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

Item number: 8/3/96

61 Infantry Battalion

December 1944

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 1 DEC 44 *To* 2 DEC 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	1 Dec 44		Clearing and repairs to camp area continued, pnrs assisted in the construction of mess huts and kitchens. Since the arrival of the unit at TOROKINA the pnrs have set up their own circular sawbench and this has proved [redacted] to be invaluable in supplying sawn timber for above repairs to new buildings.	
			Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1130 hrs. BLUE RIDGE Patrol (standing) out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1145 hrs. Nothing to report. Recce patrol 1 Offr 3 ORs to JAVA CK departed BLUE RIDGE 0730 hrs returning to perimeter via NUMA NUMA TRAIL at 2045 hrs.	
			A,B & D Coys were lectured by Int sec on World situation- Capt Paterson marched in from NGD TOROKINA ex Hosp MADANG.	
			Capt Hutchinson and Lt McKellar were appointed OC & 2IC B Coy respectively.	
			CO's request hour held this HQ at 1800 hrs.	
			As from 1200 hrs the use of passwords within the bn was discontinued.	
			All coys were lectured by Bde Education offr and Sjt subject being "World Affairs."	
	2 Dec 44		Coys continued with clearing and repairs to camp area. Patrols: Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1130 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1035 hrs.	
			Previous standing patrol returned 1430 hrs. Nothing to report. HQ Coy and part A Coy were lectured by Int sec on World Sit.	
		0830	All offrs of B and C Coys were addressed by the CO at this HQ. Int Sec continued with mapping of bn defenses and additions and corrections to existing maps	
			Routine Orders issued	As per Appx 1.

Adjt. 61 Aust. Inf. Bn

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 3 DEC 44 *To* 3 DEC 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	3 Dec 44		Day of make and mend. Church services ~~survivors~~ were held as usual in the morning for all denominations. Tpt was again provided to convey pers to the beach at TOROKINA both in the morning and afternoon. Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0800 hrs and in 1130 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1140 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned 1340 hrs. Nothing to report. Observation of Perimeter from OP as per	Appx 2.
	~~4 Dec 44~~		~~As from today~~ pers of BnHQ commenced rifle trg (holding, aiming and trigger pressing - incl strengthening exercises) in preparation for range practices on 11th & 16th Dec. Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1120 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1045 hrs. Previous patrol returned 1345 hrs. Nothing to report. Int sec lectured C Coy on world situtation.	
		~~0930~~	~~GOC 2 Aust Corps, GOC 3 Aust Div and Bde Comd visited this HQ.~~	
		1740	Verbal WARNING ORDER received from Bde to the following effect:- ~~"Possibility of enemy attempt to cut 9 Aust Inf Bn supply line~~ and Bn to STAND TO." C Coy was immediately warned for movt and placed on 30 mins notice. ~~All lights within the perimeter,~~ excl those required for essential duties, i.e. Orderly Rooms, Int Office and Battle Room, were extinguished. During C Coy's preparation for movt two personnel were accidentally wounded by the explosion of a HE 36 Grenade and evacuated to 109 CCS.	
		~~2015~~	~~C Coy and 1 att Int Man departed TOROKINA Perimeter~~ and came under comd 9 Aust Inf Bn. Destination junc DOIABIE and LIKLA RUMA ~~RIVERS and reported in posn by 2400 hrs.~~ BLUE RIDGE standing patrol warned of all information and to ~~observe strict precautions.~~	
			War Diary 4-20 DEC C Coy Ops as per	Appx 3.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 5 DEC 44 *To* 6 DEC 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	5 Dec 44		Normal duties continued throughout the day. Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1025 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1200 hrs. Previous patrol returned 1430 hrs. Recce patrol serial 34 two days 1 NCO 3 ORs out 0815 hrs via BLUE RIDGE -LAKE KATHLEEN arrived BLUE RIDGE 1215 hrs. ~~Range practice continued as per syllabus.~~ Mobile cinema screened "GUADACANAL DIARY" at 1900 hrs. Patrol schedule 5-10 Dec as per	Appx 4.
	6 Dec 44		Coys continued with normal duties throughout the day. Patrols:- Routine protective out 0830 hrs in 1030 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1215 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned 1500 hrs. Recce patrol serial 34 departed BLUE RIDGE for LAKE KATHLEEN 0850 hrs. returned to perimeter 1510 hrs. ~~Patrol leader reported NO track exists from~~ BLUE RIDGE to LAKE KATHLEEN. Otherwise nothing to report.	
		0630 hrs.	Recce of 9 Aust Inf Bn area 6-9 Dec. Party consisting of CO, Adjt, IO, Int man and 1 batman departed BnHQ for FSD and were then transported by 3 ton FWD to ROAD HEAD NUMA NUMA TRAIL. After debussing party visited C Coy 61 Bn at junc DOIABIE - ASABA RIVERS and arrived 9 Bn HQ 0940 hrs.	
		1015 hrs	CO, IO, Int man and batman left for tour of GEORGE HILL area. Party were oriented by Lt-Col Matthews and shown over def posns of fwd coys. Returning to 9 Bn HQ for evening meal.	
			Mobile cinema screened "Demi Paradise" at 1900 hrs.	

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 211
(adapted.)

Unit 61 Aust Inf B n. *Date and Time.—From* 7 Dec 44 *To* 9 Dec 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	7 Dec 44		Working party 1 NCO and 10 ORs moved out to DID ref 651086 KOWARO 1/25000 for the purpose of erecting amn shelters.	
			Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1020 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE= 1045 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned 1400 hrs. otherwise nothing to report.	
		1030 hrs	2 Int pers moved out to BLUE RIDGE for a period of 2 days and were engaged in Panorama Sketching. The general scope of area covered being South to EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY.	
			Lt Murphy 3 Aust Div Postal visited this HQ.	
			Recce party 9 Bn:- 0810 hrs CO, IO, batman and two 9 Bn guides left for A Coy 9 Bn, SISIVIE Area arrived 1500 hrs. Night 7-8 Dec spent with A Coy. Panorama and sketches of GEORGE HILL-ARTY RIDGE area made by Int man fn preparation for Bn Sand table of 9 Bn area.	
	8 Dec 44		Range practice continued as per syllabus. Coys engaged in normal duties around camp areas. Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0815 hrs in 1010 hrs. BLUE RIDGE Standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1048 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1300 hrs. nothing to report.	
			Recce patrol serial 43 - two days - 1 NCO 3 ORs out 0815 hrs via BLUE RIDGE -LAKE KATHLEEN, arrived BLUE RIDGE 1014 hrs and departed for LAKE KATHLEEN.	
			Int Sec lectured A & D Coys on World situation.	
			CO, IO and party returned to 9 Bn HQ from SISIVIE area	
	9 Dec 44		Coys engaged in normal cleaning and repair duties around camp area. During the week hygiene and sanitation conditions were greatly improved and road maintenance carried out within the camp area. Pnrs assisted with the erection of mess huts and kitchens.	
			Patrols:- Routine Protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1025 hrs.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 211
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 9 Dec 44 *To* 11 DEC 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	9 Dec 44		BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1135 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1345 hrs. Nothing to report. Recce patrol serial 43 returned to perimeter 1330 hrs, Recce patrol serial 46 2 days 1 NCO 3 ORs out 0815 hrs via BLUE RIDGE-LAKE KATHLEEN, arrived BLUE RIDGE 1135 hrs and departed for LAKE KATHLEEN. Range practice for the week was concluded by B Coy. Int Sec lectured pers of BnHQ and No 3 Mtrs on World situation. Im addition all coys were lectured by Bde Education Offr and Sgt the subject being "CHINA". Maj Stephens 2 IC 4 Fd Regt visited this HQ. Recce party departed 9 BnHQ 0715 returning to camp area 1105 hrs.	
	10 Dec 44		Day of make and mend. Usual church services in the morning were held for all denominations. Tpt was again provided and conveyed pers to TOROKINA beach for swimming. Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0815 hrs in 0945 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1130 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1405 hrs. Nothing to report. Recce patrol serial 46 returned to perimeter 1520 hrs. 1330 hrs Coy Comds Conference held at this HQ.	
	11 Dec 44		Range practice commenced again for the following week. Coys continued with normal duties for the day. Sig pers and SBs. who were previously att to coys were withdrawn and billeted in C Coys area (rear details). Patrols:- Daily Routine patrol protective out 0700 hrs in 1130 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1045 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1325 hrs. Nothing to report. Recce patrol serial 52 2 days 1 NCO 3 ORs out 0740 hrs via BLUE RIDGE-LAKE KATHLEEN arrived BLUE RIDGE 1105 hrs. No 2 Pl (MG) carried out practice shoot on Bn 30 yd miniature range. Mobile cinema screened SUMMER SIGHM at 1900 hrs. Warning order re relief 2/8 Ddo Sqn HANEMO as per appx 5. Warning order re relief 9 Bn as per Appx 6. Patrol Schedule 11-17 Dec as per Appx 7.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 21[illegible]
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN. *Date and Time.—From* 12 DEC 44 *To* 13 Dec 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	12 Dec 44		Coys continued with normal duties for the day. No 4 Pl (Tk/A) moved out as a patrol at 0530 hrs on a two day exercise to est a base at PAKAKAPAIA ref map TOROKINA 1". Object of exercise:- patrolling, with possibility of enemy contact, and to exercise the patrol in preparing a night perimeter and booby traps, and during daylight, patrolling from a firm base. Patrol Strength 1 Offr Lt Scott-toms 23 ORs and 1 att int man. Time out 120530L Time in 131700L. Route out via NUMA NUMA TRAIL-DOIABIE R-PAKAKAPAIA. Patrol routes (a) To DOIABIE R. (b) to MAGERIKOPAIA No enemy were contacted and track going maps were prepared by Int man. Pers of BnHQ NOT on essential duties carried out a two period route march EAST along McCLELLAND TRAIL. Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1100 hrs BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1000 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned 1255 hrs. Recce patrol serial 52 departed BLUE RIDGE 0730 hrs returned via LAKE KATHLEEN 1530 hrs.	
	13 Dec 44		Coys continued with normal duties around camp area. D Coy carried out minature range practice during the day. Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1200 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1030 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1250 hrs. Nothing to report. WARNING ORDER received from Bde to the following effect: One coy will prepare for movement to relieve 2/3 Can Bde Sqn HANEMO area As per Appx 8	Appx 8

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 14 DEC 44. *To* 15 DEC 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOROKINA	14 Dec 44		Normal duties continued throughout the day. Patrols- Daily Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1035 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1045 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1305 hrs. Recce patrol serial 59 out 0730 hrs via ~~BLUE RIDGE-LAKE KATHLEEN~~ arrived BLUE RIDGE 1130 hrs departing for LAKE KATHLEEN. At ~~1200 hrs BLUE RIDGE standing patrol reported the following~~ shipping in the Bay.- 1 battleship - 2 dest - 6 corvettes - 17 LST's 24 merchant shipping 4 tp ships and numerous small u/i craft. No 2 Pl (MMG) carried out rangepractice on "B" Coy range. Int Sec lectured D Coy on World situation. During the afternoon pers of BnHQ again carried out a 2 period route march WEST along ~~McCLELLAND TRAIL.~~ Lt Col Gobel CO 47 Aust Inf Bn wisited this HQ. Patrol and contact Report by Lt Scott-Toms as per Subject : Athletics Div Championship as per	Appx 8 Appx 9.
"	15 Dec 44		Normal duties continued throughout the day. Patrols:- Daily routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1100 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1105 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1300 hrs. Recce patrol serial 59 returned to perimeter 1430 hrs. Nothing to report. Recce patrol serial 62 out 0730 hrs via BLUE RIDGE-LAKE KATHLEEN ~~arrived BLUE RIDGE- 1105 hrs. at 1400 hrs the~~ following shipping was sighted in the Bay from BLUE RIDGE 27 tpts 5 LST's 5 LCI 7 Warships and numerous small u/i craft. Int Sec lectured B Coy on World situation. Recce of HANEMO Area 15-18 Dec.- 0630 hrs recce party consisting of Capt McDonnell (Div LO) Lt Brown (Bde LO) Capt Lawson (OC A Coy) Lt Irvine (IO) and 4 ORs departed for Jeep head EAST WEST TRAIL arriving 0815 hrs. Then proceeded on foot to BASE CAMP "B" Tp 2/8 Div Cdo Sqn arriving 1500 hrs. Billetted in ANGAU house. 1920 hrs conference held with OC Tp re carrying out relief of 2/8 Cdo Sqn. Adjt QM 3/ORs moved to BLUE RIDGE returning 1340 hrs. Subject : Trg memo as per	Appx 10.

L. Bradshaw, L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 16 DEC 44 *To* 16 DEC 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	16 DEC 44		Normal routine duties continued throughout the day. Pers of BnHQ carried out range practice during the day. Patrols:-	
			Daily patrol (routine protective) out 0830 hrs in 1015 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arr BLUE RIDGE 1130 hrs	
			~~Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1345 hrs.~~ Recce patrol serial 62 returned to perimeter 1430 hrs nothing to Report. ~~Int Sec lectured HQ and A Coys on World situation.~~	
			During the week Coys continued with repair work incl road maintenance throughout the camp area. Pnrs assisted in all general duties.	8.
		1010	Brig Field arrived this HQ departing 1105 hrs.	
		0800	Subject: Eqpt - Packing of Haversack and pack IO and Lt Brown recce X BLOCK fwd posn returning 1500 hrs.	As per Appx 13.
"	17 Dec 44		~~Capt Lawson recce BASE CAMP area. (HANEMO recce Party)~~ Mobile cinema screened the "Heavenly Body" at 1900 hrs.	
			Throughout the latter portion of the week Int Sec engaged in preparing track going maps from tracings supplied by 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn.	
			A second cholera injection was administered to all pers requiring same.	
			~~17 Pl D Coy under comd Lt Tomlinson moved out 0530 hrs on~~ patrol to MAGERIKOPAIA ref 671105 TOROKINA 1" returning 1800 hrs 17 DEC.	
			Patrol Report by Lt TOMLINSON as per Routine Orders Pt I issued as per	Appx 11 Appx 12.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 A UST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 17 DEC 44 *To* 18 DEC 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	17 Dec 44		Day of make and men. Usual church services in the morning held for all denominations. Tpt again provided and conveyed pers to TOROKINA beach for swimming. Patrols:- Daily routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1005 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0730 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1055 hrs. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1330 hrs. 17 Pl patrol returned to perimeter 1845 hrs. Extensive patrolling carried out. No enemy contacted. At 1300 hrs BLUE RIDGE OP reported sighting the following shipping in the Bay:- 11 merchant; 2 patrol boats; 4 LSTs ; and 20 small u/i small craft. HANEMO Recce Party. Capt Lawson carried out recce of X BLOCK area. IO and Lt Brown collected latest Int infm incl new tracks villages etc.	
"	18 Dec 44		Normal duties continued throughout the day. Range practice commenced again for the following week and pers of BHQ fired during the morning. Patrols:- Daily routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1110 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 0950 hrs returning via LAKE KATHLEEN 19 Dec. Previous standing patrol returned to perimeter 1230 hrs. Nothing to report. Lt P.W. Henderson marched in from hospital. 1045 hrs Lt-Gen Sturdee - Lt-Gen Savige - Maj-Gen Bridgeford and Brig Field inspected the Bn area. OC HQ Coy Maj Phillips commenced rearrangement of HQ & C Coy areas in preparation for C Coy returning to perimeter 20 Dec. Stretcher Bearers are now staged in BnHQ area. HANEMO Recce Party:- 0815 party departed BASE CAMP on return journey to JEEP HEAD arrived 1330 hrs and were then conveyed to Bn area by MT reporting in 1515 hrs. Mobile cinema screened "Step Lively" at 1900 hrs. WOI Booth marched out 2 Aust Fd Punishment Centre Patrol Schedule 18 - 24 Dec as per Xmas Greeting Cards as per	Appx 15. Appx 16

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 19 DEC 44. *To*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	19 Dec 44		A Coy carried out range practice during the day, otherwise normal duties continued. Patrols:- Daily routine protective patrol out ~~0830 hrs in 1110 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol serial 70 out~~ 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 0940 hrs returning via LAKE KATHLEEN ~~20 Dec. Previous standing patrol serial 68 returned to perimeter~~ 1530 hrs. Nothing to report. At 1300 hrs BLUE RIDGE OP reported the following shipping sighted in the BAY. 2 destroyers; 1 corvette 4 LSTs ; 7 merchant ships and 40 u/i small craft. Int sec lectured D Coy on World Situation. Coy 2" mtr crews carried out ~~practice shoot with lime [illegible]. As from 0800 hrs daily working~~ parties of 8 ORs (incl carpenters) were supplied to 109 CCS ~~for general duties during the following periods 19-23 Dec.~~ 26-28 Dec.	
"	20 Dec 44		D Coy carried out practice (~~range~~) during the day, otherwise normal duties continued. Patrols:- Daily protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1110 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol Serial 72 out 0700 hrs arrived ~~BLUE RIDGE 0940 hrs. Previous standing patrol serial 70 returned~~ via LAKE KATHLEEN 1516 hrs. Nothing to report. ~~C Coys relief effected by 2 Pls C Coy 25 Aust Inf Bn and Coy~~ departed 9 Aust Inf Bn area 0900 hrs arrived within the Bn area 1135 hrs. During the following period 20-23 Dec rifle bombadiers will undergo a two day period instr in preparation for live grenade practice shoot on 23 Dec.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 21 DEC 44 *To* 22 DEC 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOROKINA	21 Dec 44		HQ Coy carried out range practice during the day normal adm duties continued. Patrols:- daily routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1005 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0630 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1025 hrs. Previous standing patrol in via ~~LAKE KATHLEEN 1515 hrs~~ . Nothing to report. Maj Twemlow, Capts Lawson, Cairns attended a demonstration on the use of the ~~flame thrower supporting an inf pl in an attack at 132 US Regt~~ trg area. 17 Pl carried out the attack in the demonstration. CO Lt-Col Dexter, OIC, Lt WG Irvine moved out on recce Base Camp 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn. Tasmaniacs concert party entertained in area at night.	29.
"	22 Dec 44		HQ Coy carried out range practice during the day ~~normal~~ normal adm duties carried out. Patrols daily routine patrol out 0815 hrs in 1045 hrs. BLUE RIDGE Standing Patrol out 0700 hrs arrived ~~BLUE RIDGE 1050 hrs previous patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN at~~ 1745 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1050 hrs. Previous patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN at 1745 hrs.	
			All offrs attended a lecture at BnHQ by Capt Cairns on patrolling.	
			2 IC Maj C.H. Bicks, QM Capt W.L. Rudder, TO, Lt Cummins. Sig Offr Lt J. White attended a lecture at Bde HQ by Col Fisher LHQ on maintenance of equipment.	
			~~4~~ 11 Pl three secs A Coy moved out to construct a jeep track from 727928 to 746930.	
			~~Adjt Capt Hobbs and Int Sjt on recce of Jeep track.~~ 2 IC Maj Bicks, QM Capt Rudder attended a conference at Bde HQ on layout of Bde Gp LOB.	
			Leave draft 1 Offr 10 ORs m/out toNGDD TOROKINA on 24 ~~days~~ rec leave.	
			All Coys were lectured on World Situation by Bde Educ Offr.	AB

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN. *Date and Time.—From* 23 DEC 44 *To* 25 Dec 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOROKINA	23 Dec 44		Daily protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1015 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1030 hrs. Previous standing patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN at 1515 hrs. A Coy fired on Bn range during the day. All Coy Rifle Bombadiers fired live grenades on US Range No 24 under direction Capt J.S. Paterson. ~~CO Lt-Col Dexter, IO, Lt WG Irvine~~ returned from recce of Base Camp. A mobile cinema screened in the area at night.	
"	24 Dec 44		Day of make and mend, church parades for all denominations held in the morning. Patrols:- Routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1125 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived. ~~BLUE RIDGE 0928 hrs~~ Previous patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN at 1430 hrs. ~~Tpt was provided to take pers surfing at the beach at TOROKINA~~ All pers were issued with a Xmas hamper provided by the ACF. Bn Operation Instrs No 2 issued as per	Appx 16.
	25 Dec 44		Xmas Day was granted as a rest period for all ranks other than those on essential duties. Tps received a free issue of beer, one bottle per man from Regt Trust funds, and the midday meal ~~consisted of turkey, ham and plum pudding.~~ All Offrs & NCOs performed mess orderly duties for the three meals of the day, and on the whole all ranks had as merry a time as was possible under the circumstances. Xmas dinner was particulary very enjoyable. Patrols:- Daily routine protective patrol out 0700 ~~hrs arrived back 1110 hrs. BLUE RIDGE~~ standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1020 hrs. Previous standing patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN ~~returned 1530 hrs. Nothing to report.~~ Patrol schedule 25/31 Dec as per B n Operation Instrs No 3 issued as per	Appx 17. Appx 18.

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN. *Date and Time.—From* 26 Dec 44. *To*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	26 Dec 44		Normal duties continued throughout the day. Patrols:- routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs in 1030 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrive d BLUE RIDGE 1000 hrs. Previous standing patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN returned 1530 hrs. Nothing to report. BLUE RIDGE OP reported the following shipping sighted in the BAY at 1300 hrs. 9 cargo vessels, 6 corvettes, 3 LSTs and numerous u/i small craft. A Coy plus 3 attached Int pers, and 6 sig pers, 4 Regt Police, 1 YMCA Rep and 3 SB's moved out by MT at 0630 hrs to take over responsibility of HANEMO AREA ref map VITO 1" from "B" Tp 2/8 Aust Cav Cdo Sqn. Relief was to be effected by 0900 hrs 27 Dec. Coy debussed on arriving Jeep Head ref 694948 TOROKINA 1" at 0700 hrs. Thence departed on foot for HANEMO area. Approach march. Timetable aatached as per 12 Pl B Coy moved out by MT at 0600 hrs and came under comd 25 Aust Inf Bn PIATERAPAIA area.	Appx 22.
HANEMO	27 Dec 44		A Coy relief of B Tp 2/8 Cdo Sqn completed by 1725 hrs. disposns as follows : BASE CAMP: Coy HQ, 7 & 8 Pls.; XBLOCK: 9 Pl. For conduct of Defence outline see and Patrol tasks see also At 2330 hrs 2 booby traps exploded and coy stood to for one hour. Later found they were set off by dogs.	Appx 22. " 22
TOROKINA	"		Remainder of Bn normal duties throughout the day. Patrols:- routine protective patrol out 0830 hrs returned 1030 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 0955 HRS. Previous standing patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN 1442 hrs. Nothing to report. BLUE RIDGE OP reported the following shipping sighted in the bay at 1330 hrs. 10 cargo vessels, 2 LSTs 6 corvettes, 60 u/i small craft.	

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN. *Date and Time.—From* 28 Dec 44 *To* 29 Dec 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOROKINA	28 Dec 44		Normal duties continued throughtout the day. Patrols:- Routine Protective patrol out 0830 hrs returned 1115 hrs. BLUE RIDGE	
			standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1135 hrs. Previous standing patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN returned 1525 hrs.	
			Nothing to report. Routine Orders Pt I issued as per Orders and Adm during Sea voyages as per	Appx 19. Appx 23.
HANEMO	"		A Coy: Stand to 0515 hrs- stand down 0630 hrs. 15 min. security patrols reported immediate vicinty clear of enemy. Patrols:—	
			sers 1, 2, and 3 out 0800 hrs to recce tracks, and were accompanied by police boys guides. All patrols returned in by 1715 hrs, and reported no enemy movement. For patrol routes refer	
			to schedule as per (Appx A). Stand to 1830 hrs Stand down 1930 hrs. SITNOR. ~~Angau Patrol report by Lt BOISEN as per~~	Appx 24.
TOROKINA	29 Dec 44		Normal duties continued for the day. Patrols:- ~~daily routine~~ protective patrol out 0830 hrs returned 1115 hrs. BLUE RIDGE standing patrol out 0700 hrs arrived BLUE RIDGE 1015 hrs.	
			Previous standing patrol in via LAKE KATHLEEN returned 1630 hrs. Nothing to report. C Coy moved to biv area previously occupied by A Coy and adopted same Coy's def posns.	
HANEMO	"		Stand to 0515 hrs - stand down 0630 hrs. Patrols - Serials 4, 5 and 6 out 0800 hrs as per schedule (Appx B)	
			Serial no 6 returned to X BLOCK 1455 hrs, nothing to report. Progress made with new def posn and reserve amn carried to X	
			BLOCK Sig pers commenced laying a new line to X BLOCK. The CSM i/c of the boy line returned to BASE CAMP from X BLOCK at	
			1400 hrs, and reported good time made, and the method ~~of carrying~~ of carrying eqpt, rations etc, greatly improved. The sig station	
			moved from OLD ANGAU to the BAMBOOS and est comn by ~~1200 hrs~~. A Coy pers engaged in generally improving the biv area. A heavy	
			fog ~~fell covering~~ covered the area during the day with slight showers of intermittent rain. Stand to 1830 hrs. Stand down 1930 hrs. SITNOR.	
			Field sketch of BASE CAMP AREA as per	Appx 20.
			Overlay of HANEMO responsibility area as per.	Appx 21.

L. By Authority: J. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN *Date and Time.—From* 30 DEC 44 *To* 31 DEC 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Torokina	30 Dec 44		Normal duties continued throughout the day. Local patrols i.e. routine protective and BLUE RIDGE nothing to report.	
Hanemo			A Coy:- Stand to 0515 hrs - stand down 0630 hrs. patrols: as per	Appx 'C'
			7 Pl serial 8 out 0800 hrs returned 1535 hrs nothing to report.	
			9 Pl serial 7 out 0930 hrs returned 1355 hrs nothing to report.	
			Serial 4 reported in 1715 hrs nothing to report. At 0935 hrs fresh rations and 2 bundles of mail were dropped by a Wirraway led in by a boomerang. Recovery 100%, and greatly appreciated by the tps. The new sig line to X BLOCK was completed by 1400 hrs. Stand to 1800 hrs- stand down 1930 hrs SITNOR.	
Torokina	31 Dec 44		Day of make and ~~men~~ mend, church services as usual. Local patrols as per schedule. Nothing to report. During the past week, pers, selected to represent the Bn in the Div Athletic Championship have engaged in trg for the respective events.	
Hanemo	"		Stand to 0515 hrs - stand down 0630 hrs SITNOR. Patrols as per (Appx D) Serial 9 out 0800 hrs returned 1730 hrs. nothing to report. Serial 10 out 0800 hrs in 1730 hrs nothing to report. Serial 11 9 Pl reported out 0900 hrs. Serial 5 returned 1505 hrs reported no contact or signs of enemy movt. At 1000 hrs a Wirraway dropped mail for attached tps. During the day intermittent rain fell and low clouds covered the area	
			Stand to 1830 hrs - stand down 1930 hrs - SITNOR.	

W R Dutton Lt.-Col
Comd. 61 Aust. Inf. Bn.

L. By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Appx. 1.

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document will not be communicated, either directly or indirectly to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Copy No 114
Ser.No.16/44
Nos 112/115

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

by

Lt-Col W.R. DEXTER, DSO

COMD 61 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

2 December 1944

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112. SECURITY AND CENSORSHIP:

1. Until further notice, personnel under command 2 Aust Corps or 4 Aust Base Sub Area are NOT permitted to state that they are in the SOLOMONS, or to mention change of location, or to give any indication of movement either from the mainland or NEW GUINEA.

2. Further, NO reference is permitted to well known topographical features in the Northern SOLOMONS, such as volcanoes, which would indicate the presence of Australian troops in this group of islands.

113. BOOBY TRAPS BLIND AMN AND UNEXPLODED BOMBS:

Booby traps, blind amn and unexploded bombs are being found both inside and outside the perimeter. All troops will be warned of the danger of interfering with any of these types of amn whether Australian, American or Japanese pattern. On discovery, this HQ will be notified immediately and arrangements will be made by this HQ for destruction or removal to be carried out.

114. CENSORSHIP:

1. A number of letters have recently been intercepted, by the Base Censor addressed to strangers whose names have been obtained by the writers from American personnel or by some other means.

2. Communications with Pen Friends are NOT permitted under Censorship Instructions.

3. The attention of all Franking Officers and OR's will be directed to this order.

115. REGTL TRUST FUND:

On hand commencement of month		468.10. 5
Received during month		
Estate Late F.E. Loxton	10. 0. 0	
Canteen Refund	2. 0. 0	
Canteen Profit Distribution Sep.	57.19. 2	69.19. 2
Expended during month		
Free issue American cigarettes	38.17. 2	
HQ Coy Canteen Advance	50. 0. 0	
Clarionet Reeds	3. 3	
Regt Barbers	10. 0. 0	
W.H. Paling - Music & Vellums	7. 5. 3	
Blitz Cloths	14.11	
Band Instruments	114.15. 4	
Ince Bros - Puggarees	60. 0. 0	£281.15.11
Balance on hand		£256.13. 8

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

We certify that we have examined the Cash Book, Unit Trust Book, and vouchers relating to 61 Aust Inf Bn Regtl Trust Account, and that in our opinion this statement correctly sets out the position of the fund as at 30 Nov 44.

(sgd) A.N. Lawson ..... Capt

" D.W. Hook ..... Lt

Capt
Addit 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION LIST "A"

- NOTICE -

DESTRUCTION OF MAIL MATTER:

The undermentioned mails despatched by a North bound train ex Sydney 1033 hrs on 30 Oct 44, were almost completely destroyed by fire which broke out in the Mail Van at Wyong, NSW.-

Office of Origin	Destination	Type of Mail	Total Bags
AUST BASE PO SYDNEY	L.E	Other Articles & Parcels	369
" " " "	MADANG	" "	40

It is advised that 137 bags of mail were salvaged.

The following issue of comforts was received from ACF, and distribution made to Coys. - 25 Nov 44

760 tins Tobacco
760 pkts Cigarette papers
760 " Cigarettes
760 tins Boot Polish
760 tubes Tooth Paste
760 cakes Laundry Soap
760 " Toilet Soap
760 " Shaving Soap
8000 Envelopes
24000 Sheets Writing Paper.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

SECRET

Subject :- BLUE RIDGE OP

HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
Dec 44

Appx 2

HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)

Reference your JF/RDS of 27 Nov 44

Herewith Patrol Comds report on observation of perimeter from BLUE RIDGE.

..... Lt
IO 61 Aust Inf Bn

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

SECRET

APPX "B" BLUE RIDGE PATROL REPORT

(Ref Map TOTOKINA RIVER; SCALE 1=20,000)

3 Dec 44

OBSERVATION OF PERIMETER FROM BLUE RIDGE OP

Appx. 2.

165° M to 215° M

1. OWN AREA:

(a) The presence of rain forest throughout Bn Area prevents accurate estimation of force employed, and with the exception of four tents on FEATURE 835, tentage is not visible. The greater part of McLELLAND TRAIL from THE ROCK to FEATURE 835 can be seen and also slight clearing B Coy area. OP approx 200 yds NORTH FEATURE 835 is obvious.

(b) Defences:

These are not visible to naked eye, but examination with binoculars shows pill-box and trench system approx 300 yds in width on NORTH slopes of FEATURE 835. No other part of Bn area is discernible, and view of ground on front of defences is limited to upper NORTH slope of FEATURE 835.

2. REMAINDER OF FOREGROUND:

Tentage and one pill-box can be seen in clearing approx ref. 13072195, and four tents can be seen in slight clearing NORTH slopes HILL 450. General line (only) of McLELLAND TRAIL can be followed from FEATURE 835 to approx junc. SAURAGE TRAIL - LAKE KATHLEEN is visible.

3. MIDDLE DISTANCE: (to coast)

View of this area is only general trees obscuring a great deal of roads, camps etc. However a complete record of aerial activity on all strips can easily be observed, and many a/c can be identified in their dispersal bays. Roads are not obvious enough to be accurately identified. TOROKINA RIVER from mouth to 1½ miles inland is clearly discernible.

4. BACKGROUND (Sea only)

View of the bay is almost unrestricted incl MOTUPENA PT. All shipping activity is very easy to observe.

(Sgd) A.A. Watts Lt
Patrol Comd.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Ref Map: KOWARO 1/25000 NOV 44 "C" COY SHEET 1 (APPX. 3) 26 DEC 44

DYELINE 1/25000 SHOWING JUNCTION DOYABIE & LIKLARUMA RIVERS 61 AUST INF BN WAR DIARY 4 DEC - 20 DEC 44 SECRET

DATE - TIME	EVENT
4 DEC - 2015	Departed from Bn area to pass on NUMA NUMA TRAIL Coy came under comd. 9 Aust Inf Bn.
5 DEC - 0100	arrived map ref 658080 o 14 Pl which was held up at first crossing LARUMA RIVER arrived 0110 hrs
" - 0130	Coy placed in dispositions as follows:- Coy HQ 655081 13 Pl 659081 14 Pl 655082 15 Pl 656082
" - 0800	Coy Comd's recce decided to alter disposition of Coy. Coy HQ 657081 14 Pl 657082 15 Pl 658082 Sec Aslt Pos feature 657083. 13 Pl to remain in present posn.
" - 0830	New posns occupied
" - 0835	Protective patrol 1 NCO 2 ORS for 15 min along LIKLARUMA RIVER. Returned 0910 nothing to report
" - 0930	LT COL MATTHEWS and staff visited area stated satisfied with defensive Posns Discussed Adm & Q problems. Stated Coy to supply recce patrol 1 off 11 ops to 676103 on 6 DEC 44. Patrol cond to be briefed during afternoon.
" - 0940	Protective patrol as previous occ. nothing to report.
" - 1215	Recce patrol to 672091 o returned 1330 nothing to report.
" - 1300	O.C. & LT PLUMMER with I SEC representative visited 9 Bn HQ received info and details of bombing plan OLT PLUMMER to cond recce patrol to 676103 received instructions
" - 1445	Protective patrol as above nothing to report
" - 1500	Det of 3" MORTARS arrived under Comd. placed in posn 656082
" - 1730	Listening Post established 659082
" - 1845	Stand to.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

61 AUST INF BN
WAR DIARY 4 DEC - 20 DEC 44

DATE - TIME	EVENT
5 DEC - 2150	Report of JAP Recce patrol from 15 Pl Listening Post (659082) Pls advised - 15 Pl double sentry
6 DEC - 0515	Stand to . Uneventful night.
" 0645	Contact patrol from 14 Pl to out post. Recce patrol moved to 672091 returned 0800 hrs reported seeing three footprints. Not Australian.
" 0900	LT PLUMMER & 11 ORS departed recce patrol to 676103.
" 0930	O.C. reported to 9 Bn H.Q. was instructed to recce for possible counter attack role on track 9 Bn to GEORGE HILL
" 0940	LT COL DEXTER visited area
" 0945	Sec Out post at 657083 relieved by one sec. 14 Pl
" 0950.	Recce patrol to HIGH RIDGE
" 1200	Recce to HIGH RIDGE returned reported large quantities AMERICAN food and ammn SOUTH of lay area also report track 3' wide in good condition and located area on which lay defences are overlooked
" 1500	O.C returned from LITTLE GEORGE HILL Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn visited area Recce patrol 15 mins up LIKARUMA RIVER returned 1540 hrs nothing to report.
" 1515	one sec 13 Pl departed to establish Out Post on HIGH RIDGE
" 1700	Sec in posn on HIGH RIDGE Both out posts now connected by L TOC.
" 1705	One sec 13 Pl departed for HIGH RIDGE to destroy AMERICAN food and ammn
" 1835	party returned after having destroyed AMERICAN dumps.
" 1845	Stand to
7 DEC - 0515	Stand to Uneventful night
" - 0900	ration party departed for out post on HIGH RIDGE and are to destroy any further AMERICAN stores found.
" - 1000	1 Sect 6 ORS recce patrol to 680095 task to find Signs LT PLUMMER'S PATROL

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

WAR DIARY 4 DEC - 20 DEC 44

DATE - TIME	EVENT
7 DEC - 1305	Lt PLUMMER + patrol reported in. Reached objective found no signs of enemy.
" 1330	O.C. Lt PLUMMER reported 9 Bn HQ.
" 1430	2" + 3" MORTAR ranging carried out.
" 1450	patrol to 680095 returned nothing to report
" 1515	O.C received orders to take up new posns and carried out recce with view to this
" 1605	O.C. returned from recce
" 1630	O.C Coy Conference orders for move given. Coy to occupy new area by 081200h Order of movement as follows :- 080800h O.C Coy 080900h Main Body in order 13 Pl Coy HQ 15 Pl 14 Pl.
" 1800	Daily protective patrols nothing to report
" 1845	Listening post 659082 fired on two enemy and withdrew to Coy defensive posns. Coy stood to for some time during night.. Two rds fired during night Pte COLLINGS being wounded in stream but otherwise night uneventful.
8 DEC 0515	Stand to
" 0800	O.C Coy departed for new area.
" 0900	remainder of Coy departed for new area
" 1200	Coy in Posn in new area as follows :- Coy HQ & 15 Pl with 9 Bn HQ. 13 Pl forward of 4 3d REGT. with two section out posts on SISIVIE TRACK. 14 Pl less one sec on ridge above 9 Bn HQ one sec 14 Pl at A.D.S.
" 1500	15 Pl warned for two patrols as under :- Lt McINTYRE + 16 ORs to PEARL RIDGE. Sgt ROCHE + 6 ORs to BOWARA RIDGE.
" 1700	Arrangements made for daily patrols as follows :- 13 Pl two protective patrols along SISIVIE TRACK for 15 min 14 Pl three protective patrols along tracks from Pl area 14 Pl two contact patrols to 9 Bn post about D.I.D. 15 Pl protective patrols to junction DOYABIE + LIK/LARUMA RIVERS and up stream for 30 min along LIK/LARUMA RIVER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY 4 DEC - 20 DEC 44

DATE - TIME	EVENT
8 DEC - 1700 (cont'd)	2 list patrols to commence immediately with exception protective to LIKLARUMA RIVER 2 his patrol to commence 091000 L. 2 timings of all patrols to be notified to Pls on previous night
" - 1710	SITUATION NORMAL
" - 1830	O.C. LT PLUMMER + SGT ROCHE reported C.O. 9 BN. 15 Pls recce patrols now as follows:- LT MCINTYRE as previously briefed Patrol under SGT ROCHE cancelled LT PLUMMER now to take SGT ROCHE + 9 ORs recce to MT DEACON.
" - 1845	Stand to.
9 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night.
" - 0700	LT PLUMMER'S patrol departed
" - 0815	LT MCINTYRE'S patrol departed
" - 0820	C.O. 61 AUST INF BN + O.C. visited A.D.S.
" - 0900	C.O. ADJT + I.O. departed for 61 Bn after visiting Coy area
" - 1100	PADRE BEATTY visited area
" - 1700	daily protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to.
10 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night.
" - 1000	Canteen goods arrived Coy area much appreciated
" - 1400	message from LT MCINTYRE. Posn for night 9/10 DEC 44 approx 668114
" - 1730	daily protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to. LT PLUMMERS patrol NOT yet returned
11 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night.
" - 0930	PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFRS visited area
" - 1200	LT PLUMMER + patrol returned from MT DEACON no sign of enemy on MT DEACON but patrol was fired + grenaded from ARTY RIDGE one man slightly wounded
" - 1330	Coy less 15 Pls received second CHOLERA injection
" - 1500	LT MCINTYRE + patrol returned did NOT reach objective.
" - 1530	O.C. to take recce patrol of 6 ORs to PEARL RIDGE
" - 1745	daily protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

6/Aust Inf Bn

WAR DIARY 4/DEC - 20/DEC 44

DATE & TIME	EVENT
12/DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night
" - 0730	CAPT CAIRNS and patrol moved out
" - 0930	working party 6 ORs to 9 Bn QM.
" - 1715	Daily protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to
" - 2145	13 Pl out post reported movement to the right and forward of their posn. Stones + pebbles dislodged from about posns. Grenade thrown in direction of movement no further movement heard
" - 2215	more movement heard forward of out post grenade + 0.5 MG fire put in direction of movement. movement ceased.
13/DEC - 0445	further movement heard forward of out post and two grenades thrown by forward sec movement ceased
" - 0600	contact patrol from 13 Pl to Outpost reported track clear. Patrol forward along SISIVIE TRACK and on feature to right reported no signs of enemy. During night ack Pls committed by phone + reports from Outpost heard by all Pls
" - 0645	Coy advised that escorts for NATIVE CARRIERS to be supplied daily to SISIVIE + LITTLE GEORGE
" - 1320	twenty five personnel from 15 Pl had second CHOLERA injection
" - 1730	protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to
14/DEC - 0330	Rifle shot heard PIATERIPAIA TRACK about Coy HQ. much noise + calling out Coy HQ + 15 Pl Stood To.
	2/c Coy received info from 9 Bn rear switch unknown number enemy in vacinity two 9 Bn personnel wounded.
" - 0400	message received 2/c 9 Bn stated that 9 Bn Sentry accidently fired on two 9 Bn Personnel Coy HQ + 15 Pl Stood down
" - 0515	Stand to
" - 0600	advised that Lt BRINKLEY to take recce Patrol 10 ORs 69312 4 ascertain if enemy Left Coy that enemy and to observe enemy movement ON ARTY RIDGE
" - 0730	Lt BRINKLEY and patrol departed

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

61 AUST INF BN

— WAR DIARY 4 DEC - 20 DEC 44 —

DATE - TIME	EVENT
14 DEC - 0745	One sec 14 Pl departed for DOYABIE to 25 Bn. Pioneer Pl of task of protection of staging post. One sec 15 Pl relieved sec 14 Pl at A.D.S.
" - 0800	15 Pl less one sec relieved 14 Pl on ridge above 9 Bn HQ. 14 Pl less one sec now to occupy area near Coy HQ
" - 0930	CAPT CAIRNS & patrol reported in
" - 1130	O.C. forwarded written report to (Col) DEXTER on Coy activities
" - 1730	Daily protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to.
15 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night.
" - 1030	PADRE BEATTY visited area & conducted service.
" - 1300	11 ORs from D Coy received second CHOLERA injection
" - 1800	LT BRINKLEY & patrol returned did NOT cross TAP 2 OF C. patrol observed movement on ARTY RIDGE
" - 1800.	Daily Protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to.
16 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night.
" - 1100	rough bridge constructed over DYOBIE RIVER between Coy HQ & 13 Pl.
" - 1340	O.C. A Coy 25 AUST INF BN
" - 1630	movement order from 9 Bn arrived Coy to return to TOROKINA perimeter 20 DEC 44
" - 1800	Daily protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to
17 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night.
" - 1000	O.C. Coy conference orders given for movement to TOROKINA perimeter
" - 1200	arrangements made O.C. A Coy 25 Bn for primed grenades & ammo surplus to first line to be taken over from Coy from departure
" - 1710	protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to.
18 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

"C" COY
61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY 4 DEC - 20 DEC 44.

DATE - TIME	EVENT.
18 DEC - 0700	Heavy ARTY concentration preceding attack by 9 Bn on ARTY RIDGE
" - 0900	Corduroy track laid through Coy HQ area
" - 1300	All amm checked & thoroughly cleaned
" - 1730	Daily protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to
19 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night
" - 0830	O.C visited LT COL MATTHEWS and then moved to ARTY RIDGE
" - 0840	Guard supplied for P.W's at ADS
" - 1230	O.C. returned
" - 1800	Daily protective patrols nothing to report
" - 1845	Stand to
20 DEC - 0515	Stand to uneventful night
" - 0800	Amm handed over to R Coy 25 Bn and responsibility of area taken over by 25 Bn.
" - 0815	Coy departed area and embussed.
" - 0900	Convoy departed road head
" - 1130	Coy arrived TOROKINA perimeter and reverted to comd 61 Bn

H Cairns Capt
OC "C" Coy

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

CONFIDENTIAL

61 AUST INF BN PATROL SCHEDULE from 5 Dec 44 to 10 Dec 44 Ref Map TOROKINA R 1/20,000 LARUMA · R. 1/20,000.

Serial	Coy Sup Patrol	Type	Time Out	Time In	Strength	Route Out	Route In	Task	Special Instrs.
33	A	Standing	050730L	061600L	1 NCO 11 ORs	NORTH to BLUE RIDGE	SOUTH to PERIMETER	1.To observe for any enemy movt towards the perimeter. 2.Take prisoner any Jap Stragglers who may come in to surrender.	1.Leave outpost when relieved by next patrol. 2.Comn by Sig Pl to BnHQ. 3.Out patrols must not operate EAST of Grid 133. 4.Tree scarf on left of track. 5.If grenades are carried they will not be primed,and dets will be carried in sealed tin which will not be opened except in emergency. 6.Patrol Comd to report to IO for briefing between 1400-1600 hrs the previous day.
34	A	Recce	050815L	061600L	1 NCO 3 ORs	NORTH to BLUE RIDGE	SW to D Coy via LAKE KATHLEEN.	1.Recce track from BLUE RIDGE towards LAKE KATHLEEN with the object of discovering track into D Coy area. 2.Observe for any signs of enemy movt.	1.Scarf track on left with three horisontal scarfts. 2.patrol comd to report to IO for briefing between 1400-1600 hrs the previous day. 3.Track going map to accompany patrol report. 4.As for (5) serial 33.
35	A	Recce	050815L	071200L	1 Offr 3 ORs	NORTH to BLUE RIDGE thence to JAVA CK.	JAVA CK to LARUMA R. thence to Perimeter. VIA. NUMA NUMA TRAIL	1.Recce tracks between BLUE RIDGE and JAVA Ck with the object of discovering routes for future patrols. 2.Observe for any signs of enemy movt.	1.Track going map to accompany patrol report. 2.As for (5) Serial 33. 3.Patrol Comd. to report to IO between 1400-1600 hrs previous day for briefing.
36	A	Protective	050830L	051130L	1 NCO 4 ORs	As shown in sketch att previous patrol schedule.		1.Are there any indication of enemy having been in area during last 24 hrs. 2.Take prisoner any Jap straggler who may come in to surrender.	1.Patrol comd to report to IO at 0800 hrs for briefing.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

37	A	Standing	060730L	071600L	AS FOR SERIAL 33
38	A	Protective	060830L	061130L	AS FOR SERIAL 36
39	A	Standing	070730L	081600L	AS FOR SERIAL 33
40	A	Protective	070830L	081130L	AS FOR SERIAL 36
41	D	Standing	080730L	091600L	AS FOR SERIAL 33
42	D	Protective	080830L	081130L	AS FOR SERIAL 36
43	D	Recce	080815L	091600L	as for serial 34 ~~Reserved~~ (D Coy Notified)
44	D	Standing	090730L	101630L	AS FOR SERIAL 33
45	D	Protective	090830L	091130L	AS FOR SERIAL 36
46	D	Recce	090815L	101600	Reserved as for Serial 34 (ABD)
47	D	Standing	100730L	111600L	AS FOR SERIAL 33
48	D	Protective	100830L	101130L	AS FOR SERIAL 36

COY COMDS WILL ARRANGE FOR ARTY PERSONNEL TO ACCOMPANY PATROLS TO GAIN EXPERIENCE.

LT
INT OFFR 61 AUST INF BN.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Army Form C2136 (Small)
(Pads of 100) (Adapted Sept. 1943)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 5

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
			(appx. 5)

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: 1 Aust Inf Bde

Date—Time of Origin: 11/2000 L

Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO: 61 Aust Inf Bn

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions: 99Y

GR: 28

ORIGINATOR'S No. O 1338 SECRET O WARNING ORDER

O 61 Aust Inf Bn will prepare one coy relieve 2/8 Aust Com/sgn HANEMO area NOT not before 18 Dec further details later ack.

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means { except ..... } Wireless

Signed

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

Signed

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR 2210	F	
Time Cleared		

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Army Form C 2136 (Large)
(Finds of 1939) (Adapted Sept. 1945)

MESSAGE FORM

Register 6

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
			Appx. 6

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) — Originator: 7 Aust Inf Bde — Date—Time of Origin: 112004

Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO 61 Aust Inf Bn.

(w) For Information (INFO.)

War Diary

Message Instructions: PPY — GR 96

ORIGINATOR'S No. O 1449

SECRET ⊙ WARNING ORDER

⊙ 25 Aust Inf Bn will relieve 9 Aust Inf Bn ⊙ Relief to commence 20 Dec completed by 23 Dec ⊙ Recce parties 15 Dec adv parties 19 Dec ⊙ 25 Aust Inf Bn will have under comd one bty RAA 3 Aust Div one det 7 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec. One coy 61 Aust Inf Bn A Coy 11 Aust Fd Amb'd and for camp adm 224 Aust Sup Coy pl ⊙ 9 Aust Inf Bn will assume perimeter defs 25 Aust Inf Bn on relief ⊙ Further details later Pass all informed

This message may be sent **AS WRITTEN** by any means { except / ..... } Wireless

Signed

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

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time THI or TOR	System	Op
2210	F	
Time Cleared		

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

CONFIDENTIAL C.O. 61 AUST INF BN PATROL SCHEDULE FROM 11 DEC TO 17 DEC 44 Ref Maps TOROKINA R 1/20000
LARUMA R "

Serial	Coy Sup Patrol.	Time Out	Time In	Strength	Route Out	Route In	Tasks	Special Instrs.
49	B Protect	110830L	111130L	1NCO 4 ORs	As shown in sketch att previous patrol schedule.		1.Are there any indications of enemy having been in area during last 24 hrs. 2.Take prisoner any Jap stragglers who may come in to surrender.	1.Patrol comd to report to IO at 0800 hrs for briefing.
50	B Standing	110930L	121600L	~~1~~ NCO 11 ORs 1 Pl. LtWAYBCRD	NORTH TO BLUE RIDGE	SOUTH TO PERIMETER	1.To observe for any enemy movt towards the perimeter. 2.Take prisoner any Jap stragglers who may come into surrender.	1.Leave outpost when relieved by next patrol. 2.Comn by sig Pl to BnHQ. 3.Our patrols must NOT operate EAST of Grid 133. 4.Tree scarf on left of track 5.If grenades are carried they will NOT be primed and dets will be carried in sealed tin which will NOT be opened except in emergency. 6.Patrol Comd to report to IO for briefing between 1400 1600 hrs previous day.
51	B Recce	110815L	131200L	1 Offr 3 ORs	NORTH to BLUE RIDGE/R. thence to JAVA CK.	/JAVA CK to LARUMA thence to perimeter via NUMA NUMA TRAIL.	1.Recce tracks between BLUE RIDGE and JAVA Ck with object of discovering routes for future patrols. 2.Observe for any signs of enemy movt.	1.Track Going Map to accompany patrol report. 2.As for (5) Serial 50. 3.Patrol Comd to report to IO between 1400-1600 hrs previous day for briefing. 4. X scarf.
52	B ecce	110815L	121600L	1 NCO 3 ORs	NORTH to BLUE RIDGE	SW to D Coy via LAKE KATHLEEN.	1.Recce track from BLUE RIDGE towards LAKE KATHLEEN with object of discovering track into D Coy area. 2.Observe for any signs of enemy movt.	1.Scarf track on left with 3 horizontal scarfs. 2.Patrol comd to report to IO for briefing between 1400 1600 hrs previous day. 3.Track going map to accompany patrol report. 4.As for (5) Serial 50.
53	B ding	120730L	131600L	1NCO 11ORs CPL CUMMING	As for Serial 50.			

Appx. 1

X Cancelled

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54	B	Protective	120830L	121130L	Cpl Kennedy	AS FOR SERIAL ~~50~~	49
55.	B	Standing	130730L	141600L	One Pl.	AS FOR SERIAL ~~49~~	50
56.	B	Protective	130830L	131130L		AS FOR SERIAL ~~55~~	49
57	A	Standing	140730L	151600L	1 NCO 11 ORS	AS FOR SERIAL ~~49~~	50
58	A	Protective	140830L	141130L		AS FOR SERIAL ~~50~~	49
59	A	Recce	140815L	151600L	1 NCO 3 ORs	AS FOR SERIAL 52	
60	A	Standing	150730L	161600L	One Pl.	AS FOR SERIAL 50	
61	A	~~Recce~~ Protective	~~150815L~~ 150830L	~~161600L~~ 161130L	~~1 NCO 4 ORs~~	AS FOR SERIAL ~~52~~	49
62	A	~~Protective~~ Recce	~~150830L~~ 150815L	~~161130L~~ 161600L	1 N.C.O 3 O.Rs	AS FOR SERIAL ~~49~~	52
63	D	Standing	160730L	171600L	1 NCO 11 ors	AS FOR SERIAL 50	
64	D	Protective	160830L	161130L	~~One~~ Kennedy	AS FOR SERIAL 49	
65	D	Standing	170730L	181600L	One Pl.	AS FOR SERIAL 50	
66	D	Protective	170830L	171130L		AS FOR SERIAL 49	

D. H Summers.
Sgt for Lt
Inf Offr 61 Aust Inf Bn
A.O.D.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Excellent rpt 1.
W.R.D.

SECRET

14 DEC 44

PATROL AND CONTACT REPORT (Appx. 8)

REF MAPS: TOROKINA 1 in 63 1 mile OCT 44
LARUMA RIVER FORKS, SHEET 9, 1:20000 JUL 44

PATROL FOUND BY: 4 pl HQ Coy. PATROL COMD:
LT. W. H. SCOTT-TOMS

PATROL STRENGTH: 1 Off & 23 OR's

NATURE OF PATROL: RECCE AND CONTACT

TIME OUT: 120530L TIME IN: 131830L

ROUTE OUT: MT to x ing 9 chance on foot to PAKAKAPAIA, MAGERIAOPAIA as far as 673111 (TOR)

ROUTE IN: 673111 (TOR) MAGERIAOPAIA, PAKAKAPAIA, x ing 9 chance MT to BIV AREA.

OBJECT OF PATROL: Pl exercise with possibility of contacting stray Japs.
1. Are there any signs of enemy in the PAKAKAPAIA - MAGERIAOPAIA area
2. Send out short recce patrols from base.
3. Report on terrain

NARRATIVE PART I

1. No enemy contacted, or natives, and no signs of occupation apart from AMERICAN in PAKAKAPAIA AREA and AUST at point 3000 yds (approx) from PAKAKAPAIA to SW. Perimeter formed PAKAKAPAIA, night 12,13 DEC.
2. Two recce patrols out and in, morning 13 DEC 44. One to 673111 (TOR) one to DOIABIE RIVER, WEST from PAKAKAPAIA.
3. Terrain generally rugged with rain forest. Tracks follow ridges throughout area traversed. (APP A, B)

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PATROL AND CONTACT REPORT (CONT)

NARRATIVE PART II

4. TRACKS

(a) From x ing 9 to 5 FD Coy listening post (APP.A) well defined, grade 1 in 2.

(b) Listening post to PAKAKAPAIA, track well defined, bench cuts and step cuts in places (APP.A) LARUMA RIVER on EAST, DOIABIE on WEST, approx 800ft to 1000ft below top of ridge. Good going along this section. Particularly good ambush posn 1354 2310 (LAR)

(c) PAKAKAPAIA to MAGERIAOPAIA, track follows ridge, level going, steep slopes on both sides.

(d) PAKAKAPAIA, WEST twds DOIABIE RIVER, gradual slope down for 3,500 yds. approx. then drop of several hundred feet to river bed. (APP.B.)

(e) Only main track located at MAGERIAOPAIA leads to 673111 (TOR.) AMERICAN sig cable follows track from x ing 9 to 673111 (TOR) and beyond.

5. VEGETATION

(a) Rain forest, secondary growth, bamboo, wild bananas.

6. WATER

(a) Scarce. WP at PAKAKAPAIA (APP A) sufficient for a coy

(b) ck with clear running water, 15 mins NORTH MAGERIAOPAIA.

(c) LARUMA and DOIABIE RIVERS appear to be inaccessable from main track.

7. FOOD

(a) paw paws, sweet potatoes, marrows, manioc (white) wild ginger, PAKAKAPAIA AREA.

8. BIV. SITES

(a) Coy at PAKAKAPAIA and MAGERIAOPAIA

(b) Pl SW PAKAKAPAIA approx 3,500 yds.

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PATROL AND CONTACT REPORT (CONT.)

9. MAPS
(a) Rivers and cks accurate.
(b) Features, tracks and distances are only approx.

10. PATROLS
(a) Security: PAKAKAPAIA.
1. Out 121200L in 121315L NORTH 1100 yds.
2. Out 121200L in 121315L WEST 500 yds.
(b) Recce: PAKAKAPAIA (for water)
1. Out 121410L in 121430L unsuccessful.
2. Out 121435L in 121500L successful.
3. Out 130730L in 121215L - WEST tracks DOIABIE RIVER
4. Out 130730L in 131225L NORTH to 673111 (TOR)

11. OBSERVATIONS from PAKAKAPAIA
(a) Smoke rising through trees, EAST of LARUMA RIVER, 800 ft (approx) from river bed. 121830L to 121845L DEDUCTION: Native or Jap camp fire, not seen again.
(b) Arty: (OWN from ridge near DID)
i. Ranging - 121800L to 121830L. Rounds fell on ARTY HILL.
ii Three rounds fired 130215L on ARTY HILL.
iii Concentration on ARTY HILL 130820L 130830L.
iv HE and several smoke 131010L to 131050L.
v 30 secs rapid fire 131200L.
(c) AIR STRIKE:
i. One P38 circled area three times 130825L
ii Eight CORSAIRS bombed and strafed ARTY HILL 130830L to 130915L.
iii Two BOOMERANGS strafed ARTY HILL 130915L to 130930L.
iv MMG, LMG, 3in MOR and rifle fire directed towds ARTY HILL (?) from 130930L to 131015L.
v. Sporadic LMG fire (JAP) heard from 130930L to 131025L.
vi One BOOMERANG and one WIRRAWAY flying TACR (?) 131330L to 131400L.

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PATROL AND CONTACT REPORT (CONT)

12. EQPT CARRIED

(a) Personal: pack, mos. net, gas cape, change of clothing, toilet and mess gear, two F.O.R. per man, emergency ration, med. outfit, mos. repellant, fd dressing, toggle rope, webbing, berets worn.

(b) Arms: rifleman, 50 SAA 2, 36 grenades
Owen gunner, 6 mags 2 "
Bren " 3 mags (6 per gun) 2 "

(c) Booby Traps: TNT, FI, pull switch, mor. sig cable and grenades also used.

(d) Stores: 3 shovels 2 picks 2 machettes per sec of 6 men.
2 shovels 1 pick 1 machette pl HQ

13. SUGGESTIONS:

(a) Owing to nature of soil, picks not necessary.

(b) For two day patrol, change of clothing, apart from pullover and spare sox, not considered necessary.

(c) That F.O.R.'s be checked before moving on patrol as 58 tins of HEINZ MAY were discarded. (blown)

14. CONCLUSION:

(a) All ranks benefited from exercise in regard to patrols, scouting, night perimeter, setting of booby traps, sentries, digging weapon slits.

(b) Air strike, qty and amount of SP fire from ground, proved to be good for morale and developed keenness to "be in it".

W.H. Scott Lt.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

(1)

TRACK GOING MAP

APP. A.

Ref Map TOROKINA 1/63360 DOIABI River to MAGERIAOPAIA 5/0

Report Track in fair condition easy to follow. Sig wire all the way walking fair apart from steep grades ~~also~~ on track map. Water only at points on track map. Native food, paw paws few and there along trail no signs of natives, both villages deserted, have not been used for some time. Type of country, rain forest and undergrowth also bamboo.

Small native garden overgrown, no fruit other than green paw paws. track leading off to left

Track almost level going except for two small knolls. steps cut to first knoll. track 3ft wide track runs along top of spur. sides steep more so on right side. no water but sound of river can be heard but not seen

Top of spur. 5 Fd Coys fastening post beware booby traps, ask post if slow way through. Bamboo & rain forest. no visibility. track well defined.

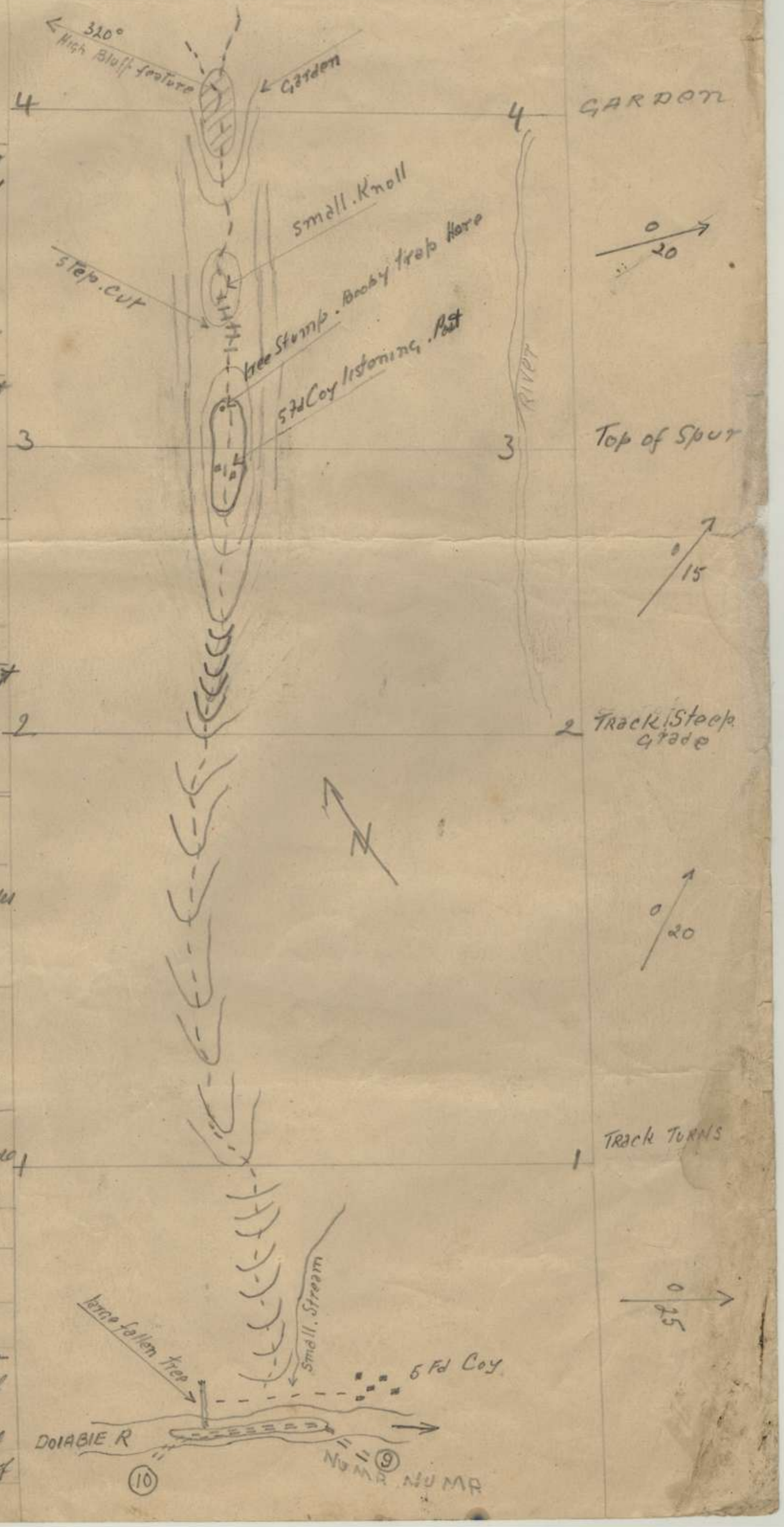
Short steep grade, steps; cut but partly washed away. Grade 1/2. steep sides

good walking and easy grade track along spur. partly steep sides sig wire along track. Rainforest & undergrowth & ging bamboo

Track turns left along side of spur. bench cut for approx 150 yds. good grade and easy walking

Very steep grade 1/2. Bamboo & rain forest and undergrowth.

Track starts 300 yds from 5 Fd Coy at large fallen tree. track very steep until top of spur is reached. steps have been cut but now partly washed away. Small stream on right of track, Doiabie River start of track



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App. A

(2)

Tree blazed track turns to left and leads off down spur very easy grade: still well defined and easy going

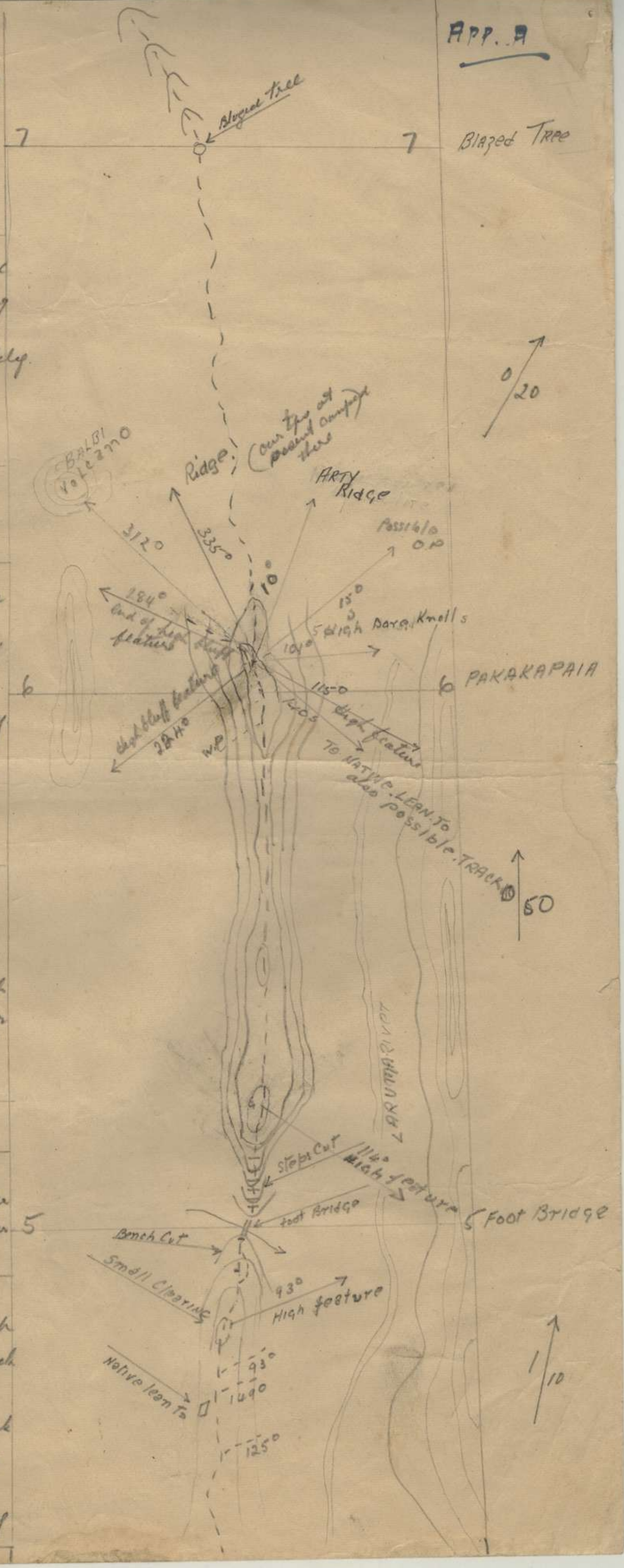
Track follows along top of ridge well defined, good walking top of ridge very narrow in places. drops away steeply on both sides. Rain forest. bamboo & undergrowth, sig wire still follows track

All native village of Pakakapaia deserted but retained one used as 5 Bde site. good camping area, track. N.P 100 yds on left of main track. Water good but not fast running Good views of close country and also main features, native food, Paw Paws. High feature on other side of river overlooks village Impossible to get to river.

good level walking, falling away steeply on both sides. Top of ridge very narrow in places and very steep on both sides. Rain forest and undergrowth. sig wire still follows tracks.

Foot bridge crosses small stream very little water. steep banks on other side, steps cut. part of bank on other side benched cut.

Good walking. steep drops on each side. Native lean to on left of track track drops down to creek. tracks branch off from main track but seem to just run off to nothing no water but river can still be heard. river over 1000ft down, may be impossible to get down to it



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3.

APP. A

Small Creek below Village steep drop to Creek

Magneatpaia deserted & hut very bad condition.

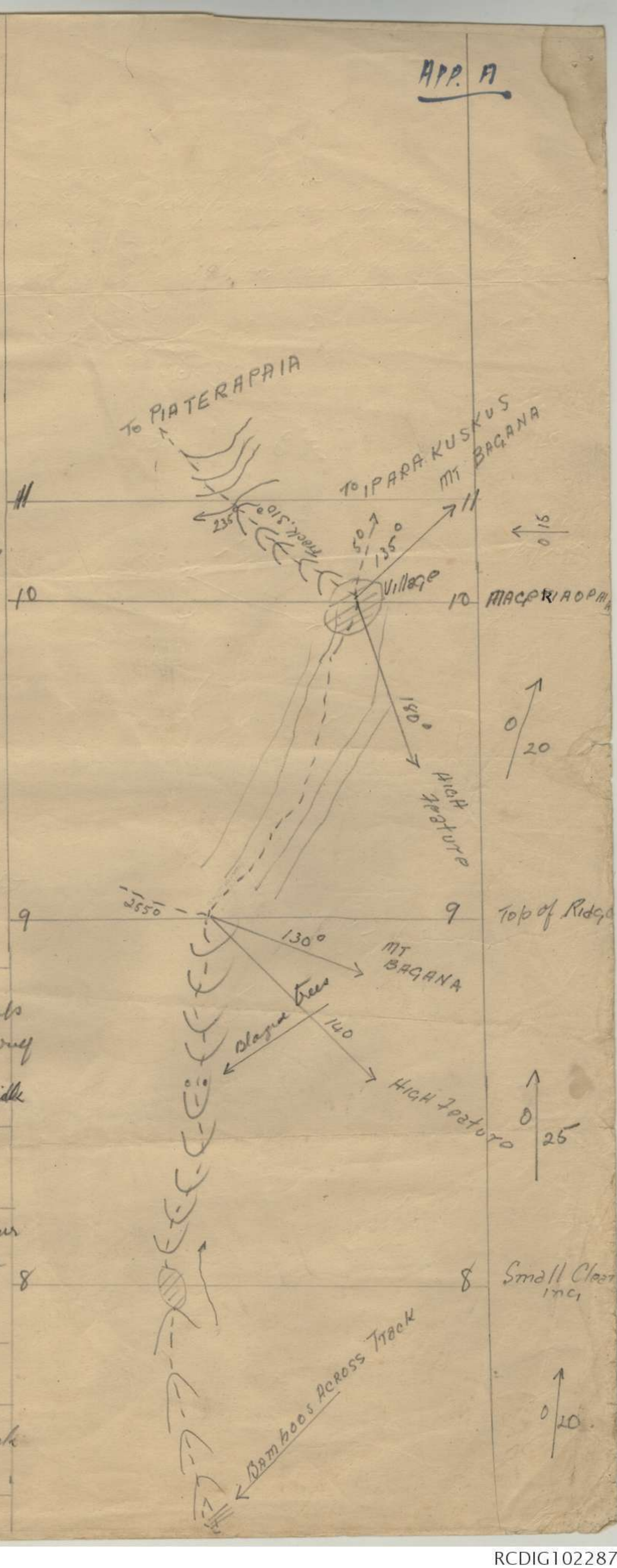
Level going along top of ridge. falls away steeply on each side.

Top of feature. visibility to south fair. track leads off main track. 255°

Very steep grade 1/2. 2 trees blazed half way up track. sig wire still following track. undergrowth and Bamboo, bamboo very thick

Small clearing at foot of spur may have native garden at one time, small stream near by. very little water

Bamboo clumps across track slight detour to left



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TRACK GOING MAP

APP. B.

REF. MAP LARUMA RIVER FORKS (CONFIDENTIAL) 1/20,000. SHEET 9.

PARAKAPAIA to VICINITY OF DOIABIE RIVER. 1/30 1/40.

REPORT: Well defined track along top of various spurs. good walking most of way. Through thick jungle with bamboo and wild ginger. Practically no observation along route. Little food. no water. Very few short straight stretches of track. Old AMERICAN Bivouacs could accomodate one platoon. water close but steep grades. Track not marked on map. 20,000. Lt Waldron Cpl. 4 Pl.

13. Dec. 44.

Knoll about 80x long by average 20x wide. Has obviously been occupied by Americans. Small clearing at Northern end. Has probably been site of native hut — evidence of vegetation. All weapon pits shallow.

Very point on Right bank across DOIABIE RIVER. Has been subjected to bombardment THIC. probably set up by FIELD REGT in vicinity

---

Four (4) weapon pits of trapdoor type. Old dust. covers on trip wires. Probable patrol night perimeter. No more than one week old.

Steep grades. but track is still on spurs. Does not cross to main track well defined throughout. along top of spurs (ridgeback). Thick jungle with bamboo and wild ginger. No observation of adjacent country.

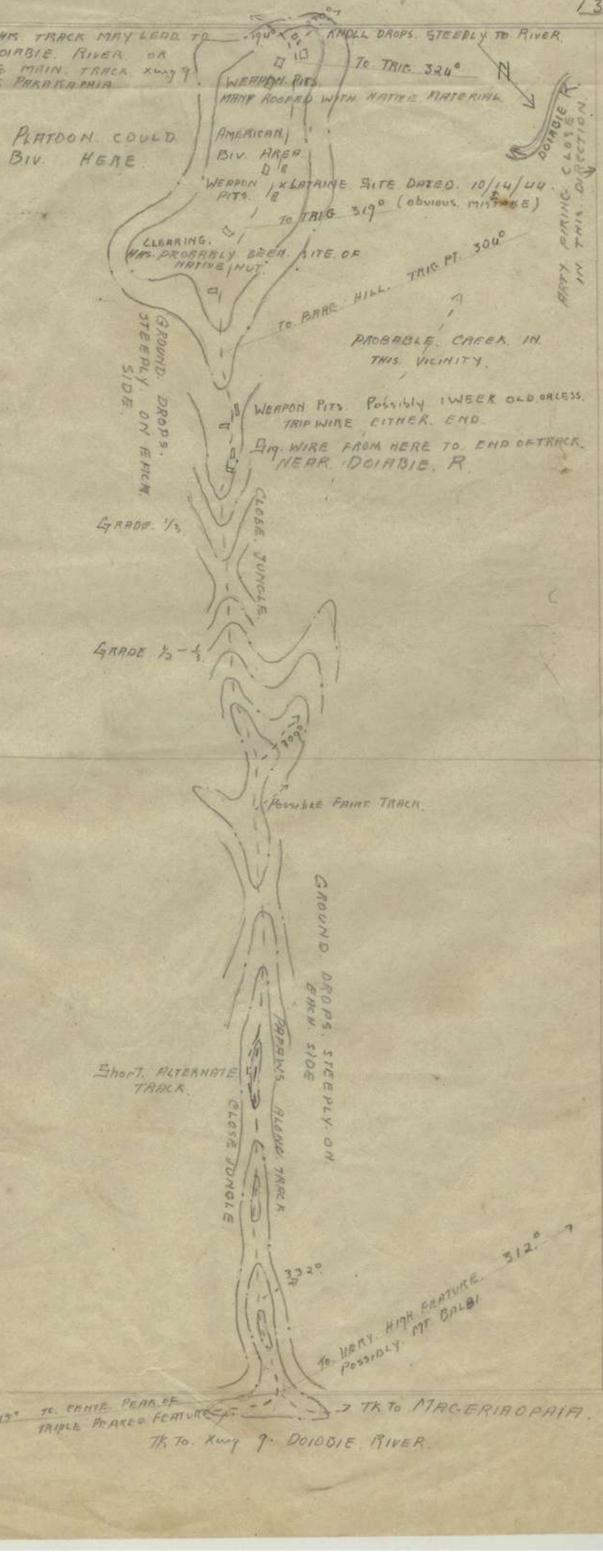
Knoll with small clearing. Possibly site of Autumn post. Track leads towards DOIABI R. Well defined. Practically no observation.

Track well defined. Easy grades. But track leads to right. probably to water. Some papaw trees along route.

Thick jungle all the way. bamboo and wild ginger. No water

Good view. North to S.E. and west to N.W. from PARAKAPAIA

Open knoll. Evidence of AMERICAN camp. Many shallow pits. Roofed with native material. Papaw. trees. sweet potatoes and white manioc.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Nar Diary

Appx. 9

Subject : ATHLETICS

Headquarters
61 Aust Inf Bn.
14 DEC 44

1. A Divisional Athletic Championship will be held on 1 JAN 45. Operations permitting, this unit will enter a team. The following personnel will be required for trg each Tuesday and Thursday at place to be notified, commencing 19 DEC 44.

MUIR	(B)	ROBERTS	(HQ)
CARROLL S	(HQ)	INGLIS	(D)
CHALLENOR	(C)	McGUIRE	(B)
GALLIGAN	(HQ)	WATTS	(B)
SPOTTISWOOD	(D)	STRONG	(HQ)
DOMBRAIN	(HQ)	RAYNER	(HQ)
NILAND	(C)	HOLMES	(D)
HARRIS	(HQ)	BROSNAN	(HQ)
NAPPER	(HQ)	LATHBURY	(C)
RUDDER	(HQ)	FOX	(HQ)
HAASE	(BHQ)	McGRATH	(D)

2. Personnel with and attached to C Coy will train as they become available. Pnrs will construct high jump standards by 17 DEC 44. Two pnrs will be selected to enter for cross-cut saw competition (max length of saw - 6 ft). Pte Gregory (HQ) will be representative in the Underhand Woodchop. WOI Baldwin will arrange for tug o war team of 8 personnel.

Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

War Diary

Appx. 10

BnHQ
61 Aust Inf Bn
15 Dec 44

Subject :- TRAINING

Memo to:
HQ, A, B & D Coys

GENERAL:

1. Individual trg will be continued. Trg will include Bren LMG, Rifle, OSMG, and a recapitulation of S.T.* Vol 1 Pam 13 with particular reference to the use of HE 36 Grenades as booby traps.

2. Sand Table exercises held by Coy Offrs will be repeated by Pl Comds to their pls the following day. The usual CAB, Int and Ed Lectures will also be given.

3. Model weapon pits will be completed as soon as possible and some experiments will be carried out with bamboo spike jungle traps (Panjis). These will be available for inspection.

4. A detailed trg syllabus will be forwarded to this HQ by 171800L.

RANGE PRACTICES:

5. Week ending Sat 23 Dec range allotments are as follows:

(a)
Mon 18 Dec	:	BnHQ
Tues 19 Dec	:	D Coy
Wed 20 Dec	:	BnHQ
Thurs 21 Dec Fri 22 Dec	:	HQ Coy
Sat 23 Dec	:	B Coy

(b) 2 Pl will carry out MMG practice Sat 23 Dec at 30[x] range, B coy area.

(c) 3 Pl will carry out Mortar Shoot on range to be selected.

(d) A Coy will carry out range practice Sat 16 Dec.

6. Range Practices will be as follows :

(a) Rifle : Personnel who have failed to qualify on the 30[x] Classification Range will repeat practice held week ending 9 Dec.

(b) OSMG : All personnel will fire as per Appx 'A'.
(c) Bren LMG : Nos 1 & 2 only will fire as per Appx 'A'.

PATROLLING:

7. Patrol schedule is attached as Appx 'B'.

.....Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

.....

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

APPX "A"

BREN LMG:

1. (a) P ractices as laid down in SAT Vol 1 Pam 14, Pages 14, 43 & 44 less
Serial 0 Page 14
Serials 1 & 3 Page 43.

(b) Bren LMG will be fired only on the classification range.

OSMG:

2. (a) Practices as laid down in SAT Vol 1 Pam 14 Pages 37, 38 & 39.

(b) Snap Shooting range will be available for practices 2, 3 & 4.

NOTE:-

3. (a) A detailed report will be submitted to this HQ by 1800 hrs on the day following the range practice.

(b) Coy Comds will ensure that Pl Comds acting as Range Offrs are thoroughly conversant with the details of each practice.

oooooOooooo

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Received by INT Sec
181400L

A very excellent report
Send in full to Bde except
for parts marked "Delete"
WLD.

SECRET

PATROL REPORT

Appx. 11

1/ REF MAPS : DOYABIE RIV, LARUMA RIV FORKS 1/20000

2/ DATE : Aug 1944

3/ PATROL FOUND BY : 17 Pl "D" Coy

4/ PATROL STRENGTH : 1 Offr 24 OR ~~Plus~~ 15B att

5/ PATROL COMD : Lt TOMLINSON C.B.

6/ NATURE OF PATROL : Protective

7/ TIME OUT : 160530 L

8/ TIME IN : 171845 L

9/ ROUTE OUT : Move by MT to XING 9 13412308 thence there along NE track to PAKAKAPAIA, thence to MAGERIKOPAIA 13712331

10/ ROUTE IN : MAGERIKOPAIA, PAKAKAPAIA XING 9, thence by MT back to "D" Coy bivi area.

11/ OBJECT OF PATROL

(a) To patrol from XING 9 to MAGERIKOPAIA in strength
(b) Any signs of enemy
(c) Take prisoner any enemy stragglers
(d) Patrol tracks leading out of MAGERIKOPAIA
(e) Send back any natives found, for questioning

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12 SPECIAL INSTRS

(i) No track going map required from XING 9 to MAGERIKOPAIA

(ii) On return patrol cond to report personally to B.O.

13 NARRATIVE - PART I.

(a) Patrol moved tactically from XING 9 to MAGERIKOPAIA

(b) No signs of enemy

(c) No enemy stragglers

(d) Track going maps att as App "D" & "E".

(e) One male native, three piccaninnies sent back to 5 Fd Coy for action thereon by 5th Fd Coy to ANGAU.

14 NARRATIVE - PART II.

(i) DESCRIPTION OF TRACK

(a) From XING 9 to MAGERIKOPAIA, track is well defined.

(b) Two American H/T cables (double strand twisted) are laid along the track throughout its length.

(c) Evidently is old American L of C, as old American def posns, bivs and old ration tins were observed at various pts.

(d) Soil is generally volcanic. Steps have been made & revetted up some of the ascents, but these are in a state of disrepair owing to hy rains.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

(i) DESCRIPTION OF TRACK (contd)

going is generally easy except for:-
(a) first climb to Ck 5½ boy listening post 1351230, average grade 3/2
(b) Descent into re-entrant 1363232, grade 1/1
(c) Climb from re-entrant 1363232 (1/1)
(d) Desent into re-entrant appro 1370232, grade 3/2

several pads branched off from main tracks. These were NOT recce.

(ii) TIME SCHEDULE

160720 L	Left XING 9
160820 L	Arrived 5½ boy listening post
161020 L	PAKAKAPAIA
161150 L	Left ✓
161400 L	Arrived MAGERIKOPAIA village recce listening posts est. Dug in.
161600 L	Digging booby traps, camfly completed
161730 L	shelters constr (off ground), med finished stand to commenced
161925 L	stand down sentries
170530 L	stand to security patrols (each of 2 Pls) sent along three tracks leading out of def posn. (see Appx "A")
170630 L	stand down breakfast
170730 L	Two recce patrols out to recce tracks (Appx D & E).
171000 L	Patrols in, booby traps in, left area on return journey.
171140 L	Arrived PAKAKAPAIA, which
171300 L	Left ✓

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

171510L Arrived 5 Fd Coy listening post
171530L Left " " "
171620L Arrived XING 9 weapons unloaded, grenades unpinned, all weapons cleaned. Patrol washed & changed to clean clothes
171710L Left XING 9 for Bn bis area.

(iii) NATIVES

One male native and three male piccaninnies encountered at 161000L at approx 136123.17.

Oldest had American machete, haversack in which was a pair of American trousers. Dirty calico lap lap.

Oldest piccaninny had old towelling as lap lap.

On questioning natives did not appear to savvy Pidgin. The words "ANGAU, gubmint or Kiap" brought no response.

Natives were sent back to 5 Fd Coy escorted by a rfm, with a message to OC Fd Coy to contact Bn for fwd action.

OC Fd Coy stated he could not contact Bn, but rang ANGAU who sent police boy to XING 9 and collected natives. Patrol cond visited ANGAU on return for further info but D.O. Maj Reed was absent. (Ref as Appx "F" of ANGAU report)

(iv) VEGETATION.

Rain forest throughout with large clumps of bamboo all along

(iv) VEGETATION (contd)

Wild ginger, in profusion along track.

(v) WATER.

No water-courses were crossed. Supply at PAKAKAPAIA & MAGERIKOPAIA from small streams. In both places track leads down WEST of main track (approx 100yds). Water was carried in water bottles and lengths of bamboo (native fashion) from water points.

Alternative source of water is from bamboos themselves. Method - cut select one of lower notches. but hole near top for air inlet then cut notch at bottom. Each notch yields approx one half pint of water.

(vi) FOOD.

(a) Wild ginger grows all along track.
(b) On either side PAKAKAPAIA paw-paws
(c) At PAKAKAPAIA, sweet potatoes, yams.

(vii) AMBUSH POSNS.

(a) Two obviously good ones in re-entrants 1363232 1370232.
(b) Track lends itself to ambush posns and allows plenty of scope for variety. Bamboos on the slopes would make movement off track difficult.

(viii) BIV AREAS

PAKAKAPAIA and MAGERIKAPAIA suitable for one coy each, as water supply is assured.

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(IX) DEF POSNS.

PAKAKAPAIA & and MAGERIKOPAIA each suitable for one coy for night Def posn adopted by patrol 16/17 Dec Appx "A".

(X) PATROLS

Two recce patrols sent out from MAGERIKOPAIA a.m. 17 Dec 44. Reports as Appx "D & E"

(XI) OBSERVATIONS

See Appx "C"

(XII) BEARINGS TAKEN.

From PAKAKAPAIA. bearings magnetic.

Highest pt BLUE RIDGE	194½°
Left (eastern) tip BLUE RIDGE	159°
four features occupied by 9 Bn, bearings taken, but names of features NOT known	10°
	4°
	2°
	355°

(XIII) ACCURACY OF MAP.

Map is NOT considered accurate, especially as contours give the wrong picture of the ground

(XIV) COMD.

Two American H/T cables which follow track, appear to be in good condition. These could be used as alternate L of C by fwd units, if it

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

(XIV) Comd (cont'd)

could be followed to its northern end.

Lecce patrol followed it from MAGERIKOPAIA to DOYABIE R.IV. which suggests that it may go as far as PIATERIPAIA.

At present both lines are cut at 5 Fd Coy listening post.

(XV) PATROL ADMN.

(1) Rations - for five meals
(2) Medical - 1 SB accompanied patrol
(3) Weapons - All pl weapons less 2" Mtr.
(4) Ammn - Normal, plus 2 H.E. 36 grenades per man
(5) Tools - 4 entrenching shovels per Lee
2 " " Pl H.Q.
(6) Dress - Jungle greens, beret
Full webbing less haversack

On the Man

outfit, mosquito repellant, 1/4 dressing, 1st aid and AB 83's, clasp knife, identity discs, (pay books left at Coy H.Q).

In the Pack

1 pair trousers
1 shirt
1 pair sox
Toilet gear
Half shelter
Mosquito net
Gas cape
Jersey pullover
Rations

Delete

In addition each man was issued with 10 yds Mortar assault wire for booby traps

incl

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

(XVI) WEATHER

Generally fine. Night 16/17 Dec overcast. One hour's light rain only.

(XVII) CONCLUSION

(a) The mvmt by the patrol along the track was very good and very silent.

(b) On two occasions fwd scouts OSMGs fired unintentionally. This was caused by safety catch being off and one pulling cocking handle back far enough to fire one round. This point is considered worth noting for future patrols

(c) Speed with which patrol set up perimeter def was most gratifying.

(d) Throughout the patrol, all ranks showed keenness and it is felt that the pl benefited by the patrol

Lt Cunningham Lt
17 Pl Coy
18 Dec 44

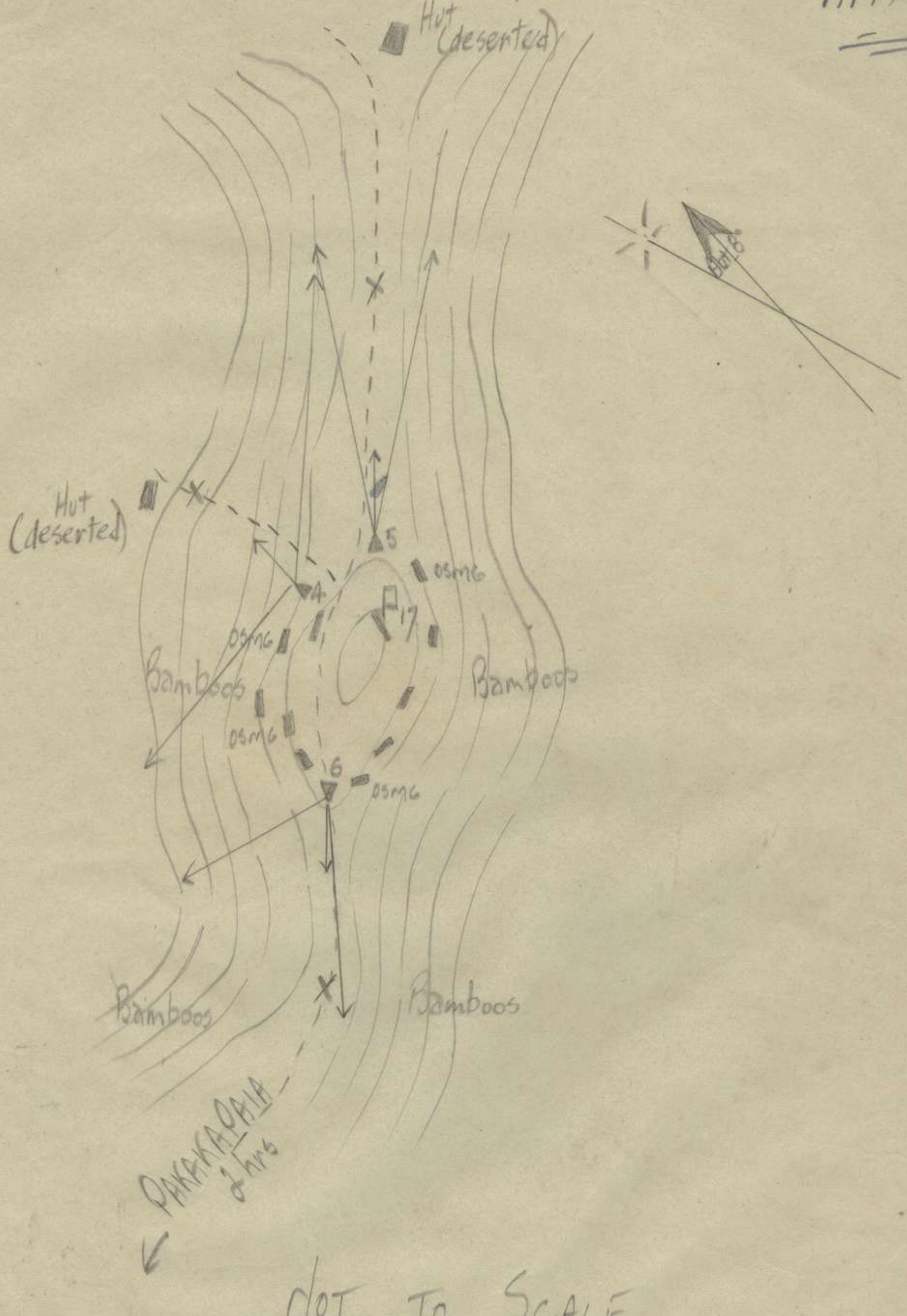
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

EYE SKETCH - 17 Pl DEF POSN NIGHT 16/17 DEC 44

REF MAP : DOYABIE RIV 1/20,000

REF : MAGERIKOPAIA 1371231

APPX 'A'



NOT TO SCALE

"X" booby trap astride track dusk stand to till dawn stand down

K Hamilton Lt
17 Dec 44

8

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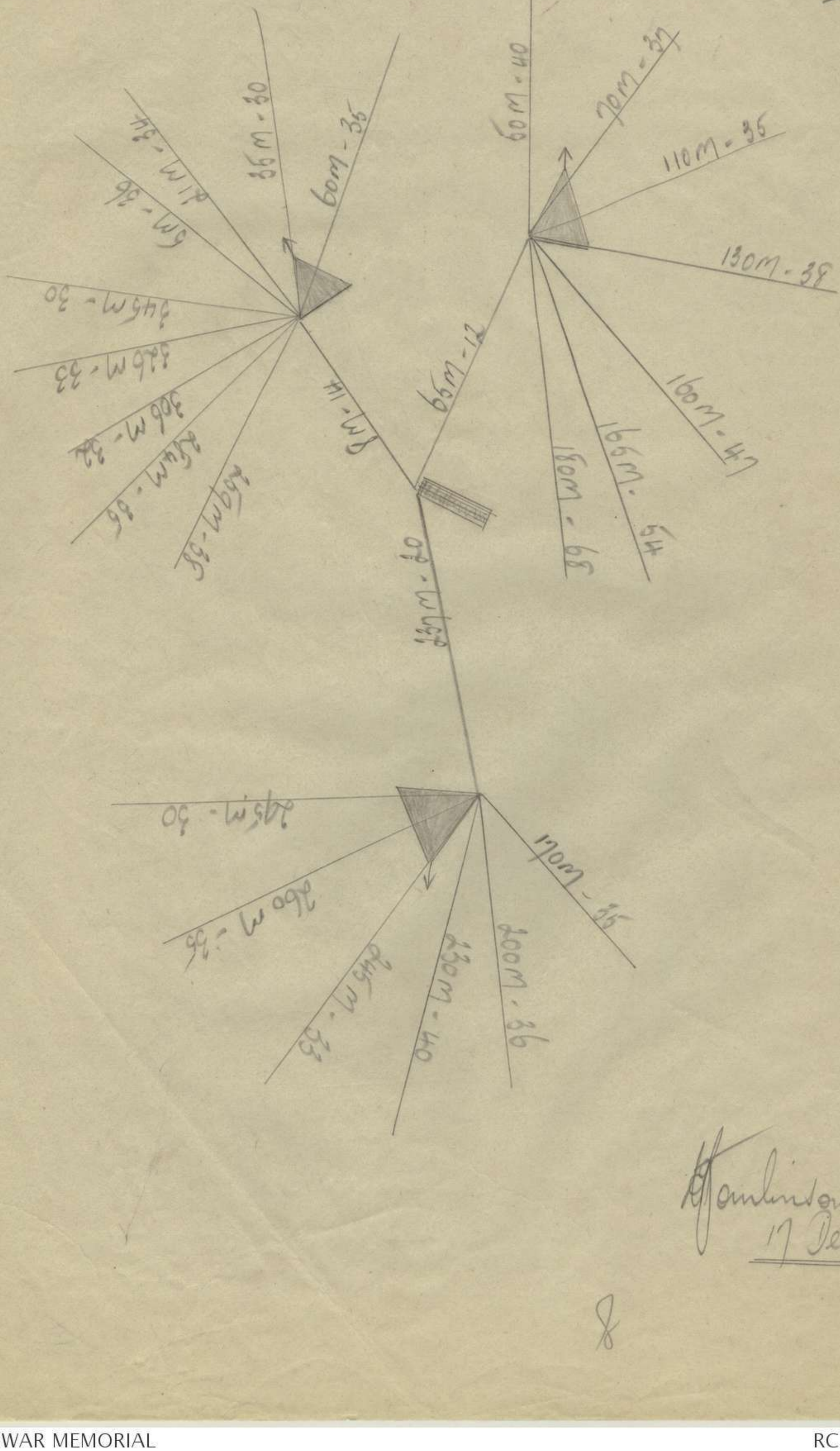
BOOBY TRAP PLAN 17 PL DEF POSN

REF MAP : DOYABIE RIV 1/20000

REF : PL HQ PIT - KNOLL 13712331

APPX 'B'



R T Lowndes Lt
17 Dec 44

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

OBSERVATION LOG

REF MAP : DOYABIE RIV 1/20000

Period 16-17 Dec 44

SERIAL No	TIME	OBSERVATION	DEDUCTION	ACTION TAKEN
		FROM PAKAKAPAIA		
1	161020L-161120L	Three our a/c (Boomerangs) flying low over area fwd 9 Bn posns.	Tac R.	
2	161130L	Two rds gunfire, estimated one tp 25 par.	Possible opportunity target	
		FROM MAGERIKOPAIA		
3	161700L-161800L	Intermittent arty fire (ours). heard from NW.	Possible harassing fire by our arty	
4	Night 6/7 Dec	Sentries reported possible arty fire from same direction at various times	Possible arty. But thunder prevented accurate determination.	
		WHILE MOVING ALONG TRACK MAGERIKOPAIA - PAKAKAPAIA		
5	171110L-171130L	Mortar firing heard from 9 Bn area Estimated rate 1 rpm	Possible harassing fire.	

Hamlinson Lt
17 Dec 44

APPX 'C'

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

PATROL. REPORT. SECRET

APPX "D"

1/ Ref. MAP. DOYABIE RIVER. 2/ SCALE. 1·20000

3/ DATE. Aug 1944

4/ PATROL found by 17PL. D. Coy.

5/ PATROL COMD. L/Cpl Moody.

6/ PATROL STRENGTH. 1 NCO. 2 ORS.

7/ NATURE of PATROL. RECCE.

8/ TIME OUT 170730 L. TIME IN 171000 L.

9/ ROUTE OUT.

MAGERIKOPAIA — ALONG DOYABIE R.IV. TRACK

10/ ROUTE IN DOYABIE RIV. TRACK — MAGERIKOPAIA

11/ Object of PATROL.

(A) Recce track from MAGERIKOPAIA towards DOYABIE RIVER.

(B) Recce first well defined track, branching off.

(C) Any signs of enemy

(D) Detain and bring back any natives contacted

12/ SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

(A) Make ~~XXX~~ TRACK GOING MAP of patrol

13. NARRATIVE PART I

(A) See NARRATIVE PART II

(B) See NARRATIVE PART II

(C) NO

(D) NO.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION.

(A) See APPENDIX A (ATTACHED)

14 NARRATIVE PART II

(A) Track from MAGERIKOPAIA run down a spur to a small stream (6" ~~deep~~ Wide 1½" deep) with rock bed. Water very clear and good drinking. The track then rose up along a spur In one place the grade was very steep gradient 1 in 2. Many rough shelters were found on the top of this hill. Many American field ration cases were observed laying on the ground The whole area was scatted with used American ration tins. This area looked as if a company of men had been [redacted] there but no weapon pits were observed. Two American telephone lines ran alongside track to this point where they branched towards DOYABIE RIV. at a track Junction.

(B). Track branched of the main track and ran in an easterly direction This track runs along a ridge and had not been used for some considerable time as vines and bamboo were covering the track At one point a clear view of the volcano- Mt BALBI was observed in a Nth West direction. The track for most of the way was very narrow.

(C) No sign of enemy were observed.

(D) No natives were observed.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

CONCLUSION

Track followed by this patrol is considered to be the track running to the LARUMA RIVER as it followed the ridge on an easterly direction. Running water was heard on the left of this ridge but was some distance away. The sound of it was fairly loud. It is thought the track continues on to the river from the point where the patrol stopped

On the return trip artillery fire was heard at 0920L on the direction of ARTY RIDGE

Aircraft was heard flying in the direction of enemy position at 0927L

Both of the above was heard from the AMERICAN BIVOUAC

DRESS

JUNGLE GREENS
BERET
Web Belt
Web GAITERS
Field DRESS

INDIVIDUAL AID OUTFIT
WATER BOTTLE
~~EMERG~~ EMERGENCY
EMERGENCY RATION
MOSQUITO LOTION

WEAPONS

2 RIFLEMAN
1 OS MG
1 GRENADE

50 RDS per MAN
2 MAGS per MAN
per Man

Delete

Lt/Cpl Moody
2i/c 5 Sec
17 Platoon

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

TRACK GOING MAP

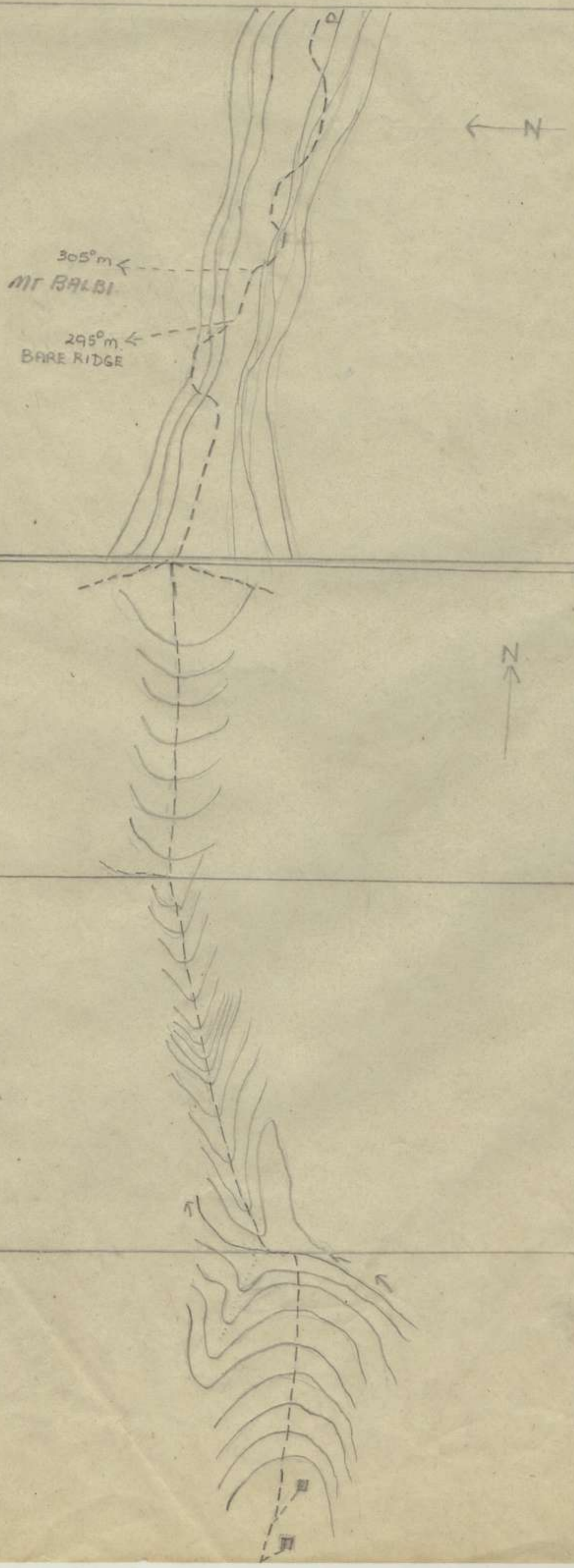
Ref MAP DOYABIE. RIV. SCALE 1-20000 MAGERIKOPAIA 13712331 – BLAZED TREE ↑58 ↓39

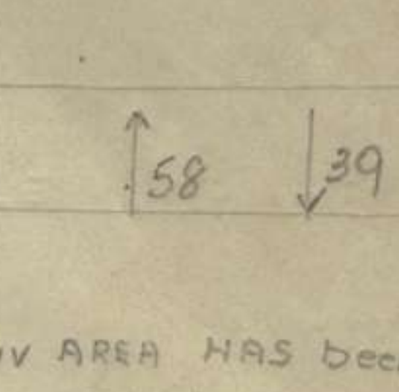
REPORT

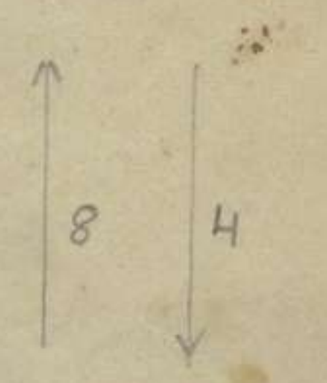
TRACK TO SECOND TRACK JUNCTION WHERE AN AMERICAN BIV AREA HAS been IS WELL DEFINED AND HAS been USED AS THE Supply line TWO AMERICAN Telephone WIRES follow TRACK TO THIS JUNCTION. MANY AMERICAN FIELD RATION CASES WERE observed ON the GROUND. TRACK. FROM BIV AREA HAS NOT been USED FOR SOME TIME AS VINES WERE ACROSS THE TRACK MAKING THE going VERY SLOW.

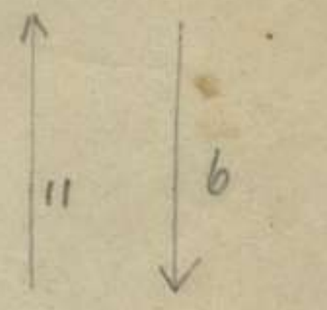
L/Cpl Moody W.
2/1c 5 Sec

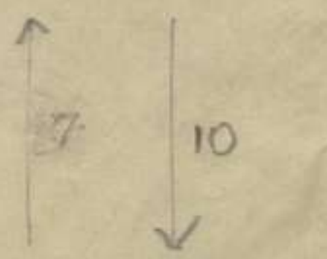
BLAZED TREE LEFT OF TRACK.	4	4	BLAZED TREE
NUMEROUS BAMBOO GROWING EACH SIDE of TRACK.			
BAMBOO AND VINES GROWING ACROSS TRACK. MADE GOING SLOW.			
TRACK RUNS ON SIDE of RIDGE VERY NARROW.			
UNDERGROWTH THICK MANY TALL TREES.			
TRACK JUNCTION. OLD AMERICAN BIV AREA COVERING ALL TRACKS.	3	3	TRACK JUNCTION
FALLEN BAMBOOS. ACROSS TRACK.			
TRACK JUNCTION	2	2	TRACK JUNCTION
TRACK WELL DEFINED.			
TRACK VERY STEEP. GRADIENT 1in2			
SMALL STREAM GOOD Supply DRINKING WATER	1	1	SMALL STREAM
TRACK DOWN HILL. FAIRLY STEEP DECENT.			
MAGERIKOPAIA. 2 HUTS. VILLAGE DESERTED.			MAGERIKOPAIA











AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

APPX "E"

PATROL REPORT.

1 REF MAP. DOYABIE RIV. 1:20000. SCALE 1:20000.

2 DATE. 17th

3 PATROL. Found By 17 Pl. D. Coy

4 PATROL. STRENGTH 1 NCO. 2 ORS.

5 PATROL Commd. RJ Culkin Sgt.

6 NATURE OF PATROL. RECCE

7 TIME OUT. 170730L

8 TIME IN. 171000L

9 ROUTE OUT. MAGERIKOPAIA. To DOYABIE RIVER.

10 ROUTE IN DOYABIE. RIV. To MAGERIKOPAIA.

11 OBJECT. OF PATROL.

A Are there any signs of recent enemy occupation?

B Find out how far AMERICAN SIG. WIRE goes

C Report condition of track.

D Make track going Map

2 NARRATIVE PART I.

A/ NO.

B/ SIG wire extends to DOYABIE RIV and probably beyond.

C/ Track generally in bad state of repair, long since been used. Logs and undergrowth covering in places.

D/ Track going map APPA.

3 NARRATIVE PART II

A/

No signs at all of ~~recent~~ occupation by enemy troops at any time along track. No enemy equipment seen on track.
American occupation has been recent and I consider something in the vicinity of a company to have been ~~in~~ there.
Plenty of rubbish left behind in bivi areas. No signs of any defences at all

B/ Sig wire follows track all the way.
Double wire all the way.
Lines ~~lead~~ on to DOYABIE RIVER and probably beyond. Line would not permit patrol to recce to the river, to see where line went to.

C/ According to growth and timber along the whole of track. It appears that the route has not been travelled for some time. Quite some work would have to be done to track to make it jeepable.
Heavy rain forest on either side of track all the way.

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16 Conclusion.

A/ Finding no evedence of enemy occupation and view provided by O.P. Area would make good bivouac area for troops of a Coy strength. While holding comand veiw from O.P.

B. SIG wire evidently leads to a forward US position. As lines are in good condition, if not being in use they could be used in any emergency.

C/ Track condition shows clearly that it has not been used by enemy or our own troops for a long time.
With an amount of work by our troops it could be made quite a good track.
If it was to be made jeepable, a lot of work by Engineers would be necessary

16 Equipment Carried.

Delete

Jungle Greens.
Berets.
Web belt.
Field dressing
Individual first aid outfit
Emergency rations
Water bottles.

Rifles
Bandolier
OS MIG.
2 grenades. per man

H S Culhein Lt

8.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

FURTHER INFM.

Jnl

APPX 'F'

181150h ANGAU contacted patrol comd. Explained that native way known to ANGAU. When native's child took sick and was sent to hospital he took himself and the remaining pigaminnies and went "bush" no other infm gained from native.

Hamilton Lt

J

J

TRACK GOING MAP.

REF MAP: DOYABIE RIVER. 1-20000. MAGERIKOPAIA: 13712331 ↑36 ↓35.

REPORT. Track generally in bad state, has not been travelled over for some time as undergrowth is overgrowing in most places. Yalbon timber over most parts. Would not be jungfolka. U.S. troops have bivouaced some time ago. No signs of defenses. At end of Recce, OP site very good forward field of vision can be obtained. But are very small. DOYABIE River could be clearly heard No signs of enemy occupation at all. Sig wire follows track and leads on to DOYABIE RN

R J Faulkner Sgt 18 1100 L.

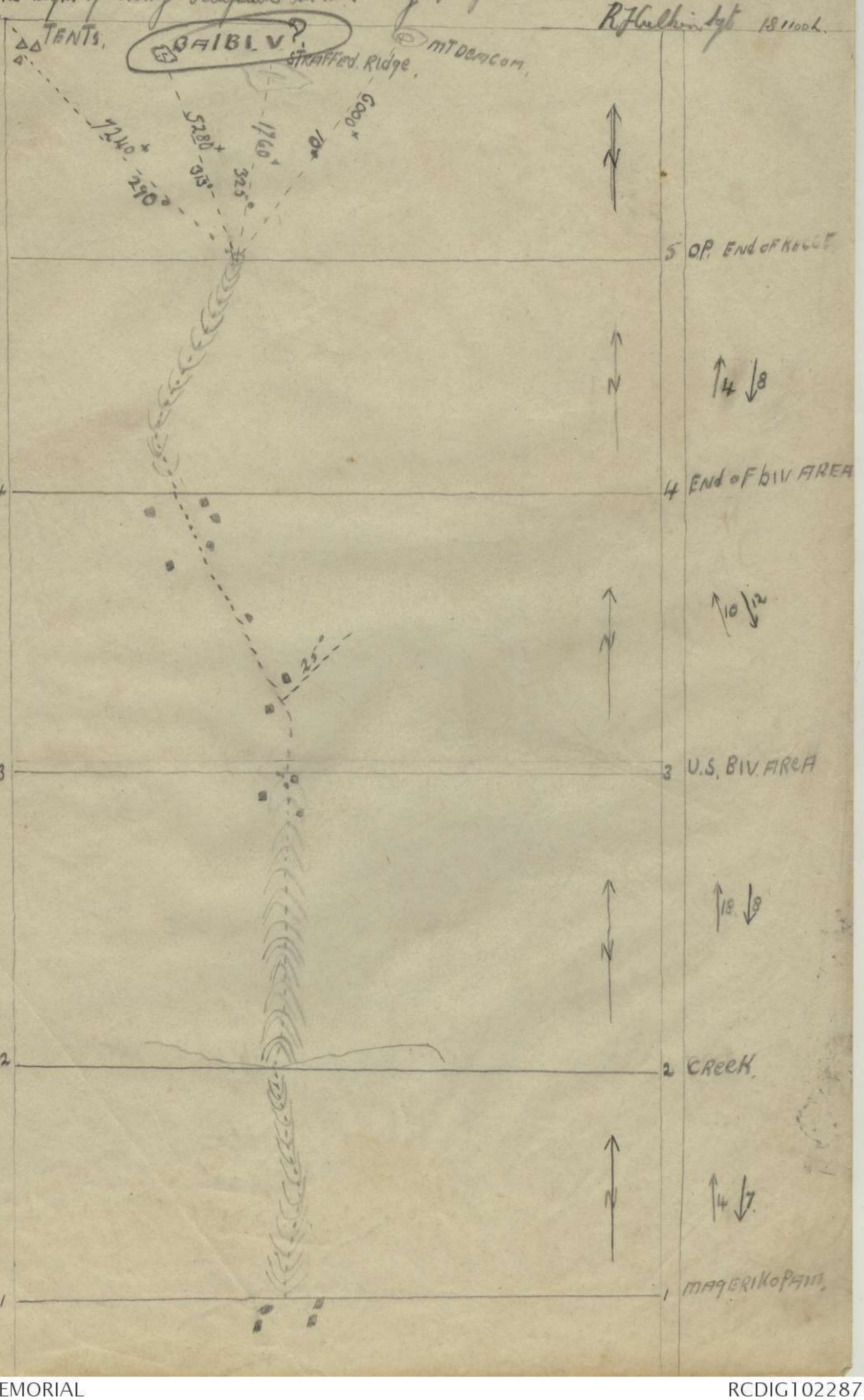
AT 290° could MAKE out thee White objects. PRESUMED they were TENTS. TRACK SLIPPERY along here. Some steps have been made. OP gives Excellent Forward view. But ARC of vision VERY Limited. HERE SIG WIRE GOES on to DOYABIE RIV.

TRACK good along here Slight downward incline. U.S. Shelters Along here. All in bad REPAIR. Plenty of Rubbish along trail. On Right of TRACK hill drops away SHARPLY

FROM CREEK GRADE IS VERY STEEP. GRADIENT 1 in 2 Fallen Logs and growth on TRACK. Has not been used FOR Some time.

GRADE STEEP down to CREEK nearing the creek ground very SLIPPERY. RAIN FOREST either side. CREEK Bed 12' W. STREAM not more than a TRICKle.

FOUR NATIVE Huts IN bad REPAIR.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Wardhaven
Appx. 12

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document will not be communicated, either directly or indirectly to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

'AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
ROUTINE ORDERS PART I
by
Lt-Col W. R. DEXTER DSO
COMD 61 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

Copy No. 14
Serial No. 17/44
Nos 116/122

16 December 1944

116. PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING CASUALTIES:

1. Private cables and telegrams reporting battle or other casualties are prohibited. In letters, no reference is to be made to any such casualty until after a period of one month from the date of its occurrence.

2. The prohibition and restriction imposed by para 1 hereof are not applicable to communications sent by a member relative to a casualty sustained by himself.

3. This order has been dictated by motives of consideration for the feelings of the relatives of members of the forces who, in many instances, have been caused unnecessary suffering and suspense through information contained in private correspondence from operational areas and which, in some cases has proved to be inaccurate.

117. INCOME TAX : MEMBERS WITH DEPENDANTS RESIDENT OVERSEAS:

The Income Tax Assessment Act provides for rebates of tax in respect of a taxpayer's dependants resident in Australia.

Where a member of the AMF has married while serving overseas, rebates may be claimed in respect of his wife, and of any children of the marriage even if they are residing overseas. Such persons, are, for this purpose, deemed to be domiciled in Australia.

No rebate will be allowed in respect of other dependants residing outside Australia.

118. BELTS, SAM BROWNE:

Sam Browne Belts will NOT be worn in this area.

119. UNIT CENSORSHIP:

Field Censorship reports that Unit franking officers are excising from soldier's mail matter and comments that do not constitute breaches of security.

Letters are subject to censorship for security purposes only. Exercise of censorship for other purposes gives rise to resentment among OR's and tends to lead to evasion of censorship.

Franking officers must regard as sacrosanct all information they learn from censoring soldier's letters, and must not divulge such information except in course of duty, or discuss the contents of soldier's letters among themselves. Breaches of this order will entail severe disciplinary action.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

120. CENSORSHIP OF PARCELS:

Private parcels will not be sent out of the Army area by any method including the Military Forwarding Organisation, unless they have first been censored and franked by an officer.

Private parcels include cases, baggage or other packages despatched by individuals, as distinct from official consignments from formation or unit Headquarters. Parcels despatched through postal channels will be censored and franked in the same way as ordinary mail. Those sent through MFO will be handled as follows :

Action by Sender:

(a) The Regimental number, rank and name of the sender, will be shown on the outside of the parcel, in addition to the addressee's Regt No, rank and name, if applicable. The name of the sender's unit, and the name of the unit to which the parcel is to be sent, will NOT appear on the parcel itself.

(b) A stout label will be attached to the parcel by the sender showing his Regimental number, rank and name and unit, and also the address of the individual or unit to which the parcel is consigned.

Action by Franking Officer:

(a) Check the contents of the parcel in the presence of the sender, removing and handing to the sender any article which contravenes GRO G371 of 1944, part C or First Aust Army Adm Standing Orders, chapter 14 paras 10, 11, 19 and 20.

(b) Check that the correct procedure has been observed by the sender in addressing the parcel.

(c) Frank the parcel by signing on the outside and pass it to the Unit Censor.

Action by Unit Censor:

(a) Ensure that the franking officer's signature is legible before impressing the unit censor stamp on the parcel.

(b) Arrange for the parcel to be forwarded through unit channels to the MFO.

Private parcels despatched through the MFO, as well as by post, are liable to censorship check by Base Censor. Disciplinary action will be taken if breaches are discovered.

121. RE-SALE OF CANTEEN GOODS : PROHIBITION OF:

The resale (except by messes and unit canteens) of any article or commodity of any nature originally purchased from Aust Army Canteen Services is prohibited.

122. EDUCATION SERVICE:

Sydney Technical College has suspended enrolments for courses from 15 Dec till 15 Jan 45 in order to provide an opportunity for staff adjustments and a review of the stock and equipment position. There will also be a reduced service in tutorial assistance during this period.

No applications for enrolment and to avoid the inconvenience to all concerned of handling remittances, arrangements have now been made for the deposits payable on correspondence courses to be debited in the applicants pay book.

Now Application and Enrolment Forms have been introduced, and until these new forms become available, no further applications for any courses can be handled.

It was recently announced that in certain cases men who had joined the Army before reaching the age of 21 yrs and who had served for three years or more could apply for discharge to study at a University in certain courses. Details have not yet been received.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

but anyone interested should write to :-

The Secretary,
University Commissions,
Box 4061 GPO,
Sydney.

giving full particulars of his case and requesting further details.

Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION: LIST 'A'

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Inf. Lee

Appx. 13

Subject :- **EQUIPMENT**

HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
16 Dec 44

To:
ALL COYS

The following has been suggested as a guide for the packing of Pack & Haversack.

In Pack:
Blanket
1 set greens
1 pr boots
1 pr socks (in boots)
1 ground sheet
1 bed sail
1 pullover

In Roll:
1 pup tent
1 mosquito net

On Pack:
1 gas cape (can be put in pack)
1 steel helmet
1 toggle rope (inside helmet)

Weight of above :- 30 lbs.

In Haversack:
Mess Gear, Dixie & Eating Irons
Emergency Rations
1 pr socks
1 towel
Toilet Gear
1 bottle mosquito lotion
1 tin foot powder
2 tins canned heat
Water Sterilising Outfit

Basic Pouches:
1 F.O.R. (excl tin if necessary)
Individual First Aid Outfit
Ammunition
Map.

Right Hip Pocket:
First Field Dressing.

A spare pr of boot laces - one used to tie top flaps of pack the other used to secure roll firmly.

oooooOooooo

Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

15

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Confidential BATTLE ROOM

61 AUST INF BN PATROL SCHEDULE FROM 18 DEC to 24 DEC 44
Ref Map TOROKINA R. 1 : 20000

Serial	Coy sup Patrol	Type	Time Out	Time In	Strength	Route Out	Route In	Task	Special Instrs.
67	B	Protective	180830L	181130L	1 NCO 4 OR's	Through B Coy	Through D Coy	1.Are there any indication of enemy having been in the area during the last 24 hours. 2.Take prisoner any Jap straggler who may come in to surrender.	1.Patrol comd to report to IO at 0800 hrs for briefing.
68 (Appx. 15)	B	Standing	180700L	181700L	1 NCO 11 OR's (Cpl Kennedy)	NORTH to BLUE RIDGE	SOUTH-WEST to D coy via LAKE KATHLEEN	1.To observe for any enemy movt towards the perimeter. 2.Take prisoner any Jap stragglers who may come in to surrender. 3.Make a report on number & type of ships in bay.	1.Leave outpost when relieved by next patrol. 2.Comm by sig Pl to BnHQ. 3.Our patrols must NOT operate EAST of GRID 133 4.Tree scarf on out track. 5.Tree scarf on IN track 6.If grenades are carried they will NOT BE primed. Dets will be carried in sealed tin which will NOT be opened except in emergency. 7.Patrol comdr to report to IO for briefing between 1400-1600 hrs previous dy.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Serial	Coy sup Patrol	Type	Time Out	Time In	
69	B	Protective	190830L	191130L	As for serial 67
70	B	Standing	190700L	201700L	As for serial 68
71	B	Protective	200830L	201130L	As for serial 67
72	B	Standing	200700L	211700L	As for serial 68
73	D	Protective	210830L	211130L	As for serial 67
74	D	Standing	210700L	221700L	As for serial 68
75	D	Protective	220830L	221130L	As for serial 67
76	D	Standing	220700L	231700L	As for serial 68
77	D	Protective	230830L	231130L	As for serial 67
78	D	Standing	230700L	241700L	As for serial 68
79	B	Protective	240830L	241130L	As for serial 67
80	B	Standing	240700L	251700L	As for serial 68

Sd Lemmon Sgt for
..... Lt
IO 61 Aust Inf Bn.
A.D.D.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

War Diary

SECRET

Appx 16

61 AUST INF BN OP INSTR NO 2

HQ 61 AUST INF BN
21 DEC 44

1. GENERAL. As from 26 DEC 44, 61 Aust Inf Bn will detach one platoon under comd 25 Aust Inf Bn.

2. TASK. Security duties as ordered by CO, 25 Aust Inf Bn.

3. TPN. 12 Pl B Coy under comd Lt A.A. WATTS, one cook, and one stretcher bearer and one signaller.
Total : 1 Offr 28 ORs.

4. ADM.

a. Tpt Tpt will report B Coy at 260805L.

b. Dress. Marching Order. Gear packed as per Battalion instr of 16 Dec 44.

c. Rations. The unconsumed portion of SWPA rations for 28 Dec 44, in addition to one FOR and emergency rations, will be taken.

d. Catering. B Coy will sup cooking utensils for pl.

e. Shelter. Two tent flys.

f. Tools. Pl W.E.T.

g. Pers Gear. Pers gear not moving with platoon, will be placed in separate sandbags, clearly labelled and stored under Coy arrangements.

h. Weapons. Pl W.E.T.

i. Amn. First line amn for all weapons.

j. Medical. RMO will arrange medical kit for stretcher bearer with pl.

k. Canteen goods will be sent forward from 61 Bn "B" Ech under coy arrangements with TO.

l. Intercomm. Sig attached to 12 Pl will take one phone DV.

Ack.

Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn.

Distribution:
1. B Coy
2. HQ Coy
3. RMO
4. QM
5. TO
6. File.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

CONFIDENTIAL Battle Room 6th AUST INF BN PATROL SCHEDULE from 25 DEC to 31 DEC 44

Ref Map : TOROKINA R 1:20000

No	Coy sup Patrol	Time Out	Time In	Type	Strength	Route Out	Route In	Task	Special Instrs.
81	B	250830L	251130L	Protect.	1 NCO 4 ORs	Through B COY	Through D COY	L. Are there any indications of ~~fxxxbxxxffxg.~~ enemy having been in the area during the last 24 hours. 2. Take prisoner any Jap stragglers who may come in to surrender.	1. Patrol comd to report IO at 0800 briefing.
82	D	250700L	261700L	Standing	1 NCO 11 ORs	North to BLUE RIDGE	SW to D Coy via LAKE KATHLEEN.	L. To observe for any enemy movt towards the perimeter. 2. Take prisoner any Jap stragglers who may come in to surrender.	1. Leave outpost when relieved by next patrol. 2. Comn by Sig PB to BnHQ 3. Our patrols must NOT operate EAST of GRID 135. 4. Tree scarf on OUT Track === 5 " " " IN " ==== 6/ If grenades are carried they will NOT be primed. Dets will be carried in sealed tin which will NOT be opened except in emergency. 7. Patrol Comd to report to IO for briefing between 1400 - 1600 hrs previous day.
83.	D	260830L	261130L	Protect.	AS FOR SERIAL 81				
84	D	260700L	271700L	Standing	AS FOR SERIAL 82				
85	D	270830L	271130L	Protect.	AS FOR SERIAL 81				
86	D	270700L	281700L	Standing	AS FOR SERIAL 82				
87	C	280830L	281130L	Protect.	AS FOR SERIAL 81				
88	C	280700L	291700L	Standing	AS FOR SERIAL 82				
89	C	290830L	291130L	Protect	AS FOR SERIAL 81				
90	C	290700L	301700L	Standing	AS FOR SERIAL 82				

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

91	B	300830L	301130L	Protect	AS FOR SERIAL NO 81
92	B	300700L	311700L	Standing	AS FOR SERIAL NO 82
93	D	310830L	311130L	Protect	AS FOR SERIAL NO 81
94	D	310700L	311700L	Standing	AS FOR SERIAL NO 82

D. H Summers Sjt for Lt
IO 61 Aust Inf Bn (AGD)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Capt. 14

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

MAY YOUR PANNER GAIN MORE

GLORY, AND YOUR EFFORTS

COMPLETE SUCCESS IN 1945.

oooooo

Int Sec 7 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

CHRISTMAS

and

NEW YEAR

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
Warm Greetings

GREETINGS

1944 - 1945
Season.

Officers & O.Rs. 6 Bn.

Best Wishes, X'mas and New Year.

Harry J. Wiles.

QX.54945 Lt. Col. H.J. Wiles,
1 Aust. Grn. Bn.

11.12.44

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

War Diary

SIXTY-FIRST BATTALION

"THE QUEENSLAND CAMERON HIGHLANDERS"

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

The Commanding Officer & Officers.

Christmas Greetings

and All Good Wishes for

the Coming Year.

from

Colonel & Mrs J M Grant.

1944.

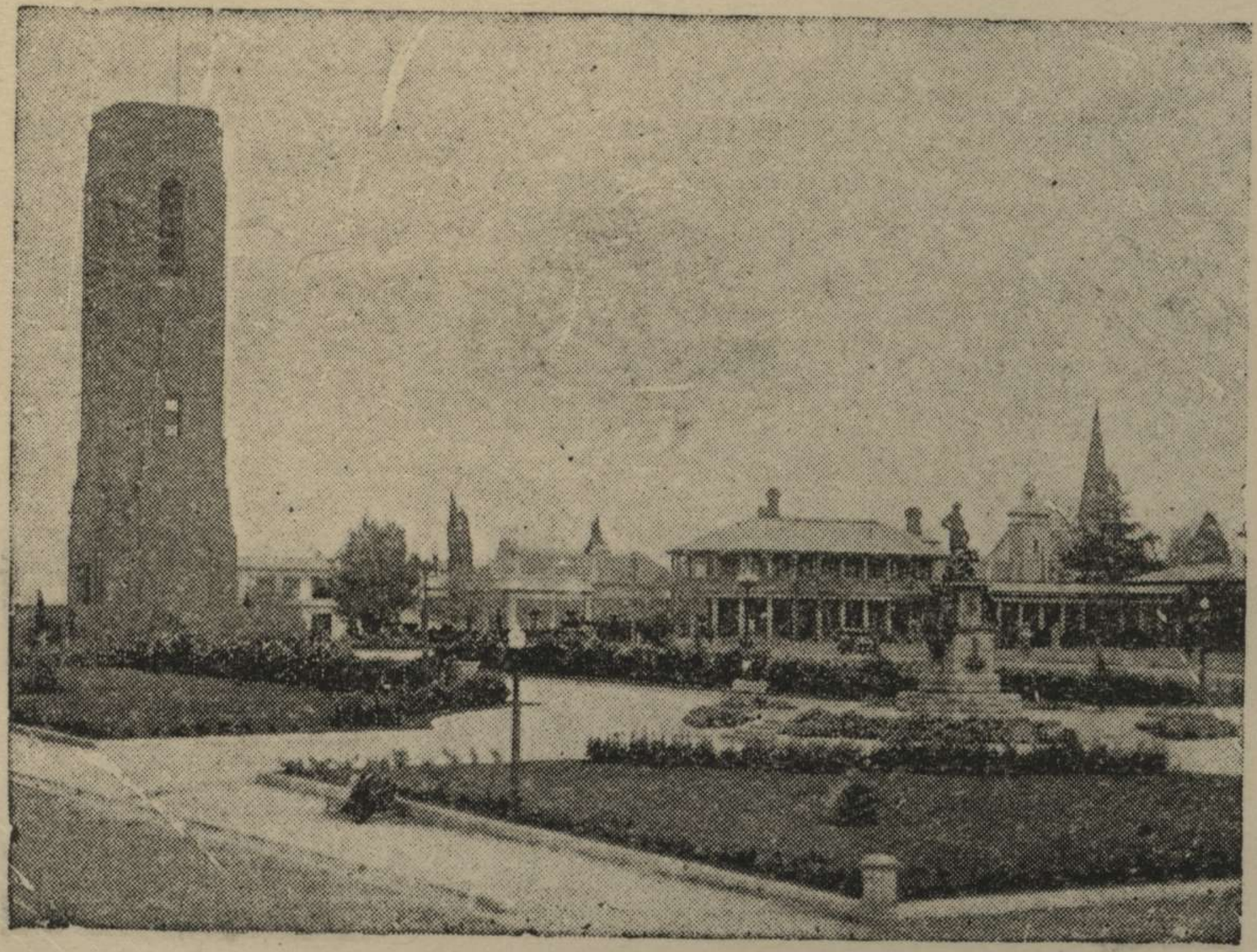
War Diary

23rd Aust. Infantry Training Battalion

Bathurst

Christmas 1944

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879



KING'S PARADE, BATHURST

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

To Lt. Col. W. Dexter D.S.O.
& Officers of 61st Aust Inf. Bn.

"Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace;
East, west, north and south, let the long quarrel cease;
Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,
Sing of glory to God and of good-will to man!

* * *

WITH SINCERE WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A VICTORIOUS NEW YEAR

FROM

Lloyd Gregory

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Qx52581
Lt. L. Gregory

Appx 18

SECRET
Copy No 9.....

61 AUST INF BN OP INSTR NO. 3

(Ref Map BOUGAINVILLE 1 in to 1 ml)

Headquarters
61 Aust Inf Bn
25 Dec 44

INFM:

1. Enemy:

(a) There has been no contact with the enemy in the HANEMO sector since 17 Nov 44 when US tps attacked approx 30 Japs in village at 866865. 23 members of the enemy force were reported killed; the remainder withdrew.

(b) Since 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn relieved US tps in this area the only indications of enemy have been reports of Jap footprints to east of Block X on 25 and 26 Nov 44 and a track believed made by a Jap one ml SE of PAIEN (717011) on 22 Dec 44.

2. Own Tps:

(a) Dispositions of B tp 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn are as shown in Appx A a tt.

(b) 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn has carried out a vigorous patrolling policy since taking over on 24 Nov 44.

INTENTION:

3. "A" Coy 61 AUST INF BN under Comd of Capt A.N. LAWSON, will relieve "B" Tp 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn in HANEMO sector.

METHOD:

4. Tps:

A Coy with under comd one det Sigs, one det Stretcher Bearers, one det Regtl Police, one det Int Sec, one det 11 Aust Fd Amb.

5. Disposns:

(a) "X" BLOCK (map ref 873908)
1 Offr, 26 OR's (incl 1 Int, 1 S.B.)
O.C. - Lt A.W.J. FULLARTON.

(b) Base Camp: (map ref 833925)
4 Offrs, 84 OR's (incl 1 offr, 4 OR's 11 Fd Amb, 2 OR's 7 Bde Sig Sec, 4 Bn Sigs, 3 S.P's, 2 Int).
O.C. - Capt A.N. LAWSON.

(c) Bamboos: (ANGAU STAGING CAMP) (map ref 799935)
7 OR's (incl YMCA Rep., 4 Regtl Police, 2 Bn Sigs)
O.C. i/c L/Cpl RICHARDS W.

(d) Jeep Head: (map ref 737929)
1 Offr, 12 OR's (incl T.O., Tech Sgt, 2 Sigs, 1 S.B.
1 Cook, 6 Mortar pers.)
O.C. Lt R. CUMMINS.

6. Area of Responsibility: As shown in Appx A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

7. Role:

(a) Primary role of A coy is to hold present 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn posns as firm bases.

(b) Coy will patrol area shown in Appx A. Patrols will not proceed outside the area laid down except on orders from this H.Q.

(c) At no time will more than one pl operate outside firm bases. This instr may be varied at discretion local comd and then only in case of emergency - such action will be reported by swiftest means to this HQ.

(d) Action on encounter with enemy ambushes or patrols will, at all times, be immediate and vigorous; but deliberate attacks on enemy forces in prepared posns will not be made without ref to this HQ.

8. Date of Relief:

Relief will commence 26 Dec 44 and will be completed in all areas by 271500L. A coy will move from present location 260630L, under direction of T.O.

9. Patrol Reports & Intelligence:

Patrol reports and track going maps will be forwarded to this HQ within 12 hrs of return of patrol. Programme of next day's patrols to be rendered by 1500 hrs daily. Sitreps will be rendered this HQ at 0630 hrs and 1800 hrs, daily.

10. Capture of PW:

(a) Little infm is available of the enemy in this sector and the securing of PW is of utmost importance.

(b) Advice of capture of PW will be sent to this HQ by sig of IMMEDIATE priority. This sig will give unit identification if known and estimated time of arrival at jeep head.

(c) Any interrogation, in fwd area, of PW, will be limited to questions of immediate local tac value.

11. Surrender Pamphlets:

(a) All ranks will be warned of the likelihood of deserters approaching our tps with or without surrender leaflets. The form and the purpose of such leaflets will be explained to all ranks and the fact that safe conduct is granted by them will be impressed and strictly respected.

(b) Every precaution will be taken against the possibility of traps being set by enemy tps posing as deserters.

ADM:

12. Amn: Reserve for one coy of 14 days will be maintained at BASE CAMP. Estimated daily expenditure rate of amn, on which res will be based is shown in Appx B att.

13. Daily Maint: (Leaving JEEP HD)

(a) Rations: - Monday, Wednesday, Saturday.
(b) Native Rations: - Thursday.
(c) Amn, Canteen Sups: - Sunday.
(d) Expense Stores: - Tuesday

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

14. Natives:

77 available for daily maint. Tps NOT to interfere with ANGAU organisation in any way.

15. Med:

(a) Det 11 Aust Fd Amb at present in area will come under Comd A Coy on relief.

(b) Evac of cas will be by native carr to rd head thence by mot amb to 109 Aust C.C.S. under arrangements HQ 3 Aust Div.

(c) A det of five Bn S.B's will be under comd A Coy, one S.B. to remain at JEEP HEAD. RMO will arrange suitable med kit.

(d) Med post (2 OR's) 11 Fd Amb will be at BAMBOOS.

16. PW:

Under coy escort to rd head thence by 3 Aust Div Pro Coy.

17. Exchange of Gear:

As mutually arranged.

18. Air-Dropping:

(a) Postal: Mail will be dropped whenever possible under arrangement this H.Q.

(b) Fresh Rations: These will be dropped under arrangement AASC by direct liason with 3 Aust Div by this HQ.

(c) Sig Offr will arrange necessary air ground signal strips to be delivered to A coy by 251600L.

19. Dress:

Marching Order (Haversack empty), no bed rolls. Hat KF, greens, gaiters US, will be worn on move.

Blankets will NOT be taken, except by pers to remain at BAMBOOS. Steel helmets will be stored in coy LOB store. Other clothing etc. as laid down by verbal orders issued to OC A Coy 23 Dec 44. Mosquito nets will be carried to BAMBOOS and returned 27 Dec by carr line.

20. Coffee Stall:

YMCA Rep. will establish a cof ee and tea stall at BAMBOOS.

21. Mortar Pers:

These pers at Jeep head will be responsible for :-

(a) Security of jeep head.
(b) Escorts for carr lines to BAMBOOS.
(c) Maint of track on DIVISION HILL.

22. Regtl Police: i/c L/Cpl REGELING.

Duties:- (a) Security of Staging Post. (BAMBOOS)
(b) Escorts for carr lines to BASE CAMP.

Note:- O.C. "A" Coy will liase with ANGAU Rep re possibility of native porterage from BASE CAMP TO "A" BLOCK. Escort to be supplied from BASE CAMP.

23. L.O.B.: The following pers will be left out of battle :-

Sgt O'Donnell, Cpl W. McKenzie, one OR each pl. (nominal roll to this HQ by 251800L).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

24. Relief of A Coy Defences:

C Coy will be responsible for A Coy perimeter defs as from 260600L, and will move into A Coy's present area.

25. Records etc:

(a) Parade States:- Notification of casualties, evacuations etc. will be signalled this HQ as they occur. Daily Pde States will be sent by hand to JEEP HEAD thence to this HQ at first opportunity.

(b) Sick Reports:- These will be sent to this HQ on Tuesday and Friday, each week.

INTERCOMN:

26. L/T:

(a) Existing 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn line will be linked to Bn switchboard.

(b) Telephone and fullerphone will be installed. One DV at BAIBOOS.

(c) Line maint between this HQ and Jeep Hd will be by direct liason Bn Sig Offr (Lt J.J. WHITE) with 7 Pde Sig Offr.

27. W/T: (a) One No. 11 Set BASE CAMP, one at HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde. Rearward messages will be passed direct to bn by HQ 7 Aust Inf Pde to addressee by normal means.

(b) No. 11 Set at present at BASE CAMP will be taken over by A Coy and operated by 2 O R's, 7 Aust Inf Pde Sig Sec.

28. (a) Bn Sigs will be responsible for line and telephone maint as follows :-

Sigs at :-	JEEP HEAD	-	to BAIBOOS
	BAIBOOS	-	to BASE CAMP
	BASE CAMP	-	fwd to "X" BLOCK.

(b) The present line for BASE CAMP to "X" BLOCK will be replaced as soon as possible, and the present cable rewound and returned to 2/8 Cdo Sqn. Two Sigs from 2/8 Cdo Sqn will remain in area to assist with this task.

29. Pigeons: Pigeons are available. All requirements for this type of intercomm will be referred to this HQ.

30. Code Word: SWAGMAN Completion of relief will be signalled this HQ :- ..... hrs ..... Dec 44.

ACK.

Signed at 1230 hrs
Method of Issue:- DRLS.

Capt
Actg OC 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No.	For infm	
A Coy	1		
HQ	2		
QM	3	B Coy	11
TO	4	C "	12
RMO	5	D "	13
Int Sec	6	7 Aust Inf Pde	14
YMCA	7	2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn	15
File	8	11 Aust Fd Amb	16
War Diary	9 - 10.	7 Aust Inf Pde Sig Sec.	17

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

SECRET

copy No 10

Appx 'A' to 61 Aust Inf Bn
Op Instr No 3 of 25 Dec 44.

Overlay showing

2/8 AUST CDO SQN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Overlay to

TOROKINA VITO MOTUPENA Pt PURIATA R.
Sheets 1" to 1 Mile

outpost

Btp.

80
90

INCL 29 Bde

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

SECRET
Appx B to 61 Aust Inf Bn OP
Instr No 3 of 25 Dec 44

ESTIMATED DAILY EXPENDITURE OF AMN

Inf Amn

(a)	.303 in (carton packed)	120 rounds
(b)	.303 in (charger packed)	100 rounds
(c)	SMG 9mm	150 rounds
(d)	1 in sig (various colours)	4 rounds
(e)	Grenades 36M 4 sec	10 rounds
(f)	Grenades 36M 7 sec	5 rounds
(g)	2in Mortar	
	HE	6 rounds
	Smoke	2 rounds
	Star	1 round

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

ACOY PATROL SCHEDULE 31 Dec 44.

Ref Map VITO 1/63360

(Appx. D)

S.No	TYPE	Pl.	Strength	TIME OUT	TIME IN	Route OUT	Route IN.	TASKS	SPECIAL TASKS
9	RECCE	7	1 NCO 3 ORS.	310800 L	311600 L	BASE CAMP - X BLOCK	X BLOCK - BASE CAMP.	(1) Recce of track (2) Check previous report	(1) Security measures before leaving camp. (2) 2 grenades per man. (3) Dress at Pl Comd discretion (4) Track going map to accompany report.
10	RECCE	8	1 NCO 3 ORS	310800 L	311700 L	BASE CAMP - KENIMO	KENIMO - TAVANATU - KARATO - X BLOCK - BASE	(1) Recce track + confirm track A&E (OVERLAY A) (2) Take PW any Jap stragglers (3) Report track times for lt + hy eqpt patrols (4) report any signs of enemy mvt	as per serial 9 Track going map BASE CAMP - HANEMO (only)
11	RECCE	9	1 NCO. 5 ORS.	310900 L	011600 L	X BLOCK - ref 890929 - ref 891958	same route	(1) Confirm track J (overlay A) (2) as for serial 9 (3) " " " " (4) " " " " (5) Question natives re enemy mvt in ATAMO area.	(1) Security measures before leaving camp. (2) 2 grenades per man (3) at least one owen gun (4) Be discreet when questioning natives (5) Dress at Pl cmds discretion.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

A coy PATROL SCHEDULE for 30 Dec 44

Ref Map VITO 1/63360

(Appx 'C')

S.No.	TYPE	Pl SUP PATROL	STRENGTH	TIME OUT	TIME IN	ROUTE OUT	ROUTE IN	TASKS	SPECIAL TASKS
7	RECCE	9	INCO. 30 R[s]	300900L	301600L	X BLOCK - KARATO 876902 - TONGANUA	Ref 883909 - 878922 - X BLOCK	(1) Recce of track (2) Any signs enemy must from direction ATAMO (3) Recce track from 881924 to 878922 (4) Take prisoner any jap straggler (5) Report track time TONGANUA	(1) Track guide rep to accompany report (2) Security measures before leaving camp (3) Ambushes to be dealt with vigorously (4) 2 grenades per man
8	RECCE	7	INCO 30 R[s]	300800L	301600L	BASE CAMP - ref 836945 - HANEMO	HANEMO - ref 858925 - BASE CAMP	(1) Recce of track (2) Any signs enemy must from ATAMO (3) Endeavour locate track from 835945 - HANEMO.	As for serial 1.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

(APPX B)

A. Coy Patrol Schedule 29th Dec '44

S.No	Type	PL	Strength	Time Out	Time In	Route Out	Route In	Task	Special Instrs
4	Recce	8	INCO 70RS 1S.B	290800L	301500	BASE CAMP - X Block - TAUANATU - SISIKA 2 Ck junc 883835	SISIKA No2 - KENIMO X Block - BASE CAMP	(1) Recce report of track (2) Any signs enemy in area particularly Ck junc 867848 to junc 883335. (3) Secure PW if possible (4) Report track times Lt patrols + Hy patrols	(1) Arms to inc 2 S.M.G. (2) Security measures before leaving base area (3) Est firm base area SISIKA No2 (4) Recce Ck with Lt patrol (5) Endeavour obliterate all own tracks (6) Ambushes to be dealt with vigorously but fighting to be avoided if possible (7) Distinct possibility of contact - extreme vigilance. (8) No natives in area Jap thus reported to be barefooted so that any barefooted marks to be regarded as enemy (9) Track going map (10) Inform sought & assist close recce by ANGAU patrol later date of suspected Japs in area sq 8881
5	Recce	7	1 off BY. 10 ORS	290800L	311500L	BASE - KEREKOPA - BUGASARI - Ck Xing 864848 - TOM - SISIKA.	SIKIKA - SIKIKA No2 TAUANATU - X Block BASE CAMP	(1)(2)(3)(4) as per serial 4 (5) Est location of SIKIKA (6) Any signs of enemy in area	as per serial 4 (excl (3)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

6	Security	9	INCO 30R²	290800L	291600L	X BLOCK - TAVANATU - TRACK junc 880881 - KENIMO	KENIMO - CK xing 883892 - X BLOCK	(1) as per serial 4	(1) Track going only to accompany report. (2) as per serial 4.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

(APP^X A)

A Coy Patrol Schedule 28 Dec 44

Ref Map Vito 1" to 1 mile

S.No	Type	PL	Strength	Time Out	Time In	Route Out	Route In	Task	Special Instrs
1	Recce	8 Pl	INCO 30R's	280800L	281300L	Base Camp - Kerekopa	Kerekopa - Base Camp	(1) Recce Track (2) Obs of any emeny along track (3) Take PW any Jap straggles (4) Secure PW if Possible	(1) Track Going map to accompany Report (2) Lt Dress (3) Grenades will be carried 2 per Man (4) Care will be taken to avoid ambush (5) Any action against ambush will be aggressive (6) Recee Report these HQ first available means
2	"	7 Pl	INCO 30R's	280800L	281300L	Base Camp - Ref 835945 - HANEMO	HANEMO - 835945 - Base Camp.		
3	"	9 Pl	INCO 30R's	280800L	281300L	X Block - KORATO - YOKE - KENIMO	KENIMO - Ref 882891 - KARATO - X Block		

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Warthiana
Appx. 19

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document will not be communicated, either directly or indirectly to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1.
by
Lt-Col W.R. DEXTER DSO

Copy No 14
Ser. No. 18/44
Nos: 123/130

COMD 61 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

28 December 1943

123. BATTALION AUDITORS:

The following have been appointed Battalion Auditors :-

CAPT J.S. PATERSON
LT D.H. McKELLAR

Auditors will audit the books of the Bn Regtl Trust Fund and the Bn Canteen Trust Fund by the 28th day of each month, and a balance and a certificate rendered to this headquarters, for publication in Routine Orders.

124. C.O's REQUEST HOUR:

Until further notice the C.O's Request Hour will be at 1830 hrs each Friday.

125. Bn ATHLETIC TEAM:

The following have been chosen to represent the Battalion at the 3 AUST DIV Athletic Carnival on New Year's Day.

100 yds	:	Pte Muir (D)
Shot Putt	:	" Rayner (HQ)
High Jump	:	" Strong (HQ)
220 yds	:	" Dombrain (HQ)
Tug-O-War	:	WOI Baldwin (BHQ), L/Sgt Hannon (HQ), WOII Newcomb (HQ), Pte Fraser (HQ), Pte Checkley (D), Pte Weyman (B), Pte Schreiber (BHQ), Pte Bradley (C).
440 yds	:	L/Cpl Haase (BHQ).
Broad Jump	:	Pte Niland (C)
Kicking Football	:	Pte Carroll S. (HQ)
Officer's Race	:	Capt Rudder (HQ)
Sergeants Race	:	Sgt Roberts (HQ)
Wood Saw	:	L/Cpl Fitzgerald (HQ), Pte Croad (HQ)
880 yds	:	Sgt McGrath (D)
Standing Broad Jump	:	Pte Inglis (D)
Throwing Cricket Ball	:	Pte Rayner (HQ)
Hop, Step & Jump	:	Pte Niland (C)
Mile Walk	:	" Brosnan (HQ)
Relay (4 x 110)	:	Capt Rudder (HQ), Sgt Roberts (HQ), Pte Spottiswood (D), Pte Dombrain (HQ).
Wood Chop	:	L/Cpl Haase (BHQ).
Medley Relay	:	880 yds: Lt White (HQ), 440 yds: Pte Rayner (HQ), 220 yds: Pte Carroll S. (HQ) Pte Muir (B)
Mile	:	Pte Holmes (D).

Instructions re assembly, times etc will be issued later.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

126. INSPECTION OF WEAPONS:

Bn Armourer Sgt will inspect all weapons every three weeks. Armourer Sgt will liase directly with coy comds re inspection times, etc. This instr will be carried on at all times either in bivouac or in the trenches. This confirms our Sig. A914 of 22 Dec 44.

127. APPOINTMENTS CODE:

Code words will ONLY be used in L/T conversations, not in written communications. This confirms Sig. A903 of 20 Dec 44.

128. SHIRTS:

Shirts may be removed on coy comds permission when men are performing manual work or after lunch for sunbaking. Shirts will NOT be removed for trg except for bayonet fighting, unarmed combat, etc. Working parties moving to and from place of work will wear shirts. Whilst travelling in vehs, shirts will be worn at all times. Shirts will not be removed before 0700 hrs. This confirms Sig. A882 of 14 Dec 44.

129. WORKING PARTIES:

Specialists attached to rifle coys, e.g. Mortars, MMG pers etc will NOT be used on working parties without permission of O.C. HQ Coy. This confirms Sig A878 of 11 Dec 44.

130. SERVICE CHEVRONS:

Coys are reminded that entitlement to Service Chevrons will be entered on the back cover of AAB 83 and entry signed by an officer. Service Chevrons are awarded, one for embarkation and one for every twelve months service abroad (not necessarily continuous service.)

Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION LIST "A"

- N O T I C E -

The following were received from ACF, and distribution made to coys - 24 Dec 44.

780 ACF XMAS HAMPERS.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Appx. 21

OVERLAY of 2/8 Cdo Sqn
AREA of RESPONSIBILITY

Ref Maps TOROKINA
VITO
MATUPENA. PT
PURIATA. RIV
1/63360

70

00

NG1B less 2 PLS

A

Angau

Training Area
2/8 Aust Commando Sqn

Jeep Head

X Block

Base

Patrol Area
2/5 Aust Commando Sqn

Incl A Coy

A Coy NG1B

Incl 29 Bde

29 Aust Inf Bde

Int Sec
61 Aust. Inf Bde
29 Dec 44.

70

90

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Appx. 20

FIELD SKETCH

— BASE CAMP AREA —

MAP REF 833929 REF MAP VITO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

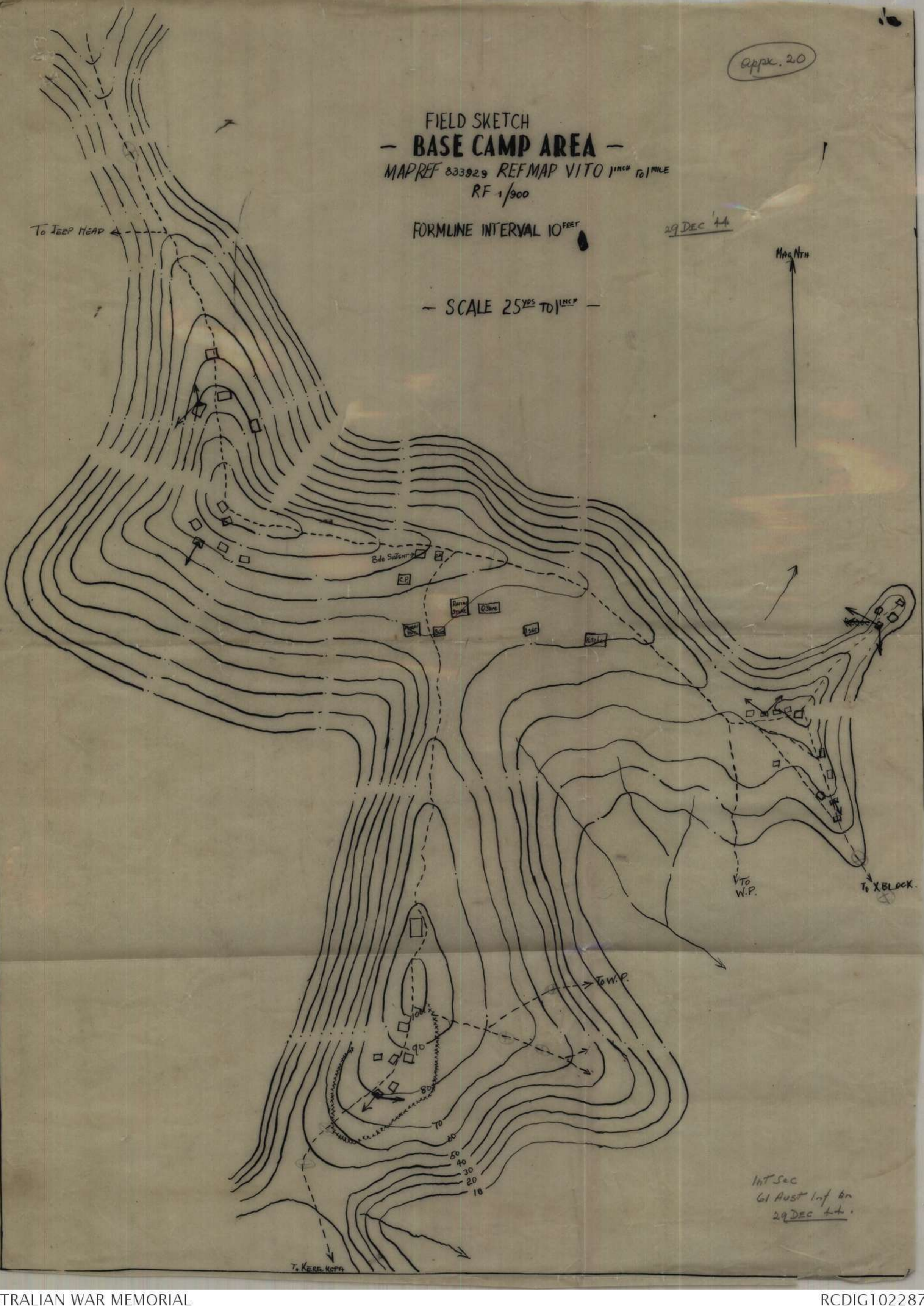
RF 1/900

FORMLINE INTERVAL 10 FEET

29 DEC '44

— SCALE 25 YDS TO 1 INCH —

MAG NTH



Int Sec
61 Aust Inf Bn
29 DEC 44.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Appx. 22

HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
21 Dec 44
Ref: Int 159

~~BM~~
HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)

Herewith A Coy Report on OPS to 1200 hrs 29 Dec 44.

..... Lt-Col
Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

SECRET

Appx. 22

SUBJECT : OPS TO 1200 HRS 29 DEC 44

Ref Map : VITO 1 inch to 1 mile

A Coy
61 Aust Inf Bn

29 DEC 44.

1. APPROACH MARCH 26-27 DEC 44
Timetable

Time	Departed	Time	Arrived	Method/Movt	Remarks.
26 Dec					
0720	OLD JEEP HEAD	0750	BN JEEP HEAD	As Coy in Coln	
0750	BN JEEP HEAD	1120	REINE RIVER	" " " "	
1220	REINE RIVER	1250	OLD ANGAU COMPOUND	Ind Pl Gps 10 min intervals.	Considered movt as Coy too slow & tiring.
1320	OLD ANGAU COMPOUND	1600	BAMBOOS	"	
1605	BAMBOOS	1700	OLD BIV SITE 827935	"	Set up Coy perimeter for night-normal security measures.
27 Dec					
0700	OLD BIV SITE	0855	BASE CAMP	"	All tps in BASE CAMP 0917 hrs.
1000	BASE CAMP	1430	X BLOCK	Pl Gp	9 Pl only.

--- NORMAL SECURITY IN ALL MOVEMENT ++

2. RELIEF "B" TP 2/8 COMMANDO SQN

Relief BASE CAMP commenced 0930 hrs 27 DEC 44 and X BLOCK 1430 hrs 27 DEC 44. Relief completed 1725 hrs. With exception 2 sigs, all pers "B" Tp, 2/8 Commando Syn cleared BASE CAMP area 1730 hrs 27 DEC 44.

3. CONDUCT OF DEFENCE - OUTLINE.

(a) Stand To BASE CAMP 0515 hrs 1830 hrs
X BLOCK 0530 hrs 1830 hrs.

(b) Stand Down BASE CAMP and X BLOCK. Dependent on weather owing to difficulty of delousing booby traps to enable security patrols to move out. Stand Down on return of patrols.

(c) Security Patrols. All tracks are patrolled for 15 mins out each morning.

(d) Sentries. All tracks entering BASE CAMP and X BLOCK are covered by sentries, during night. This necessitates 6 in BASE CAMP and 3 in X BLOCK perimeters. In addition 1 sentry at Coy HQ and 9 Pl HQs.

(e) Listening Posts: By day three listening posts are maintained in BASE CAMP and two at X BLOCK.

4. PATROLS. (as per schedule fwd)

(a) Serials 1, 2,& 3 were despatched primarily as protective patrols with additional task of checking on track going maps held.

(b) Some difficulty with Serials 2 & 3 as hereunder:

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Serial 1. On arrival HANEMO (851939) native guide stated there was no track to WEST leading to BASE CAMP as shown on overlay forwarded you. Patrol comd followed one track leading west from Main HANEMO track, but this swung to north-east. A patrol on 30 DEC 44 will endeavour to reach HANEMO via track junc 835945.

Serial 3. Native guide evidently led patrol on track to KENIMO NOT previously reported. When Patrol Comd questioned native re YOKE, he was informed that it would be necessary to camp at YOKE for night. Instead of moving to TAUGARUNGA RIVER at 882891. Patrol Comd returned by same route.

Serials 4 & 5 Object to secure infm for possible ops in area SESIKA No 2 and area suspected enmmy posn (previous report Lt BOISEN) and to gain infm to assist ANGAU offr in proposed close recce of latter area. Both patrols instructed to avoid contact unless seen, to ensure greater success to ANGAU PATROL.

Serial 6 Primary role protective, with task of recce to check previous reports and tie up with Serial 3.

(c) Patrolling to date indicates immediate area of perimeter clear of enemy.

(d) Infm gained by Serials 4 & 5 coupled with ANGAU Patrol will be used for fighting patrols.

(e) With exception of two, who cannot be located all natives have been withdrawn from area of responsibility. In view of Lt BOISEN's report that Japs encountered in area 8982 were barefooted, all foot prints will be regarded as enemy.

DEFENCES

Def posns in both X BLOCK and BASE CAMP are being reorganised. Map of proposed posns will be fwd as early as possible.

CONDITION OF TPS

Approach march very exhausting, but good spirit shown by tps. A few days patrol work will have them in good condition.

A. N. LAWSON Capt
O/C A Coy.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Appx 24 ~~19~~

A Coy

28 Dec 44

Adjt

6 Aust Inf Bde.

Herewith for info only. copy of report submitted by Lt Pearson (ANGAU) on recent ops in general area. 88.90 - 81.82 (VITO 1" to 1 mile series)

A Sgt Pearson Capt

O/C A Coy.

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(1) (Appx 24)

ANGAU. PATROL — HANEMO AREA

Ref MAP: VITO — KIETA 1" to 1 MILE DATE. Oct '44

PATROL FOUNDED By ANGAU and 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn

PATROL Com'd Lt. F.N. BOISEN

PATROL STRENGTH 1offer (ANGAU) 1 Int man 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn
2 RPs 2 native Guides

NATURE of PATROL RECCE.

TIME OUT 211000L TIME IN 251500L

ROUTE OUT BASE CAMP — TAVANATU — WANIGAN
(sq 9085) to River 896823

ROUTE IN 896823 — sq 8984 TAVANATU — BASE CAMP

OBJECT of PATROL (1) To explore thoroughly S.E portion of our area for signs of enemy movement
(2) To contact WANISAN natives & if necessary send them to LARUMA
(3) To gain information from natives as to movement of Japs in our area and to the EAST

NARRATIVE. PART. I

(1) Japs contacted in S.E portion of our area

(2) Contacted natives

(3) At least 25 Japs operating in area - poor condition - ill armed. At least 20 Japs at MAINUKI - extremely poor Condition. Natives report of Japs digging in mountain guns MORONI (Ref Map KIETA 1" to 1m)

NARRATIVE. PART II

Itinerary (a) Camped 21st 40 minutes beyond TAVANATU 882890
(b) 22nd to WANIGAN 9085 no natives - sent two police and guides to find them. Self & remainder of police to WANIGAN gardens 8984 - saw signs

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of Japs having robbed gardens on 21st and previously. Set ambush and waited - no result. Camped in garden

(c) 23rd Police guides & natives reported 0800. Reported almost daily raids by Japs approx 30 on the 21st sent natives to build camps on spur half mile from gardens and messenger to Capt Dunshea, giving information and telling him patrol would be out another two or three days. Sent two police & WAIGAN natives to try to find Jap camp by following tracks. Set ambush. Police arrived back 1700 hrs had crossed river at 852833 sighted two Japs in River bed - watched them swim & cook for an hour at distance of 10 yds then followed them half way up spur. Owing to time limit turned back - met Jap on road. hid and let him pass - then returned to camp.

(d) 24th Met patrol led by Capt Dunshea at gardens - crossed to river at 896823 sighted two Japs - member of 2/8 killed one, one escaped. Returned to gardens Police sighted party of Japs at 20 yds on road. I Killed one, remainder escaped. Returned to camp.

(e) 25th Left for BASE CAMP arrived 1500 hrs - hard walking

Enemy (2) Japanese fairly active in area covered as far NORTH as grid 85 and as far WEST as grid 89. Party camped further SOUTH but come to WAIGAN for food. Camp site shown by recce to be somewhere in area 8881. Party consists of over 25 Japanese - condition on the whole very poor - one only believed to be wearing boots (he was killed in garden). Clothes ragged 30 & 40% unarmed (at least one visit to gardens) Armes in poor condition - some with detached stocks Live mainly on garden products, very small quantity of rice in captured dixie. Jap Sgt shot carried comparatively new carbine.

Natives (6) Contacted natives (20) 19 sent to LARUMA, one retained as guide - two unable to be contacted

NATIVE INFORMATION Spoke of Japs robbing gardens on 21st. Japs asked them not to take food from gardens as this was the only food they (the Japs) have. Over 20 Japs at MINUKI 931910 extremely poor condition, making gardens with help of local natives. No Japs at PAURA 937900 PAURA misspelt TAVA on map. Japs reported to have mountain guns dug in - vicinity of MORONI. (Ref KIETA sheet) From vicinity of MORONI. TOROKINA can be observed - Japs believe this area is theirs and ships there their own (may be propoganda for native consumption.

TRACK INFORMATION Road to WANIGAN branches off from main trail beyond second river crossing approx ½ hour beyond TAVANATU over steep spur down and up another spur to village (approx 5 hrs walking from TAVANATU (light patrol kit) Track leads from WANIGAN to PAURA (TAVA) mountainous - approx 6 hrs walking time. PAURA to ~~AAA~~ MAINUKI approx 3 hrs. On map for PAURA 869913 read KARATO. For TAVA 938900 read PAURA.

CONCLUSION In view of information contained in attached report. I believe that carefully worded surrender pamphlets giving explicit instructions as to how to give themselves up, route to be taken etc, may have beneficial results. Pamphlets to be distributed in area covered by patrol and at MAINUKI. If done by police and natives along Jap tracks and in gardens being raided by Japs may have better effects than by air dropsings.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

F O R E W O R D

1. The Commanding Officer, Naval Armed Guards and Troops, hereinafter referred to as the Naval Commanding Officer, is the Commanding Officer of a separate and detached command.

2. As the Naval Troop Commander, he is the direct representative of the Commandant, Twelfth Naval District; as the Naval Armed Guards Commander, he is the representative of the Navy Department in the person of the Commandant, Twelfth Naval District, and is assigned to these duties by written orders.

3. The Naval Commanding Officer is in command of all passengers, military and civilian, as well as all Naval and Marine Corps personnel permanently assigned to the vessel, and is responsible for their organization and discipline in accordance with instructions set forth in "Instructions to Commanding Officers of Troops, Issued by the Office of the Port Director, N.T.S., Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, dated September, 1943", and with those of higher authority. He is the Master's military adviser, and is charged with the vessel's armed defense. He has exclusive control over the military functions of the Armed Guard, and is responsible for the execution of all the regulations under which it functions.

4. The Master of the ship is responsible for the safety of the ship and all hands on board and has supreme authority over the technical operation and navigation of the ship and all persons on board who signed the ship's articles.

5. The officer designated by the Army or Marine Corps as "Commanding Officer of Troops" shall retain his military authority over all Army or Marine Corps personnel embarked under his command, and all orders from the Naval Commanding Officer to such personnel shall be directed through him or his appointed representative, and he shall be responsible for their proper execution. He shall serve on the Temporary Voyage Staff if he is junior in rank to the Naval Commanding Officer; if senior to him in rank, he may appoint a representative for such duty.

6. The Naval Commanding Officer will appoint a Voyage Staff from the transient officers consisting of:

Troop Executive Officer.
Officer of the Day (Senior).
Officers of the Day.
Sanitary Officer.
Mess Officer.
Compartment Officer.
Detail Officer.
*Troop Gunnery Officer.
Emergency Drill Officer.
Welfare and Recreation Officer.

Their duties will be set forth in special memoranda issued by the Naval Commanding Officer.

(*) - If requested.

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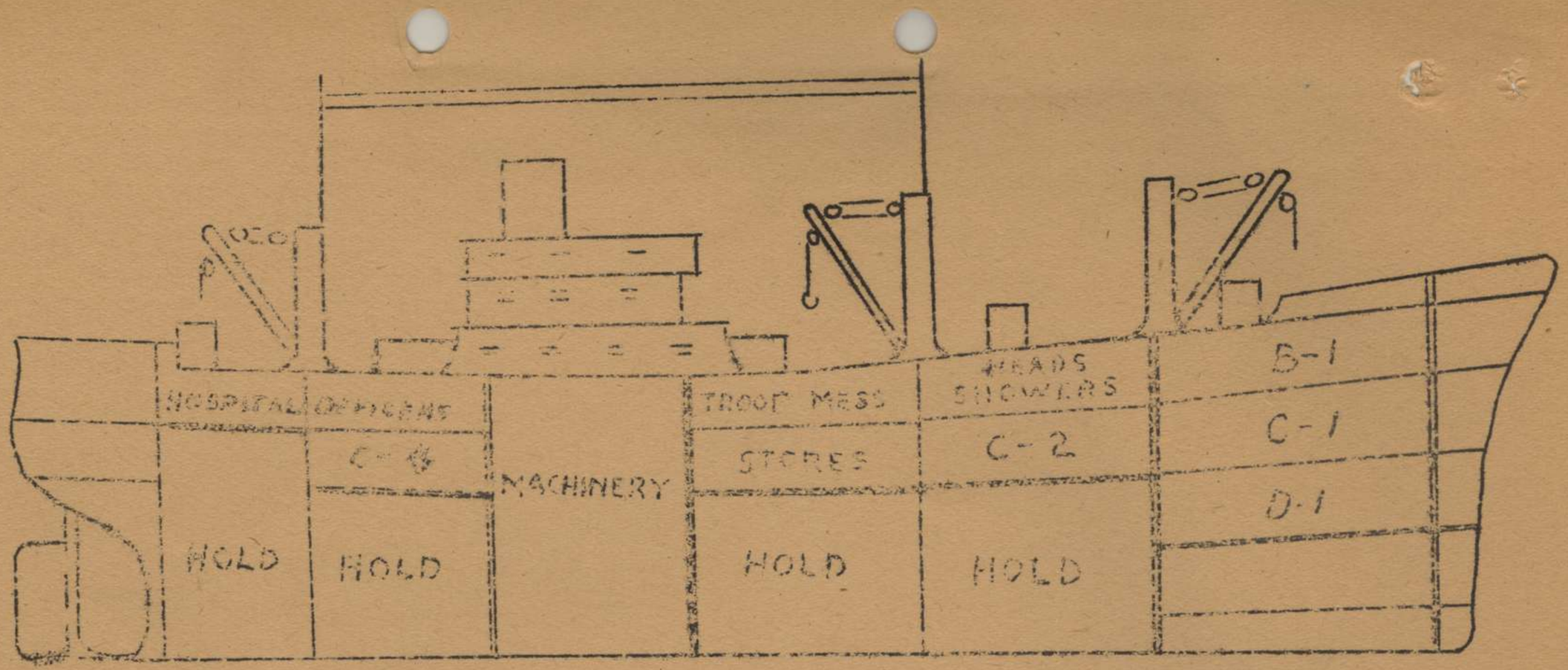

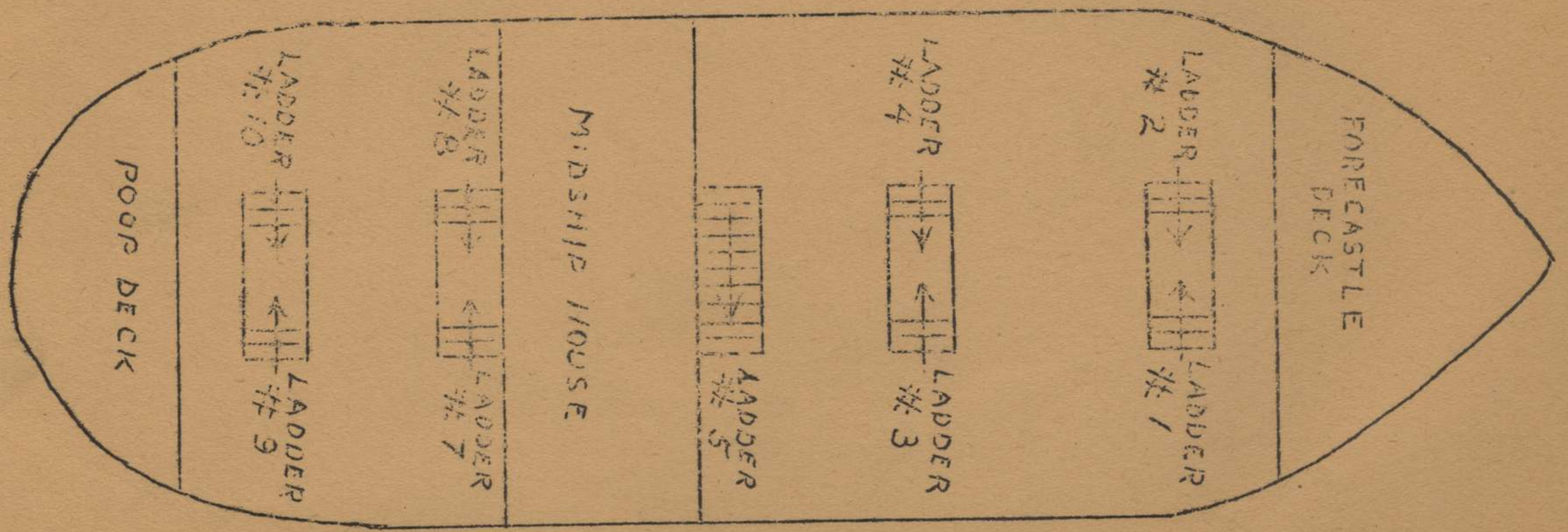

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
RCDIG1022879

GENERAL ORDERS

1. DEFINITION OF TROOPS

(a) All passenger personnel shall be known as troops.

2. SMOKING IS PROHIBITED

(a) During embarkation and debarkation.
(b) During drills.
(c) On open decks during blackout.
(d) Below decks except B deck, between blackout and taps.
(e) Throughout entire ship after taps.

3. BLACKOUT

(a) Will be announced each evening from the bridge over the Public Address System and will be in effect until announced as ended in the morning.

4. LIFEJACKETS

(a) Must be worn or carried at all times, and properly tied during all drills.
(b) Must not be used as pillows or cushions.

5. PROHIBITED ARTICLES

(a) Electircal and photographic equipment.
(b) Flashlights.
(c) Animals or pets.
(d) Alcoholic beverages and narcotics.

6. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

(a) Gambling.
(b) Use of intoxicants and drugs.
(c) Abuse of bunks.
(d) Defacing, molesting or removing ship's gear or equipment.
(e) Indecent exposure.
(f) Throwing anything over the side.
(g) Sitting on rails or exposed positions.
(h) Use of profane or obscene language.
(i) Loud talking and unnecessary noise.
(j) Loitering in passageways or on ladders.
(k) Sunburn is considered misconduct.

7. RESTRICTED AREAS

(a) All areas marked "out of bounds".
(b) Midship housing.
(c) Engine room.
(d) Sick Bay (Hospital Area).
(e) Permanent crew's mess and quarters.

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7. RESTRICTED AREAS (Continued)

(f) Gun platforms, magazines, gear lockers.
(g) Bridge, forecastle and poop deck.
(h) Lifeboats, rafts, booms, masts, resister houses.
(i) Galleys and storerooms.
(j) Unoccupied troop compartments.
(k) Workshops, fan room, windlass room.
(l) Boat deck, except for passage fore and aft.

8. SANITATION REGULATIONS FOR ALL TROOP AREAS

(a) All refuse and litter must be deposited in receptacles provided and not thrown on the deck.
(b) Refuse must not be deposited in toilet bowls, latrines, wash basins or showers.
(c) No wet clothing shall be kept below decks.
(d) All bedding will be aired at specified times.
(e) Spitting on deck is prohibited.
(f) Cleanliness of all areas and personnel must be maintained at all times.
(g) Field day every Friday and the day before debarkation.

9. FRESH WATER

(a) Will be rationed as announced.
(b) Must not be wasted.
(c) Must not be drawn from scuttlebutts except for drinking.

10. TRAFFIC

(a) Will move forward on the starboard side and aft on the port side.
(b) Keep to the right on ladders.

11. MUSTER

(a) Unit Commanders will muster all troops in designated areas daily as announced.

12. DAILY INSPECTIONS

(a) The Naval Commanding Officer's inspection is at 1000, and the inspection party will consist of:
(1) Naval Commanding Officer.
(2) Troop Executive Officer.
(3) Chief Officer.
(4) Naval Executive Officer.
(5) Senior Medical Officer.
(6) Sanitary Officer.
(7) Assistant Troop Officer.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

12. DAILY INSPECTIONS (Continued)

(b) There will be an inspection of blackout when it is announced. The inspection party will consist of:
(1) Senior O.O.D.
(2) Assistant Troop Officer.
(3) Marine Sergeant.
(4) Merchant Marine Representative.

(c) There will be a security inspection at taps, (2200). This inspection will be made by:
(1) Senior O.O.D.
(2) Assistant Gunnery Officer.
(3) Assistant Troop Officer.
(4) Marine Sergeant.

13. COMPLAINTS

(a) When against military and civilian personnel will be referred to O.O.D. in writing.

14. LUCKY BAG (LOST AND FOUND ARTICLES)

(a) Will be conducted by the O.O.D.
(b) All articles or gear left aboard will be turned over to Port Director at port of debarkation or to the Troop Executive Officer.

15. LIBERTY

(a) After embarkation of troops and officers, no liberty will be granted unless approved by the Naval Commanding Officer.

16. ENDORSEMENT OF ORDERS

(a) All Naval, Marine and Coast Guard personnel shall turn in orders to the Troop Office for endorsement.

17. SPECIAL REGULATIONS covering the following shall be posted

(a) Emergency Drills for troops.
(b) Messing.
(c) Sick Bay and Hospital.
(d) Ship's Store.
(e) Censorship.
(f) Plan of Day.
(g) Religious Services.
(h) Uniform.

18. IGNORANCE OF ANY REGULATION OR ORDER will not be considered as an excuse for violation.

19. ARTICLES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S. NAVY shall govern all matters not specifically covered herein.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

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SPECIAL ORDER NO. 3.

PLAN OF THE DAY

0600 - Reveille

0630 - Chow

0830 - Ship's Store Opens

0900 - Sick Call

1000 - Inspection

1030 - Ship's Store Closes

1130 - Recordings Over P.A. System

Chow

1330 - Ship's Store Opens

1530 - Ship's Store Closes

1630 - Recordings Over P.A. System

Chow

1900 - Sick Call

2145 - Tattoo

2200 - Taps - Security Inspection

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

VOYAGE STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO TROOP EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Subject: Duties of.

1. Promulgate all orders issued by the Naval Commanding Officer.

2. Be responsible for the efficient and proper performance of the Voyage Staff in the discharge of their duties.

3. Hold daily meeting with Voyage Staff at 1100 to receive reports and issue instructions.

4. Accompany inspection party daily at 1000.

5. Make an informal inspection of Troop areas each afternoon.

6. Obtain not later than three hours after sailing a certified roster and a certificate from each unit commander that Troop Regulations have been read and fully explained to all the men in his unit.

7. Work in conjunction with Detail Officer in procurement of all details.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

VOYAGE STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO SENIOR OFFICER OF THE DAY.

Subject: Duties of.

1. Be subject to call throughout the voyage with headquarters in the O.O.D. Office.

2. Enforce all Troop Orders and Regulations.

3. Maintain a continuous O.O.D. watch of Commissioned Officers in the O.O.D. Office. Maintain a log of routine and unusual incidents. Report all unusual incidents to Naval Commanding Officer.

4. Conduct the "Lucky Bag".

5. Receive and refer written complaints to the Naval Commanding Officer.

6. Receive Troop mail for censorship.

7. Check the quantity and quality of at least one Troop meal each day.

8. Organize a guard and fire watch of four reliefs each consisting of:

(a) Sergeant	1
(b) Corporal	1
(c) Sentries	25
(d) Supernumeraries	4
(e) Fire Watch	2
(f) Runners	2

9. Conduct a Guard School before first posting of the guard and as necessary thereafter.

10. Keep guard book and prisoner log.

11. Be responsible for the efficient functioning of the guard in the following duties:

Sergeant of the Guard

(a) Stand a continuous watch at Guard Headquarters.
(b) Check each relief of the Guard.
(c) Receive reports of the Corporal of the Guard.

Corporal of the Guard

(a) Stand watch at Guard Headquarters.
(b) Muster and post his relief.
(c) Check the sentries at least once an hour, making certain they are on post and know all orders.
(d) Muster relief for chow and lead them through chow line.

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Subject: Duties of Senior Officer of the Day.

Fire Watch

(a) Move continuously over open deck and all troop areas watching for fire and fire hazards.
(b) Report to Guard Headquarters hourly.

Supernumeraries

(a) Be on duty at Guard Headquarters.
(b) Perform duties as prison chasers, brig wardens, emergency reliefs and runners as assigned

Sentries

(a) Enforce Troop Regulations and Orders.
(b) Enforce the following General Sentry Post Orders:
    (1) Take charge of this post and all government property in view.
    (2) Walk or stand this post (as directed) in a military manner, keeping always on the alert and observing everything that takes place within sight or hearing.
    (3) Report all violations of orders you are instructed to enforce.
    (4) Quit your post only when properly relieved.
    (5) Receive, obey, and pass on to the sentry relieving you all orders from the Naval Commanding Officer, Officer of the Day, and Petty Officers or non-commissioned Officers of the Guard only.
    (6) Talk to no one except in the line of duty.
    (7) Give the alarm in case of fire, emergency or disorder.
    (8) Call the Corporal of the Guard in any case not covered by instructions.
    (9) Show proper military courtesy to all officers.
(c) Enforce the following special sentry post orders:
    (See special orders at each post).

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

VOYAGE STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO THE MESS OFFICER.

Subject: Duties of.

1. Supervise the Troop Mess. The Mess Officer will work closely with the Chief Commissary Steward, who is in charge of the N avy operated Troop Commissary Department.

2. Arrange with the Chief Commissary Steward messing schedules and procedures for the proper and efficient operation of the Troop Mess.

3. See that the men in the mess details are at all times quiet, orderly, suitable dressed and personally clean, and that they perform their duties properly.

4. Arrange with the Senior Medical for periodic examination of all food handlers to make certain that they are free at all times from infectious diseases.

5. Examine the food served to see if it is of standard quality, quantity, and variety, and to see that it conforms to the published menu. Any deviation should be reported to the O.O.D.

6. See that all mess equipment and facilities are clean and sanitary.

7. Be present in the troop mess during meals and at morning inspection.

8. Mess procedure and schedule are contained in Special Order No. 2.

9. Organize the mess details according to the schedule below:

SCHEDULE OF MESS DETAIL

1. Troop Mess.
Special Detail: All available cooks and bakers will be sent to the Chief Commissary Steward for assignment.

(a) Master at Arms
Duties: Supervise Mess Hall during meal hours.
(b) Mess Hall Detail - 9 men.
Duties: Set up tables with sugar, bread, salt and pepper, etc., and keep tables and area as clean as possible during meal hours.
(c) Night Cook Helpers - 4 men.
Duties: Assist the night cooks in preparing morning meal.

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Subject: Duties of Mess Officer.

(d) Butcher Shop Helpers - 2 men
Duties: Assist in Butcher Shop.

(e) Cook Helpers - 14 men
Duties: Assist the cooks in serving meals; assist in cleaning galley and equipment.

(f) Bake Shop Helpers - 4 men
Duties: Assist Baker.

(g) Coffee and Milk Servers - 4 men.
Duties: Serve coffee at urn; clean urn and urn table after each meal.

(h) Dish Washing Machine - 14 men.
Duties: 2 men starboard side, 2 men port side to carry dirty cups bowls and silverware; 5 men in scullery as follows:

1 man at sink washing trays.
1 man washes cups, bowls, silverware.
1 man removes gear from machine.
1 man checks machine operation in regard to water and temperature.
1 man checks proper placing of cups, bowls and silverware in machine.

3 men to carry bowls, cups and silverware to starboard and port, stowing same in gear racks; 2 men to see that mess gear is properly stowed for inspection.

(i) Garbage Detail - 4 men, 2 starboard; 2 port
Duties: Collect dirty gear and place in containers. Carry garbage cans to topside.

(j) Vegetable Locker - 5 men
Duties: Assist cook in charge of preparing vegetables.

(k) Stores Detail - 15 men and 1 N.C.O. in charge
Duties: To break out provisions at 0800 and 1400.

(l) Meal Card Punchers - 2 N.C.O.'s.

Recapitulation of mess hall and galley.

Master at Arms - 1 N .C.O. (Chief Petty Officer or Master Sergeant)

Mess Hall	9	Dish Washers	14
Night Cook Helpers	4	Garbage Detail	4
Butchers	2	Vegetable Locker	5
Cook Helpers	14	Stores	15 and 1 N.C.O.
Bake Shop	4		
Coffee and Milk	4	Meal Card Punchers	2 N.C.O.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

S. S. SANTA MONICA
OFFICE OF
NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 2

TROOP MESS PROCEDURE

1. Mess cooks and details going on watch will eat in advance of others.

2. Troops will proceed to mess hall as ordered and will enter from areaway in B-2. Two lines will form, one starboard, one port.

3. Troops will proceed in orderly fashion to mess tables and when finished eating will leave mess hall immediately, depositing dirty trays at after end of mess hall. Troops will leave mess hall via ladder No. 5.

4. There will be no smoking in the mess hall during meal hours.

MESS SCHEDULES

TROOPS	OFFICERS
Breakfast - 1630	Breakfast - 0730-0830
Lunch - - - 1100	Lunch - - - 1130-1230
Dinner- - - 1630	Dinner- - - 1700-1800

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

VOYAGE STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO THE SANITARY OFFICER.

Subject: Duties of.

1. Be responsible for the cleanliness and sanitation of all troop areas of the ship. All areas occupied by troops or used by them will come under his jurisdiction with the exception of the mess halls and hospital.

2. Have jurisdiction over the Compartment Officers insofar as the cleanliness and sanitation of their compartments are concerned.

3. Supervise deck cleaning details and deck garbage details. A senior N.C.O. shall be in direct charge of these details.

4. Organize the following cleaning details to perform the duties outlined:

DECK DETAILS

(a) Main Deck - 2 N.C.O.'s - 12 men forward; 6 men aft.

0630	Sweep and hose down deck. Empty spitkits.
1230	Sweep down. Empty spitkits.
Sundown	The main deck detail will throw trash and garbage overboard when so ordered from the bridge. They will be assisted by the Boat Deck Detail and Garbage Watch.
Before Blackout	Sweep down. Empty spitkits.

(b) Boat Deck - 4 men; 2 port and 2 starboard.

0630	Sweep down. Empty spitkits.
1230	Sweep down. Empty spitkits.
Sundown	Assist main deck detail in emptying garbage. Sweep down; empty spitkits.
Before Blackout	Sweep down. Empty spitkits.

GARBAGE WATCH

The garbage watch shall consist of 2 men. They shall stand watches as follows:

0800-1200; 1200-1600; 1600-Sunset.

Their duties shall be to keep garbage and refuse receptacles neat.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

VOYAGE STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO COMPARTMENT OFFICERS.

Subject: Duties of.

A Senior Compartment Officer will be placed in charge of each troop compartment except the mess hall and hospital, and will have several junior officers as his assistants. They will:

1. Stand 3 hour watches in the compartment assigned to them.

2. Be responsible to the O.O.D. for the discipline of the troops in the compartment and for the good condition of all fittings, furnishings and facilities.

3. Upon the sounding of the "Stand by to Abandon Ship" signal, direct an orderly and rapid evacuation of the compartment, reporting to the bridge by passing the word when compartment is cleared.

4. Compartment Officers not on duty will be assigned stations on main deck by the Emergency Drill Officer. They will supervise the orderly distribution of men at their Abandon Ship Stations.

5. See that all Special regulations are complied with upon the sounding of Fire or General Quarters signals.

6. Be responsible to the Sanitary Officer for the cleanliness of the compartment.

7. Organize cleaning details in the compartment and consult the Detail Officer to determine the availability of men for assignment.

8. The Senior Compartment Officer will be present in the compartment at morning inspection and will accompany the Naval Commanding Officer during the inspection of the compartment.

9. See that the compartment is cleared of all troops prior to inspection.

10. Report hourly to the O.O.D. on the condition of their compartment using forms supplied by the O.O.D. These reports will be made between 0600 and 2200.

11. Appoint group buyers for the ship's store. One buyer and an assistant for each group of approximately fifty men.

12. Take orders for hair cut c hits from men in the compartment at 0800 and at 1200, collect money, buy chits from O.O.D., and deliver to purchasers.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Subject: Duties of Compartment Officers.

13. Receive mail from troops in compartment when going off duty at 0800 and deliver it to O.O.D.'s Office for censorship.

14. Be assigned other military or administrative duty as the Naval Commanding Officer may direct.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

VOYAGE STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO EMERGENCY DRILL OFFICER.

Subject: Duties of.

1. Assist the Naval Commanding Officer in arranging emergency drills - Abandon Ship - Fire - General Quarters.

2. Station Compartment Officers who are not on duty to supervise the orderly distribution of men at Abandon Ship Stations.

3. Consult the Assistant Troop Officer to arrange for the Chief Officer to instruct details in handling Abandon Ship gear.

4. Organize and station Abandon Ship Details as follows:

(a) Two men at each chain ladder.
(b) One man at each life raft station.
(c) Two N.C.O.'s to assist, one on main deck forward and one on main deck aft.

Totals: 40 men; 2 N.C.O.'s

(See Diagram on next page)

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

S. S. SANTA MONICA
OFFICE OF
NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 1.

EMERGENCY DRILL PROCEDURE

1. STAND BY TO ABANDON SHIP

(a) The signal for stand by to abandon ship is a series of seven short and one long ring or blast on the general alarm bell, ship's whistle, or both.
(b) All passengers shall go on the double to their abandon ship stations.
(c) All passengers shall wear life preservers tied.
(d) Passengers assigned to duty at life-saving equipment or at raft-releasing gear shall go to their posts.
(e) Officers assigned to special duty shall go to their posts. All remaining officers will report to nearest hatch cover to assist in the drill if necessary.

2. FIRE

(a) The signal for fire is a continuous ringing of the general alarm bells.
(b) All passengers shall stand fast, giving way for fire fighting details and render assistance when so ordered.

3. GENERAL QUARTERS

(a) The signal for general quarters is a rapid succession of short rings on the general alarm.
(b) Make way for gun crews and stand fast.

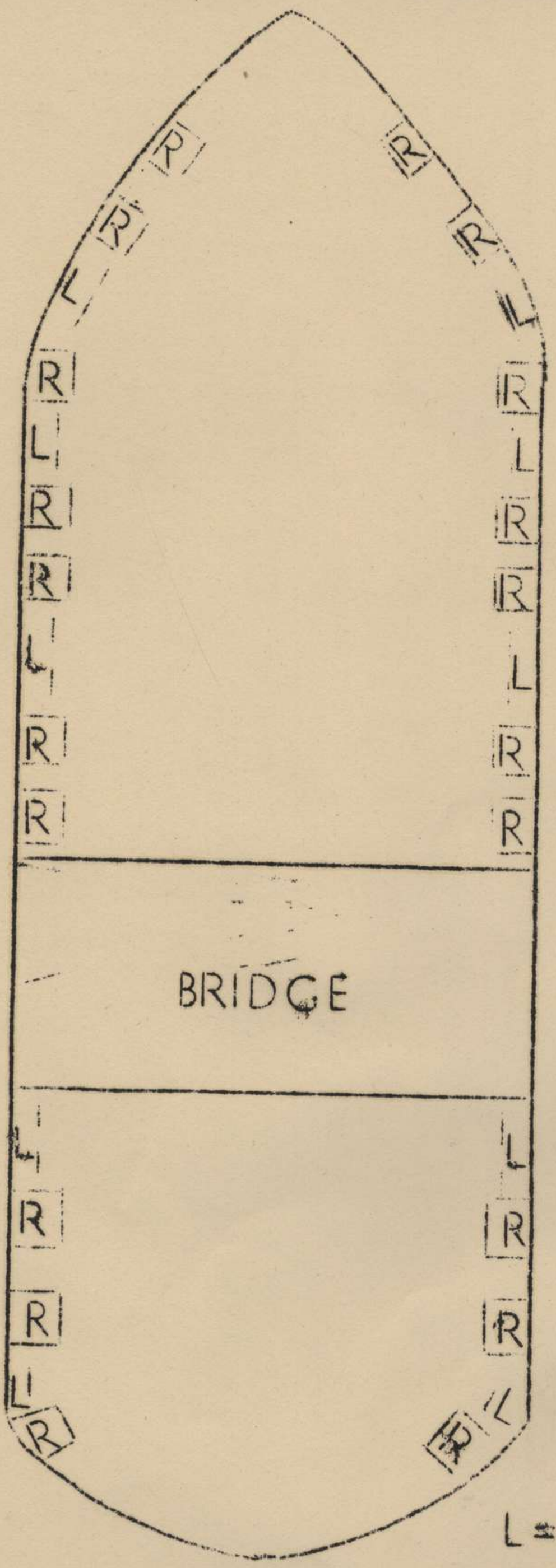
4. SECURE

(a) The order to secure from all drills is three short rings on general alarms.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

ABANDON SHIP DETAIL STATIONS



R=RAFT

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

VOYAGE STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO DETAIL OFFICER.

Subject: Duties of.

1. Provide personnel for Voyage Staff in accordance with following schedules:

VOYAGE STAFF	DETAIL	NO. MEN	N.C.O.'s
Executive Officer			
Senior O.O.D. & O.O.D.'s (6)	Guard	132	4 Cpls 4 Sgts
Sanitary Officer	Deck Sanitary Details	22	2
Compartment Officers (30)	Cleaners in Compartments	100	6
Mess Officer	Mess Detail	75	4
Welfare and Rec. Off.	Librarians	2	
Emergency Drill Off.	Abandon Ship		4
Detail Officer			
Totals - Officers 43		371	26

2. Requests for additional details should be submitted to the Naval Commanding Officer for approval.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

DETAIL NEEDED IN ADVANCE OF EMBARKATION.

OFFICERS	MEN	N.C.O.'s
Executive Officer		
Senior O.O.D.	132	8
Sanitary Officer	22	2
Compartment Officers (5)	50	
Emergency Drill Officer	40	2
Mess Officer	75	4

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

VOYAGE STAFF

MEMORANDUM TO WELFARE AND RECREATION OFFICER.

Subject: Duties of.

1. Take charge of the library.

2. Instruct librarians furnished by Detail Officer.

3. Organize group singing.

4. Organize band or orchestra.

5. Consult with Assistant Troop Officer concerning news broadcast.

6. Play music on turn table from 1130 to 1330, and from 1630 to 1830 daily.

7. If ship is due to cross the equator, contact and work with the Senior Shellback on board in preparing proper ceremonies and certificates.

8. Arrange for Divine Services at appropriate times.

9. Distribute free cigarettes, ditty bags and recreational equipment.

10. Arrange and supervise athletic contests and exhibitions.

11. Consult with troops on any problem which may cause them distress.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

S. S. SANTA MONICA
OFFICE OF
NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 4.

HOSPITAL AND SICK BAY REGULATIONS.

1. Unless it is an emergency, men will not be treated except during Sick Call hours.

2. Emergency calls may be made at any time during the day or night.

3. During all Drills all patients must wear lifejackets.

4. BATTLE DRESSING STATIONS

Hospital, Hold No. 5.
Forward Station, Compartment B-1.

SHIP'S STORE REGULATIONS.

1. The Ship's Store is operated on a non-profit basis, and in accordance with the regulations outlined in chapter 15 of the Navy Bureau of Supplies and Accounts Manual and Memoranda.

2. Approved price lists are posted on all bulletin boards.

3. All troop and passenger officer purchases shall be made by duly appointed group buyers. Group buyers shall be present in their living areas from 1930 to 2030 each evening to take orders and collect money for purchases. They shall combine all orders on official order blank which they will turn in to the ship's store the following day at 0830 or 1330. After they have received and paid for their merchandise they shall take said merchandise to their living areas for distribution to the individual purchasers.

4. Items purchased at the ship's store shall not be resold at other than the approved and published price.

5. The Supply Officer is authorized to limit the amount of any item or items that may be purchased by any individual.

6. Troops shall not purchase from, or sell any merchandise to members of the Merchant Marine or the Naval Ship's Company.

NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICER.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1022879

Appx. 1

61 AUST INF BN TRG SYLLABUS - 6 - 11 NOV 44 (TRG INSTR No. 24)

HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
3 Nov 44. Copy No. 14....

Day	HQ Coy	A Coy	B Coy	C Coy	D Coy
6 Nov	Lecturettes Weapon Trg Assault Course Unarmed Combat	Route March	Sports Day	Range Practice	Lecturettes Weapon Trg Assault Course Unarmed Combat
7 Nov	Sports Day	Lecturettes Weapon Trg Assault Course Unarmed Combat	Route March	Lecturettes Weapon Trg Assault Course Unarmed Combat	Range Practice
8 Nov	Specialist Trg	Sports Day	Range Practice	Route March	Coy Comds Discretion Swimming
9 Nov	Specialist Trg	Range Practice	Lecturettes Weapon Trg Assault Course Unarmed Combat	Sports Day	Route March
10 Nov	Route March	Coy Comds Discretion Swimming	Swimming Coy Comds Discretion	Coy Comds Discretion Swimming	Sports Day
11 Nov	Range Practice	BATTALION PARADE			
		Swimming	Swimming	Swimming	Swimming

DISTRIBUTION - LIST "A".
Issued by Orderly at 1310 hrs.

Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

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2/2 Sec

a/p/psc 2

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Copy No. 15
Serial No. 13/44
Nos. 84

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

by

Lt-Col W.R. DEXTER, DSO

COMD 61 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

4 November 1944

84. The result of a DCM convened by Maj-Gen A. Ramsay, GOC 5 Aust Div is hereby promulgated -

QX55481 PTE MANUEL, James Joseph, 61 AUST INF BN.

DATE AND PLACE OF TRIAL- 30 OCT 44, IN THE FIELD.

CHARGE OF WHICH FOUND GUILTY-

"Deserting His Majesty's Service in that he in the field absented himself without leave at 1205 hrs 14 Aug 44 during movement to an operational area with intent to avoid so proceeding until return to unit at 1555 hrs 17 Oct 44 after being arrested at Brisbane by 1 Aust L of C Pro Coy".

FINDING- Not guilty of Desertion but is guilty of AWL from 1205 hrs 14 Aug 44 until 1315 hrs 30 Aug 44.

SENTENCE AND DATE- To undergo Detention for 50 days - 30 Oct 44.

CONFIRMATION AND DATE- By Maj-Gen A. Ramsay, GOC 5 Aust Div on 1 Nov 44.

The accused was in open arrest for 37 days and in close arrest for 25 days awaiting trial. Of the period of close arrest he performed Military duties for 19 days.

The finding and sentence were duly confirmed on 1 Nov 44 and promulgated to the accused in the Field on 4 Nov 44.

Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION - LIST "A"

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