

(Signature of Commander)

31 JUL 43 (Date of Despatch)

15 AUG 1943 (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

SERIAL NO. 24

2/3 AVST INDEF COY

31 JUL 43.

WE AIF 111/100/1.

WE 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 16

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

RANKS	W. E.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
MAJORS	1	1		
CAPTAINS	4	5		1
LIEUTENANTS	13	10		3
	18	14		4

PART B. OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK

LIEUT VX 52495 D. D. ERSKINE THIS COY ~~KILLED IN ACTION~~
 DIED OF WOUNDS 26 JUL 43.

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
MAJOR	186	C. E. WARNE	C.O.	YES	
CAPT	59280	R. N. HAYCOCK	S.I.C.	"	
"	22404	F. A. THAMES	TS COID	"	
"	19185	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"	
"	70245	"	"	"	
"	70246	R. W. R. STEPHENS	ADJUTANT	"	
"	22309	L. D. BURKACOTT	SIC COID	"	
"	34170	H. E. ALLEN	SEC COID	"	
"	10438	S. J. BARRY	"	"	
"	50400	C. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	120701	R. S. GIBLAND	"	"	
"	114031	R. BRAD	"	"	
"	51005	S. J. LITMAN	"	"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	Date of Attachment	Nature of Attachment	Allowed by W.E. (Insert Yes or No)
MR CAPT	34858	R. N. SIMONS	A.A.M.C.		R.N.O.	YES

2/5 ALBT INDEP COY
(Unit)

(Signature of Commander)

31 JUL 43
(Date of Despatch)

15 AUST INF BDE
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

SERIAL NO. 24

2/3 AUST INDEF COY

31 JUL 43.

WE AIF 111/100/1.

WE 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

RAKES	W. E.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
MAJORS	1	1		
CAPTAINS	4	3		1
LIEUTENANTS	13	10		3
	18	14	-	4

PART B. OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK

LIEUT VX 52495 D. D. WRSKINE THIS COY
DIED OF WOUNDS 26 JUL 43.

APPENDIX 48

2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

PART D.

DETAILS OF SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

DETAIL	<u>SURPLUS</u>			TOTAL	<u>REQUIRED</u>	
	SGTS	CPLS	POES		POES	TOTAL
CARPENTERS					1	1
MECHANICS M V					1	1
ELECTRICIANS					1	1
COOKS		1		1	1	1
SIGNALLERS		6		6		
do OPERATORS			2	2		
SURVEYORS			1	1		
GENERAL DUTIES	2	6		8	37	37
	2	7	9	18	41	41

2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

SIGNATURE OF COMMANDER

3 JUL 43

15 AUST INF BDE.

SERIAL NO. 20.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS. (Adapted)

WE AIF 111/100/1.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY (Unit) 3 JUL 43 19 (Date.)

WE 13 X 278

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

ATT WE 1 X 10

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2		3	4
Detail.	Posted Strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).		Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.O's. Class I.	W. E.	POSTED		
W.O's. Class II.	1	1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	1	1		
Staff Serjeants				
Serjeants	7	9	2	
Corporals	23	35	7	
Troopers, Privates, &c.	235	203	9	41.
TOTALS	272	249	* 18	* 41.

*These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
SERGEANTS 2	A. A. N. C.		
CORPORALS 4	do		
SERGEANTS 1	A. A. P. C.		
CORPORALS 1	A. A. P. S.		
CORPORALS 1 (Armourer)	A. E. M. E.		
L/CORPORALS 1 (Shoemaker)	A. A. O. C.		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

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

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED							REMARKS.	
	W.O's. Class I.	W.O's. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants	Serjeants	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL	W.O's. Class I.	W.O's. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL
Bricklayers																
Butchers																
Carpenters and Joiners												1			1	
Clerks																
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																
Electricians												1			1	
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers																
Signallers							2								2	
Storemen, Technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners																
Cooks					1							1			1	
SURVEYORS						1									1	
SIG OPS.						6									6	
MECHS M. V.												1			1	
General Duty Personnel					2	6							37		37	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)					2	7							41		41	

2/3 AUST INDEP COY. Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 3 JUL 45

15 AUST INF BDE. Bde., Divn., Area, Ec., with which unit is serving.

SERIAL No. 20

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

WE AIF 111/100/1.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

3 JUL 43

WE 18 X 272
ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

DETAIL	W.E.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
W O CLASS 11	1	1		
C Q M S	1	1		
SERGEANTS	7	9	2	
CORPORALS	28	35	7	
PRIVATES	235	203	9	41
	272	249	18	41

PART B. OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS ALLOWED BY W.E.

DETAIL	UNIT
SERGEANTS 2	A A M G
CORPORALS 4	do
SERGEANTS 1	A A P C
CORPORALS 1	A A P S
CORPORALS (ARMOURER) 1	A E M E
L/CORPORALS (Shoemaker) 1	A. A O C.

RECEIVED
RECEIVED
RECEIVED
RECEIVED

30 JUL 43

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

SERIAL No. 21.

WE AIF 111/100/1.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

10 JUL 43

WE 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A.STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

DETAIL	W. E.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
W Os CLASS 11	1	1		
C. Q. M. S.	1	1		
SERGEANTS	7	9	2	
CORPORALS	28	35	7	
PRIVATES	235	203	10	42
	272	249	19	42

ATTACHED BY W.E.

DETAIL	UNIT
SERGEANTS 2	A.A.M.C.
CORPORALS 4	"
SERGEANTS 1	A.A.P.C.
CORPORALS 1	A.A.P.S.
L/CORPORALS 1 (shoemaker)	A.E.M.E.

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED							REMARKS.	
	W.O's. Class I.	W.O's. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants	Serjeants	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL	W.O's. Class I.	W.O's. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL
Bricklayers																
Butchers																
Carpenters and Joiners							1	1					1	1		
Clerks																
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.													1	1		
Electricians																
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers							2	2								
Signallers																
Storemen, Technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners					1			1					1	1		
SCROLLERS OPERATORS																
COOKS						6		6								
SURVEYORS						1		1								
MECHANICS M.T.													1	1		
DRIVERS M.T.													1	1		
General Duty Personnel				2	1			3					37	37		
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)				2	7	10		19					41	41		

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Unit.

10 JUL 43

Date of Despatch.....

W. S. ...
Signature of Commander.

15 AUST INF BDE

Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

SERIAL No. 21.

WE AIF 111/100/1.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

10 JUL 43

WE 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

DETAIL	W. E.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
W. Os CLASS 11	1	1		
C. Q. M. S.	1	1		
SERGEANTS	7	9	2	
CORPORALS	28	35	7	
PRIVATES	235	203	10	42
	272	249	19	42

ATTACHED BY W.E.

DETAIL	UNIT
SERGEANTS 2	A.A.M.C.
CORPORALS 4	"
SERGEANTS 1	A.A.P.C.
CORPORALS 1	A.A.P.S.
L/CORPORALS 1 (Shoemaker)	A.E.M.E.

BRITISH ARMY
SERVICES
BUREAU
.

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10 JUL 43

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Unit.

Army Form W.3009
(page 2)

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED						REMARKS.	
	W.O's. Class I.	W.O's. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants	Serjeants	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL	W.O's. Class I.	W.O's. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants	Corporals		Troopers, Privates, &c.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners													1		1
Clerks							1								1
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians													1		1
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers							52								52
Storemen, Technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks					1								1		1
SIGS OPERATORS						35									35
SURVEYORS						1									1
DVR. MECHANICS													1		1
DVR M T.													1		1
General Duty Personnel					2	6							15		35
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)				3	27	8		27				10		19	57
													22	10	32
													57	8	65

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch... 17 JUL 43

15 AUST INF BDE.
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

SERIAL NO. 22

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

17 JUL 43

WE AIF 111/100/1.

WE 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A STRENGTH, SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

DETAIL	WE	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
WO CLASS 11	1	1		
C Q M S	1	1		
SERGEANTS	17	9	2	
CORPORALS	28	35	7	
PRIVATES	235	205	10 R	R 40
	272	251	19	40

ATTACHED BY W. E.

SERGEANTS	2	A A M G
CORPORALS	4	DO
SERGEANTS	1	A A P C
CORPORALS	1	A A P S
L/CORPORALS (Shoemaker)	1	A E M E

PART D DETAIL OF SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

DETAIL	SURPLUS				REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED	
	SGTS	CPLS	PTES	TOTAL	PTES	TOTAL
CLERKS			1	1		
SIGNALLERS			5	5		
SIGNALLERS OPS.			3	3		
SURVEYORS			1	1		
COOKS		1		1	1	1
MECHANICS M T					1	1
DRIVERS M T					1	1
CARPENTERS					1	1
ELECTRICIANS					1	1
GENERAL DUTIES	2	6		8	35	35
	2	7	10	19	40	40

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

17 JUL 43.

SIGNATURE OF COMMANDER

15 AUST INF BDE

SERIAL NO. 22

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

(Adapted)

WE AIF 111/100/1.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY (Unit)

17 JUL 43 19... (Date.)

WE 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 10

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1 Detail.	2 Posted Strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.O's. Class I.	WE POSTED		
W.O's. Class II.	1 1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	1 1		
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	7 9	2	
Corporals	28 35	7	
Troopers, Privates, &c.	235 205	10	40
TOTALS	272 251	* 19	* 40

*These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail. ALLOWED BY WE	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
SERGEANTS 2	A A M C		
CORPORALS 4	do		
SERGEANTS 1	A A P C		
CORPORALS 1	A A P S		
L/CORPORALS 1 (Shoemaker)	A E M E		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

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

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

W. 3009

PART D. DETAIL OF SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

DETAIL	SURPLUS			TOTAL	REQUIRED	
	SQTS	CPLS	PTES		PTES	TOTAL
CLERKS			1	1		
SURVEYORS			1	1		
SIGS OPERATORS			8	8		
COOKS		1	-	1	1	1
CARPENTERS					1	1
ELECTRICIANS					1	1
MECHANICS M.T.					1	1
DRIVER M T					1	1
GENERAL DUTIES	1	5	-	6	50	50
	1	6	10	17	55	55

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

24 JUL 43

Signature of Commander

15 AUST INF BDE.

24 JUL 43

24 JUL 43

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

W. 3003

SERIAL NO. 23

W. E. AIF 111/100/1.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

24 JUL 43

W. E. 18 X 272

ATT W E 1 X 10

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

<u>DETAIL</u>	<u>W. E.</u>	<u>POSTED</u>	<u>SURPLUS</u>	<u>REQUIRED</u>
W O CLASS 11	1	1		
C. Q. M. S.	1	1		
SERGEANTS	7	8	1	
CORPORALS	28	34	6	
PRIVATES	235	190	10	55
	272	234	17	55

PART B. OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS ALLOWED BY WE

<u>DETAIL</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
SERGEANTS 2	A. A. M. C.
CORPORALS 4	do
SERGEANTS 1	A. A. P. C.
CORPORALS 1	A. A. P. S.
L/CORPORALS 1 (Shoemaker)	A. E. M. E.

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED							REMARKS.	
	W.O's. Class I.	W.O's. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants	Serjeants.	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL	W.O's. Class I.	W.O's. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL
Bricklayers																
Butchers																
Carpenters and Joiners														1	1	
Clerks							1	1								
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																
Electricians														1	1	
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers																
Signallers OPERATORS							8	8								
Storemen, Technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners																
Cooks							1	1						1	1	
SURVEYORS							1	1								
DVR MECHANICS														1	1	
MECHANICS M T														1	1	
DVR M T														1	1	
General Duty Personnel							1	1				1	56	57		
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)							22 2 10	12				1	62	63		

2/3 AUST INDEP COY
Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 31 JUL 43

15 AUST INF BDE
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

SERIAL NO. 24

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

31 JUL 43

WE AIF 111/100/1.

WE 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 10

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

DETAIL	W. E.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
W O CLASS 11	1	1		
C Q M S	1	1		
SERGEANTS	7	6		1.
CORPORALS	26	30	2.	
PRIVATES	235	183	10.	62.
	272	221	12.	63.

PART B. OTHER RANKS ATTACHED BY W. E. FROM OTHER CORPS

SERGEANTS	2	A. A. N. C.
CORPORALS	4	do
SERGEANTS	1	A. A. P. C.
CORPORALS	1	A. A. P. S.
L/CORPORALS (Shoemaker)	1	A. E. N. B.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

W 3008

PART D SURPLUS OF REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

DETAIL	SURPLUS			REINFORCEMENTS		
	CPLS	PTES	TOTAL	SOTS	PTES	TOTAL
CLERKS		1	1			
SURVEYORS		1	1			
SIGNALLERS OPERATORS		8	8			
COOKS	1		1		1	1
CARPENTERS					1	1
ELECTRICIANS					1	1
DRIVER MECHANICS					1	1
MECHANICS M T					1	1
DRIVERS M T					1	1
GENERAL DUTIES	1		1	1	56	57
	2	10	12	1	62	63

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Signature of Commander

51 JUL 43.

15 AUST INF BDE

APPENDIX 49

2/3 AUST INDEP COY
3 JUL 43

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - NEW GUINEA FORCE
REPORT ON ACTION OF PATROL TO MALOLO AREA 27 JUN - 2 JUL

le.

OBJECT:-

- (a) Attack MALOLO patrol and enemy forces at BUKUAP.
- (b) Attack and destroy any parties moving along coastal track either NORTH from SALAMAUA or SOUTH from BUSAMA.
- (c) Destroy all enemy war materials, stores, dumps, barges and launches in MALOLO area.

a.
TRAC

1 Officer, 1 Sgt, 1 Med Cpl, 16 O/Rs.

DURATION:- 0830 hrs 27 JUN - 1500 hrs 2 JUL.

PART 1.

- (a) 30 Japs attacked patrol 1640 hrs 29 JUN at MALAGOWAN.
- (b) Jap casualties 12 killed for certain; our casualties - nil.
- (c) When 40 Jap reinforcements arrived patrol commenced withdrawing towards TRACK O P.
- (d) 1 Bren, 2 Rifles, 3 T S M Gs were lost during action.

PART II. ORDER OF EVENTS:-

27 JUN 0830 hrs left MISSIM. 1500 hrs arrived HOTE, contacted Capt Whitelaw, Lieut Looker, Sgt Seale. Checked on future movement of 2 Secs 24 Bn who were to hold SWANS track, arranged for native carriers in case of casualties. Camped HOTE village night 27/28.

28 JUN 0515 left HOTE. 0600 reached T/L SWANS track. 1600 after checking MALAGOWAN village clear patrol moved in to camp night 28/29. No movement, but smoke seen vicinity BUSAMA, BUKUAP, ASINI. Double guard throughout the night.

29 JUN Continuous observation throughout day A M L M G fire heard direction KELA HILL.

1030 6 Japs on beach BUSAMA.

1200 The native, GEORGE, joined us; later contacted Luluai WAMASU arranged for evacuation of all WAMASU natives to HOTE.

1300 8 Japs on beach BUKUAP.

1330 Launch with 8 Japs moved from BASAMA towards SALAMAUA.

1600 GEORGE returned with 1 boy & 1 mary. He told me that the rest were moving to HOTE during the night. Strict attention was paid to keeping under cover and all movement was reduced to a minimum. No fires were lit.

1630 Guards were withdrawn and final orders issued under the huts.

GENERAL PLAN:- One Sub-sec to raid MALOLO, one Sub-sec to raid BUKUAP, both parties to leave MALAGOWAN 1645 hrs and move to position close to objectives. Raids to take place 0630 hrs 30 JUN.

1st R V after raids MALAGOWAN.

2nd R V June SWANS track and alternate track

3rd R V TRACK O P.

1640 While I was issuing final orders 30 Japs with 3 L M Gs attacked from 2 angles from direction MALOLO. I was the first to see them, 5 of whom were 10 yards from the huts. Immediately I called to the sections to collect their weapons and gear. Ptes Owen, Mansbridge and myself started firing. 2 Japs killed. In the meantime several others had got their weapons and some of their gear. The Bren gunner had the Bren but a long burst of L M G fire hit it, one of the bullets ricocheting and striking the gunner on the lip and cheek. Further efforts to collect the gun were unsuccessful. The patrol was now divided into 3 groups:-

- (1) 9 others and myself, positioned 5 yds WEST of the huts.
- (2) Cpl NUNN and 6 others who went down the slope SOUTH of the huts.
- (3) Sgt BASHAM and 1 O/R also SOUTH of the huts.

The party of 10 stopped the advance of the Japs, killing 11 for certain, in the village.

Cpl NUNN'S party had struck several Japs in the undergrowth

REPORT ON ACTION OF PATROL TO MALOLO AREA 27 JUN - 2 JUL

REPORT BY LIEUT J. E. LEWIN Ref Map SALAMAUA SKETCH 2" - 1 mile.

OBJECT OF PATROL:-

- (a) To inflict as many enemy casualties as possible in MALOLO area.
- (b) To cut any movement NORTHWARD or SOUTHWARD along SALAMAUA-LAE TRACK
- (c) Destroy any enemy war materials, dumps, barges and launches.

COMPOSITION:-

1 officer, 1 sgt, 1 med cpl, 16 O/Rs.

DURATION:- 0830 hrs 27 JUN - 1500 hrs 2 JUL.

PART 1.

- (a) 30 Japs attacked patrol 1640 hrs 29 JUN at MALAGOWAN.
- (b) Jap casualties 12 killed for certain; our casualties - nil.
- (c) When 40 Jap reinforcements arrived patrol commenced withdrawing towards TRACK O P.
- (d) 1 Bren, 2 Rifles, 3 T S M Gs were lost during action.

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- 28 JUN 0515 left HOTE. 0600 reached T/L SWANS track. 1600 after checking MALAGOWAN village clear patrol moved in to camp night 28/29. No movement, but smoke seen vicinity BUSAMA, BUKUAP, ASINI. Double guard throughout the night.
- 29 JUN Continuous observation throughout day A M. L M G fire heard direction KELA HILL.
- 1030 6 Japs on beach BUSAMA.
- 1200 The native, GEORGE, joined us; later contacted Luluai WAMASU arranged for evacuation of all WAMASU natives to HOTE.
- 1300 8 Japs on beach BUKUAP.
- 1330 Launch with 8 Japs moved from BASAMA towards SALAMAUA.
- 1600 GEORGE returned with 1 boy & 1 mary. He told me that the rest were moving to HOTE during the night. Strict attention was paid to keeping under cover and all movement was reduced to a minimum. No fires were lit.
- 1630 Guards were withdrawn and final orders issued under the huts.

GENERAL PLAN:- One sub-sec to raid MALOLO, one sub-sec to raid BUKUAP, both parties to leave MALAGOWAN 1645 hrs and move to position close to objectives. Raids to take place 0630 hrs 30 JUN.

1st R V after raids MALAGOWAN.

2nd R V June SWANS track and alternate track

3rd R V TRACK O P.

1640 While I was issuing final orders 30 Japs with 3 L M Gs attacked from 2 angles from direction MALOLO.

I was the first to see them, 5 of whom were 10 yards from the huts. Immediately I called to the sections to collect their weapons and gear. Ptes Owen, Mansbridge and myself started firing. 2 Japs killed. In the meantime several others had got their weapons and some of their gear. The Bren gunner had the Bren but a long burst of L M G fire hit it, one of the bullets ricocheting and striking the gunner on the lip and cheek. Further efforts to collect the gun were unsuccessful. The patrol was now divided into 3 groups:-

(1) 9 others and myself, positioned 5 yds WEST of the huts.

(2) Cpl NUNN and 6 others who went down the slope SOUTH of the huts.

(3) Sgt MASHEAN and 1 O/R also SOUTH of the huts.

The party of 10 stopped the advance of the Japs, killing 11 for certain, in the village.

Cpl NUNN'S party had struck several Japs in the undergrowth.

also on SWANS track and ASINI CK. They tried to hold them but were forced back along the track by L M G fire. Sgt MACLEAN & 1 O/R withdrew SOUTH side of ASINI CK. I could hear L M G fire down on the track and concluded that the Japs were attempting to come up to a position in our area. REAR.

At this stage 40 reinforcements were seen coming along the track. 1725 I ordered 6 of my party to withdraw WEST along the side of a spur and strike down onto the track to stop Jap movement along the track. Cpl PEMBLE and 2 others ordered to move round the rear of Japs NORTH of village, while the 6 & myself withdrew to an ambush position on the track 200 yds WEST of village. Waited there 20 mins but NO Japs came. As NO further firing was heard after my party left the village, I presumed Cpl PEMBLE's party had withdrawn to the track further WEST than our position. Footprints on the track indicated that at least 6 had withdrawn. My party then proceeded to 2nd R V where we again waited in ambush position. NO further firing was heard. Moved on toward TRACK O P.

1815 T S M G, rifle and L M G fire was heard.

2000 2 heavy Mortar bombs exploded in the village, followed by L M G fire.

2100 Reached TRACK O P. Check on my section showed 5 missing:-

Cpl PEMBLE'S party & Sgt MACLEAN'S

Cpl NUNN had sent the 6 others of his party to contact 24 Bn secs and give warning orders for stretcher parties.

My Party plus Cpl NUNN camped TRACK O P.

Sgt MACLEAN scrub bashed onto the track and tried to contact others of the patrol but could NOT.

1730 Cpl PEMBLE'S party withdrew 30 yds WEST of village and waited for 45 minutes for Japs to enter. During this period NO movement was seen and there was NO firing.

1815 1 Jap crawled into village. Cpl PEMBLE, Ptes OWEN & MANSBRIDGE opened fire with T S M Gs and rifle. Japs returned fire with fire with L M Gs and rifles. Further silence to 2000 hrs when 2 heavy Mortar bombs exploded in village. The party withdrew to R V 2 and camped the night.

30 JUN First light we proceeded to 24 Bn camp at 1st water. Patrol was sent back towards MALAGOWAN to try and contact any of the 5 missing but had only travelled for 1 hour when Cpl PEMBLE'S party was met. 10 minutes later Sgt MACLEAN & the O/R met the patrol and all reported to me

First light Cpl PEMBLE'S party, finding nobody at R V 2 returned to position WEST of village and after observation for 30 minutes ~~of observation~~ saw NO sign of occupation. Entered village gathered equipment and packs and brought it out to position NORTH of village. NO signs of Bren, rifles, or T S M Gs.

A patrol was being arranged to salvage the lost equipment when I received a message to return in haste.

1700 11 of patrol at GISSEMBOB.

1 JUL A M I returned with 7 O/Rs to GISSEMBOB.

2 JUL A M Returned to MISSIM.

GENERAL REMARKS

I now consider that the Japs had seen MANSBRIDGE recon patrol the previous week and expecting some further operation in that area moved a force to MALALO, employing ASINI natives to watch SWANS TRACK.

J. Lewis Lieut.
O.C. No 1 Sec

JULY 1943

2/3 AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT (COMMANDO) COY.

OPERATIONS IN GOODVIEW, AMBUSH KNOLL AND TIMBERED KNOLL AREASSUMMARY OF EVENTS:

PART I

1. On 2 Jul 43 the Coy was ordered to proceed on the approach moves for implementing its role in the exploitation phase of the DOUBLE T operation. B Pl was already disposed in the BASE 3 and forward area. One sec A Pl was engaged on the WALABO raid. The remainder of the Coy, instead of proceeding through BASE 3 as planned, were ordered to move via NEARES CK so as to provide a reserve for 58/59 Bn in its operations on BOBDUBI ridge. On 3 and 4 Jul the Coy dispositions were as follows: Coy HQ and C Pl at junction BURRIS R. and ALIAN'S CK (Task- left flank protection of 58/59 Bn), A Pl less one section at HURT'S post; one section A Pl at MISSIM, re-equipping, B Pl at BASE 3 and forward. In addition 12 O.R.'s were acting as guides with 58/59 Bn. On 4 Jul orders were received to proceed to GOODVIEW area and cut the KOMIATUM track preventing the escape of the enemy NORTHWARDS from MUBO.
2. On 5 Jul Coy HQ, C Pl, and A Pl less one section, and 200 carriers moved to NAMLING via KUNDA BRIDGE and ULIAP CK. The total time taken by the column was 5½ hours. B Pl moved to VEILS from BASE 3, making two carries to supplement shortages of boys in that area. (Normal time from BASE 3 to VEILS is 2½ hrs.).
3. On 6 Jul B Pl concentrated at BASE 4. (BASE 4 is 2½ hrs steady climb from VEILS). A standing patrol was placed to cover the track leading SOUTH down OBSERVATION HILL and recon patrols were sent down WALPOLES track to investigate JAP positions on GOODVIEW ridge. The section of A Pl at MISSIM moved to BASE 3. The remainder of the Coy departed from NAMLING to move along NAMLING ridge via WELLS junc to DIERKE, a 3 hrs march.
4. The column moving from NAMLING was disposed as follows: C Pl, Advance guard; Coy HQ less Engineer sec; carrier line of 85 natives under Lieut BRSKINE with an engineer spaced every tenth native; A Pl less one sec, total 16, under Lieut BARRY, rear guard. The rear of the carrier line had just passed the feature now known as AMBUSH KNOLL, one half hour SOUTH of NAMLING, when the column was attacked by a party of JAPS approaching from the direction of ORODUBI. The natives though not actually under fire and despite the efforts of the escorts, dumped their loads and went bush. Lieut BARRY immediately attacked killing eight JAPS for the loss of one killed and two wounded. To avoid being cut off from the main force he pushed on to WELLS junc collecting some stores as he went. At WELLS junc he reorganised his force and again attacked but the enemy had been able to loot a quantity of the Coy stores. When reports of the engagement were received at DIERKE one sec of C Pl was sent to reinforce Lieut BARRY. This movement was completed in darkness. Early on 7 Jul this force moved NORTH back down the track which was clear of the enemy and continued salvaging stores. The natives returned to NAMLING after the attack and, in order to quieten them, the line was sent to VEILS.
5. On night of 6 Jul, the Brig Comd ordered that the Coy was to leave a force to secure WELLS junc and the remainder of the Coy was to proceed with its original role. On 7 Jul dispositions were therefore taken up as follows: Coy HQ and C Pl and one sec A Pl at STEPHENS HUT, B Pl at GOODVIEW CAMP, one sec A Pl at WELLS JUNC, with WELLS C.P. personnel under command, one sec A Pl at BASE 4. Rations arrived sufficient to ration the Coy till breakfast 8 Jul. W/T comms were established between BASE 4, STEPHENS HUT, and GOODVIEW CAMP. Orders were given that night for a simultaneous attack to be made at dawn 8 Jul, by B Pl down WALPOLES track and C Pl and one sec A Pl down STEPHENS track, with the object of cutting the KOMIATUM-MUBO track and gaining the high ground to the EAST.

6. B Pl successfully drove the enemy from his positions on GOODVIEW ridge killing 12 JAPS with the loss of one wounded. Digging in immediately commenced but difficulty was found owing to the thick bed of roots. An ambush was placed on the KOMIATUM-MUBO track 800 yards SOUTH of GOODVIEW ridge. 11 JAPS moving NORTH were killed. At approx 1645 hrs the enemy heavily counter-attacked. Under the cover of mortar and MMG fire from the high ground to the NE large numbers of JAPS attacked from both flanks. 25 JAPS were killed to our casualties 3 wounded but our hastily dug positions became untenable and B Pl withdrew 300 yards west up WALPOLES track. This withdrawal is considered to have been fully justified. Contact was maintained during the night. A listening post reported no movement along the KOMIATUM - MUBO track.
7. C Pl moving down STEPHENS track encountered strong opposition from a post at the junction of STEPHENS track and the MULE track. One sec C Pl engaged this position with fire and two secs C Pl and one sec A Pl by-passed to the SOUTH, moving across the MULE TRACK to the KOMIATUM track. A strong position of JAPS was engaged at the junc of STEPHENS track and KOMIATUM track. The force then attacked the JAP position on the MULE TRACK from the EAST. 13 JAPS were killed but further progress could not be made before dark and the force returned to a holding position on STEPHENS track. The movement had been observed of 30 JAPS to reinforce the position astride STEPHENS track and of 64 JAPS to reinforce the position at the junc of STEPHENS track and the KOMIATUM track, and also considerable activity heard on the high ground EAST of the KOMIATUM-MUBO track.
8. In view of a report, (which was subsequently found to be incorrect) that NAMING had been taken by the enemy, a composite force was sent to VEILS during the night 8/9 Jul to safeguard our one remaining L of C to MISSIM.
9. The Unit had had no lunch on 8 Jul but some native rice was cooked at BASE 4 and was sent forward for tea. During the night 8/9 Jul it was learned that the boy line which had been despatched from MISSIM with rations, signal equipment and medical equipment to replace losses at AMBUSH KNOLL had been misdirected to NEARNS CK, but that arrangements were being made by 3 Div to send carriers with rations from MUBO to BASE 4. Meantime however, an earlier line of rations from MISSIM duly arrived during the afternoon and our troops had one days iron rations per man during 9 and 10 Jul.
10. On 9 Jul a new track was cut from GOODVIEW CAMP to the ambush position on the KOMIATUM - MUBO track 800 yards SOUTH of GOODVIEW ridge. One sec B Pl, under Lieut ECAN, dug in on this position. There was NO movement either NORTH or SOUTH along the track until 12 Jul when a party of 16 JAPS moved very stealthily from GOODVIEW towards MUBO. 14 of these were killed and 2 wounded.
11. Meantime, however, the Brig Comd had advised that he considered that the possession of the KOMIATUM track in the STEPHENS and GOODVIEW area was essential to the success of the whole operation and that all available troops must be thrown into the battle on 9 Jul. A Pl personnel securing our left and right flanks were withdrawn and signallers, cooks and carrier escorts were taken from their normal duties. After a meal on 9 Jul a strong effort was made to regain GOODVIEW ridge. B Pl and a party of sigs, a total force of 70 under command of Capt WINTERFLOOD attacked frontally but were pinned down by heavy fire. Our casualties were one killed and three wounded. At the same time a composite force comprising two secs C Pl and one sec A Pl, Engineer sec and Transport sec, a total force of 50 under Capt HANCOCK, moved through the section of C Pl holding on STEPHENS track and proceeded SE across the MULE TRACK between STEPHENS track and GOODVIEW ridge. The force moved SOUTH parallel to the KOMIATUM track but did not reach the vicinity of GOODVIEW ridge until the morning of 10 JUL. A party of JAPS found digging in were engaged and 3 killed. However as no rations were being carried action against the enemy EAST of KOMIATUM-MUBO track could not be pursued. Both attacking forces withdrew to holding positions on GOODVIEW and STEPHENS tracks.

12. Owing to the weak condition of the troops through lack of food and the bad state of their feet from continuous wet weather, activity on 11 Jul was limited to reconnaissance. Considerable chopping and digging was heard from all JAP positions. This activity and the fact that all JAPS encountered had been well clothed and well fed made it apparent that the enemy had a large fresh force available on the MT TAMBU area. Subsequent reports showed that these troops had been withdrawn from MUBO before 8 Jul with the object of preparing a new defence line in the MT TAMBU area. It was also found that the enemy had, for some considerable time, been using a new L of C from LOKANU to MUBO in place of the KOMIATUM - MUBO track.
13. On 12 Jul a patrol moved SOUTH along the MUBO track from GOODVIEW to contact the U.S. Regt. Contact was not established but a JAP bivouac site was found unoccupied due WEST of BITOI ridge. Reports were received of our patrol which had been sent on 9 Jul to move across the KOMIATUM track in ERSKINES CK area and investigate the LOKANU - MT TAMBU track. The patrol had been engaged by the JAPS and forced to return. On 14 Jul a patrol crossed the KOMIATUM - MUBO track SOUTH of GOODVIEW with the same object. A track was found leading towards Mt TAMBU but the recce could not be completed owing to lack of rations.
14. On 12 Jul orders were received that 2/5 Bn were to relieve the Coy in GOODVIEW area and that the Coy was to concentrate in the area of A Coy 58/59 Bn. G Coy 2/5 Bn arrived at BASE 4 on 12 Jul, and B Coy under Capt BENNET, arrived on 13 Jul and moved through to GOODVIEW CAMP. Our positions were taken over on 14 Jul, 5 guides remaining until 16 Jul. Contact was between GOODVIEW and 2/5 Bn H Q on the KOMIATUM - MUBO track SOUTH of GOODVIEW.
15. On 13 Jul C Pl and elements of Coy H Q moved to WELLS JUNC and a patrol was sent NORTH along the ridge track to contact A Coy 58/59 Bn at NAMLING. Enemy were encountered at AMBUSH KNOLL and the patrol returned and moved to NAMLING via WELLS ridge and ULIAP CK. C Pl dug in at WELLS JUNC with one section 20 mins NORTH along the ridge track. On 14 Jul the remainder of the Coy arrived from GOODVIEW area and dispositions were taken up as follows: Coy H Q at WELLS O P, A Pl at WELLS JUNC, B Pl 20 mins SOUTH of WELLS JUNC and C Pl 20 mins NORTH of WELLS JUNC, on the ridge track. A patrol was sent from NAMLING to GWAIBOLOMS to obtain information as to the dispositions of A Coy. L/T comms were established from BASE 4 to WELLS JUNC.
16. On 12 Jul a carrier line arrived at BASE 4 from MUBO and relieved the critical ration situation. Advice was received ~~that as from 13 Jul 17 Bde would be responsible for supplies~~ to the Coy. The native carriers who had been stationed at VEELS and BASE 4 were 50% ineffective through sickness, largely the result of lack of food. They had just managed the two days further carry of the small lines of rations which were being sent from MISSIM to NORAME CK of BASE 3. Upon the move of the Coy to WELLS JUNC these carriers were concentrated upon the tasks of lifting rations and unit stores from BASE 4 and VEELS to WELLS JUNC, and arrangements were put in hand for subsequent supplies to be carried from NUNNS POST up the ULIAP CK. Additional rations were borrowed from 2/5 Bn at BASE 4 and barely adequate supplies were first able to be concentrated at WELLS JUNC to enable the Coy to attack AMBUSH KNOLL on 15 Jul.
17. On 15 Jul the Coy took up dispositions for the attack on AMBUSH KNOLL. One sec A Pl moved to NAMLING thus bringing the strength of the force there under Lieut BARRY to 18. B Pl, 30 Strong, moved from WELLS JUNC by a route reconnoitered the day previously to the vicinity of the JAP L of C from ORODUBI, WEST up SUGAR CANE ridge TO AMBUSH KNOLL. One 3" mortar, one 2" mortar and three VICKERS MMG were placed in position on the WELLS O P ridge and the main WELLS - NAMLING ridge, and observation obtained on to AMBUSH KNOLL. One sec A Pl remained at WELLS JUNC. C Pl with one sec A Pl, a strength of 50 under Lieut EGAN, assembled at our FDLS on the WELLS - NAMLING ridge. After half an hours preparation from our mortars and Vickers, C Pl moved forward at 1330 hrs. At 1400 hrs the enemy was cleared from his forward positions and the assault on the main JAP defences commenced. The enemy was found deeply entrenched with pillboxes covering all approaches. C Pl suffered heavy casualties and the A Pl section was

committed. However by nightfall the enemy still held out. Meantime B Pl had cut the JAP L of C on SUGAR CANE ridge and after driving back a party of JAPS moving from ORODUBI, attacked AMBUSH KNOLL from the EAST. The position was heavily engaged at close quarters but could not be gained ~~owing~~ owing to the drain of troops through a casualties and parties to cover flanks and rear. The close quarters action was supported by A Pl with LMG fire from the NAMLING ridge on to SUGAR CANE ridge. Contact was maintained with the enemy during the night, and at first light patrols moved in by all three approaches and found the position unoccupied. An effort to intercept a party of JAPS seen moving away to the S E with stretchers was not successful. During the action 10 JAPS were seen to be killed. Our casualties were 1 Officer, 1 O R killed, 1 Officer 12 O R's wounded. JAP positions were found to be strongly dug in and pillboxed and the strength in occupation was estimated at 60.

18. The Coy re-organised on 16 Jul and took up the following positions: Coy H Q WELLS O P; C Pl WELLS JUNC and position 20 mins NORTH of WELLS JUNC; B Pl AMBUSH KNOLL; A Pl NAMLING and NAMLING RIDGE. JAPS seen in ORODUBI and KOMIATUM track were engaged by VICKERS from NAMLING RIDGE. Orders were received by the Coy to move against ORODUBI from AMBUSH KNOLL and against GRAVEYARDS to link up with A Coy 58/59 Bn who were to push from GWAIBOLOMS. On 17 Jul B Pl moved EAST from AMBUSH KNOLL in order to cut the JAP L of C from BUIRALI Ck to ORODUBI. 400 yards from ORODUBI B Pl was ambushed but by-passed to the SOUTH and gained their objective in the morning 18 Jul. A party of 10 under Lieut BARRY attacked and gained the JAP GRAVEYARDS position on 17 Jul. The party was reinforced and held the position against three counter-attacks killing 8 JAPS without casualty. However as the enemy still held the high ground now known as TIMBERED KNOLL against A Coy 58/59 Bn, the force was withdrawn on the morning of 18 Jul.
19. Coy H Q had been established at NAMLING on 18 Jul. A Pl remained in position on NAMLING ridge. C Pl was in position from WELLS JUNC to AMBUSH KNOLL. In order to concentrate the force of the Coy B Pl was withdrawn to NAMLING on 19 JUL.
20. During the night 19/20 Jul, in bright moonlight, a force of 60 JAPS overran our listening post SOUTH of AMBUSH KNOLL on the ridge track to WELLS JUNC and attacked C Pl position. A fighting patrol from WELLS JUNC engaged the enemy from the SOUTH but were forced to withdraw. Two secs B Pl moved from NAMLING to reinforce AMBUSH KNOLL and Capt WINTERFLOOD took command of the position with a force of 50. One section of B Pl moved via ULIAP CK ~~had WELLS O P ridge to reinforce the section of C Pl at WELLS JUNC. A normal march of 2 1/2 hrs, this move was accomplished by night in only 3 hrs.~~
21. During two days and three nights 19-22 Jul AMBUSH KNOLL was subjected to almost continuous mortar and LMG fire from JAP positions on SUGAR CANE ridge. 18 assaults were made, three different lines of approach being used. The chief thrust on all occasions came from S E, with lighter attacks from SUGAR CANE ridge and from the ridge leading SOUTH towards WELLS JUNC. During the six heaviest attacks, assaults were made from all three approaches. The enemy pushed forward to within a few yards of our positions but each time was driven back by our grenades and TSMCs. Two VICKERS MMGs sited in forward pits supported by LMGs denied the enemy the two ridge tracks. A 3" mortar and 2" mortar and E Y rifles engaged the enemy's rear. It is estimated that 250 JAPS were deployed against AMBUSH KNOLL. of these 67 were killed as confirmed by the graves found on SUGAR CANE ridge after its capture by the 2/6 Bn. Our casualties were 1 Officer 2 O.Rs. killed and 7 O.Rs. wounded.
22. During the defence of AMBUSH KNOLL the general supply situation was much improved. A daily boy line from NUNN'S POST to KELLY'S CAMP on the ULIAP CK brought regular supplies. The VEILS boy line moved to KELLY'S CAMP and was able to supply to our forward positions as well as clearing the supplies which had accumulated at NONAME CK & BASE 3. Nevertheless a great portion of the carrying to AMBUSH KNOLL was done by troops. Owing to enemy mortar fire, natives could not be used on the NAMLING ridge L of C nor the new L of C up a spur running WEST from AMBUSH KNOLL. Further most of the supplies arrived at KELLYS CAMP

late in the afternoon and had to be moved forward at night when natives are now not allowed to carry. The defence of AMBUSH KNOLL was only made possible by the continuous replenishment of the very heavy expenditure of ammunition and by the maintenance of good cooked meals to offset the fatigue resulting from 56 hrs without sleep.

23. On 22 Jul, one platoon 2/6 Bn reinforced our depleted force at AMBUSH KNOLL but the enemy made no further efforts. On 23 Jul the JAP position on the ridge track to WELLS junc was found clear and B Coy 2/6 Bn relieved our troops who moved to NAMLING. On 24 Jul the remainder of our troops SOUTH of NAMLING were relieved and the Coy reorganised. B Pl and two sections C Pl with one 3" mortar det. and three MMG sub-secs were disposed on NAMLING RIDGE and MORTAR KNOLL. Elements of Coy B Q and A Pl and one sec C Pl ~~XXXXX~~ with one MMG sub-sec moved to GWAIBOLOMS.
24. From 25 to 27 Jul, recce was carried out with a view to operations WEST of the GOVT BENCH CUT track astride ERSKINES CK. One patrol investigated from A Coy 58 Bn old position at PARERS BOWL. Several patrols approached directly EAST down ERSKINES CK. One patrol moved down GRIFFS TRACK and reconnoitred NORTH along GOVT BENCH-CUT track and EAST across country to the KOMIATUM track. One officer was killed during this reconnaissance work. Meantime patrols based on MORTAR KNOLL were active. Enemy and our own positions WEST of ORODUBI and along the ORODUBI - GWAIBOLOMS ridge were more definitely fixed. A new direct track was cut from MORTAR KNOLL to PARERS BOWL. Cable was laid along this route on 29 Jul.
25. The Coy in its new dispositions was divided into two separate units for the purpose of supply, with one supply point at KELLY'S CAMP on the ULEAP CK and one at GWAIBOLOMS. After three days trial and error when ammunition for GWAIBOLOMS went to KELLY'S CAMP and rations for KELLY'S CAMP went to GWAIBOLOMS, the supplies arrived from NUNN'S POST satisfactorily. Comforts including clothing and razor blades were received.
26. On 28 Jul advice was received of a change in plans and A Pl plus one sec C pl relieved A Coy 58 Bn at PARERS BOWL. Two 3" mortars were left in position by 58 Bn. It was found the forward positions of A Coy were on the reverse slopes of a knoll now known as TIMBERED KNOLL, which was occupied by the enemy. Particularly in view of successful attacks that day by 2/6 Bn on SUGAR CANE ridge and 58 Bn on OLD VICKERS POSITION it was decided that instead of withdrawing from this unsatisfactory position the Coy would move forward and take TIMBERED KNOLL. Listening posts during night 28/29 Jul and recce patrols in the morning of 29 Jul from PARERS BOWL and MORTAR KNOLL ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ indicated that the enemy's defences were continuous from TIMBERED KNOLL to ORODUBI. On 29 Jul 2/6 Fld Re gt registered on TIMBERED KNOLL and BARTHY KNOLL, a strong post 800 yards to the SOUTH, and, in the afternoon, two secs C Pl moved from MORTAR KNOLL and relieved the force at PARERS BOWL. After a 15 minute concentration of arty fire, and 3" and 2" mortars and VICKERS MMG from PARERS BOWL and MORTAR KNOLL, at 1600 hrs a force of A Pl and one sec C Pl attacked, while the supporting weapons engaged BARTHY KNOLL for 30 minutes. The leading sections were pinned down by accurate MMG fire from a pillbox but two sections moving to the EAST flank made headway after a severe close-quarters engagement. The two parties made contact and pushed SOUTH along the ridge. Final mopping up and consolidation was delayed by darkness but was completed at first light on 30 Jul. Our troops killed 18 JAPS and it is thought that casualties from the fire of the supporting weapons were evacuated prior to our troops gaining the position. Our casualties were 3 O.R.'s killed and 3 wounded. A patrol on 30 Jul established contact with the enemy 400 yards to the SOUTH along the ridge. A further advance was not possible owing to the insecurity of the left flank at ERSKINES CK. The position at TIMBERED KNOLL was consolidated and linked up with the defences at PARERS BOWL.

DOUBLE T

JULY 1941

2/3 AUST INDEP (COMMANDO) COY.

OPERATIONS IN GOODVIEW, AMBUSH KNOLL AND TIMBERED KNOLL AREAS

ANALYSIS

PART II

1. During these operations the enemy has fought with great determination and skill. Success has been gained only when we have been able to bring superior weight against him or have been able to outplay him for position. The fighting has been most exacting on personnel and on organisation. This period of pressure has stressed the vital importance of a sound elementary training and discipline and of a Unit spirit bred from hard battle experience.

DEFENDED LOCALITIES

2. These operations have been a series of engagements involving defensive positions sited on knolls along otherwise narrow ridges. Each position has been a perimeter of weapon pits with inter-communication trenches or tunnels, the key weapon pits having head-cover or, as at AMBUSH KNOLL, being well constructed timber pill-boxes. The enemy has paid more attention to over-head cover than we, but less to fire lanes. The only easy approaches have been along narrow ridges permitting the deployment of very few men. The remaining ground has been very steep mountain-side. The nature of the ground has thus favoured defence.

RECONNAISSANCE

3. Reconnaissance of terrain and of enemy activity has presented many difficulties. Existing maps give the main features with accuracy but lack detail. It is this detail which is so important in such very close country. With a range of vision of from 5 to 30 yards thorough reconnaissance takes considerable time, particularly when close to the enemy. In these operations the Unit has had the advantage of a prior knowledge of the main tracks and features. However actions have been handicapped through lack of opportunity for more thorough reconnaissance. After the capture of AMBUSH KNOLL, a spur was found running SOUTH-WEST and which the enemy did not have covered. It is probable that an attack by this approach would have been much more decisive than by the direct approach along WELLS JUNG ridge. To prepare a plan of attack on a fixed position in this type of country, a week should be allowed for reconnaissance.

SUPPORTING FIRE

4. The success of operations by our own troops and by the enemy has borne an immediate relation to the weight of supporting fire. At GOODVIEW JUNG the unit had no supporting weapons. The enemy was driven from his position by a surprise assault but his counter-attack supported by accurate MMG and Mortar fire forced our complete withdrawal. At TIMBERED KNOLL a concentration of artillery, 3 inch and 2 inch mortar, and VICKERS MMG softened the area sufficiently for our assault to be quick and decisive.
5. The actual casualties inflicted by supporting fire has not been great. Sounds of wounded were heard after the mortar preparation at AMBUSH KNOLL but at TIMBERED KNOLL there was no evidence of casualties. However, at TIMBERED KNOLL, where the preparation was the heavier, the effect on the psychological and physical condition of the enemy was very apparent. The accuracy of artillery directed at a small target on a narrow ridge at long range is, of course, limited. However, much greater damage would have been done if shells with a short delay action had been used to enable the rounds to penetrate the timber and then the earth and timber of the over-head cover. For similar reasons, the mortar though of greater accuracy is of less efficacy than the grenade discharger in the destruction of fixed defences of this type.

In addition to weakening the enemys' resistance, all forms of supporting fire have had the important effect of keeping the enemy well below cover and denying him mobility. It has been important therefore to avoid any gap between the end of the preparation and the beginning of the assault. Owing to the slowness of movement in such difficult terrain this can only be achieved with certainty if the concentration is continued on an adjacent target as close as possible to the objective until the assaulting troops have gained contact. At TIMBERED KNOLL one third of the total preparation was laid along the ridge to the SOUTH-EAST of the objective with the object both of providing 'noise cover' and of preventing the movement of reinforcements.

CLOSE QUARTERS FIGHTING

7. The first and vital object in assaults on prepared defences has been to gain and occupy weapon-pits within the enemy's main perimeter. This places the fight on a more equal footing. In our attacks on AMBUSH KNOLL the enemy put down a continuous wall of fire from very well constructed pill boxes and no approach could be found to gain positions to the flanks or rear. At TIMBERED KNOLL a successful assault was made from a flank and an hour after contact had been gained our troops were in possession of several weapon-pits in rear of the main frontal defences. With this advantage secured, the rest of the position was cleared in a further half hour.
8. In attack and defence the hand grenade has been the most effective close quarters weapon. The enemy has used grenades in considerable numbers, particularly in defence. At AMBUSH KNOLL the enemy was in possession of a quantity of our No.36 grenades captured earlier and they were found by our troops to be much more effective than the JAPANESE grenade. At TIMBERED KNOLL the 4 sec grenade fired from a grenade discharger was used successfully. Both the enemy and our troops have made excellent use of MMG's sited in forward weapon pits. We have made greater use of 3 inch and 2 inch mortar and grenade discharger rifle for defensive fire tasks.
9. The enemy made many of his counter-attacks on AMBUSH KNOLL in moonlight. He thus achieved greater concealment and involved our troops in an unnecessarily great expenditure of ammunition. However, estimating from the cries of wounded, he suffered heavier casualties than in his daylight attacks. The most valuable natural cover for movement has been found to be rain. This was a big factor in achieving surprise in our successful attack at GOODVIEW JUNG.
10. Battle cries have been an important weapon on both sides. Cheering and hurling abuse at the enemy have a good effect on morale and subdue the feeling of loneliness of troops cut off from each other by intervening timber or by darkness. However voices give away position much more definitely than movement or firing and, unlike the enemy, we have been careful to restrain 'whooping' until after contact has been gained.

L of C CUTTING

11. In view of the long period normally involved in the capture of any fixed position efforts have always been made to deny the movement of supplies or reinforcements to the position. However encircling forces have been restricted by the lack of routes, either passable except by lightly equipped troops, or secure themselves against being cut by the enemy. At AMBUSH KNOLL the enemy's L of C was held cut and this was undoubtedly a vital factor in forcing his withdrawal. However a determined effort to clear the L of C would have menaced our force who were immobilised by casualties and short of ammunition. Some results can always be achieved by a party with only a harassing role. A series of ambushes can be effected without casualty and with small expenditure of ammunition. It would seem to be a sound principle that in this type of terrain an encirclement should be made in strength by the main force or should be limited to such a harassing party.

BATTLE ADMINISTRATION

12. Though possibly less imposing, organisation is as complex and as important in jungle fighting as in any other. Efficiency depends upon the key personnel at each stage along the L of C, and upon having a sufficiently large carrying party to fulfill the tasks without drawing on the fighting troops. The key personnel at each stage are the A Q detail, the medical

orderly, the signaller. In an attack a complete dump is made at the assembly area and this is pushed forward as soon as some ground is gained and a new stage on the L of C established. It has been found that one quarter of the total force engaged in an operation must be allotted to carrying. The usual sequence of their duties has been:

- To carry forward stretchers, tools and ammunition.
- To carry back wounded.
- To carry forward supporting weapons and ammunition.
- To carry forward packs, rations and water.
- To improve track.

This applies to defence equally well as to attack though greater economy of labour can usually be achieved in the more static situation.

MOVEMENT

13. In moving troops or native carriers it has been found that the least important factor to be considered is the distance shown on the map. To move troops and have them fit to fight at the end of the journey depends not so much on the length of the march nor on the severity of the route as on the conditions at each stage of the journey. Lack of sleep and lack of hot food are the chief causes of fatigue. One or two hours of daylight in which to erect shelters and cook a meal are worth while no matter how early the time of rising involved. Nevertheless calculations regarding movement can be made. It has been found that columns of troops with packs or of natives with loads average 1000 yards an hour in a day's march. Without packs or loads this speed is doubled. Troops will be fresh the next day if day's march has not exceeded four hours, or if the previous three days march has not exceeded three hours a day. Otherwise they will need a day's rest. The movement planned for one platoon for operations in GOODVIEW area was:

Day 1	SELEBUB to MISSIM (and re-equip)	2	hrs.
" 2	MISSIM " BASE 3	6	"
" 3	BASE 3 " VEILS	2½	"
" 4	VEILS " BASE 4	3½	"
" 5	BASE 4 " STEPHENS (and final	2	"
" 6	ATTACK.		recce)

On 4 Jul, the Unit's column of 140 troops and 200 carriers moved from ALLEN'S CK to NAMLING in 5½ hours.

SUPPLY

14. Supply is a matter of priorities. In these operations supply lines have at all times been 'tight'. This was due sometimes to shortage of supplies but more usually to shortage of native carriers. In the latter case the issue lies in the relative importance of loads. A general priority list is:

- Tobacco and mail.
- Essential rations.
- Essential weapons and ammunition.
- Shovels and axes.
- Medical and signal equipment.
- Reserve rations.
- Reserve ammunition.
- Miscellaneous supplies.

15. Although seldom achieved the scale of reserves of rations and ammunition found essential to security has been:

Rations per man.	ON MAN	WITH UNIT	1 DAY DISTANT.
F.O.R.	2	2	2
S.W.P.	-	2	2
NATIVE	-	2	2
Amn rds per weapon.			
RIFLE	100	200	200
BRN	200	400	400
TSMG	150	300	300
2inMCR)incl 10%	-	120	120
3inMCR)smoke.	-	120	120
VICKERS	-	6000	6000
GRN 7 sec	12	120	120
GRN 4 sec per man	4	8	8

These figures correspond generally with those laid down in N G F Admin Instn No.88 dated 4 Apr 43.

6. Supply has continued to be one matter with all its different aspects closely related. The method of unit organisation found efficient has been to appoint "AQ" details at each supply point along the L of C. The AQ detail is held responsible for ordering supplies from the next point to the rear whether it is ASC, Unit, or Brigade. He deals with supplies of all types including unit stores, canteen goods, ASC supplies, and ordnance stores. He directs the employment of the boy line. He keeps a record of the strength of his own area and of all areas forward. He may be under close or only general direction from an AQ officer at a headquarters either forward or rear of him. Unit cooks and carrier line escorts are under the orders of the AQ detail. On 9 Jul 43, during operations in GOODVIEW area, the supply organisation of the unit was as follows:

	AQ OFFR	AQ DETAILS	COOKS	CARRIER LINE ESCORTS
NISSIM	1	2	1	4
BASE 3	-	1	-	2
VEILS	-	1	-	2
BASE 4	-	1	-	2
BATTLE HQ	1	3	-	-

(At this period of the operations the supply of rations was negligible and cooks were operating as riflemen).

Thus 2 offrs and 21 ors of a unit with a total strength of 230 were employed on supply.

17. A working basis for the estimation of boy lines has been found to be:-
 To move a force complete with rations, ammunition and stores as detailed in para 15 and natives' personal gear and rations - 3 boys per man.
 To maintain a force in active operations from a base one day's carry distant, allowing for sickness of natives and including native rations for unit boy line - 1 boy per two men.
 To maintain a force in passive operations - 1 boy per three men.
 If the natives cannot make the carry every day continuously, the figure must be increased in proportion.

18. MEDICAL

Medical policy, as always, has been to have medical orderlies right forward, and to make it a principle throughout the unit that the wounded must be got back with the greatest possible speed. For use during an action, medical orderlies have required shell dressings, morphine solution and needle, or oral morphia, and a needle with suture material. At the RAP, use has been made of serum, ATS, sulphanilimide, THOMAS splints and CRAMER wire. On moving to a new position stretchers have always been made immediately. This practice has paid good dividends on the numerous occasions when action has followed quickly after a move. With the change in emphasis from patrols and raiding to the attack and defence of fixed positions, types of casualties have changed accordingly. Arm, leg and head wounds have been more common. An increase in sickness and post wound shock has been in evidence - possibly owing to the lowered resistance and vitality in the troops.

19. It has been found that good hygiene is most effectively achieved by the development of "hygiene - consciousness". The most marked improvement was noticed after troops had had to occupy positions left in a dirty condition by other units. The enemy has shown himself to be capable of very good hygiene despite the fact that he has been in retreat.

COMMUNICATIONS

20. In these operations L/T has been used exclusively for inter- and intra-unit communications. Results have been very satisfactory. The D V telephone has been liable to damage from rough handling and a smaller, sturdier unit would be more suitable for field service. The chief cause of lack of efficiency has been in the 10 line U/C exchange. To obtain sure communications for an action, a separate circuit with telephones only has been used for Battle HQ and forward. A smaller

unit, such as exchanges 7 X 3 or 5 X 3, would be more suitable for use in forward areas. All types of cable have proved very durable. Cable has been found to stand up best to blast when built slack and tied in long sections. The introduction of U.S. light assault cable has made it much easier to lay cable behind forces moving over difficult country. It has been found essential to have reserve personnel and equipment available for an attack. By this means rapid and adequate communications have been established, commanders have had available every facility for immediate control of their forward elements. At all times, however, the main bulk of traffic has been administrative, the complex functioning of the L of C organisation being dependent upon communication.

- 21. Owing to its liability to damage from moisture and rough handling, radio has in the past proved unsuitable for mobile operations. However it has continued to provide satisfactory communications to fixed stations such as WELLS O P. It is considered that the 203 set could be modified to great advantage by sturdier construction and the introduction of a more stable type of tube. The need still exists for a radio set of its type for long range patrols and distant outposts.

4 Sep 43.

Kilmanick
Admin Comd 2/3 Aust Indep (Commando) Coy. Capt.,

ORIGINAL

26 OCT. 1943

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 1 AUG 43 To 1 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	1 AUG 43	0700	WELLS O P reports: Loud explosions heard all night from direction TAMBU. 0630 hrs smoke at wooded area NORTH of church. 0704 American arty registered on footbridge also on A A posn near McDONALDS JUNC, then on clay patch NORTH of runway. Plane slightly damaged by near miss. 0720 Smoke N E of ORODUBI lasting 40 mins. 0830 hrs Jap mountain gun fired 5 rounds on to AMBUSH KNOLL. 0838 hrs AMERICAN arty fired 20 rounds into Jap mountain gun posn. 20 yds of footbridge disappeared, probably washed away by flooded FRANCISCO RIVER. 0905 2 Japs moved NORTH and 3 SOUTH from SALAMAUA. 0955 AUST arty commenced firing on targets N E of AMBUSH KNOLL. 1018 party of Japs seen near A A posn S W end of ISTHMUS.	W.3008 APP 52 W.3009 APP 53
		1200	From 15 AUST INF BDE: 58/59 Bn op order No.1 has been captured by enemy. All units will carry out security check of all H Q and personnel to ensure no documents of value to enemy are carried other than those essential for operations and that adequate arrangements are made for the destruction of latter.	
		1330	BARONS POST reports Japs was heard moving and chopping wood 150 NORTH towards ERSKINE CK. Believed to be small parties.	
		1500	WELLS O P reports: at 1130 hrs AUST arty registered N E end of ISTHMUS. 1330 hrs Jap mountain gun on KOMIATUM TRACK fired 6 rounds on AMBUSH KNOLL. 1335 hrs AMERICAN arty replied with 12 rounds.	
		1630	BARONS POST reports Jap movt continued throughout day.	
		1800	A Pl patrol established that BENCHCUT SOUTH to point EAST of fwd Vickers posn is clear of enemy but mined by Jap Mines left left in position and being added to. Booby traps also laid laid and ambush posn established on BENCHCUT. Daily patrol SOUTH to observe JAP posns reports Jap movt on EARTHY KNOLL. L.M.G. fire from EARTHY KNOLL towards MORTAR KNOLL during day.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....2/3 AUST INDEP COY..... Date and Time.—From...1 AUG 43.....To...2 AUG 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
BOBDUBI	1 AUG 43	1805	WELLS O P. 1350 hrs AMERICAN Arty registered CENTRE of ISTHMUS. 1700 hrs to 1710 hrs 19 Japs moved NORTH across bridge. 1720 hrs truck moved from KELA to QUARRY. 1745 hrs fire on WEST slope KELA HILL and fire on FRANCISCO RIV 1000yds from mouth. 1755 hrs 5 type 97 dive bombers flew SOUTH from NORTH. 1800 hrs A A put up from NASSAU BAY. 1800 to 1820 50 Japs moved NORTH. 1825 large launch moved from ISTHMUS towards KELA 1825 hrs Jap mountain gun fired 4 rounds in direction AMBUSH KNOLL.		
	2 AUG 43	z 0007	Message from 15 Bde states that 2/3 INDEP COY will arrange guides to report at DIERKE as guides to 80 58/59 BN reinforcements.		
			0630	NAMLING RIDGE reports a booby trap exploded at 2030 hrs Aug 1st. Patrol investigations found it had been exploded by wild pigs.	
			0700	WELLS O P reports. At 2130 hrs Aug 1 lights observed on footbridge and also at McDONALDS JUNC. Throbbing of engines heard in direction of coast SOUTH of SALAMAUA during night 1/2 Aug. Up to 0700 hrs 9 Japs moved NORTH and 2 SOUTH across footbridge.	
			0900	WELLS O P reports; At 0743 hrs 2 Jap bombs shells landed in vicinity of BOBDUBI. 0753 hrs Jap mountain gun on KOMIATUM TK fired 4 rounds into 2/6 BN posn at AMBUSH KNOLL. 2 shells fired failed to explode. 0757 hrs AMERICAN Arty engaged Jap gun with 10 rounds.	
			1300	Message from WELLS O P.: 1045 hrs Allied A/C bombed and strafed an enemy ship in HUON GULF and appeared to damage its steering gear. From 1200 to 1300 Allied A/C heavily raided LAE. Large clouds of black smoke observed rising from target. A/C also hit and sank at least two ships including the one previously reported damaged. A/C also raided FINCHAVEN. During raid on SALAMAUA AMERICAN Arty harrassed AA guns at McDONALDS JUNC.	
			1600	WELLS O P : Between 1400 and 1600 hrs small party of Japs totaling 10 NORTH and 3 SOUTH moved across footbridge: 1400 hrs motor bike moved from KELA to ISTHMUS. At 1450 hrs our Arty registered forward of AMBUSH KNOLL.	

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 2 AUG 43 To 4 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	2 AUG 43	1840	Message from WELLS O P; Between 1630 and 1800 hrs 36 Japs moved into SALAMAUA and 3 moved out across footbridge. Between 1800 and 1830 hrs 57 Japs and 1 stretcher moved NORTH across footbridge. 1712 hrs truck moved from ISTHMUS to area NORTH of ehureh and returned 1755 hrs. At 1832 hrs Jap mountain gun fired 6 rounds on WELLS O P ridge.	
		1200	WELLS O P reports; between 0900 and 1200 hrs 7 Japs moved NORTH and 5 SOUTH across footbridge. 1111hrs allied planes raided SALAMAUA causing clouds of black smoke to rise.	
	1415	Jap mountain gun fired 5 rounds into 2/6 Bn posns AMBUSH KNOLL.		
	1500	Jap mountain gun again fired 5 rounds into 2/6 Bn posns.		
	1741	Truck moved from ISTHMUS to wooded area NORTH of church. Between 1745 and 1830 hrs 5 Japs moved NORTH and 5 SOUTH across footbridge.		
	4 AUG 43	0900	WELLS O P reports; Between 0635 and 0745 hrs 11 Japs moved NORTH and 10 SOUTH across footbridge. 0750 hrs AMERICAN Arty fired 20 rounds vicinity footbridge.	
		1240	Message from 15 Bde. Conference of Commanding Officers with BRIG.H.H.HAMMER.D.S.O. will be held at 2/7 Bn HQ at 1500 hrs Aug 4.	
	1240	Major Warfe and Sgt Swan departed 2/3 HQ for 2/7 Bn HQ.		
	1250	Message from WELLS O P; During A M Arty fired on whole length of ISTHMUS also on buildings vicinity HANGERS and also harrassing fire on ORODUBI. ODEA'S HOUSE has been demolished by unknown means/ During A M 3 Japs moved NORTH and 2 SOUTH.		
	1600	1 Arty smoke shell landed 50 yds SOUTH of NAMLING VILLAGE.		
	1700	Between 1230 and 1500 hrs 4 Japs moved South and 1 NORTH across footbridge. 1400 hrs 1 motor cycle moved along ISTHMUS. American 75MM Arty attempted to range on SALAMAUA but range was too great. Between 1500 and 1700 hrs 3 Japs moved NORTH across footbridge. 1650 hrs 1 Liberator dropped bombs on SALAMAUA. 1655 hrs Arty shelled A A posns at McDONALDS JUNC.		
	1730	BARONS POST reports auto and LMG fire on NORTH slopes of MT TAMBU.		
	1800	Malj WARFE returned to 2/3 H.Q.		

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit... 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From... 4 AUG 43 To... 5 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOEDUBI	4 AUG 43	1300	Recce party under Lieut JEFFERY moved to A and C Coys 58/59 Bn via GRIFFS TRACK. Capt HANCOCK and party moved to B Coy 58/59 Bn HQ at OLD COY HQ posn. Both parties received disposns of 58/59 Bn.	<i>Track infn BOEDUBI - ORODUBI area as APP. 53A.</i>
		1830	MESSAGE from WELLS O P: Between 1700 and 1830 hrs 45 Japs moved NORTH and 7 SOUTH across footbridge. 1812 hrs truck moved along ISTHMUS. During afternoon AUST arty continued harrassing fire on PRICES KNOLL and ORODUBI area. AMERICAN arty also registered on ORODUBI.	
	5 AUG 43	0700	WELLS O P reports between 1900 and 1915 hrs Aug 4 heavy arty explosions in direction NUK NUK. At 2312 hrs Aug 4 long bursts of tracer observed over HUON GULF slightly EAST of LAE. 2314 hrs searchlight in direction of LAE. At 0632 K/5 AUST arty fired on ORODUBI. Movement across the footbridge between 0600 and 0800 hrs. 5 Japs NORTH and 5 SOUTH. At 0955 hrs 2 Jap guns from position on ridge approx 600yds S W of highest point of KELA HILL and at junc of long wooded spur running SOUTH and NORTH, fired in direction of BOEDUBI. Lieuts LEVISTON & LINEHAM with 18 OR's moved from MORTAR KNOLL to new posn on GRIFFS TK. During afternoon arty registered on GRAVEYARD area.	
		1200		
		1830	WELLS O P: reports observation only possible between 1735 hrs and 1830 K/5 when 9 Japs moved NORTH and 11 SOUTH.	
		1910	Message from 15 Aust Inf Bde: Additional locations to overlay trace of enemy posns now revealed by captured enemy documents as at 18 June MALOLO-defence unit 12 Coy 115 Regt less small detachment at BUSAMA. CHINATOWN-10 Coy 102 Regt. KELA HILL-2 guns of 4 Bty 14 Arty Bn plus 2 H.M.G's. BRQ with 2 Coys less 1 pl 115 Regt on HIGH GROUND SOUTH of KELA towards BOEDUBI, remaining platoons area 737006 (KOMIATUM 1/25000) 66 Regt bivouaced in area 740989. Un-named force in BOEDUBI RIDGE area.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 6 AUG 43 To 7 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	6 AUG 43	0800	S.M.O.17 Aust Inf Bde advises that Lieut SHRIMPSON was wounded on LABABIA RIDGE between BASE CAMP and MAT MAT by booby trap on 2 Aug. WELLS O P report; At 0630 two Japs moved SOUTH from SALAMAU. AMERICAN arty opened fire on McDONALDS JUNC Black smoke rose to 600 ft. AUST Arty has fired effectively in ORODUBI area where 2 Japs were seen at 0745 hrs. At 0645 hrs Jap arty fired in direction of TAMBUBAY but gun posn not observed. 0800 hrs 2 Japs observed on KOMIATUM TRACK. B pl group arrived GWAIBOLOMS from TIMBERED KNOLL enroute NEWMANS JUNC.	
		1030	Eng sec departed GWAIBOLOMS for new Fwd Coy H Q site approx 699962 (KOMIATUM 1/25000) and remainder of B Pl from NAMLING RIDGE - MORTAR KNOLL arrived GWAIBOLOMS enroute NEWMANS JUNC.	
		1450	Message from 15 Aust Inf Bde; Documents captured TIMBERED KNOLL 30 July by 2/3 AUST INDEP COY reveal Coy in that area commanded by Lieut USUI and strength apparently reduced to 31 including 8 MG personnel. This infm taken from supply report dated 29 Jul.	
		1630	Remainder of force TIMBERED KNOLL arrived GWAIBOLOMS. WELLS O P At 1630 hrs AUST arty fired 45 rounds on ORODUBI also 22 rounds	
	7 AUG 43	2030	at 1700 hrs. Booby trap fwd of BARONS POST exploded by falling branch. "X" list personnel departed MORESBY on 29 JULY.	
		0730		
		1715	Dispositions of 2/3 AUST INDEP COY ref KOMIATUM 1/25000. Fwd H Q at 699962 will be known as ARTIE FADDEN. Composite Pl One sec and Pl H Q on MIDDLE SPUR 699966. 1 sec TAYLORS RIDGE 699967 and 1 sec BETHUNES 699965. One 3" Mor det, one MMG sec plus 15 personnel 58/59 Bn at Cummins Post 699959. A and B Pl group	SKETCH BOBDUBI RIDGE AREA APP 5H
			along GRIFFS TRACK. Recce patrols from NEWMANS JUNC and CUMMINS POST located a good covered track to be known as TOMMYS TRACK parallel to and NORTH of GRIFFS TRACK, running from CUMMINS striking BENCHCUT 200 yds NORTH of NEWMANS JUNC.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 8 AUG 43 To 9 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	8 AUG 43	0630	ARTIE FADDEN reports seeing light flashing FRANCISCO RIV mouth area during night. Composite Platoon 58/59 Bn will come under command 2/3 Aust Indep coy as from 1500 K/7.	
		1500		
		1915	A Pl patrol moved from NEWMANS JUNC area S.E. across country to NORTH PIMPLE thence down SOUTH slope of NORTH PIMPLE thence WEST up ERSKINE CK to D Coy 58 Bn. Unoccupied Jap weapon pits and discarded equipment found NORTH PIMPLE but did not reach the junc of ERSKINE CK and GOVE BENCHCUT. C Pl patrol moved NORTH from TAYLORS RIDGE and contacted 2/7 Bn on VICKERS RIDGE. Second C Pl patrol moved from MIDDLE SPUR to investigate Jap posns 200 yds EAST but owing to heavy timber no observation gained. Listening Post established on TOMMYS TRACK 500 yds SOUTH of CUMMINS POST to be known as RAYS POST.	
		2100	Japs threw 4 grenades which fell 25 yds from our fwd posns on MIDDLE SPUR.	
	9 AUG 43	0600	Our patrol from BETHUNES, SOUTH along RIDGE track contacted CUMMINS POST patrol and reported track clear.	
		1300	Brig H.H.HAMMER D.S.O. and party arrived ARTIE FADDEN and	
			BETHUNES Recce patrols from ARTIE FADDEN and BETHUNES investigated spur on EAST side of RIDGE track between ARTIE FADDEN & BETHUNES. 15 Japs seen carrying cargo along a ridge 250 yds S.E. of BETHUNES and sounds of chopping and digging heard in that area. Lieut JEFFERY and Eng sec moved from ARTIE FADDEN to establish a defensive posn to be known as SAPPERS on a spur running EAST from RIDGE track between CUMMINS POST and BETHUNES. Recce patrol from TAYLORS RIDGE moved EAST and SOUTH down spur and located Jap posns and heard voices on a ridge EAST of BARRYS POST on MIDDLE SPUR. BARRYS POST report discovery of a Jap weapon pit and 2 Japs on a spur S E between BARRYS POST and BETHUNES. Alterations in dispositions; CUMMINS POST 13 personnel incl MMG sec and 3" mor det. 19 personnel at TOMMYS track listening post.	
		1400		

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....2/3 AUST INDEP COY..... Date and Time.—From.....9 AUG 43.....To 10 AUG 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	9 AUG 43	1400	<p>B Pl patrols from NEWMANS JUNC area; Patrol No.1. moved EAST to KOMIATUM track and observed the track for 8 hours. During that time the following movement was observed:- Jap sentry patrols 200 yards NORTH & SOUTH along track and also 20 yds WEST along track towards NEWMANS JUNC. 2 Japs moved SOUTH and one NORTH along KOMIATUM TRACK. Patrol No.2. moved SOUTH parallel and WEST of GOVT BENCHCUT for 500 yds and at this point heard Jap activity. Patrol No.3. moved NORTH parallel and WEST of GOVT BENCHCUT for 600 yds to a spur on which they heard much Jap activity. Patrol No.4. moved NORTH along GOVT BENCHCUT for 500 yds and found it clear. A Pl patrol skirted NORTH PIMPLE on WEST side and reached an open KUNAI spur leading to PIMPLE. Patrol moved part way up open spur then returned and moved onto PIMPLE by more covered route. While on PIMPLE they noticed a track leading to ERSKINE CK down the SOUTH PIMPLE. The patrol then moved up ERSKINE CK to D Coy 58/59 Bn posns. D Coy 58/59 Bn reports their patrol to the same open KUNAI spur this morning was fired on by JAPS. Casualties this day 2 O.R.'s wounded.</p>	
	10 AUG 43	0600	<p>15 AUST INF BDE; advises that reinforcements 2/3 AUST INDEP COY and 58/59 Bn proceeding to BASE 4 this day.</p>	
		1300	<p>Recce patrols from SAPPERS and TOMMYS track report Jap weapon-pit and 10 Japs on a spur N.N.E. of RAYS POST. Voices and chopping also heard. Patrol moved NORTH from XSTMMXX NEWMANS JUNC along ground between the GOVT BENCHCUT and KOMIATUM TRACK for 1000 yds. At this point much talking and movement heard 200 yds to EAST. To the NORTH through heavily timbered country much Jap Movement was observed. The Jap parties were moving from EAST to WEST and WEST to EAST. patrol tried to cross area directly NORTH then to NE then to NW and were fired on in the last attempt. Second patrol confirmed existance of Jap posns 600 yds NORTH of NEWMANS JUNC along BENCHCUT. Patrol from SAPPERS in EASTERLY direction saw 2 Japs who fled.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 10 AUG 43 To 12 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	10 AUG 43	1300	D Coy 58/59 Bn bivouaced at CUMMINS POST. Patrols from TAYLORS RIDGE established further JAP posn 200 yds N E of known posns EAST of TAYLORS RIDGE.	
		2000	Message from Capt HANCOCK for 2/3 AUST INDEP COY reinforcements to move to ARTIE FADDEN afternoon 11 Aug.	
	11 AUG 43	1400	Alterations of dispositions notified to 15 AUST INF BDE as follows: Lieuts LEWIN & READ with 16 O.R.'s. A Pl moved from GRIFFS TRACK area to RAYS POST. 45 reinforcements arrived ARTIE FADDEN. Rear H Q closed KELLYS CAMP and re-opened at CURTINS CORNER ref 688959 (KOMIATUM 1/25000) All recent patrols indicate Jap occupation of area between CUMMINS POST and OLD VICKERS POSN EAST to GOVT BENCHCUT.	
		1630		
	12 AUG 43	1200	Listening post on KOMIATUM TRACK EAST of NEWMANS JUNC reports: Movement along track during night 11/12 Aug. 0800 to 0812 18 fully equipped Japs moved NORTH 0815 20 fully equipped Japs moved SOUTH. Patrol from RAYS POST down TOMMYS TRACK to GOVT BENCHCUT thence NORTH down CORRIDOR between KOMIATUM and BENCHCUT heard voices in vicinity BOBDUBI-SALAMAUA track. 2/7 Bn patrols guided by 2/3 Coy personnel reports STEVENS track clear but parts of track under observation. from SOUTH COCONUTS also a fresh track parallel and SOUTH of STEVENS track is clear. Recce patrol down STEVENS TRACK moved up spur further NORTH heard much Jap movement and talking and observed signal wire running through GRAVEYARD to SOUTH COCONUTS.	
		1800	Listening post on KOMIATUM TRACK reports following movement between 1005 hrs and 1710 hrs 25 Japs moved NORTH and 32 SOUTH carrying rifles and packs.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 13 AUG 43 To 14 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOEDUBI	13 AUG 43	1100	58/59 Bn recce patrol from RAYS POST reports seeing 4 Japs in a creek SOUTH of TOMMYS track 200 yds WEST of junc with BENCHCUT.	
		1600	B Pl patrol from GRIFPS track area to capture Jap sentry on KOMIATUM track observed sentry had been replaced by Jap standing patrol of 5.	
		1800	Listening Post KOMIATUM track reports 60 Japs SOUTH & 40 NORTH along track during day. Recce patrol in area WEST of GOVT BENCHCUT between NEWMANS AND NORTH PIMPLE reports area clear of enemy.	
		2155	Message from 15 BDE:- The following officers will administer command of units:- MAJOR PICKEN 2/7 BN; MAJOR WARFE 58/59 BN; CAPT HANCOCK 2/3 INDEP COY.	
	14 AUG 43	0630	Casualties this day 2 ORs wounded. Troops observed in creek SOUTH of TOMMYS track on 13 Aug believed to have been our own.	
		1010	RAYS POST M M G engaged HILBERTS SOUTH with harrassing fire. Enemy L M G replied. MIDDLE SPUR M M G engaged HILBERTS NORTH Enemy L M G replied our cas 1 OR wounded.	
		1025	A Pl (47 men) departed MIDDLE SPUR and moved through OLD VICKERS posn en route ambush posn on junc STEVENS - SALAMAUA - BOEDUBI track.	
		1030	Standing patrol established 200 yds EAST of NEWMANS JUNC.	
		1135	A Pl ambush posn established on SALAMAUA track & Jap sig wire cut. 1 Jap woodpecker, 2 L M Gs & rifles swept our posns on MIDDLE SPUR and SAPPERS POST during our harrassing fire.	
			58/59 Bn personnel at RAYS POST replaced by 58/59 Tank Attack Pl. B Pl patrol from NEWMANS Junc reports BENCHCUT clear of enemy	
			NORTH for 600yds patrol was unable to proceed further owing to our own mortar fire.	
		1140	3" Mortar at GARDENS engaged target vicinity STAGING CAMP with 50 rds. CUMMINS POST 3" Mortar engaged HILBERTS SOUTH with 50 rds. BOMB CRATER M M G engaged STAGING CAMP area with 1000 rds.	
		1220	MIDDLE SPUR M M G engaged HILBERTS NORTH with 500 rds and RAYS POST M M G engaged HILBERTS SOUTH with 500 rds.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....2/3 AUST. INDEP. COY..... Date and Time.—From.....14 AUG 43.....To 15 AUG 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOEDUBI	14 AUG 43	1225	4000 SA and 30 rds 2" Mor into HILBERTS from TAYLORS & RAYS posns.	
		1315	A Pl ambush surprised 5 Japs moving towards SALAMAUA - 1 killed.	
		1345	Party of 7 Japs moving from COCONUTS ambushed - 2 killed.	
		1400	Further party of Japs moved through scrub towards SALAMAUA were fired on and dispersed.	
		1600	A Pl ambush party digging in. Japs ambushed showed definite signs of panic and were without equipment.	
		1615	A Pl fired on party of 4 Japs moving from direction of SALAMAUA 1 killed. During afternoon 1 heavy Jap mortar located 70 yds EAST of our posn MIDDLE SPUR on HILBERTS NORTH.	
		2010 to 0230	Listening post on KOMIATUM track reports 43 Japs moved NORTH & 41 SOUTH. All fully equipped. Booby trap on MIDDLE SPUR sprung, movement heard and grenades by our troops.	
	15 AUG 43	0500	2 Japs approached A Pl posn from direction COCONUTS - 2 killed.	
		0600	A force of approx 30 Japs lightly equipped with 2 L M Cs & riflemen with fixed bayonets attacked A Pl from direction of staging camp. The attack was driven off with support from 3" Mortar from GARDENS - 4 Japs killed.	
		1100	Patrol moved from RAYS POST down a spur NORTH of & parallel with TOMMYS track. This track strikes BENCHCUT 500 yds NORTH NEWMANS Junc.	
1145		BENA FORCE patrol from NORTH COCONUTS contacted A PL - Area clear.		
1340		B Pl fighting patrol from NORTH left NEWMANS JUNC to recce area NORTH to FRANCISCO RIVER both WEST & EAST of GOVT BENCHCUT and to gain information of enemy strength and disposns.		
	1400	"nd B Pl patrol established Jap posn on a spur S E of D Coy 58/59. Bn posns on DUNNS track. Patrol from SAPPERS observed Jap sentry and weapon pit on HILBERTS SOUTH. This posn appears to observe area of creek between BETHUNES and HILBERTS.		
	1745	Jap mortars on HILBERTS NORTH fired 1 round onto OLD VICKERS posn also 2 rounds onto SAPPERS area. It is now established that Jap has 2 mortars on HILBERTS NORTH. Our 2" mortar from MIDDLE SPUR replied.		

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 15 AUG 43 To 17 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	15 AUG 43	1800	Listening post on KOMIATUM track reports 17 Japs moved SOUTH & NORTH - all fully equipped. Runner from B Pl fighting patrol reports Jap defensive posns dug in on BENCHCUT approx 100 yds SOUTH of SALAMAUA-BOBDUBI track and extend NORTH to this Junc. Est enemy strength 40. Jap listening post located 20 yds S E of defensive posn. From a point EAST of NEWMANS Junc a patrol moved from for 1000 yds, 20 yds WEST and parallel with KOMIATUM track but could not locate Jap STAGING CAMP. Fighting patrol operating.	
	16 AUG 43	0600	B Pl fighting patrol attacked previously reported Jap posns on BENCHCUT. Listening post reported S E of Jap posn was wiped out 5 Japs killed. Patrol then pushed on to main defenses, encountered heavy fire from at least 2 L M Gs and many rifles and was unable to push through A Pl posn. Patrol then withdrew to NEWMANS JUNC. Recce patrol moved from A Pl posn along WEST side of SALAMAUA - BOBDUBI track and found Jap track with signal wire leading in direction of HILBERTS. Patrol then moved along a creek on the NORTH side of the Jap track and found Jap staging Camp. Jap L M G opened on patrol and 1 OR was wounded. Patrol from O V P moved EAST down ANDERSONS SPUR then SOUTH and found a Jap	
		1515	L of C which runs in a W S W direction.	
		1800	Patrols down GRIFFS & TOMMYS tks contacted on BENCHCUT -TK clear.	
	17 AUG 43		Listening post on KOMIATUM track reports between 1340 & 1550 61 fully equipped Japs carrying stores including either a Mortar or an L M G moved NORTH. During same period 8 Japs with packs moved SOUTH. Total casualties this day 2 ORs wounded.	
			Dispositions; REAR HQ at CURTINS CORNER; FWD HQ at ARTIE FADDEN; BATTLE HQ at BOMBCRATER 701971; B Pl less 1 Sec plus A Pl at STEVENS track area; 1 Sec B Pl at SAPPERS post. 1 offr 29 ORs 58/59 BN under command and 6 ORs 2/3 Indep Coy at RAYS and CUMMINS; 1 offr 12 ORs 58/59 BN GRIFFS track area.	
		1100	1000 - 1100 Arty concentrated on Jap posns.	
		1130	1000 - 1130 Our mortars concentrated on same areas.	
		1130	A & B Pls moved fwd to attack Jap from posn located by our recce patrols on 16 AUG.	

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY.....

Date and Time.—From 17 AUG 43.....To 18 AUG 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	17 AUG 43	1145	B Pl gained the Jap L of C spur but were immediately attacked & surrounded by strong force of Japs moving down a very steep spur from the WEST. B Pl withdrew and are now established 150 yds NORTH of Jap L of C on good ground. Our cas 1 OR killed 1 OR wounded. B Pl reserve sec now fwd; B Pl HQ now approx 200 yds EAST of STEVENS track junc.	
		1135	A Pl moved EAST along SAL-BOBDUBI track and found Jap standing patrols had withdrawn, continued advance and encountered Jap dug in with pill boxes at junc of GOVT BENCHCUT.	SKETCH OF JAP PILLBOXES SALAMAUA - BOBDUBI TRACK ATTACHED AS APP. 55.
		1200	Patrol from SAPPERS POST observed Japs in hut on HILBERTS NORTH. Patrol fired several bursts of T S M G into hut - Jap ret'd fire.	
		1550	Composite recce patrols left A Pl posn to investigate SOUTH flank and found staging Camp hut empty and captured some material. Patrol was fired on from Jap F D Ls due EAST of A Pl position. Patrol to NORTH flank found area impenetrable.	
		1700	After 10 mins MOR fire 1 Pl D Coy 2/7 Bn and our Engineer Sec advanced towards SOUTH flank of Jap F D L. A Pl moved fwd to contact enemy & drew heavy fire from 2 L M Gs in pillboxes, and 1 L M G sited further WEST also fire from rifles and grenades. A Pl withdrew and dug in 50 yds WEST of creek.	
		1830	Jap launched a heavy attack on A Pl but was held. Our total cas for day 1 offr 4 ORs killed; 1 offr 10 ORs wounded of which 1 OR D of W.	
		0600	0300 - 0600 Jap launched strong attack on A Pl right flank but all attacks were held.	
		0630	Patrol from SAPPERS POST moved EAST down spur and observed 2 Japs on a track which appears to link HILBERTS NORTH with HILBERTS SOUTH on EAST side of creek. Recce fwd of D Coy 2/7 Bn was engaged by heavy Jap fire from S E. Recce from B Pl to contact D Coy 2/7 Bn was engaged by fire from high ground. Recce from C Pl EAST down ANDERSONS RIDGE from OLD VICKERS posn also came under fire from low ground to the EAST and returned. Members of Pl D Coy who attacked at 1700 17 Aug returned to OLD VICKERS posn	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 18 AUG 43 To 19 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
BOEDUBI	18 AUG 43	0630	and reported that force had attacked JAP pill boxes from the rear but had been forced to withdraw to high ground to S.W. They reported ENG sec casualties; 1 O.R. Killed, 1 Officer & 3 O.R.'s wounded. One pl D Coy 2/7 Bn moved forward to establish contact. Fighting patrol moved from RAYS POST down TOMMYS TRACK then NORTH along GOVT BENCHCUT. On reaching the flat two parties of JAPS approx 40 & 20 strong engaged and threatened to encircle the patrol and it withdrew. 1 O.R. Wounded. Patrol from D Coy 2/7 Bn and the fighting patrol moving NORTH along the GOVT BENCHCUT reached vicinity of position held by fwd pl of D Coy simultaneously at approx 1100 hrs. All three parties came under heavy fire from Jap pill box positions and also from Jap mobile forces. Efforts were made to extricate D Coy patrol and ENG sec but Jap fire was too heavy.		
		1000			
		1100	A Pl and D Coy 2/7 Bn posns attacked. 2 Japs killed by A Pl.		
		1500	Sgt LANGBURNE, Sprs MAGUIRE, TOVEY also Spr HALE who was wounded arrived at OLD VICKERS POSN. 12 of the ENG sec still missing.		
		1830	Jap fired 20 mortar bombs at A pl posn but no damage or casualties were sustained. Coy dispositions. ref KOMIATUM 1/25000. A pl group at 703968; B pl group at 703970; Battle H Q Junc STEVENS BOEDUBI-SALAMAUA tracks; C pl group at ANDERSONS, MIDDLE SPUR, BETHUNES, SAPPERS. Adv H Q ARTIE FADDEN. 58/59 Bn under comd CUMMINS, RAYS and NEWMANS JUNC. Composite force at junc TOMMYS TRACK & GOVT BENCHCUT. Total Casualties; 2 O.R.'s. K.I.A. 2 O.R.'s WIA.		
		0630	Listening post fwd of SAPPERS reports all quiet during night 18/19 Aug but considerable yabber heard from HILBERTS SOUTH at dawn. Composite patrol from D Coy 2/7 Bn to contact 2/3 ENG sec moved SOUTH found traces of JAPS and reached the vicinity of the withdrawal route taken by the four engineers who returned to OLD VICKERS POSN. A further patrol to the right flank struck JAPS. Patrol from B Pl moved WEST arrived at OLD VICKERS POSN and reports area clear. C pl patrol from MIDDLE SPUR via OLD VICKERS POSN moved EAST to contact B pl but were fired on by JAP LMG.		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 19 AUG 43 To 19 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	19 AUG 43	0630	1 O.R. Wounded, Patrol under Lieut GARLAND moved to evacuate casuatly. 15 Aust Inf Bde advises that enemy is withdrawing from MT TAMBU & GOODVIEW RIDGE areas. Parties of enemy may be expected throughout the day moving NORTH along KOMIATUM TRACK.	
		1000		
		1100	Listening post fwd of SAPPERS post observed slight movement on HILBERTS NORTH several bursts of T.S.M.G. were fired into this movement but there was no return fire. B pl patrol NORTH along BENCHCUT reached a point on the flat 150 yds SOUTH of the point reached by yesterdays patrol and heard considerable JAP yabber also sounds of digging and chopping. Activity also heard to the S.E. Patrol withdrew to high ground and attempted to move in a NORTHERLY direction up spur but were forced back owing to the difficult nature of the country. Patrol then returned to NEWMANS JUNC along the WEST side of the BENCHCUT.	
		1400	Our patrol located the missing members of ENG sec and D Coy 2/7 Bn and a composite force moved fwd to secure the area. B Pl patrol to S.W. contacted JAP posns. D Coy 2/7/Bn patrol found fwd area clear for 100 yds. A pl patrols searched their left and right front and found that JAP had evacuated the old posns previously attacked. 7 Jap bodies incl 1 LIEUT, quantity of intelligence documents were found. Fighting Patrol from D Coy 58/59 Bn moved through our posns on GRIFFS TK enroute KOMIATUM TK.	
		1530	Further A Pl patrol fwd was fired on by JAP LMG. 1 OR Wounded.	
		1715	C pl on MIDDLE SPUR harrassed HILBERTS area with 2" MOR, RIFLE & LMG fire and drew return fire consistently of at least 1 WOOD PECKER, 2 LMG's, 1 light MORTAR and numerous RIFLES.	
		1830	15 Aust Inf Bde orders and tasks for 20 Aug. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy; C pl to attack on MIDDLE SPUR, A & B pl with 2 pls D Coy 2/7 Bn to continue to attack enemy who are holding strongly NORTH of KOMIATUM TK-BENCHCUT JUNCS on FRANCISCO RIV. Casualties 1 O.R. K.I.A. 2 O.R.'s. W.I.A.	
		2200		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form. C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From..... 20 AUG 43 To..... 21 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDBI	20 AUG 43	0530	15 Aust Inf Bde advise that 18 type A 20 A/C will bomb & straffe as many targets as possible in the SALAMAUA area. T.O.T. 0730K/20.	
		0730	Harrassing fire from 3" MORTAR, VICKERS, CUMMINSPOST on HILBERTS area during night 19/20 Aug drew no return fire. Our patrol moved into HILBERTS area and reported it clear of enemy at 1100Hrs.	
		1000	C pl relieved at BETHUNES area by one pl 2/7 Bn and moved N.E. from RAYS POST through OLD JAP HILBERTS posns enroute GOVT BENCHCUT. C pl later moved down JAP L of C and contacted D Coy 2/7 Bn. 15 Aust Inf Bde PLAN 20 Aug 43. 1 Pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy on KOMIATUM TK area 707963. 2 Pls on KUNAI SPUR 720954.	
		1155	Operations 18 Aug of A pl group and D Coy 2/7 Bn along WEST side of SALAMAUA-BORDUBI track apparently co-incided with B Pl group fighting patrol from NEWMANS JUNC NORTH along the BENCHCUT. This succeeded in cutting the Jap L of C to HILBERTS and frustrating any JAP attempt to reinforce that area. JAP defences in the HILBERTS area were extensive with over 100 weapon pits Signs of our operations and harrassing fire against the area were very effective. Casualties Lieut JEFFERY, S.G. died of wounds received 17/8/43 1 O.R. died of wounds received 19/8/43.	
		1630	A pl group relieved and with B pl group established posns along EAST-WEST line from GOVT BENCHCUT to KOMIATUM TK. Coy 2/7 Bn now astride MALONES track.	
	21 AUG 43	0630	Listening post SALAMAUA-BOBDUBI-KOMIATUM track reports no movement. Reports no movement. Remainder of C pl group arrived at MALONES JUNC and moved to KOMIATUM TK. B Coy 58/59 Bn passed through MALONES JUNC enroute high ground EAST of KOMIATUM TK.	
		0900	2/3 Aust Indep Coy dispositions: A pl group vicinity MALONES JUNC; B pl group in CORRIDOR; C pl group astride BUIRALI CK-KOMIATUM TK. Orders issued by Maj WARFE, comdr 58/59 Bn. D Coy 58/59 Bn will move forthwith to vicinity 706957, dig in astride KOMIATUM TK, protect L of C of B & C Coy 58/59 Bn and 2 Pls 2/3 Aust Indep Coy now on high ground square 7196. Patrol contacted 2/7 Bn NORTH along KOMIATUM TK. Patrol moved SOUTH along KOMIATUM TK and contacted 58/59 Bn	

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 21 AUG 43 To 22 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	21 AUG 43	1100	A B C Pl groups concentrated on BUIRALI CK approx XXXXXX 709963. After C Pl recce B Coy 58/59 BN took posn on KUNAI SPUR 710963.	
		1230	B and C Pl group moved onto KUNAI SPUR.	
		1530	B Pl group moved to cur SALAMAUA - BOBDUBI track approx 1000 yds N E of BUIRALI CK. JUNC.	
	22 AUG 43	0600	ADV HQ 15 AUST INF BDE opened at ARTIE FADDEN with COMMAND POST at OLD VICKERS posn. B Pl encountered very heavy jungle and could not reach SAL - BOB track before dark on 21 Aug. In view of the unsuitable route and shortage of rations half of the force proceeded fwd with rations of the whole force. Remaining half moved back to 710963. Recces are proceeding for routes further EAST.	
		0630	Patrol including ARTY F O O moved EAST from W Pl area to contact 42 AUST INF BN.	
		1130	1 lone Jap Lieut contacted and killed on C Pl L of C ridge. A Pl moved to cong area SOUTH along EAST of BUIRALI CK and up re-entrants to EAST.	
		1230	Recce patrol from C Pl posn reached the SAL - BOB track approx 500 yds N E BUIRALI and heard jap activity on the track. Sounds of firing heard to the N E probably from B Pl force on track further to N E. No contact yet with B Pl force.	
		1300	Recce from C Pl posn encountered and killed 1 Jap 500 yds SOUTH.	
		1500	Patrol to contact 42 BN struck heavy going and returned.	
		1515	Recce patrol moved from H Q SOUTH up BUIRALI CK thence EAST towards No. 1 Camp to contact 42 BN. Recce patrol SOUTH from C Pl posn found many tracks with recent jap prints in area of two dry re-entrants joining BUIRALI CK at 708958.	
		1600	Patrol from A Pl moved to cross FRANCISCO River then NORTH to recross river and establish means of approach to SAL - BOB tk. C Pl group departed to join B Pl party and establish posn on SAL - BOB track	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From..... 22 AUG 43 To..... 24 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOEDUBI	22 AUG 43	1600	15 AUST INF BDE:- MAJOR WARFE will take command all troops SOUTH of FRANCISCO RIVER which includes 2/3 Indep Coy; A Coy 2/7 BN; and A & B Coys 58/59 Bn. Task to drive enemy EAST of 72 Easting grid.	
	23 AUG 43	0630	MAJOR PICKEN will take over command troops NORTH of FRANCISCO. Composite PL during night 22/23 held track 714968 and are now being reinforced by remainder of B Pl. At first light track found to show signs of considerable Jap usage. Track had no signal cable but presumed to be L of C to Jap posn 711955. Patrol moved forward to find main SAL track.	
		0900	Remainder C Pl joined composite Pl - L/T established. Patrol from B Pl at 712963 to 42 Bn or Japs keeping to high ground to EAST until it strikes No. 1 Camp - NUN NUK track.	
		1000	A party of, not less than 30 Japs moving from SALAMAUA with packs and rifles were driven back along track and into scrub by C Pl. 7 Japs killed including 1 offr. C Pl then moved to a more secure posn in vicinity 720972 if possible at junc Jap L of C and main SALAMAUA track. B Pl party remaining with C Pl.	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">SKETCH MAP of 58/59 Bn and 2/3 COY OPs against JAP RIDGE attached as APP. 56</p>
		1200	Patrol to contact 42 Bn returned but found no definite track up re-entrant running EAST from BUIRALI at 708963. patrol moved up re-entrant NE from 712956 and reached junc of tracks used by Japs vicinity 721962. Signs of much movement and Japs digging in on track leading from S W towards SALAMAUA. Signs of some movement and 5 Japs without packs were observed moving WEST along another freshly made track. patrol heard MTN GUN firing NE from this point at approx 724951 also SA heard from EAST.	
		1430	Another recce patrol moved from HQ to investigate further for No. 1 Camp and 42 Bn.	
		1630	Patrol which departed to investigate further re No. 1 Camp returned, found Jap tracks at junc of No. 1 CAMP track and BUIRALI CK. These tracks had been made since 1200 K/23. Patrol moved up creek for approx 1000 yds and found 2 huts on left bank and 1 lean to on right bank. An indistinct track joined the creek	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C 2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Date and Time.—From 23 AUG 43 To 24 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOEDUBI	23 AUG 43	1630	100 yds WEST of the huts. It is thought that these huts are probably No 1 Camp. 200 yds further up creek patrol was engaged by Jap ambush - 1 OR wounded. Standing patrol is now established at 708957 junc of BUIRALI CK and No 1 Camp track. Patrols from C Pl were hampered by fire from A Coy 2/7 BN but found 3 well used tracks running parallel to FRANCISCO River. Main track with cable furthest to NORTH. C Pl has cut all tracks. Jap activity heard at foot ridge 719971. Dispositions:- HQ 709962; A Pl with A Coy 2/7 Bn 708967; B Pl less 1 sec 712962; C Pl plus 1 sec C Pl 715970.	
		2359	HQ 15 AUST INF BDE NOW CONCENTRATED AT ARTIE FADDEN 699962. Total cas this day 1 OR wounded 1 OR wounded remaining on duty.	
	24 AUG 43	0600	Two Jap patrols moving from EAST to WEST and WEST to EAST each about 15 strong met in front of C Pl posn on main SALAMAUA track C Pl group attacked. 8 Japs were killed and the remainder took to the scrub and started to encircle our own position being heavy L M G fire to bear. Our force was unable to hold ground and withdrew to main position.	
		1000	C Pl position attacked. Japs approached main feature from EAST to WEST. Jap M M G and Mortar engaged our posn from vicinity 718968. Jap gained the xxxxxx ridge SOUTH of C Pl posn and attacked NORTH. C Pl concentrated its force and held continuous Jap attacks which lasted for 30 mins.	
		1500	Message from Brig H H HAMMER D S O "Convey my congratulations to all ranks on successful ops to date"	
		1600	Fighting patrol from A Pl which had moved from B Pl posn reported Japs had withdrawn and L of C established to C Pl. Our patrol contacted 58/59 BN patrol SOUTH of 2/3 HQ in BUIRALI creek area. One unarmed Jap seen by combined patrols and killed. With view to future ops C Pl has been withdrawn through A Coy	
		1730	58/59 BN to B Pl. Message from 2/7 BN to Capt HANCOCK Spr McGUINNESS who has been missing has returned. A Pl patrol NORTH across the FRANCISCO RV.	

201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form 118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 2/3 AUST INDEP COY..... Date and Time.—From..... 24 AUG 43..... To..... 25 AUG 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	24 AUG 43	1730	found a track running parallel with river from 706968 to 712969 but found further progress extremely difficult and returned.	
			Disposns. BATTLE H Q, A, B, and C pls now at B pl position. Casualties 1 O.R.K.I.A. 1 O.R.W.I.A.	
	25 AUG 43	0800 to 0820	3 inch mortar and S.A. preparation for Mr GARLAND'S force who are to attack JAP ridge position. Approach to be from A Coy 58/59 Bn posn N.W.	
		0900	With diversion at close quarters based on B Coy 58/59 Bn posn the force attacked and met two JAP forces each approx 50 strong	
			moving SOUTH to NORTH and NORTH to SOUTH and inflicted heavy casualties. Composite force under Lieut OWEN attacked WEST	
			from A Coy 58/59 Bn and met heavy JAP fire. Both parties are pushing on. Between 0900 and 1130 hrs Lieut ALLEN'S force	
		1130	made repeated attempts to gain the JAP ridge but came under heavy LMG, rifle and grenade fire from both flanks but killed 7 JAPS. Lieut ALLEN'S force withdrew 40 yards below ridge and dug in. Lieut GARLAND'S force gained the ridge and engaged mobile parties of JAPS killing 8. The force came under heavy	
			cross fire, deployed to the NORTH and encountered JAP defensive posns consisting of a series of pits with overhead covering. These positions extended N E down spur to the flat. Force moved	
		1200	to spur used for first approach and dug in 30 yds EAST of top of ridge. 15 Aust Inf Bde instruction: 2/3 Aust Indep Coy will remain present location until relief by 29 Bde completed and comd satisfied to release.	
		1400	Reserve force under Lieut LINEHAM assembled at B Coy 58/59 Bn posn with a view to thrust from S.W.	
		1500	3 inch and 2 inch mortar preparation began.	
		1600	Lieut LINEHAM'S force attacked JAP ridge from S.W. and came under heavy fire from both flanks. JAP appeared to be dug in	
			with overhead cover. The approach was precipitous, ground untenable, and force was unable to make progress. 3 Japs were killed and force withdrew at 1730 hrs. JAP fired several mortar	

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/3 AUST INDEP COY Date and Time.—From 25 AUG 43 To 28 AUG 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	25 AUG 43	1600	bombs on to our L of C at 711961, no damage. JAP posns attacked today are at 711964, 711965, 713966 and extend to the flat. Enemy strength considerable both in fixed posns and mobile and used 1 mortar, many L.M.G's. but no M.M.G's. Our casualties 25 Aug 2 O.R.'s WIA 1 O.R. died of wounds received 17/8/43. Disposns: Battle H Q and B pl at 713962 A pl 714961 C pl 712965 2 pls A Coy 47 Bn 711963. A Coy 47 Bn less 2 pls 712964.	
		2100	15 Aust Inf Bde instructs 2/3 Aust Indep Coy on relief by 29 Bde will occupy areas 705964, 704973 704967 and arrange for recess to fwd areas.	
	26 AUG 43	0800	A pl patrol found old C pl posns at 715966 occupied by enemy.	
		1000	Sounds of digging heard. Hand over our positions to 47 Bn Complete.	
		1100	2/3 Aust Indep Coy now concentrated on BUIRALI CK.	
		1200	Investigation shows cas inflicted on JAP by GARLAND FORCE A.M. K/25, 20 killed and many wounded.	
	27 AUG 43	1440	Message from 15 Aust Inf Bde instructs Sgt SWAN to report to 2/7 Bn H Q. 2/7 Bn will send Sgt SWAN to area SWANS O P to make use of his local knowledge to determine exact location of all	
		1630	2/7 Bn Coys. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy Fwd H Q closed 709962 re-opened at 705973. 1 lone JAP shot in foxhole at approx 704968.	
			2/3 Aust Indep Coy preparing new camp sites and defences in areas 704965, 704966, 705973 and 704972.	
		28 AUG 43	0835	From 0835 to 0855 JAP mtn gun from area approx 722963 fired 20 rounds into 2/3 Aust Indep Coy fwd H Q. 1 O.R. wounded. Routine patrol now moves daily from A pl area SOUTH along GOVT B ENHCUT thence EAST down ERSKINE CK thence NORTH along KOMIATUM TRACK through B pl and returns. O P established SOUTH
09 ⁰⁰	COCONUTS. Patrol of 8 O.R.'s. inspected ground from NORTH COCONUTS then moved to 2/7 Bn and 58/59 Bn areas.			
	1525	From 1525 to 1543 JAP MTN GUN again from 722963 fired 51 rounds incl 2 blinds into area NW of 2/3 Aust Indep Coy H Q. No cas suffered.		

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....2/3 AUST INDEP COY..... Date and Time.—From.....29 AUG 43.....To.....31 AUG 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BOBDUBI	29 AUG 43	1100	15 Aust Inf Bde instructs that 2/3 Aust Indep Coy tasks are to recce areas ARNOLDS GREAT 710997 ROUGH HILL 718985 with a view to carrying out sec raids on those areas. Operation instns follow.	
		1300	1 sec C pl under Lieut GARLAND moved to 2/7 Bn HQ and 1 sec B pl under Lieut LEVISTON moved to 58/59 Bn HQ preparatory to carrying out commando tasks.	
		1400	Daily patrol BENCHCUT-ERSKINE CK-KOMIATUM TK reports area clear. Recce patrols operating in 2/7 Bn and 58/59 Bn area preparatory to commando raids. Daily patrol BENCHCUT-ERSKINE CK-KOMIATUM TK reports area clear.	
	30 AUG 43			
	31 AUG 43		Our VICKERS GUN from 703972 engaged 3 JAPS who appeared to be repairing a pillbox damaged by arty at approx 710964. Results were unobserved. Routine patrol BENCHCUT-ERSKINE CK-KOMIATUM TRACK reports area clear.	<p><i>Summary of O.P's 1 Aug to 12 Sep 43</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">APP 54</p>
<p><i>Wameau Capt.</i></p> <p><i>2 i/c. 2/3 Aust. Indep. Coy.</i></p>				

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

SERIAL NO. 27/43

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

21 AUG 43

W. E. 111/100/1. AIF

W. E. 18 X 272

ATT WE 1 X 10

~~666~~-----PART A STRENGTH, SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

DETAIL	STRENGTH		SURPLUS	REQUIRED
	W. E.	POSTED		
WO CLASS 11	1	1		
C. Q. M. S.	1	1		
SERGEANTS	7	9	2	
CORPORALS	28	33	5	
PRIVATES	235	208	10	37
	272	252	17	37

PART B OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS ALLOWED BY W. E.

DETAIL	CORPS
SERGEANTS 1	A. A. P. C.
DO 2	A. A. M. C.
CORPORALS 4	DO
DO 1	A. A. P. S.
L/CORPORALS 1 (Shoemakers)	A. E. M. E.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

PART D. DETAIL OF SURPLUS OF REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

DETAIL	W. E.	SURPLUS			REQUIRED	
		SCTS	CPLS	PTES	PTES	TOTAL
BLACKSMITHS	1					
CLERKS	2			1		1
COOKS	8		1	-		1
CARPENTERS	2					1
DVR MECHANICS	4					1
ELECTRICIANS	3			1		1
FITTERS	3					
INST MECHANICS	1					
INTELL DUTIES	1					
MECHANICS M T	2					1
SIGS OPERATORS	26		1	7		8
SURVEYORS	-			1		1
TECH STOREMEN	2					
GEN DUTIES		2	3	-		5
		2	3	10		17
					33	33
					37	37

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

21 AUG 43.

Warricus Galt
for signature of Commander

15 AUST INF BDE

W 3009

SERIAL No 25 FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

W.E. III/100/1 AIF.

W.E. 18 x 272

2/3 Aust Indep Coy

7 Aug 43

ATTWE 1 x 10

PART A STRENGTH

RANKS	W E	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
WO II	1	1		
C.Q.M.S.	1	1		
SGTS	7	9	2	
CPLS	28	32	4	
PTEs	235	175	8	68
	272	218	14	68

PART B ATTACHED BY W.E.

DETAIL	NO	UNIT
SERGEANTS	2	AAMIC
CORPORALS	4	do
SERGEANTS	1	AAPC
CORPORALS	1	AAPS

2/3 Aust Indep BdeUnit.

Army Form W.3009
(page 2)

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED							REMARKS.			
	W.O's, Class I.	W.O's, Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants	Serjeants	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL	W.O's, Class I.	W.O's, Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants	Corporals	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL		
Bricklayers																		
Butchers																		
Carpenters and Joiners													1					1
Clerks							1											1
Despatch Riders																		
Draughtsmen (topo)																		
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																		
Electricians													1					1
Farriers																		
Fitters																		
Masons																		
Painters and Decorators																		
Plumbers and Gasfitters																		
Saddlers and Harness Makers																		
Signallers OPERATORS							6											6
Storemen, Technical																		
Vickers Machine Gunners																		
Cooks						1								1				1
REVEYORS							1											1
DRIVERS														1				1
FOH M.T.														1				1
VR MECH														1				1
VR M.T.														2				2
General Duty Personnel							2	3								6		6
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)							2	4	8							6	8	68

2/3 Aust Indep BdeUnit.
Date of Despatch 7 AUG 43

W. Stephens Lewis
Signature of Commander.
15 Aust Inf Bde
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

(Adapted)

Serial 75
N.E. AIF 111/100/1
N.E. 14 x 272
N.E. 1 x 10

2/3 (Unit) 7 Aug 1943 (Date.)

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

Table with 4 columns: 1. Detail, 2. Posted Strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached), 3. Surplus to Establishment, 4. Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments). Rows include W.O's Class I, W.O's Class II, Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants, Staff Serjeants, Serjeants, Corporals, Troopers, Privates, &c., and a TOTALS row.

*These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Table with 4 columns: Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong, Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong. Includes handwritten entries for SERJEANTS, CORPORALS, and TROOPERS/PRIVATEs from units H.A.M.C. and H.A.P.S.

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Table with 5 columns: Army No., Rank, Name and Initials, Corps, (Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts if known)).

FIELD REPORT OF GUNTER

PART D Surplus or Requirements Required

DETAIL	SURPLUS				REQUIRED			
	S	P	P	T	S	P	P	T
CLERKS			1	1				
SURVYORS			1	1				
SIGS OPERATORS			6	6				
COOKS		1		1		1		1
ELECTRICIANS						1		1
CARPENTERS						1		1
PLUMBERS						1		1
MECH MIT						1		1
DVR MECH						1		1
DVR MIT						2		2
GENERAL DUTIES	2	3		5		6		6
	2	11	8	11		18		18

13 Aust Field Coy

11 Stephens Lt Col
of 1st Aust Div

7 Aug 43

15 Aust Inf Bde

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 29 AUG 3 2/3 Aust Indep Coy (Unit)

W.E. 111 100 1 OFFRS. 18 O.R.'s. 272 + OFFRS. 1 O.R.'s. 10 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
				W.Os. Class I.					
			1.	W.Os. Class II. <u>CPL A.A.P.S.</u>		1			
			1.	Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts. <u>CPL A.E.M.E.</u>		1			
				Staff Sergeants <u>SGT A.A.P.C.</u>		1			
		2	9.	Sergeants <u>A.A.M.C.</u>		2			
		2	30.	Corporals <u>A.A.M.C.</u>		4			
	50	7	192.	Troopers, Privates, etc. <u>A.A.O.C.</u>		1			
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
50 *	50	11	233 *	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		10 *			NIL *

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail	C.M.F.			A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
	A.I.F.	Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.							
A	243									243
B(1)										
B(2)										

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
SGTS 2	A.A.M.C.						
CPLS 4	DO						
CPLS 1	A.A.P.S.						
CPLS 1	A.E.M.E.						
SGTS 1	A.A.P.C.						
L/CPLS 1	A.A.O.C.						

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To.....(Unit) is Particularly Requested. /...../194.....

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

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday / /194 .

Table with columns for Details of Tradesmen (GROUP I, II, III), W.E., Posted Strength, and Reints. Required. Includes rows for various trades like Ammunition Examiners, Surveyors, and Fitters, ending with a CARRIED FORWARD summary row.

DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN
GENL DUTIES 216173 43

ATTACHED BY W.E.
CPL ARMSTRONG 1 1 -
TOLL 1
SHOEMAKER 1 1 -
SPT AARG 2 2 -
CPL H 4 4 -
AAPS 1 1 -
SPT AARG 1 1 -

- NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back. (b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided. (c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back. (d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required." (e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

23 AUG 45

Date of Despatch

a.w. cm bks 3/43

Mannan Capt
for Signature of Commander

Serial No. 25

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

A.I.F.

W.E. Reference 11/10/41

A.M.F.

Date 7 Aug 41

W.E. 18 X 272

Attached

Allowed by W.E. 100 X

43 (1st Indep Coy) Unit

PART A. — STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

1	2	3	4
Ranks and W.E.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels . .			
Majors			
Captains	4		
Lieutenants	10		
2nd Lieutenants . .			
Quartermasters . .			
Totals	18	14	4

* Insert detail of higher rank as necessary

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

Officers JOINED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause
Lieut	RC SHRIMPTON	THE 1st	7 Aug 41	Reinforcement

Officers QUITTED during week

Rank	Name	Unit or Corps	Date	Cause
Lieut	P H ALLEN	THE 1st	7 Aug 41	Relief by 44172

PART C. — DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED

Rank	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	(Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known))

PART D

W. 3008

NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

RANK	No	NAME	APPOINTMENT	WITH UNIT?	IF NOT? WHERE?
MAJOR	Vx 156	G R WARRIE	CO	YES	
CAPT	Vx 55990	R N HANCOCK	2 HQ		
	Vx 22404	W A MARRIS	PL COMD		
	Wx 19165	J S WINTERFLOOD			
LIEUT	Nx 76248	T E LEWIN			
	Nx 76246	K H R STEPHENS	ADJT WPI		
	Sx 21309	L B BURZACOTT	SIG OFFR		
	Wx 12431	E J BARRY	SEC COMD		
	Vx 50409	C W LEVISTON			
	Wx 2100	S C TEFFERY			
	Nx 114931	S READ			
	Nx 123781	R S GARLAND			
	Vx 51661	E J LINBHAM			
	Vx 65004	R C SHRIMPTON		No	W I H EN ROUTE TO TOWN COY.

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER ~~REG~~ CORPS

RANK	No	NAME	CORPS	NATURE	ALL WE
CAPT	Ax 34555	FW STREET	RAMC	RAMC	YES

2/3 Aust Indep Coy

N Stephens Lieut.

7 Aug 43

15 Aust Inf Bde

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
MAJOR	VX 186	C R WARFE	CO	YES	
CAPT	VX 58995	R N HANCOCK	2 IC		
	VX 22402	W A MENNERS	PL COMD		
LIEUT	VX 19165	J S WINTERFLOOD			
	VX 76245	J E LEWIN			
	VX 76246	R H R STEPHENS	ADJ QM		
	SX 21309	L D BURZALOTT	SIC OFFR		
	VX 12436	E J BARRY	SEC COMD		
	VX 30409	G W LEVISTON			
	VX 2100	S G JEFFERY			
	VX 114931	S READ			
	VX 123781	R S GARLAND			
	VX 31663	E J LINEHAM			
	VX 65004	RC SKRIMPTON	-	NO	WIA BN ROUTE TO JOIN COY

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	Date of Attachment	Nature of Attachment	Allowed by W.E. (Insert Yes or No)
CAPT	VX 34858	F N STREET	AAMC		RMO	YES

2/3 Aust Indep Coy
(Unit)

7 Aug 43
(Date of Despatch)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander)

15 Aust Inf Bde
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

Field Record of Officers

Serial 25

WE AIF 11/10/41

2/3 Aust Indep Coy

7 Aug 43

WE 18 x 272

ATT WE 1 x 10

PART II Strength Surplus or Reinforcement Required

RANKS	WE	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
MAJORS	1	1	-	-
CAPTAINS	4	3	-	1
LIEUTENANTS	13	10	-	3
	18	14	-	4

PART C OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

LIEUT R C SHANNON THURSDAY 3 AUG 43 Reinforcement officer

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK

LIEUT P H BLEN THURSDAY 30 JUL 43 Avon PD 011

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

SERIAL NO. 28

2/5 AUST INDEP COY

14 AUG 43

WE 111/100/1.(AIF)

WE 18 X 272

WE ATT 1 X 10

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

DETAIL	W. N.	POSTED	SURPLUS	REQUIRED
MAJORS	1	1		
CAPTAINS	4.	3		1.
LIEUTENANTS	13.	10		3.
	18.	14.		4.

PART B. OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Lieut Allen this Coy 5 Aug 43 R T U EX ADS ULIA.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Lieut Shrimpton this Coy 3 Aug 43 over 7 days in ADS.

[Faint handwritten signature]

PART D. — NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARPE	C. O.	NO.	Detached tempy to Comd 58/59 Bn.
CAPT	VX 58290	E. H. HANCOCK	2 I/O.	YES	
"	VY 22404	W. A. HEALES	PL. COMD	"	
"	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"	
LIEUT	NX 76242	J. E. LEWIN	"	"	
"	8X 21309	L. R. BURZACOTT	SIG OFFR	"	
"	WX 12436	E. J. BARRY	SGT COMD	"	
"	WX 2100	S. G. JEFFERY	"	"	
"	VX 50409	C. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	VY 51363	E. J. LINNAN	"	"	
"	VY 34170	P. H. ALLEN	"	"	
"	NX 114931	S. READ	"	"	
"	NX 123731	R. S. GARLAND	"	"	
"	NX 76242	K. H. R. STEPHENS	ADJT QM	NO	Detached tempy special duty with 58/59 Bn.

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Unit or Corps	Date of Attachment	Nature of Attachment	Allowed by W.E. (Insert Yes or No)
CAPT	NX 34858	F. N. STREET	A. A. M. C.		R. M. O.	YES

2/3 AUST INF BR COY

(Unit)

14 AUG 43

(Date of Despatch)

[Handwritten Signature]
for Chapin Co
(Signature of Commander)

15 AUST INF BDM.

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

RANK	NUMBER	NAME	APPOINTMENT	WITH UNIT?	IF NOT WHERE?
MAJOR	VX 186	G. R. WARFE	C O	NO	Detached Tempy to Comd 58/59 Bn.
CAPT	VX 58990	R. N. HANCOCK	2 I/C	YES	
"	VX 22404	W. A. MEARES	PL COMD	"	
"	QX 19168	J. S. WINTERFLOOD	"	"	
LIEUT	NX 76248	J. E. LEWIN	"	"	
"	SX 21309	L. B. BURZACOTT	SIG OFFR XXXXXXXX	"	
"	WX 12436	E. J. BARRY	SEC COMD	"	
"	WX 2100	S. G. JEFFERY	"	"	
"	VX 50409	G. W. LEVISTON	"	"	
"	VX 51663	E. J. LINEHAM	"	"	
"	VX 34170	P. H. ALLEN	"	"	
"	NX114931	S. READ	"	"	
"	NX123781	R. S. GARLAND	"	"	
"	NX 76246	K. H. R. STEPHENS	ADJT QM	NO	Detached Tempy for Special Duty with 58/59 Bn.

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS. ALLOWED BY W E.

CAPT NX 34858 F. N. STREET A. A. M. C. R. M. O.

2/3 AUST INDEP COY

14 AUG 43

Handwritten: 2/3 AUST INDEP COY for Major

15 AUST INF BDE.

To be made up to and for 0600 hrs of Friday of each week and rendered to D.R.O. in triplicate by 1200hrs. Army Form W3009 (page 1)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

Unit 19

PART A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

<u>SERIAL NO., 26.</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>W. E. Detail</u>	<u>Posted strength counting against Auth Est. (excluding attached)</u>	<u>Surplus to Establishment</u>	<u>Reinforcements required (deficits on establishment)</u>
<u>W. E. 18 X 272</u>	<u>2/3 AUST INDEP COY</u>		<u>14 AUG 43</u>
<u>ATT W E 1 X 10</u>			

PART A STRENGTH SURPLUS or REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

<u>W. E.</u>	<u>POSTED</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D of W3009

PART B. Other Ranks Attached from other Corps.

<u>Detail</u>	<u>Unit and Corps to which they belong</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Unit and Corps to which they belong</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>	

PART B. OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Lieut P. H. ALLEN THIS COY 5 Aug 43 R. T. U. Ex. ADS ULIAP.

PART C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

<u>Army No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name and Initials</u>	<u>Corps</u>	<u>Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known)</u>
		<u>Lieut R. C. SHRIMPTON</u>	<u>This Coy</u>	<u>3 Aug 43 over 7 days in ADS BUIGAP</u>

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

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

27 / 43 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 31 / AUG / 1943. 2/3 JUST INDIAN OY

W.E. ^{AIF} 117 100/1. OFFRS. 18 O.R's. 272 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 10 ATT. BY W.E.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.											
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.							
5.	1. 5.		1. 3. 8.	* * Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.	A A M O	1.										
5.	6.		12.													
				DETAIL	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.		
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).				A.												
				E.(1)												
				E.(2)												

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

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

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
WX 12436	LIEUT	E. J. BARRY	KILLED IN ACTION	17 AUG 43	
WX 2100	"	S. G. JEFFERY	DIED OF WOUNDS	20 AUG 43.	

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

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

2/3 AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT COY Unit

27/43 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
MAJOR	VX 138	WARFE	G R	C O	NO	DETACHED TEMPY TO COMD 58/59 INF BN.	12 AUG 43
LIEUT	NX 76246	STEPHENS	K H R	ADJT	NO	DETACHED SPL DUTY to 58/59 INF BN.	13 AUG 43
CAPT	VX 58990	HANCOCK	R N	<i>Admin Comd</i> 2-1/0	YES		
"	VX 22404	NEARES	W A	<i>240</i> 2-1/0	"		
"	QX 19168	WINTERFLOOD	J S	"	"		
LIEUT	NX 76243	LEWIN	J H	"	"		
"	SX 21309	BURZAGOFF	L B	"	"		
"	VX 34170	ALLEN	P H	SEC COMD	"		
"	NX 114931	READ	S	"	"		
"	VX XXXX						
"	VX 50409	LEVISTON	G W	"	"		
"	NX 123781	GARLAND	R S	"	"		
"	VX 51663	LINHAM	E J	"	"		

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

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CAPT	NX 34858	F. N. STREET	A A M C		R M O ATT BY W E.

21 AUG 43

Date of Despatch

W. Neares
for Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

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

28 / 43 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 28 / 8 / 1943 2/3 AUST INDP Unit 00Y

W.E. 117 100 1 OFFRS. 18 O.R's. 272 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 10 ATT. BY W.E.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.							
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.			
1. 5.	1. 5.		1. 3. 8.	* * Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.	A.A.M.C.	1.						
6.	6.		12.			1.			NIL			
		DETAIL	A.I.P.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.P.	**	TOTAL.
		A.	13									13.
		E.(1)										
		E.(2)										

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

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

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

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

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

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 28./8./1943 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
MAJOR	VX 136	WARFE	G R	C O	NO	Detached Tempy to Comd 58/59 BN.	43
LIEUT	MX 78246	STEPHENS	K H R	ADJT	NO	DETACHED SPL DUTY to 58/59 BN	12 AUG 1943.
CAPT	VX 58990	BRADOCK	R N	ADJ GND	YES		
"	VX 82404	MEARES	W A	2 1/e	"		
"	QX 19168	WINTERFLOOD	J S	PLCOND	"		
LIEUT	MX 78248	LEWIN	J E	"	"		
"	VX 34170	ALLEN	P H	"	"		
"	VX 50489	LEVISTON	G W	SECCOND	"		
"	MX 114931	READ	S	"	"		
"	MX 125781	GARLAND	R S	"	"		
"	VX 51063	LINERHAM	E J	"	"		
"	MX 21309	BURZACOTT	L B	SIGOFFR	"		

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

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CAPT	MX 54858	BURST P N	REMAANC		R N O Allowed by W E.

28 AUG 43
Date of Despatch

W. Meares Capt
for Signature of Commander

2/3

APP. 53A

TRACK INFORMATION BOBDUBI - ORODUBI AREA

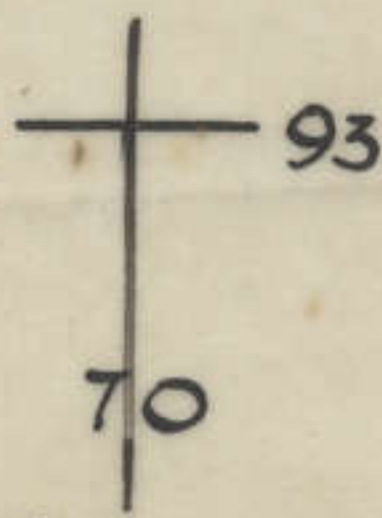
To 17. AUG. 43

APPX 'A' TO 15 AUST. INF. BDE
INT SUMMARY NO 41



OVERLAY

To be superimposed over
KOMIATUM. 1: 25000



information gained by
COMPASS, TRAVERSE &
TRIANGULATION
BY 58/59 AUST. INF. BN.

INT. SEC
15 AUST. INF. BDE
17. AUG. 43.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS:-

1. On 4 Aug company dispositions were as follows:-

H Q - GWAIBOLOMS
 A Pl - TIMBERED KNOLL
 C Pl less one sec - PARERS BOWL
 1 sec C pl - NAMLING RIDGE
 B Pl - MORTAR KNOLL.

On the night of 5 Aug the company was ordered to relieve the 58/59 Bn on BOBDUBI RIDGE and on 7 Aug this relief had been completed with dispositions as follow:-

H Q - ARTIE FADDEN
 C Pl less 2 Secs - MIDDLE SPUR
 1 sec C pl - TAYLORS RIDGE
 1 sec C pl - BETHUNES POST
 A & B Pls - GRIFFS TRACK - NEWMANS JUNCTION area.
 One 3" Mortar detachment)
 One M M G Sec) - CUMMINS POST
 One Pl 58/59 Bn.)

2. From these new positions reconnaissance was immediately commenced to locate and define the enemy's dispositions and to acquire knowledge of the area. On 8 Aug reconnaissance located a spur leading from CUMMINS POST and running EAST to the GOVT BENCH CUT. This was called TOMMYS TRACK and a listening post was established 500 yards EAST of CUMMINS POST known as RAYS POST. On 9 Aug the engineer section under Lieut Jeffery moved from ARTIE FADDEN and established a defensive position known as SAPPERS POST on a spur running EAST from the ridge track between BETHUNES and CUMMINS POSTS. On 9 Aug a slight alteration in dispositions was made leaving 13 personnel including one 3" mortar detachment and one M M G section at CUMMINS POST and 19 personnel at RAYS POST, the latter becoming a strongly defended position.
3. On 12 Aug a listening post was established on the KOMIATUM track EAST of NEWMANS JUNCTION and was manned 24 hours a day reporting all Jap movement NORTH and SOUTH. This movement over a period of days was found to balance out.
4. On 13 Aug a party of B Pl set out from NEWMANS JUNCTION to take prisoner a Jap sentry previously reported on the KOMIATUM track N E of NEWMANS JUNCTION but found he had been replaced by a standing patrol. The party waited patiently for three hours in the hope that one of the enemy would separate from the remainder, but in vain.
5. On 13 Aug orders were received from Brigade to the effect that the following officers would administer command of units:-
 Major PICKEN - 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.
 Major WARFE - 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.
 Capt HANCOCK - 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.
6. By 13 Aug continual and determined reconnaissance had accurately located enemy positions in the HILBERTS NORTH, HILBERTS SOUTH, MIDDLE SPUR and ERSKINES CREEK areas, and a thorough knowledge had been gained of the corridor running NORTH and SOUTH between the KOMIATUM track and the GOVT BENCH CUT. Enemy positions had been located in the vicinity of the mouth of the BUIRALI CREEK and the BOBDUBI track. In order to test the enemy's strength and fire power in the HILBERTS areas, harrassing fire was put down on the enemy positions using mortars, M M G, L M G and rifles on several occasions each time the enemy replied with heavy mortar, M M G, L M G and rifles. Our casualties during these demonstrations - 2 ORs wounded.

7. On 14 Aug, after a heavy and very successful air strike, followed by 25 pounder artillery and 3" mortar concentrations, the 2/7 Aust Inf Bn attacked the COCONUTS while A Platoon, a force of 47 men under Lieut LEWIN moved down STEVES track from the OLD VICKERS position and dug in astride the BOBDUBI track, the L of C to the COCONUTS. At the same time the enemy positions at HILBERTS NORTH, HILBERTS SOUTH and the STAGING CAMP area were engaged with harassing fire as a diversion. During the afternoon three parties of Japs moving towards SALAMAUA were fired on and three were killed, the remainder going bush in panic, leaving behind weapons and equipment. At 1600 hours four Japs moving towards A Platoons position from the direction of SALAMAUA were fired on. One was killed, the rest went bush. At 0500 hours on 15 Aug A Platoon killed two Japs moving from direction of COCONUTS and at 0600 hours A Platoon was attacked by a force of about thirty Japs moving from the STAGING CAMP area. They were lightly equipped with two L M Gs and rifles with fixed bayonets. The attack was driven off without casualty to ourselves, enemy casualties - one officer three ORs. killed. At 1300 hours 15 Aug a fighting patrol of fifteen men under Lieut ALLEN set out from NEWMANS JUNCTION to gain information of the enemy in the vicinity of the BOBDUBI track between the BOBDUBI bench cut and the BOBDUBI-KOMIATUM track junctions, and to attempt to push NORTH to contact A Platoon. The patrol found the corridor clear between the KOMIATUM and BENCH CUT tracks to a point approximately 100 yards SOUTH of the BOBDUBI track. Here dug-in defences found occupied by a force of about 40 Japs. The patrol continued its reconnaissance and bivouaced for the night preparatory to a dawn attack. At 0600 hours on 16 Aug the patrol attacked the enemy positions, cleaning out one small pocket and killing five Japs, and then moved on to main defences. Here however, they were held up by heavy fire from two L M Gs, and many rifles and were unable to proceed. The patrol then returned to NEWMANS JUNC.

8. With the enemy driven from his positions on the NORTH and CENTRE COCONUTS, and his position at the SOUTH COCONUTS cut off, the Brigade commander ordered the unit to supply a force of 100 men who, together with a similar number from the 2/7 Bn, were to make up a composite force to push a wedge through from STEVES track junction to the KOMIATUM track, thereby severing the enemy's L of C from SALAMAUA to the KOMIATUM, ORODUBI and HILBERTS areas. A heavy air strike was requested to precede the attack which was to take place as early as practicable on 17 Aug.

9. On 16 Aug detailed reconnaissance of enemy positions in this area was continued, and by correlation of the information gained on the ground and the panoramic view of the area from the bomb crater OP, targets for the artillery, 3" Mortar and Vickers M M G support fire were selected. During the afternoon registration on these targets was commenced with four 25 pounder guns, two 105 mm Howitzers and two 3" mortars. It was found to be impossible to register 105 mm Howitzers onto all but the least important targets just EAST of the mouth of the BURALI. The reconnaissance of the area showed that an unusually thick belt of jungle ran across the proposed line of advance, restricting observation to a few yards at best and making extremely difficult any movement other than along the main BOBDUBI track. Further, the almost perfectly flat nature of the ground provided no natural cover from fire and gave promise of doubling the effectiveness of the enemy's small arms fire. It was hoped that these very considerable disadvantages might be offset by an effective air strike on the area which, in addition to its physical and moral effect on the enemy himself would thin out the jungle laying bare his positions to observation, and provide cover from fire in the shape of bomb craters. During the days reconnaissance the above points were doubly brought home by the experience of one of our patrols which, although moving with utmost caution, walked unwittingly into the midst of the enemy's defences. Two men were seriously wounded by his L M G fire and the greatest difficulty was experienced in evacuating the wounded without further casualties.

that night the Brigade Commanders Detailed Operation Order was received and also advice that no air support would be available for several days. In spite of this the attack was to proceed as planned. The broad plan was for a force, 100 strong, of 2/3 Aust Indep Coy to attack and gain the area in vicinity of the junction of the BOBDUBI and BENCH CUT tracks, holding this as a base through which a company of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn would move to gain the junction of the BOBDUBI and KOMIATUM tracks.

10. At 1130 hours on 17 Aug, after 90 minutes of artillery and 3" mortar preparation, A platoon attacked the enemy positions frontally under cover of noise from the support weapons which had lifted to targets further EAST. At the same time B Platoon moved to the high ground on the right flank of A Platoon and attacked the STAGING CAMP area on the L of C to HILBERTS. At the foot of HILBERTS SPUR on the outskirts of the staging camp the first opposition was met in a series of weapon pits. These were promptly attacked and five of the enemy were killed, the remainder withdrawing to pillboxed positions further EAST. At this point however just as B Platoon was about to push on to the main defences, they were attacked from behind by a strong force of Japs moving down HILBERTS SPUR, and were forced to withdraw to high ground on the next parallel spur to the NORTH. Here they immediately dug in and commenced reconnaissance to their flanks. Meanwhile A Platoon had struck extremely heavy opposition from well prepared positions and, holding frontally, had pushed out probing patrols to both flanks to endeavour to locate any weak spots in the enemy's defences. About 150 yards to A Platoon's right flank, in the centre of the staging camp area, a position was found from which the enemy had withdrawn leaving behind large quantities of equipment, and it was decided to take advantage of this by forcing a wedge at this point through which 2/7 Aust Inf Bn might move to carry out its original role. D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn had been standing by ready to move, the Tank Attack Platoon 2/7 Aust Inf Bn holding A Platoon old ambush positions at the foot of STEVES track. At 1700 hours, after ten minutes mortar preparation, our engineer section with one platoon D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn as a composite force under Lieut JEFFERY, advanced through the Staging Camp area, while the remainder of D Coy took up defensive positions behind them. JEFFERY'S force travelled SOUTH and then EAST for some distance, and, as was learned later, attacked the enemy positions in the vicinity of the KOMIATUM track junction. The force suffered extremely heavy casualties and were forced to withdraw. In so doing they found that a force of enemy had moved around behind them and their line of withdrawal was cut off. A fierce engagement ensued during which heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy who was mobile and consequently vulnerable. Throughout the force's advance runners had been ^{sent} back to report progress and act as guides for the remainder of D Coy. However, due to the nature of the country, and to the fact that the enemy had moved in behind the force, none of these were able to get through. Meanwhile A Platoon once again attacked frontally, only to find the opposition even stronger than before and that their line of advance was now effectively enfiladed by L M G fire from both flanks. With heavy casualties, A Platoon withdrew and dug in 50 yards from the enemy F D Ls.
11. At 1830 hours the enemy launched a heavy counterattack on A platoon's position but was held. Our total casualties for the day exclusive of the engineer section were 1 offr and 4 ORs killed and 10 ORs wounded of which 1 OR died of wounds. Between 0500 and 0600 on 18 Aug the ~~same~~ enemy launched a series of strong attacks on the right flank of A Platoon but all attacks were held.
12. At first light on 19 Aug a patrol was sent out from D Coy position to endeavour to locate JEFFERY'S force but came under heavy fire when only 100 yards forward of D Coy. Orders were then issued for one platoon of D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn to endeavour to push through to and extricate JEFFERY'S force, while a similar attempt was to be made by a fighting patrol of 2/3 Aust Indep Coy moving NORTH along the bench cut from NEWMANS JUNC. At 1100 hours both parties neared their objective but coming under extremely heavy fire, and threatened with encirclement, were forced to withdraw. Immediately afterwards the enemy counter attacked A Platoon and D Coy's position, and were held. Determined reconnaissance was continued, but it was not until 1400 hours on 19 Aug that JEFFERY'S force was located and extricated. Total casualties for engineer section during this operation were 2 ORs killed 1 offr and 6 ORs wounded. Later 1 offr and 2 ORs died of wounds. Meantime, with D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn in its position in the staging camp area, the L of C to HILBERTS was

12. effectively cut. Reconnaissance revealed that the enemy had withdrawn from his forward positions but still held strongly on the left flank of A Platoon and at the foot of HILBERTS SPUR. Enemy casualties during this operation were 23 (this includes 2 offrs).
13. Information having been received that the enemy was withdrawing from the GOODVIEW-KOMIATUM area, the Brigade commander ordered that A and B platoons, with D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn were to make further efforts to push through to cut the KOMIATUM track, while C Platoon attacked MIDDLE SPUR in the HILBERTS area. However on the morning of 20 Aug C Platoon pushed forward and found that the enemy had withdrawn during the night. The positions were thoroughly investigated and C Platoon moved on to contact D Coy while battle HQ and A and B platoons moved via the OLD VICKERS position to MALONES JUNC, on the GOVT BENCH CUT 500 yards NORTH of NEWMANS JUNC. This constituted the first phase of a new Brigade plan which entailed the movement of two platoons to occupy KUNAI SPUR, EAST of the BUIRALI CK, with one platoon astride the KOMIATUM track.
14. By nightfall on 20 Aug, a corridor from MALONES JUNC EAST to the BUIRALI CK had been established with defensive positions facing NORTH and SOUTH. This effectively cut the KOMIATUM track and provided a secure L of C for a company of 58/59 Bn scheduled to move through the KUNAI SPUR to ground further EAST. During the night no movement took place along the KOMIATUM track. However, D Coy 58/59 Bn were delayed and did not pass through our positions until first light 21 Aug, when they were led to KUNAI SPUR by a patrol of C Platoon which had reconnoitred the area earlier in the morning. Portion of this patrol, detached from the remainder to investigate a spur leading NORTH from KUNAI SPUR towards the mouth of the BUIRALI, were fired on from Jap positions 400 yards from the top of the feature. Meantime, the remainder of the Company were concentrating on the BUIRALI CK immediately WEST of KUNAI SPUR and reconnaissance patrols to NORTH and SOUTH along the KOMIATUM track contacted the 2/7 Bn at the mouth of the BUIRALI CK and C Coy 58/59 Bn 500 yards SOUTH of our positions. At 1230 hours B and C platoons moved to KUNAI SPUR and took up defensive positions with B Coy 58/59 Bn. During the day our HQ moved to the BUIRALI CK from ARTIE FADDER which was taken over by HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde.
15. At 1530 hours B Platoon moved from KUNAI SPUR with the object of cutting the SALAMAUA-BOBDUBI-KOMIATUM track approximately 1000 yards EAST of the BUIRALI CK but encountered very heavy jungle and could not reach the position before dark on 21 Aug. In view of shortage of rations and the unsuitable route all rations were concentrated in half of the force, which proceeded at first light on 22 Aug following a different route. At the same time reconnaissance was continued for other approaches. That afternoon contact was regained with B Platoon who had managed to cut a route onto the flat ground SOUTH of the FRANCISCO RIVER and were moving on to cut the SALAMAUA track, and C Platoon moved from KUNAI SPUR to join them. Before dark the force combined and were established astride a well worn track located earlier by B Platoon, and thought to be the main SALAMAUA track. However there was no movement on the track during the night and patrols NORTH across the flat towards the FRANCISCO RIVER on the morning of 23 Aug located two further tracks running parallel with the river, the most Northerly having signal cable laid along it and thought to be the main SALAMAUA track. Sacrificing the security of its L of C the force was redispensed in order to cut all three tracks. During the morning a force of over 30 Japs moving from SALAMAUA, were engaged and seven killed including one officer, the remainder going bush. At 0600 on 24 Aug two Jap patrols moving EAST to WEST and WEST to EAST, each about 15 strong, met in front of the force on the main SALAMAUA track. Our force attacked killing ~~killing~~ 8 Japs but the remainder immediately reorganised and commenced to encircle our position forcing our withdrawal to the main body. Later in the morning a strong force of Japs moved on to the L of C to C and B platoon group and attacked with heavy mortar support from the direction of CHARLIE HILL. The attack lasted for 30 minutes, but was held. The enemy exploited to the WEST and endeavoured to gain the high ground overlooking KUNAI SPUR, but were driven off. With a view to projected operations, the composite

15. force was withdrawn to KUNAI SPUR during the afternoon of 24 Aug
16. From 22 Aug to 24 Aug several attempts were made to contact 42 Aust Inf Bn who had given their location as CHARLIE HILL, but on each occasion Japs were contacted, and when a mountain gun was observed firing from the CHARLIE HILL area, it was assumed that 42 Bn must have been occupying a similar feature further to the SOUTH WEST. This later proved correct. From 22 Aug to 24 Aug a patrol from A Platoon after crossing the FRANCISCO RIVER endeavoured to find a route N E to recross the river and cut the SALAMBUA track, but after following a faint track for some distance the scrub became too thick and the patrol returned.
17. During the afternoon of 24 Aug the company concentrated in the KUNAI SPUR area preparatory to an attack on Jap positions there. Also in the area were A and B Coys 58/59 Bn, and at the mouth of the BUIRALI, A Coy 2/7 Bn who had made previous attempts on the position. The whole force was under command of Major WARFE and had the role of driving the Jap EAST of a line running approximately NORTH and SOUTH through CHARLIE HILL.
18. On the morning of 25 Aug after 1 hour of 3" mortar and small arms preparation arranged to cover the movement of the troops to the start lines, ~~xxxxx~~, 2/3 Indep Coy and two companies of 58/59 Bn as a composite force attacked the ridge from EAST to WEST. A force under Lieut ALLEN made repeated attempts to gain the ridge over a period of two and a half hours killing 7 Japs, but came under heavy L M G, rifle and grenade fire from both flanks, precluding any possibility of gaining their objective at this point. They were ordered to withdraw and dug in 40 yards below the ridge. Meantime a force under Lieut GARLAND attacking further NORTH struck two mobile forces of Japs each about 25 strong. Of these 20 were killed but the fire from fixed defences to each flank prevented our troops from gaining the ridge. The force deployed further NORTH only to encounter more very strongly defended positions. Heavy cross fire forced their withdrawal and they dug in 30 yards from the top of the ridge on the line of their original approach. During the afternoon a further composite force attacked from the WEST killing three Japs, but were unable to make a breach in the enemy defences. Our casualties 25 Aug were 2 ORs K I A, 4 ORs W I A.
19. On the morning of 26 Aug the Company was relieved on KUNAI SPUR by 47 Bn, and moved into Brigade reserve with dispositions as follow:-
 Coy HQ and C Pl - STEVES TRACK.
 A and B Pls. - OSBORNES CK AREA.
20. From 26 Aug to 9 Sep the following non-operational tasks were carried out:-
 1. Collection of salvage in the GWAIBOLOMS - BOBDUBI area.
 2. Recovery from BOBDUBI dropping ground.
 3. Improvement of Ls of C.
 4. Signposting area.
 5. Reorganisation.
 6. Training for night operations.
 As a precaution against counter attack against BOBDUBI RIDGE, defensive positions were sited and constructed and firelanes cut from the NORTH COCONUTS SOUTH to NEWMANS JUNC and EAST to FRANCISCO RIVER. M M Gs and L M Gs were set up and manned continuously to cover the area. Regular patrols ensured the security of areas not covered by lanes of fire.
21. With a view to harassing raids in the ARNOLDS CREST and ROUGH HILL areas, one section of C Platoon under Lieut GARLAND moved to 2/7 Bn HQ and one section of B Platoon under Lieut LEVISTON moved to 58/59 Bn HQ on 29 Aug, and reconnaissance was commenced to locate targets in their areas. On the morning of 1 Sep the section of B Platoon moved from 58/59 Bn HQ to set up an ambush on a track they had located connecting two adjacent defensive positions on ROUGH HILL.

21. When nearing their objective they encountered a party of Japs whom they surprised, killing two. Later that day a force of 19 men from A Platoon under Lieut READ moved to 58/59 Bn HQ to establish a base for protective patrolling in the area between SAVIGE SPUR and the FRANCISCO RIVER.

On 3 Sep, Lieut GARLAND'S section having located a track linking ^{the} with main defensive positions at ARNOLDS CREST with a reserve position further NORTH, moved via a hazardous route leading up a creek bed with Jap positions on both sides, and by 1100 hours had established an ambush position on the track. After a diversion by fire from 2/7 Bn onto the main Jap positions, a patrol of 12 Japs moved towards them. These were engaged and eight killed. After engaging the main enemy positions with long range fire the section withdrew. On 6 Sep the remainder of A Platoon moved to 58/59 Bn HQ to carry out reconnaissance with a view to an attack by the unit on ROUGH HILL. On the morning of 7 Sep a reconnaissance patrol was sent to find a route to the HOTE-MALALO track from 2/7 Bn area. After two days of very hard going they were unable to find a route through and returned. On 8 Sep a reconnaissance ^{party} from C Platoon moved to 2/7 Bn HQ from where they were to reconnoitre approaches and establish supply dumps for harassing raids into the HAND area and towards the LAE-SALAMAUA track.

22. On 9 Sep news was received that CHARLIE HILL had been evacuated by the enemy during the night 8/9 Sep. That afternoon B Platoon and the remainder of C Platoon moved to relieve two companies of 58/59 Bn in the ROUGH HILL area, to enable 58/59 Bn to link with 42 Bn in the KENNEDYS CROSSING area on the FRANCISCO RIVER. This would have cut off the enemy in the KUNAI SPUR area. However on the night of 9 Sep it was learned that all our troops SOUTH of the FRANCISCO, other than 47 Bn at KUNAI SPUR, had lost contact with the enemy, indicating that the enemy was carrying out a general withdrawal.

23. A new Brigade plan was received the outline of which was as follows:

- (a) One company 58/59 Bn with A Platoon 2/3 Aust Indep Coy to attack ROUGH HILL.
- (b) One company 2/7 Bn to attack ARNOLDS CREST.
- (c) 2/3 Indep Coy less A Platoon, two companies 58/59 Bn and two companies 2/7 Bn to push NORTH up SANDY CK to SWANS OP area.
- (d) 58/59 Bn to make a firm base there ~~is~~ and secure the L of C to it.
- (e) 2/3 Indep Coy to thrust EAST to cut off ROUGH HILL from SALAMAUA.
- (f) 2/7 Bn to thrust WEST to cut off ARNOLDS CREST, and NORTH towards KELA HILL.

In the attack on ROUGH HILL on 10 Sep A Platoon approached the enemy positions from the S E and drove the enemy from a group of pillboxes, killing three japs. They then gained the top of the ridge and dug in, thus isolating the enemy positions on ROUGH HILL from the remainder of his defences on SAVIGE SPUR. A Platoon was subjected to almost continuous fire and counter attacks for the remainder of the day and during the night 10/11 Sep, but maintained their position. At first light on 10 Sep, the company less A Platoon concentrated at 58/59 Bn HQ and moved up SANDY CK in the wake of C Company 58/59 Bn. WEST of SWANS OP on SANDY CK a small party of enemy was encountered by C Company, who established a perimeter and exploited forward. Late that afternoon A Platoon arrived at BATTLE HQ from ROUGH HILL. A patrol to the EAST from BATTLE HQ which by this time was at SWANS OP, reached the wireless station at SALAMAUA but saw no sign of enemy.

24. With SAVIGE SPUR clear of enemy, but 2/7 Bn meeting strong opposition on the HAND feature, the unit was ordered to move at first light on 12 Sep to relieve 2/7 Bn by the fastest possible route, to enable them to exploit NORTH towards MALALO. This relief was completed by 1000 hours 12 Sep, A and C Platoons having moved via SANDY CK and the route taken by 2/7 Bn, the remainder of the Company having followed a route across country, located by B Platoon earlier in the day. C Platoon then exploited via KELA HILL to the coast

PAGE 7.

24. finding all enemy positions vacated. The remainder of the Company followed with the intention of proceeding NORTH along the coastal track to MALAGOWAN in pursuit of the enemy. However upon arrival at the beach it was found that 29 Brigade had moved ahead, and the Company was ordered to withdraw and to bivouac in the vicinity of the foot of KEHA HILL. That night orders were received to move to TAMBU BAY by barge on the morning of 13 Sep and await transport to MILNE BAY. This move was carried out with considerable alacrity and enthusiasm.

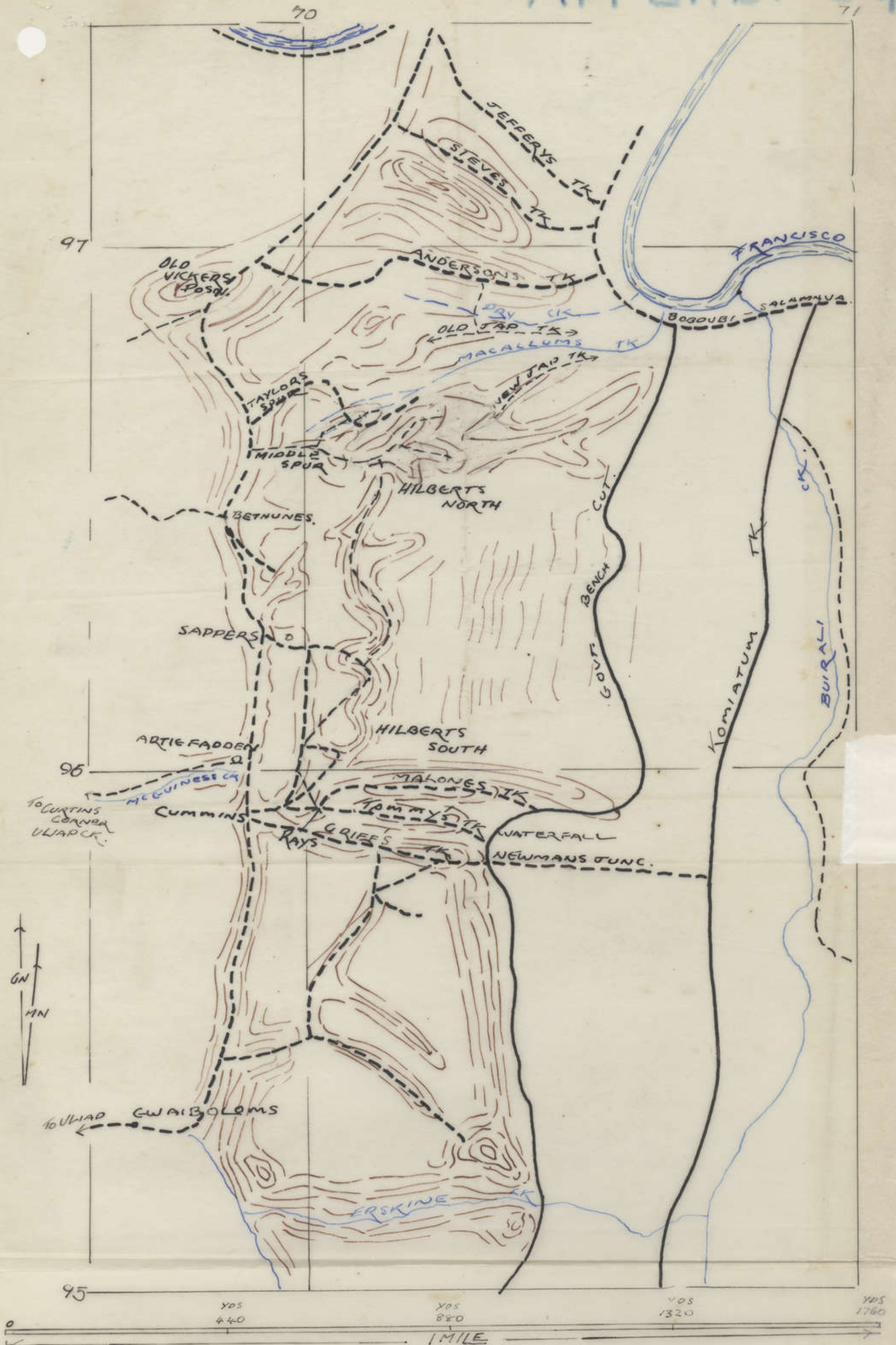
1 Oct 43

R. Hancock CAPT.
ADMIN COMD 2/3 AUST INDEP COY.

APPENDIX A.

SUPPLY.

1. Maintenance of supplies during this period did not present so many of the difficulties experienced during the previous month. This was mainly due to shorter L's of C. At no time was the company operating more than one days carry from the nearest dropping ground.
2. Supplies were delivered by Brigade carriers to company HQ and unit carriers were responsible for further distribution.
3. Approximately forty effective carriers were allotted to this unit and this number was found sufficient to cope with the supply situation.
4. During the period from 4 Aug to 17 Aug expenditure of ammunition was not heavy and it was found possible reasonable reserves at all sub unit positions.
5. These reserves with further supplies received during actual operations, proved adequate for the period from 17 Aug to 21 Aug when expenditure of all types of ammunition was particularly heavy. During this period this unit was operating with 2/7 Bn in a very confined area and it was decided to combine supply organisations. This policy proved successful but particularly close liaison was found necessary between the Q personnel of each unit. After 21 Aug individual supply organisations were resumed.
6. At all times during the period under review it was found possible to keep all troops supplied with hot meals by pushing cooking facilities well forward.
7. Supplies of rations were sufficient but variety in the commodities of S W P rations was always particularly limited.



LEGEND

	BENCH CUT
	GOOD TRACKS
	RIVERS & STREAMS
	FORM LINES
	DEF POSN.S
	MORTAR LIGHT
	" HEAVY

	JAP DUGOUT
	MG
	LMG
	GRENADE RIFLE
	F.D.L.S.
	SENTRY
	MORTAR

BOBDUBI RIDGE AREA.

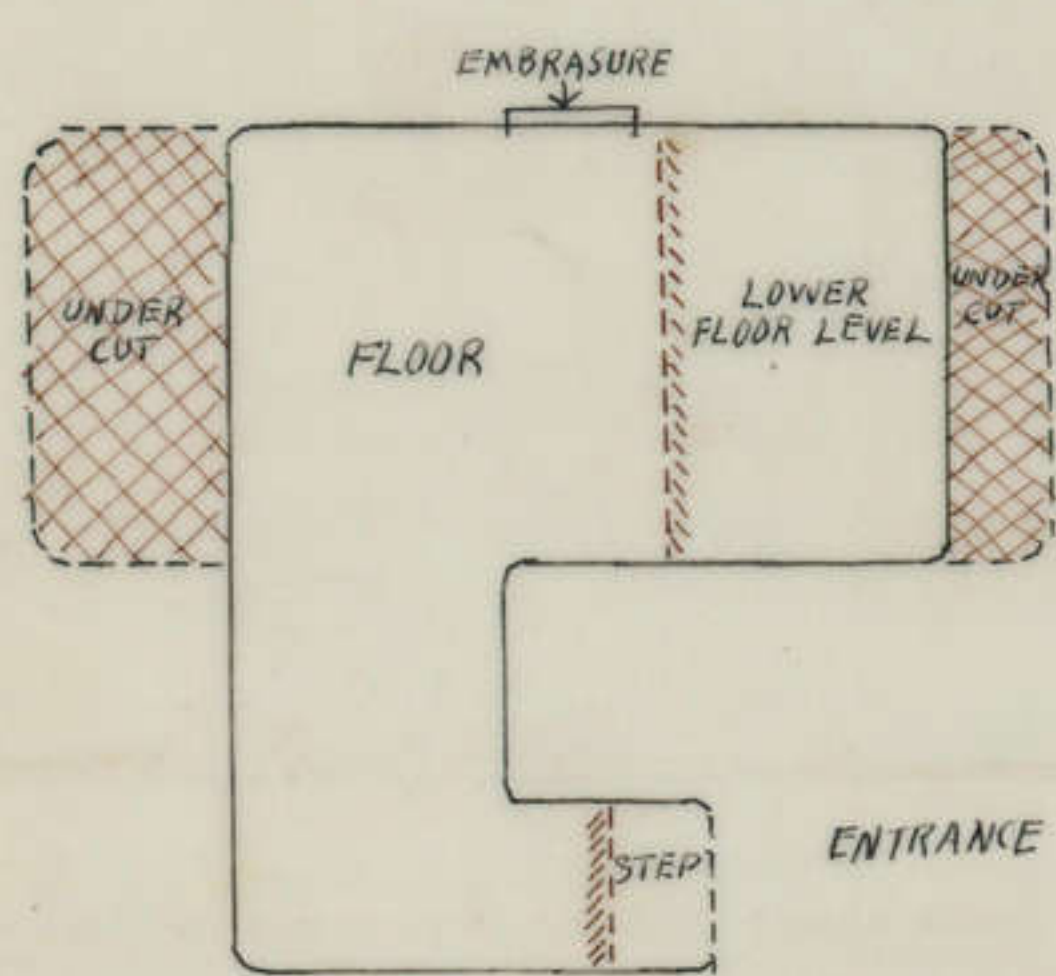
TRACKS & CONTOURS
COMPILED BY
REUCE & FLD. SKETCH

8.43 I. SEC.

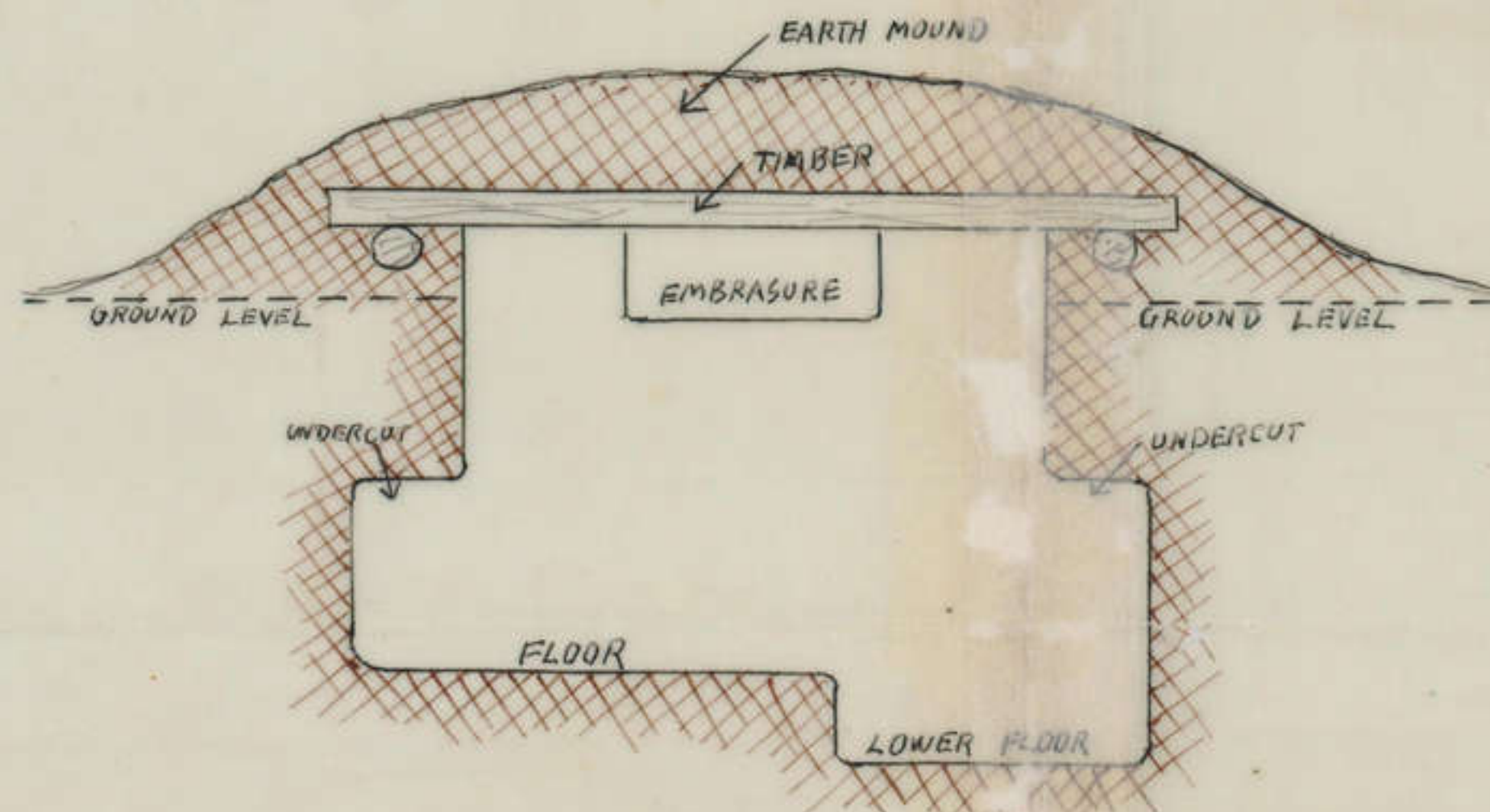
JAP PILLBOXES

BOBDUBI-SALAMAU TRACK

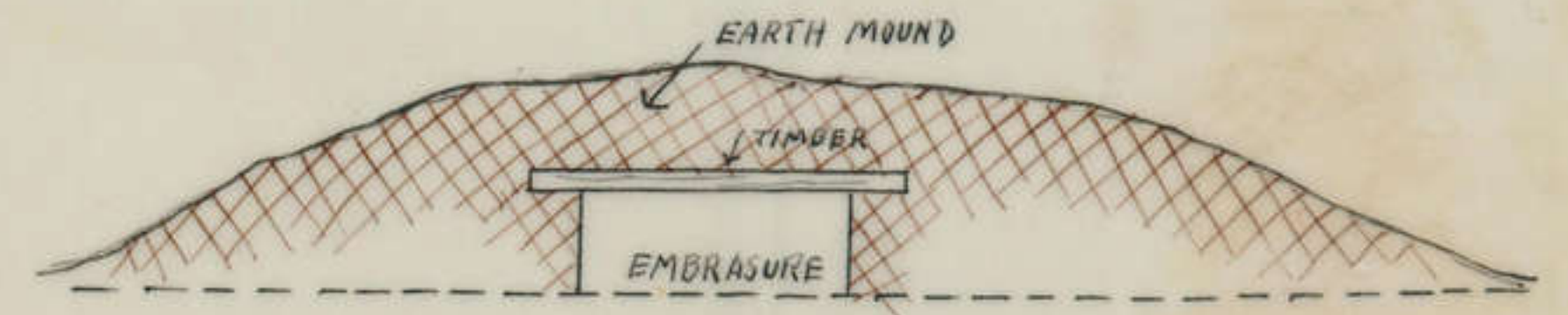
SCALE - 1" = 2' (APPROX)



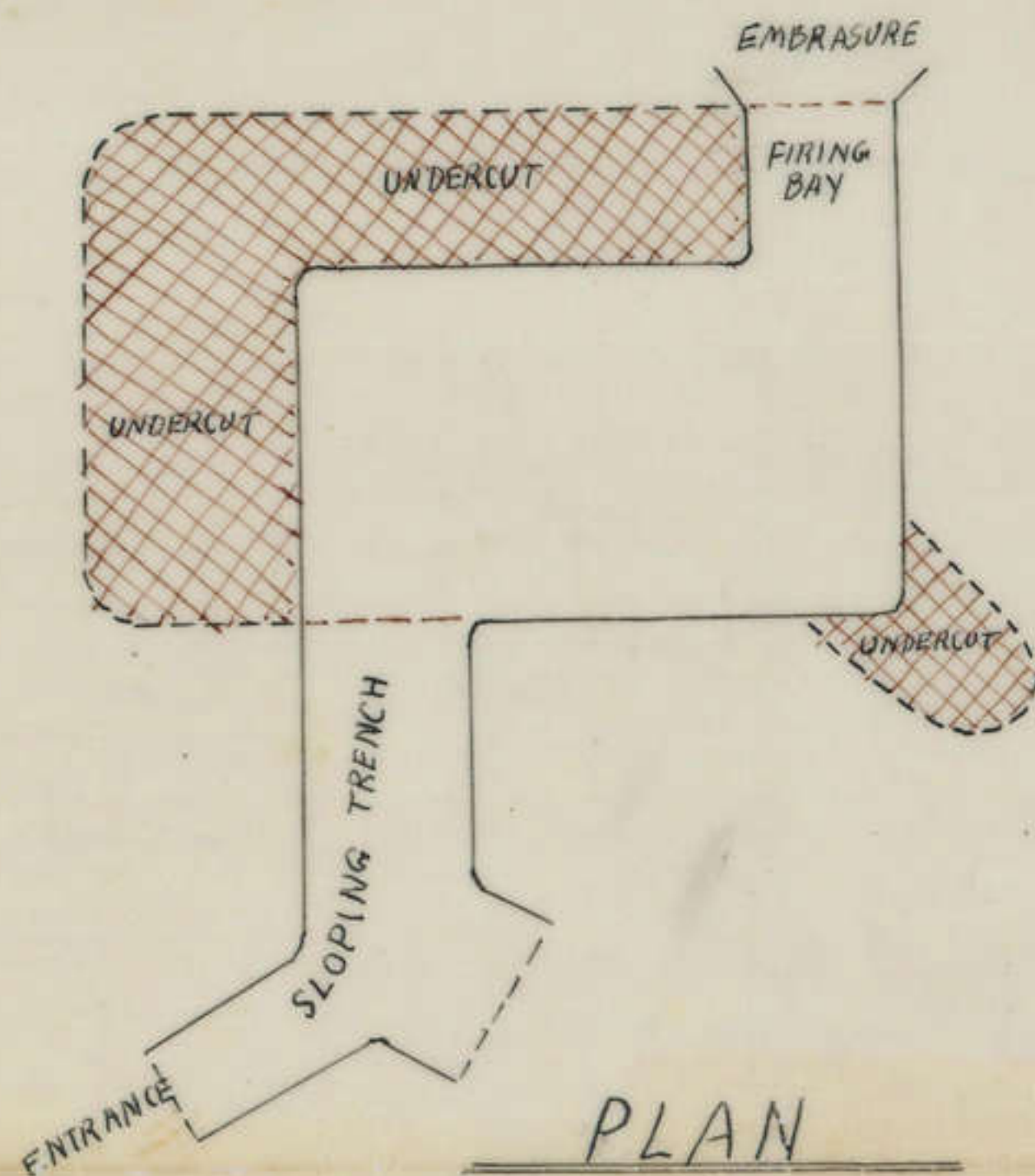
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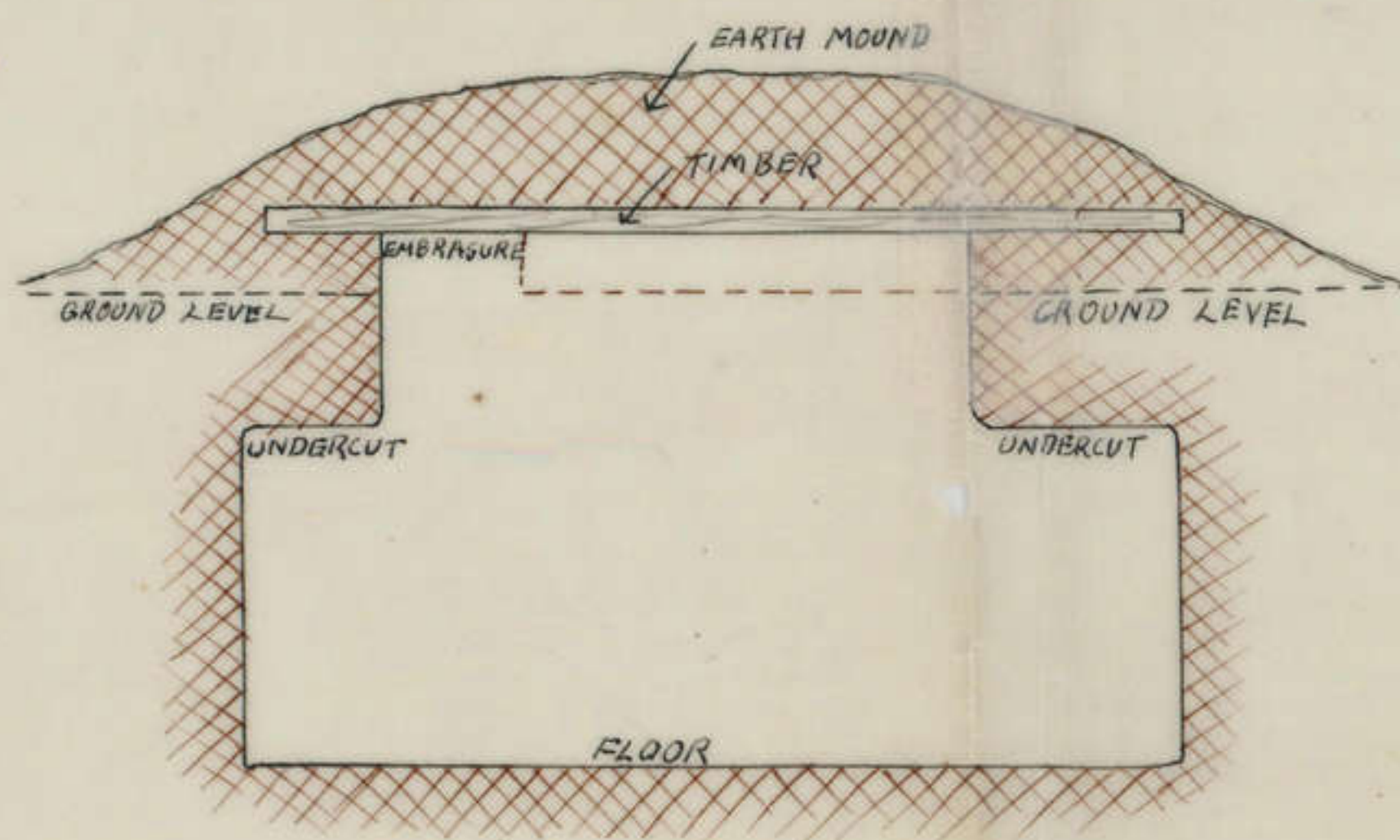
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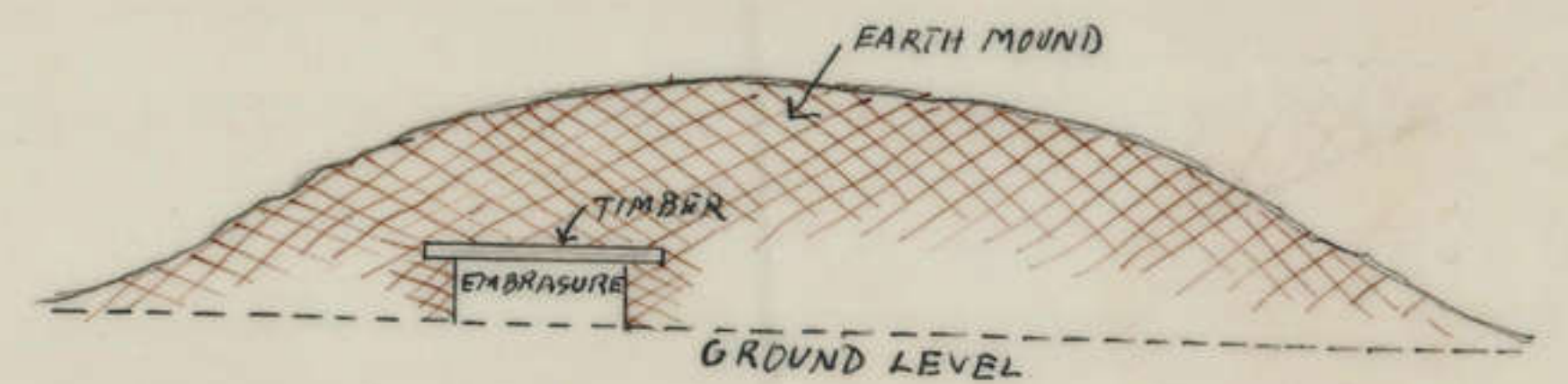
APPROACH VIEW



PLAN

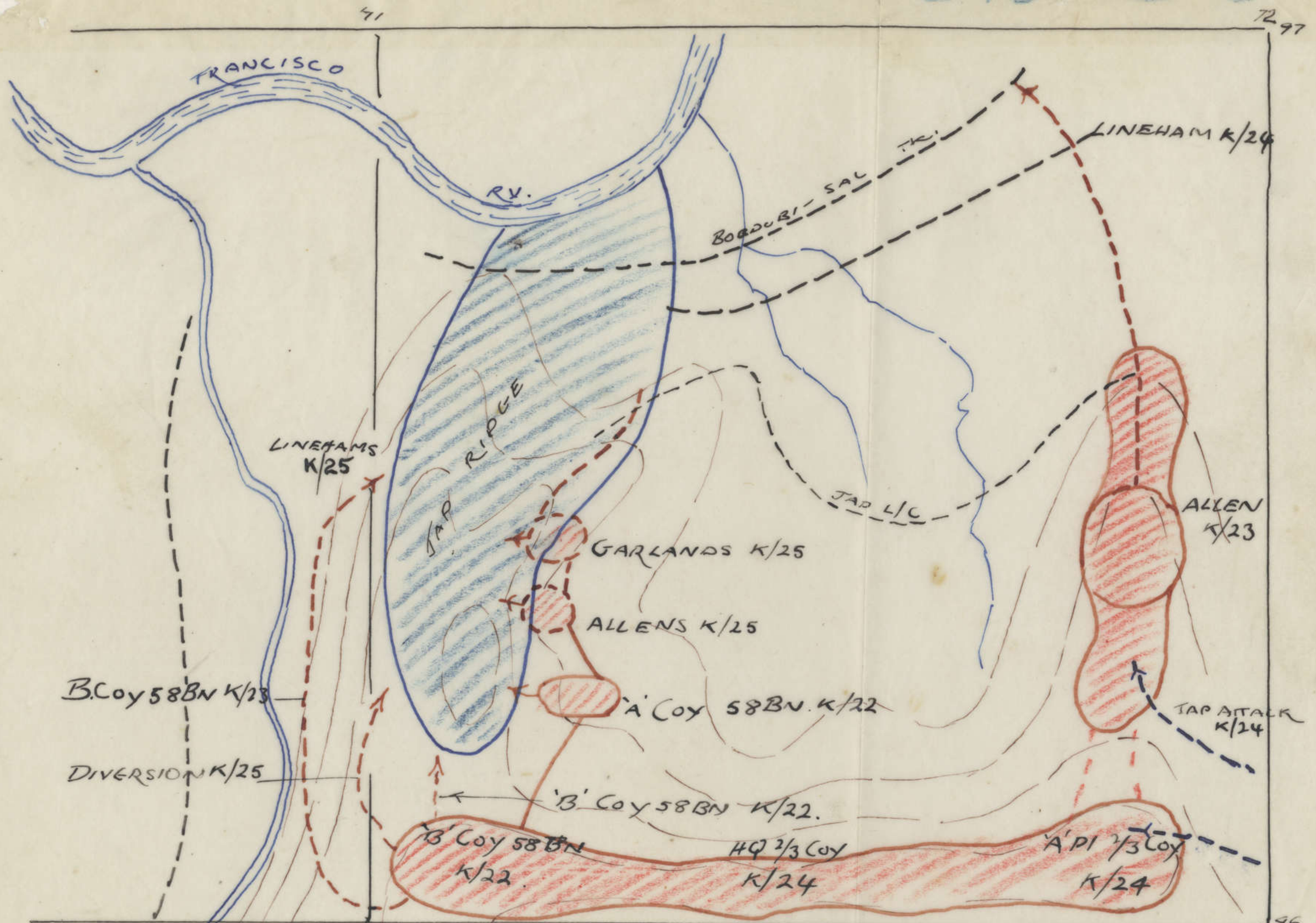


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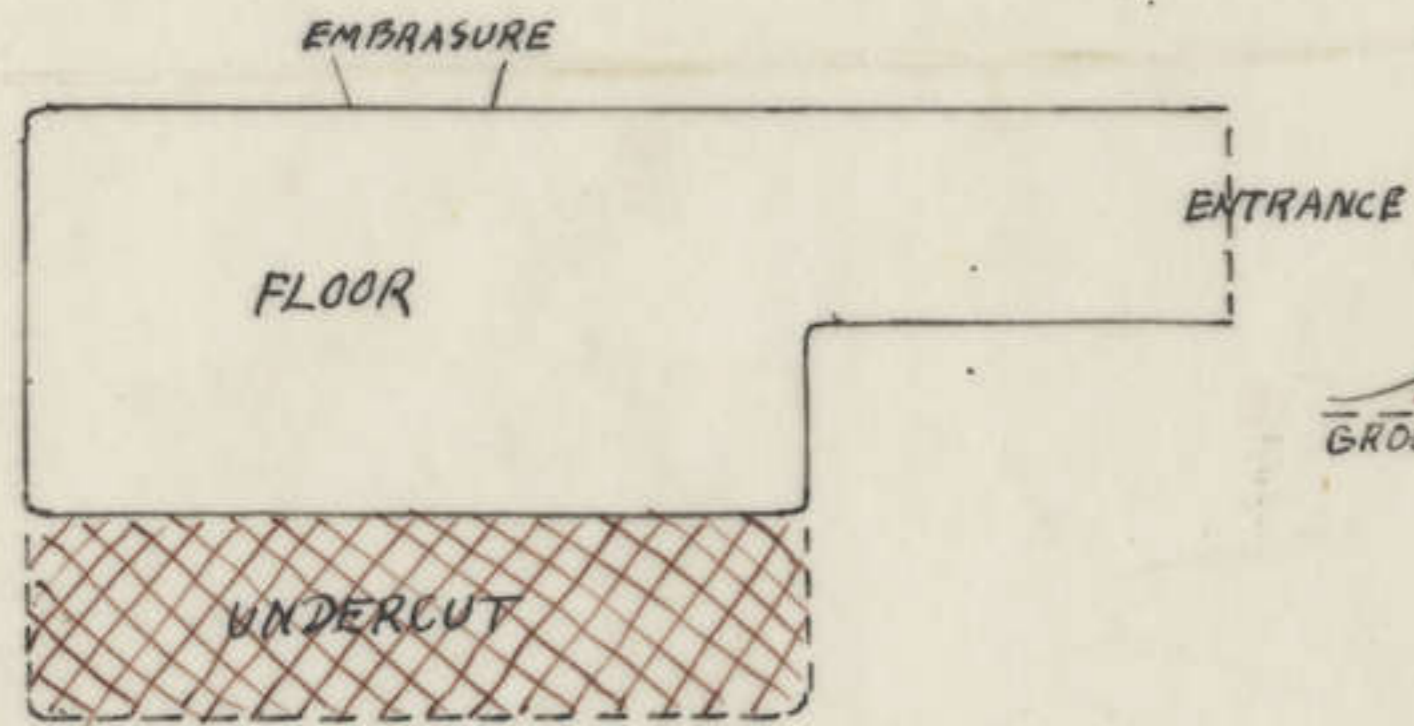
APPROACH VIEW

APPEND. 56

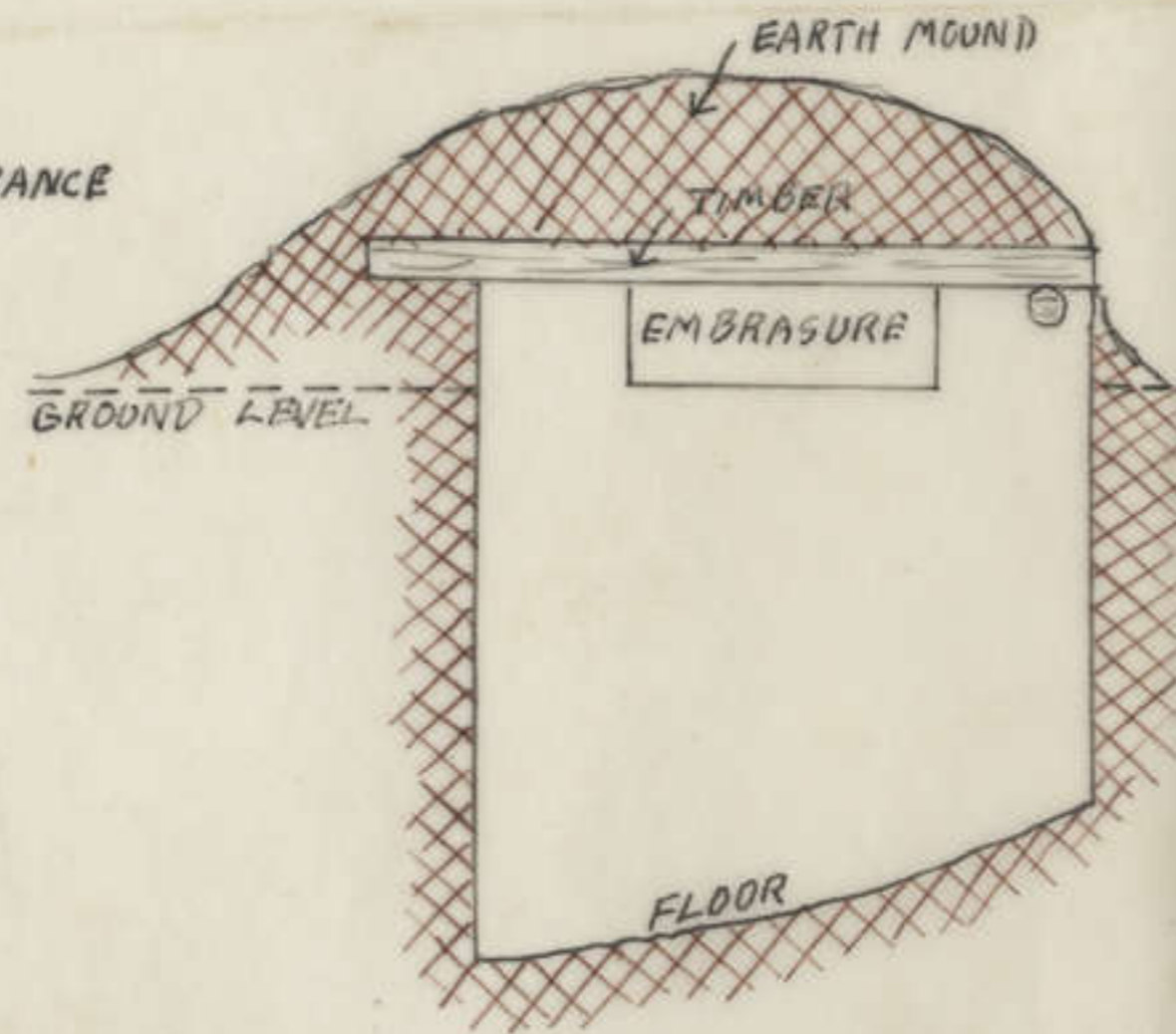


PREPARED BY
I. SEC. 2/3 AUST. IND. COY.
26. AUG. 43.

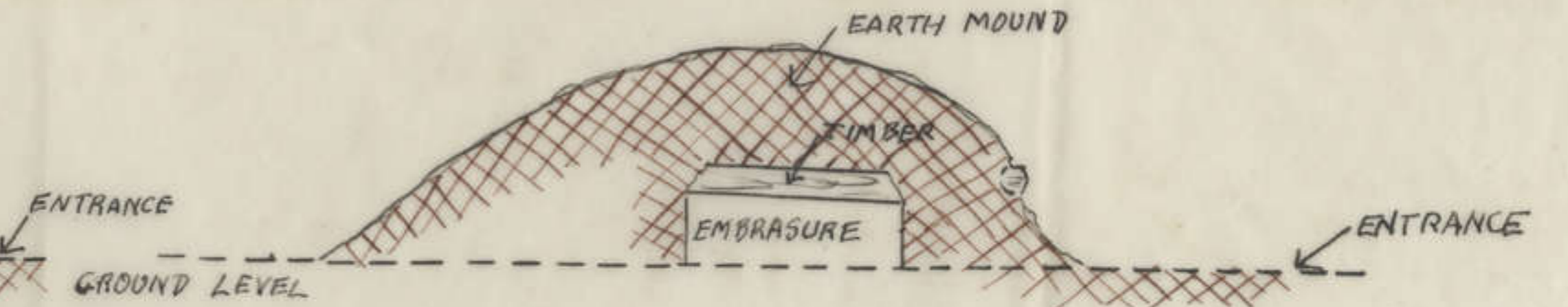
SKETCH MAP OF 58/59 BN AND 2/3 COY OPERATIONS
AGAINST JAP RIDGE.



PLAN



SECTION



APPROACH VIEW

SKETCH by 2/3 I.Sec. 4-9-43