

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

**Item number: 8/3/70**

**31 Infantry Battalion & 31/51**  
**Infantry Battalion**

**January - May 1942**

A.C.R.O

*Sheet 1*

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Bn......

Date and Time - From. 1 Jan 42...... To. 9 Jan 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Show Grounds, Townsville.	1. 1. 42		Mob. Training Continues. Present posting of Officers this Unit Map Showing Location of Post at present manned by this Unit	Appendix A. Appendix B.
" "	2. 1. 42		Mob Training continues.	
" "	3 1. 42		Mob. Training continues.	
" "	4. 1. 42.		Sunday.	
" "	5. 1. 42.		Mob Training continues. Strength :- 29 Offrs. 786 O/R.	
" "	6. 1. 42		Mob. Training continues. Maj. F..Fraser who has been with this Unit since the beginning of the War, but who of recent times has been with the 11 Inf. Bde. as understudy to the B.M., left for Brisbane to take up a post with N. Comd.	
" "	7. 1. 42	0110	Telephone message from Bde, advises unidentified aircraft over COOKTOWN - later advised that plane had been identified.	
			Mob. Training continues. Precautionary Instructions No.2 issued. M.T. moved to Bivouac Areas set out in Precautionary Instructions.	vide Appendix C.
	8. 1. 42.		Mob. Training continues.	
	9. 1. 42		Mob. Training continues. C.O. & Adj. in conference with Brig. "instructions to detail a working party and guard of about 60 men for the R.A.A.F. Aerodrome at Townsville.	
		1430.		

*31/1/42*

*MR*

*16*

(2)

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit... 31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From... 10 Jan 42..... To... 20/ Jan. 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Show Grounds, Townsville.	10. 1. 42	0900	Guard and unloading party of approximately 44 men from B Coy. leave for <sup>Petrol Dump near</sup> R.A.A.F. Aerodrome, Townsville. Mob. Training is completed	
" "	11. 1. 42		<sup>Petrol Dump near</sup> Work at R. A. A. F. Drome continues.	
" "	12. 1. 42		8 Weeks syllabus of training commences. Guard party <sup>Petrol Dump near</sup> at R.A.A.F. Drome continues, but unloading completed. Strength:- 29 Offrs. 832 O/R. Amendment No. 1. to Precautionary Instructions No. 2.	Appendix D.
	13. 1. 42		Training continues. <sup>Petrol Dump near</sup> Guard at R.A.A.F. Drome continues.	
	to			
	17. 1. 42			
	18 .1. 42		Sunday.	
	19. 1. 42		Strength:- 29 Offrs. 831 O/R. Approx. 45 O/R & 1 Offr. under command of Engineer commenced building of Road on Foot Hills of Castle Hill for 41 Hy. Bty. Training continues. 2 Coy's now being duty companies. <sup>Guard at Petrol Dump continues.</sup>	
	20. 1. 42		Short visit from Maj. General J.M.A. Durrant C.M.G. D.S.O. Lecture to Officer's at Town Hall at 2000 hrs. on "Discipline." Training continues. 2 Coy's now being Duty Coy's. Road Building on Castle Hill continues. Amendment No. 2 to Precautionary Instructions No. 2. <sup>Guard at Petrol Dump continues.</sup>	Appendix E.



Sheet 3

WAR DIARY.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit... 31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From... 21 Jan 42.....

To... 25 Jan 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Show Grounds Townsville	21/1/42		Training Continues. Two (2) Coys. are Duty Companies. Road Building on Castle Hill, near Orphanage continues. Guard at Petrol Dump continues.	
	22/1/42	1430	Same as 21/1/42. Maj. Gen. J.M.A. Durrant, C.M.G. D.S.O. lectures to Officers at Town Hall on "Man Mastership" Japanese Invasion of New Britain and surroundings begin.	
	23/1/42		Same as 21/1/42.	
	24/1/42	1615	Same as 21/1/42 C.O. & Adj. attend Conference at Brigade. Orders to find Biv. areas in Townsville area for Bn.	
	25/1/42.	0800	Guard at Petrol Dump continues.	
		-	Recce. by Adj. Q.M. T.O. & I.O. of Biv. Areas	
		1200	for Coys. in Townsville Area.	
		1400	Recce. by Brig. with other Offrs. of 11 Inf. Bde. and Adj. & Captain Theodore of A. Coy	
		1900	of this Unit, of Area above Harvey's Range for the purpose of improving a road between this Range and Dotswood Station, and so	
			provide an alternative route between Townsville & Charters Towers.	
			Orders from Brig. to send two companies to Harvey's Range on Tuesday and Thursday of	
			the coming week.	

Sheet 4

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....26 Jan 42..... To.....26 Jan 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Show Grounds, Townsville.	26. 1. 42.	0700	<p>Conference of Coy. Comds. when Adjnt. explained orders for dispersal &amp; tasks on Road above Harvey's Range. Arrangements made to carry out orders.</p> <p>Camouflage of Tents commences.</p> <p>Work on Road and Gun Emplacements near Orphanage continues.</p> <p>Guard on Petrol Dump near R.A.A.F. drome continues.</p> <p>Captain Theodore &amp; Lieut. K. M. Christie ordered by Bde. to prepare Defensive plan for the Kissing Point Fort, for One Inf. Coy.</p> <p>Loading party of 40 men for Dump near R.A.A.F.</p> <p>Training of those not on duty continues.</p> <p>1845 Conference of Coy. Comds. when full orders given for Dispersal of Coys.</p> <p>"A" Coy. for Harvey's Range Area on 27.1.42 at 0900. "B" for Dispersal Area on Ross River near Power Station, at 2100 hrs. on 27.1. 42.</p> <p>"C" Coy. Remain in camp until duties finished and move out on 29.1.42 at 0900 hrs to Harvey's Range Area.</p> <p>"D" Coy. Remain in Camp as Duty Coy.</p> <p>"E" Coy. not on posts, go to same Dispersal Area as B. Coy. at 0900 hrs on 27.1.42</p> <p>H.Q. Coy. Disperse to Ridge near Cluden.</p> <p>"B.H.Q." remain in Camp with exception of Band, who proceed with H.Q. Coy.</p> <p>1845 Full administrative arrangements made to move out.</p>	

Sheet 5

WAR DIARY.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....26 Jan 42..... To.....27.1. 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Show Grounds, Townsville.	26. 1. 42	1845	Special Training Coy formed for Training of U.S.P. recently called into Camp, consisting of 63 O/R. Strength. 32 Offrs. 8880/R.	
	27. 1. 42	0900	"A" Coy. departs for Area above Harvey's Range "E" " proceeds to Biv. Area near Power Station. Work on Road and Gun Emplacement near Orphanage continues. Guard on Petrol Dump near R.A.A.F drome continues 30 O/R working party for ACK Ackpost at Rowe's Bay near 3 Mile Creek., 30 O/R working party for Bohle River . Defence plans for local protection of Kissing Point Fort completed by Capt. G.A. Theodore & Lieut. K.M. Christie.	
		2100	B. Coy. proceeds to Biv. Area near Power Station.	

Sheet 6

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....28 Jan 42..... To.....29 Jan 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<del>28 Jan 42</del> Townsville Area Dispersed.	28 Jan 42	0900	H.Q. Coy and Band proceed to BIV. AREA at PITTS RIDGE near CLUDEN.  1400 B.H.Q. leaves for BIV. AREA near POWER STATION.  <u>DUTIES.</u> Guard on Petrol Dump near R.A.A.F. drome continue.  30 men Treefelling at BOHLE and BLACK RIVERS 30 men ACKACK Post at 3 MILE ROWES BAY. A Coy on ROAD near DOTSWOOD.	
do	29 Jan 42	0800	C Coy left for HARVEYS RANGE.  <u>DUTIES.</u> Guard on Petrol Dump near R.A.A.F. Drome continues. 30 Men Tree Felling at BOHLE and BLACK RIVERS. 30 men ACKACK POST at 3 MILE ROWES BAY. 35 men unloading stores at GARRUTT. A Coy working at road near DOTSWOOD on HARVEYS RANGE.  5 men guard on AMN. DUMP at Rifle RANGE.	

Sheet 7

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn. ....

Date and Time - From... 30 Jan 42 ..... To... 31 Jan 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<del>30 Jan 42</del> Townsville Area Dispersed	30 Jan 42		<u>DUTIES.</u>  Same as 29 Jan 42.  C Coy joins A Coy on ROAD Job at DOTSWOOD.	
Townsville Area Dispersed	31 Jan 42		Guard on Petr ol Dump near R.A. A.F. drome continues.  A & C Coys on R.D. near DOTSWOOD.	



APPENDIX A.

Headquarters.

C. O.	Major	Bubb	H.
2IC	"	Penny	R. St. J.
Adjt.	Capt.	Strange	S. O.

"A" Coy.

O. C.	Capt.	Theodore	G. A.
2IC	Lieut.	Smith	R. D. B.
	"	Lobegeier	W. G.
	"	Le Feuvre	V. F.

"B" Coy.

O. C.	Capt.	Honeycombe	G. A.
2IC.	Lieut.	Pirie	J. McD.
	"	Riley	H. M.
	"	Garlick.	A. C.

"C" Coy.

O. C.	Capt.	Love	T.
2IC.	Lieut.	Christie	K. McN.
	"	Allan	S. H.
	"	Hoffensetz	V. E.

"D" Coy.

O. C.	Capt.	McCabe	J. R.
2IC.	"	Wilson.	F. J.
	Lieut.	Evans	G. C. B.
	"	Rigby	L.

"E" Coy.

O. C.	Capt.	Rickard	R. J.
2IC.	Lieut.	Squire	J. J.
	"	Morrison	W.
	"	Feather	A. R.

"H. Q." Coy

O. C.	Capt.	Titley	T. H. A.
2IC.	Lieut.	Bannan	J.
	"	Wooster	H. M.
	"	Aumuller	J. H.
	"	Carey	J. C.
	"	Garlick	R.
	"	Williams	L. C.

# APPENDIX B

REF MAP. COON AMBELAH.  
2"=1M.

No1	Post.	MT. MARLOW	OP. + SIG.	MAP. REF.	972105.
2		CASTLE HILL	OP + SIG.	'	019027
3		PILOT HILL	SIG.	'	048034
4		HILL 763 MAG. IS	O.P. + SIG.	'	...
5		WILLS ST	MMG. AIA.		032031
6		UPPER DENHAM ST.	✓ ✓		032032
7		MELTON HILL	✓ ✓		036030
9		MT. AREA.	LMG. AIA.		996004
		SHAW GROUNDS	SIG.		012013
		SHAW GROUNDS NEAR KINGS RD }	LMG. AIA		009014
		SHAW GROUNDS. NEAR AASC }	LMG AIA		014010
		H. INF BDE HQ.	SIG.		033031

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

31 Bn (Unit)

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

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels	1		
Majors	3		
Captains	8		3
Lieutenants	20		
2nd Lieutenants	1		
Quartermasters			
Totals	33		3

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	J J McDonald		7.1.42	From A/O

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	J J McDonald		29.1.42	Transferred to R.T.O

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj LeBel	Q34531	Beattie Oa	31 Bn	No	Leave
Capt - maj	Q32951	Rubb H	31 Bn	Yes	
Lieut - maj	Q32952	Penney R Stg	✓	Yes	
"	Q32753	Fraser Fa	✓	No	BM Trainee 11 Inf Bde
Lieut Capt	Q32755	Honeycombe R F J	✓	Yes	
"	Q32759	Litley J H a	✓	✓	
"	Q32756	McBabe R B	✓	✓	
"	Q32760	Rickard R J	✓	✓	
"	Q32757	Strange S B	✓	✓	
"	Q32758	Theodore L a	✓	✓	
"	Q32765	Love J J	✓	✓	
"	Q32766	Wilson F J	✓	✓	
Lieut	Q32767	Perie G M D	✓	✓	
"	Q32774	Bannan J B	✓	No	Course
"	Q32776	Reiby J	✓	Yes	
"	Q32780	Austin Miller L a	✓	✓	
"	Q32923	Squire G J	✓	✓	
"	Q33756	Roberts G B	✓	✓	
"	Q110002	Wooster J M	✓	✓	
"	Q32812	Riley H M	✓	✓	
"	Q33765	Smith R D B	✓	✓	
"	Q32738	Le Feuvre V Z	✓	✓	
"	Q32795	Evans G B B	✓	No	Course
"	Q32873	Morrison W	✓	Yes	
"	Q32868	Christie K M W	✓	✓	
"	Q32917	Feather A F	✓	✓	
"	Q33039	Allan J H	✓	✓	
"	Q32935	Heffensitz V E	✓	No	Course
"	Q32925	Garry J B	✓	Yes	
"	Q33069	Williams J B	✓	No	Course
"	Q32851	Tobegerer W G	✓	Yes	
"	Q32877	Garlick A I	✓	No	Course
"		Garlick R	a J G QM 31 Bn	Yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Quartermaster Hon Lieut		Garlick R	A I C	1 Jan 40	QM 31 Bn

31 Bn

(Unit.)

7 Jan 42

(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*

(Signature of Commander.)

11 Inf Bde Area 31

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

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

(Adapted)

31 Bns. (Unit) 7 Jan 1944 (Date).

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

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.	6		2
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	5		1
Staff Serjeants	1		
Serjeants	35		7
Corporals	75		11
Troopers, Privates, &c.	719	80	37
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>* 80</b>	<b>* 58</b>

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

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
2 A.I.C. in W.E.	1 A.I.C. R.S.M. 1 A.I.C. R.Q.M.S.		

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

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

31 Bn.

Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.	
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers														2	2	
Butchers							8	8								
Carpenters and Joiners							7	7								
Clerks							6	6								
Blacksmith														1	1	
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																
Electricians																
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers																
Signallers																
Storemen technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners																
Cooks							4	4								
Range Takers														1	1	
L.M.G. & A.T.K. Rifle Mks							53	53	2	1	7	4			24	
Thief-takers																
Intelligence Duties														4	4	
Mechanics M.T.														1	1	
Dr. Mechanics														27	27	
Tailors														1	1	
General duty personnel																
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)							53	77	80	2	1	7	4	31	58	

31 Bn.

Unit.

Date of Despatch 7 Jan 42

Signature of Commander

11 Inf. Bde. near 31

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

APPENDIX C

SECRET.

Copy No. 41.

7 Jan. 42.

31BN PRECAUTIONARY INSTRUCTIONS No. 2.

(This supercedes 31Bn. Precautionary Instruction No. 1 issued 12 Dec. 41. which document will be destroyed).

OBJECT.

1. To provide for the dispersal and protection of personnel and vehicles of 31Bn stationed at TOWNSVILLE.
2. To provide a mobile force for use in emergencies.

VEHICLES.

3. 31Bn vehicles will be dispersed at West End School Area (Carriers only) and + Cluden Racecourse Road, Charters Towers Rd Junction area (other vehicles) with the following exceptions:

Rifle Coy and	5	30cwt Lorries
stretcher bearers	5	15cwt Vans
1 M.M.G. Platoon	4	15cwt Vans
1 Mortar Det.	1	15cwt Van
1 Sigs	1	15cwt Van

These vehicles will be parked close to Camp in Echlin St. and adjacent to Showgrounds fence in Flinders St.

4. The following vehicles will be loaded with the required stores and kept ready at West End School Area.

2	15cwt Vans with S.A.A. Reserve
1	15cwt Van with (M.M.G.'s) Reserve.

DUTIES.

5. Lieut. J. Amuller will arrange for guards on vehicles between 0600hrs and 1800hrs daily.
6. Emergency Coy will provide 1 platoon between 1800hrs and 0600hrs for guarding vehicles.
7. Duty Coy will arrange a camp guard of 2 N.C.O.'s and 12 men to guard Unit lines etc., if the Showgrounds Area is evacuated A.A.S.C. will detail small parties for guarding D.I.D.s, A.A.S.C. H.Q., M.T. Lines and Mens Lines. (A.A.S.C.)
8. Coy Comd. Mobile Emergency Coy will have under command:

1	Platoon M.M.G.'s
1	Det. Mortars
1	Gp. Sigs
2	Squads Stretcher bearers
9. Sub Unit Commanders will report to O.C. Emergency Coy at his tent (Officers Lines) daily at 1830hrs to receive special instructions.
10. On sounding of any alarm the whole emergency force will double to areas where vehicles are parked and will embus on command. Sub Unit Commanders will report to O.C. Emergency Coy at closest vehicle in Echlin St.

ALARMS.

11. There will be two types of dispersal - wide and close.

+ To be known as Racecourse Area.

/ 12.

APPENDIX C (2)

12. For wide dispersal troops will move independently in small groups to GARBUTT'S PADDOCK in vicinity of dispersed M.T. Area.
13. The alarm in wide dispersal will be the usual alarm signal sounded on the bugle.
14. For close dispersal troops will immediately take shelter in nearest slit trench in 31Bn Area. If troops are caught at a distance from slit trenches they must lie down and not run to slit trenches.
15. The alarm for close dispersal will be a series of short sharp blows on the gong (Suspended pipes at several points)
16. The "All Clear" signal will be series of blows on the gong at longer intervals. This will be given on order of Camp Commandant only.
17. The order to sound the alarm will be issued from Bde. H.Q.
18. If the alarm for close dispersal is sounded by one gong any member close to a gong will repeat the alarm before jumping into a slit trench. The relaying of signal will ensure that all personnel hear the alarm.

SUPPLY.

19. Messing will be carried out in Showgrounds unless prolonged dispersal is necessary, in which case further orders will be issued.

DRESS.

20. Battle dress will be worn by all ranks. Steel helmets if on issue will be worn but not respirators.

BLACKOUT.

21. All lights and fires will be extinguished on sounding of either alarm. Smoking will be strictly prohibited. This state will remain until sounding of "All Clear".

*A. Stange*  
CAPT.  
ADJT. 31 BN.

This is a Secret Document.

DISTRIBUTION.

C.O.	1	B. Coy.	16 - 19	11 Inf. Bde.	35 - 37
2 i/c	2	C. Coy.	20 - 23	R.S.M.	38
Adjt.	3	D. Coy.	24 - 27	R.Q.M.S. 31 Bn	39
Q.M.	4	E. Coy.	28 - 31	Sgt. Needham	40
Intell. Off.	5	16 A/A Bty.	32	<del>Sgt. Carr</del> WAR DIARY.	41-42.
H.Q. Coy.	6 - 11	11 Fd. Amb.	33		
A. Coy	12 - 15	115 Res. M.T.	34		



SECRET

The following constitutes Serial No.1 of amendments to 31 Bn. Precautionary Instructions No.2 of 7 Jan 42 :-

(1) Vehicles

Para 3 - substitute the following where applicable :-

Rifle Coy and stretcher bearers	- 2	30 cwt lorries
	3	3 ton lorries.
1 M.M.G. platoon	5	15 cwt vans
1 Mortar Det.	1	15 cwt van
1 Sigs	1	15 cwt van

(2) Delete para 10 and substitute the following :-

"On sounding of alarm for close dispersal mobile emergency Coy will ~~be~~ down or occupy slit trenches if handy. If bugle blows "fall in" between signal for "close dispersal" and "all clear" mobile emergency Coy will double to vehicles parked in Echlin Street. On sounding of alarm for wide dispersal troops will double to vehicles parked in Echlin St.

(3) Distribution

C.O.	1	"B" Coy.	16 - 19	11 Inf Bde	35-37
2 i/c	2	"C" "	20-23	R.S.M.	38
Adj.	3	"D" "	24-27	R.S.M.S. 31 Bn	39
Q.M.	4	"E" "	28-31	Sgt Needham	40
Intell.Off.	5	16 A/A Bty	32	War Diary	41-42.
H. Coy.	6 - 11	19 Fld Amb	33		
A	12- 15	115 Res M.T.	34		

*[Signature]*  
Capt.,  
Adj. 31 Bn.

SECRET

The following constitutes Serial No. 2 of amendments to 31 Bn. Precautionary Instructions No. 2 of 7 Jan 42.

PARA 3 - After "Flinders St." add

"Vehicles in Echlin Street will move to Cluden Dispersal Area at dawn and return at dusk daily."

Para 4 - After "(M.M.G.s) Reserve add

"These vehicles will move to Cluden Dispersal Area at dawn and return at dusk daily."

Distribution.

C.O.	1	"B"	16 - 19	11 Inf. Bde	35 - 37
2IC.	2	"C"	20 - 23	R.S. M.	38
Adj.	3	"D"	24 - 27	R.Q.M.S.	
Q.M.	4	"E"	28 - 31	31 Bn.	39
Intell. Off.	5	16A/Arty	32	Sgt. Needham	40
H.Q. Coy.	6 - 11	19 Fd Amb	33		
"A" Coy.	12 - 15	115 ResM.T.	34	War Diary	41 - 42

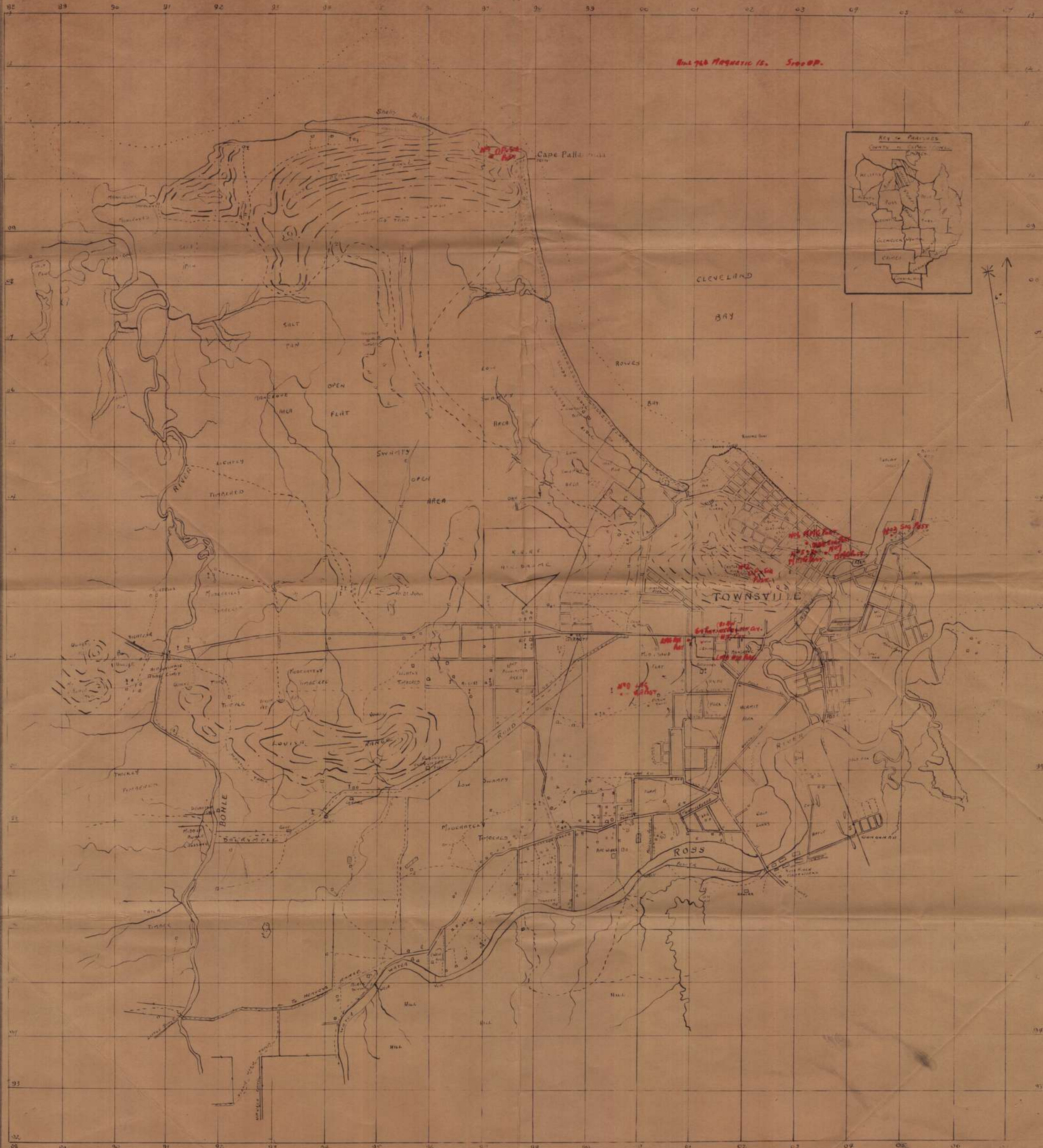
S. C. Strange Capt.  
Adj. 31 Bn.

# COONAMBELAH

SECURITY M2

N°5

APPENDIX B.

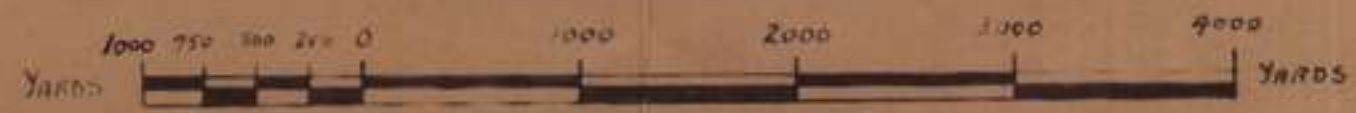


*Red 700 Magnetic Is. See OP.*



RF 31680

SCALE 2 IN = 1 M



Security

THE INFORMATION IN THIS MAP MUST NOT BE DISCLOSED TO THE ENEMY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND IS LOANED TO YOU. IT IS TO BE DESTROYED WHEN YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE IT.

THE MAP IS THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND IS LOANED TO YOU. IT IS TO BE DESTROYED WHEN YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE IT.

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 218.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....1 Feb 42..... To.....3 Feb 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	1 Feb 42		Guard at PETROL DUMP continues Sunday.	
do	2 Feb 42		<u>DUTIES.</u> 34 men ACKACK BATTERY. 34 men Tree Felling at BLACK RIVER. 35 men Unloading Stores at GARBUTT. A & C Coys working on R.D. near DOTSWOOD. Guard at DUMP near R.A.A.F. Drome continues. Strength ----- Officers 31 Men 889.	
do	3 Feb 42	0930	D Coy moved out to Dispersal AREA.  1150 Message from Brigade that Enemy Aircraft Carrier off coast. AIR RAID expected. Order to move as many personnel from SHOWGROUNDS as soon as possible.  1330 Training Coy and V.D.C. move to Dispersal AREA.  1420 Orders received from Brigade to arrange to work 3 eight hour shifts daily, each 100 men, to expedite unloading of stores at GARBUTT.  1900 Due to a torrential downpour, these parties for unloading were cancelled.  <u>DUTIES.</u> 30 men Tree Felling at BOHLE and BLACK RIVERS. 30 men ACKACK POST at 3 MILES ROWES BAY. 35 men unloading stores at GARBUTT. A & C Coys working on road near DOTSWOOD. STATION on HARVEYS RANGE. Guard on DUMP near R.A.A.F. Drome continues. V.D.C. Course commences.	

*MR*

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 4 Feb 42 ..... To... 16 Feb 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	4 Feb 42		Light rain. Dispersal areas cleared and drained after heavy rain of previous night. Duties same as 3 Feb 42.	
	5 Feb 42		Showery weather. Duties same as 3 Feb 42.	
	6 Feb 42		Light rain. Duties same as 3 Feb 42.	
	7 Feb 42		Usual working parties. Little rain. Advice from "A" Coy - work anticipated to last until 15 Feb 42 - wishful thinking!! Bad track discipline in Black Forest Area. Adjutant and I.O. to arrange control.	
	8 Feb 42		Clear fine day. Majority of troops in camp, only 10% of all ranks allowed on leave. No working parties called for.	
	9 Feb 42		Strength Officers 31 Men 895 Maj. R. Penny commences inspection of vehicles to be impressed. Intermittent showers during day. Heavy rain at night. Black Forest Area, being black soil, became very greasy. Usual working parties.	
	10 Feb 42		SIG POST at BDE withdrawn because phone CASTLE HILL established Working parties to A/A Bty, Kissinf Point, and Garbutt as usual. Brigadier inspects remainder of unit on Training, and also party at Garbutt. Efforts by H.Q. to control movement in Black Forest Area. Rigid track discipline enforced. Use of many tracks prohibited. New tracks cut under cover of trees. Arrangements made with U.S.A. Army to harbour transport in <u>Black Forest Area</u> (Area near <u>POWER STATION</u> )	

*CM*

31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R    D I A R Y .

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From..... 3 Feb 42..... To..... 16 Feb 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	11 Feb 42		Value of enforced track discipline becoming apparent as rain and sun encourages new grass over old tracks. Usual working parties. Black-Out trial of Eastern States at 2215 hours. Witnessed by seven officers from Castle Hill - only partially successful in this Area. Harbour Board lights on for 20 minutes after sirens sounded. About 12 other isolated lights on during entire black-out. Beacons at Cape Cleveland and Bay Rock on during Blackout - these would be an excellent lead to Townsville position. Very heavy rain storm during night about 2400 hours. U.S. Army trucks arrive in area.	
	12 Feb 42		Reasonably fine weather during day, working up to shower about 1800 hours. Called for working party to effect repairs to roads at Black Forest Area. Usual working parties.	
	15 Feb 42		Pay. Day. Usual working parties. Rained intermittently during day. Training in groups possible under cover. Sent 2 gallons rum, hair cutting outfit and £30 cigarettes and extra rations for "A" & "C" Coys. This was last day for working party unloading American stores at GARBUTT.	
	14 Feb 42		Steady rain during morning. Working party for Kissing Point and A/A Bty. Fined up temporarily during afternoon. Roads in Black Forest Area becoming very boggy and slippery.	
	15 Feb 42		Sunday. Wet, dull, dreary day. V.D.C. Course terminates.	

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 16 Feb 42 ..... To..... 28 Feb 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	16 Feb 42		<p>News of the fall of Singapore. It has been raining steadily for 48 hours. We pray there will be no AIR RAIDS, because the slit trenches are brimming with water. Roads in the area are greasy and slippery, and efforts are being made to-day to improve them. In spite of the rain, the weather is hot and steamy, and we are still stewing in our own juice. No working parties to-day owing to rain. Training continues under difficult conditions. "A" &amp; "C" Coys still near Dotswood.</p> <p>Strength                      Offrs 31                      Men 890</p>	
	17 Feb 42	1200	<p>Guard at Petrol Dump near R.A.A.F. Drome continues.</p> <p>SAND PARTY for ACK ACK POST.</p> <p>Rain continues making BLACK FOREST, WARSAW, and ARMSTRONGS PADDOCK almost uninhabitable. Parties engaged carting and spreading sand and cinders in the areas.</p> <p>Copy Intelligence Report.</p> <p>M.M.G. ACK ACK posts at WILLS St and MELTON HILL are withdrawn on BDE instructions.</p> <p>Very Wet night.</p>	Appendix A.
	18 Feb 42	0900 1200	<p>Morning broke wet and windy. The cool atmosphere is appreciated by all.</p> <p>Parties working cutting saplings for corduroy in BLACK FOREST AREA.</p> <p>C.O. attend Conference with Brig. at 11 Inf Bde H.Q.</p> <p>Brig inspects BLACK FOREST and WARSAW AREAS.</p> <p>SAND Party for ACK ACK POST GUARD at GARBUTT continues.</p>	

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 16 Feb 42 .....

To..... 28 Feb 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	19 Feb 42.		<p>Thursday dawned fine and clear. <u>Working Parties.</u></p> <p>20 men move Petrol from Wharf. 12 men to build Floor boards on MT. MARLOW POST. 33 rivetting at KISSING POINT. GUARD at GARBUTT continues.</p>	
	20 Feb 42	1300	<p><u>Working Parties</u></p> <p>80 to unload and Prime Bombs at GARBUTT for Yanks. 20 to move Petrol at WHARVES during Morning. 32 Rivetting at Kissing Point. 30 Loading Sand at ACK ACK POST. GUARD at GARBUTT continues. Fine clear hot day. Roads in areas drying rapidly. Officers Lunch for C.O. who today attained his 38th birthday. No 7 and 8 ACK ACK POSTS at SHOWGROUNDS WITHDRAWN. Capt Black arrives to relieve Capt Haskard as R.M.O. while Capt Haskard goes to SELLEIM on a course.</p>	
	21 Feb 42		<p>Fine clear hot day. <u>WORKING PARTIES.</u> 17 Rivetting at KISSING POINT. GUARD at GARBUTT continues. Copy Intelligence Report No 2 showing Code Names</p>	Appendix B.



# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 16 Feb 42 ..... To..... 28 Feb 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	21 Feb 42		Copy Security of Dispositions of Tps showing Code Names.	Appx C.
	22 Feb 42	2100	Rain has gone, though heat still intensive. Party under Lieut Allan return in a ton van from "Utopia" (Harveys Range near Dotswood) after a trip of seven hours. They spent some time in the bog caused by a thunder storm which had broken along the road only an hour before. Lieut Allan reports on the work done to date and reckons the work will take another 3 or 4 weeks. Lieut Allan reports the road is rough but trafficable. He says 4 wheel drives have cut up the roads, they are making very badly in the wet.	
	23 Feb 42		Strength    Offrs. 32    O/Rs.    885 Guard at Petrol Dump near R.A.A.F.rome continues. 10 men to KISSING POINT for Rivetting. Sniper Course begins.	
	24 Feb 42		<u>Duties.</u> 8 men Rivetting. 6 men gravel carting. 6 men Petrol Dump.  Acting R.M.O. Capt Black makes arrangements for Blood Tests to be completed through the Tropical Institute.	

# 31ST. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31. Bn.....

Date and Time -- From.....16. Feb. 42..... To.....28. Feb. 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	25 Feb 42		<p>Lieut Lobegeier returns from "Utopia" leaving behind him all the worries of administration in that part of the world. There they kill every second day and bake their own bread. Their difficulties during the wet were great particularly Road Communication with SELLEHEIM. The men are contented and working well. Arrangements are made to give them some leave.</p>	
	26 Feb 42	1200	<p>25 men Working Party cutting saplings at BLACK RIV. Lieut J.J.Squire married and spent a whirlwind honeymoon of 3 days at MAGNETIC ISLAND. Sgt Gordon Smith of B Coy receives notice of his first appointment. Padre W. McPheat marching out of camp.</p>	
	27 Feb 42		<p>50 men unloading Party for Yanks at GARBUTT. Sgt H.C.Hutchinson of B Coy receives notice of his first appointment. He is at present away on a course.</p>	
	28 Feb 42.		<p>20 men unloading for YANKS at GARBUTT. 3 men leave for Balfes CK., Torrens CK., and HUGHENDEN to stack petrol drums at those centres. 30 men leave for UTOPIA to allow men there to go on leave in relays.</p>	

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS.

(From 1200 hrs 10/2/42 to 1200 hrs 17/2/42).

1. OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) OPERATIONS.

- (1) OWN TROOPS: No operations have taken place in the past 7 days, and the Bn is today dispersed as follows:-

"A" & "C" Coys roadmaking on RD on HERVEYS RANGE near DOTSWOOD STATION.  
"B" & "E" Coys & B.H.Q. in TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT, ½ MILE SOUTH WEST of POWER STATION in suburb of AITKENVALE;  
"D" Coy ¼ mile Nor.-Nore East of POWER STATION at AITKENVALE, TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT.  
Training Coy of new recruits ½ mile North West of POWER STATION in AITKENVALE AREA, TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT;  
H.Q. Coy PITTS RIDGE, TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT, 500 yards East-Northeast of CLUDEN RACE COURSE;  
M.T. PARK, TOWNSVILLE AREA on RD JUNCTION - STEWARTS CREEK and RACECOURSE ROADS.

The BN is manning the following POSTS:

No. 1	-	MT. MARLOWE	O.P. & SIG.
2	-	CASTLE HILL	O.P. & SIG.
3	-	PILOT HILL	SIG.
4	-	HILL 763	
		MAGNETIC IS.	O.P. & SIG.
5	-	UPPER DENHAM ST.	M.M.G. A/A.
6	-	SHOWGROUNDS	SIG.
7	-	2 POSTS	
		SHOWGROUNDS.	L.M.G. ACK-ACK.
8	-	11 INF. BDE.	SIG. POST.

All SIG POSTS & OPS are in direct communication with COMD H.Q.

(11) NIL.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

Rain fell continuously during the week, making all roads other than main Roads impassible. Rain still continues.

3. MILITARY SECURITY.

- (a) Efforts have been made to improve Security within the Unit.  
(b) TRACK discipline has been strictly enforced.  
(c) Camouflage Spraying of Tents has been completed.

Lieut  
I.O. 31 Bn.

Copy 1 to Headquarters N.Comd.  
" 2 " Headquarters N.Comd.  
" 3 " Headquarters N.Comd Base.  
" 4 " 11 Inf Bde.  
" 5 " File.

Maj.,  
Adm Comd 31 Bn.

31st BATTALION

31 Bn 42

GVR/ALA

SECRET 37/42.

Headquarters,  
31 Bn.,  
TOWNSVILLE.  
21 Feb 42.

31 BN Intelligence Report No 2 from 0100 hrs 17/2/42  
to 1000 hrs 21/2/42.

1. OPERATION INTELLIGENCE.

- (a) OWN TROOPS: MORALE high, shown by good work done in numerous working parties.
- (b) ENEMY TROOPS: Nil.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

17th and 18th more wet weather, fined 19/2/42 and two good drying days have been experienced. Bush roads in Area are still impassible.

3. MILITARY SECURITY.

- (a) Security within the Unit is improving, but censorship of mail is necessary.
- (b) Track discipline is good in dispersed areas.
- (c) All precautions taken to safeguard material and equipment.

Lieut  
I.O. 31 Bn.

11 Inf Bde.

Intelligence Report No 2 herewith.

Maj.,  
Adm Comd 31 Bn.

903/GKS

31ST. BATTALION

31 Bn 1942

SECRET.

*Appendix C*

31 Bn.,  
Headquarters,  
TOWNSVILLE.  
21 Feb 42.

*36/42*

11 Inf Bde  
A.A.S.C.  
A.A.M.C.

Security of Dispositions of Tps - 31 Bn.

When speaking on the telephone and for other necessary purposes Areas will be referred to as follows:-

B & E Coys, & B.H.Q.  
Training Coy  
D Coy  
H.Q.Coy  
A & C Coy  
M.T.PARK  
MT. MARLOWE  
CASTLE HILL  
PILOT HILL  
MAGNETIC IS.  
UPPER DENHAM ST.

BLACK FOREST  
WARSAW  
ARMSTRONG'S Paddock.  
PITTS RIDGEM  
UTOPIA  
RACECOURSE.  
NO. 1 POST.  
NO. 2 POST.  
NO. 3 POST  
NO. 4 POST.  
NO. 5 POST.

*H. D. Webb* Maj.,  
Adm. Comd. 31 Bn.

Distribution.

1. 11 Inf Bde.
2. (Copy for Comd H.Q.)
3. A.A.S.C.
4. A.A.M.C.
5. War Diary.
6. File.

A.A.S.C.

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)


Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 1 Mar 42 ..... To..... 5 Mar 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed).	1 Mar 42		Cool day with brilliant sunshine. Maj. Penney accompanies Brig. F.R. North M.C., E.D. to "Utopia". They travel through THORNTONS GAP and though the road is not complete, they complete the trip quite well - good evidence that all roads in district are now quite dry.	
	2 Mar 42		Guard at Petrol Dump near R.A.A.F. drome at GARBUTT continues. Training continues, this being one of the few days that there are no duties. Intelligence Report No. 3.	Appendix A.
	3 Mar 42	1400	Capt. Love arrives from UTOPIA, having travelled by the short route in a 3 ton lorry, part of it being over an old unmade road. Trip of 35 miles took 4 hours; he brought with him men who were having their first leave for 6 weeks.	
		1430	Officers attend to have Photos taken at Don Peinigers to be placed in pay books for identification purposes.	
	4 Mar 42		Capt. G.A. Theodore arrives from DOTSWOOD. His company is camped near the STATION, and is working on the NEW ROAD and the old road between MINGELA and DOTSWOOD. "C" Coy have moved camp 18 miles from DOTSWOOD towards THORNTONS GAP on HARVEYS RANGE.	
5 Mar 42		<u>DUTIES:</u> 50 men at GARBUTT unloading arms for YANKS.  C.O. has made arrangements for officers of the unit to inspect the ACK-ACK POST at 3 MILE and the FORT at KISSING POINT.		

Unit.....31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....6 Mar 42..... To.....10 Mar 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed).	6 Mar 42		<p><u>DUTIES:</u>            30 men rivetting at Kissing Point.            40 men loading party at GARBUTT.            20 men loading AMMN at A.A.S.C. Park.            Lieut. G.V. Roberts, I.O., makes a RECCE of THORNTONS GAP on HARVEYS RANGE to arrange for C.O.s contemplated Recce on 8th inst.            Recce by C.O. of line of BOHLE RIVER to hold it with a BN.</p>	
	7 Mar 42		<p>80 men unloading party at GARBUTT.            Position in Java is reported as critical.            Blood tests begin.</p>	
	8 Mar 42	1400	<p>23 men loading party at GARBUTT.            Maj. H. Bubb, Maj. R. St.J. Penney and Lieut. G.V. Roberts make detailed Recce of THORNTONS GAP on HARVEYS RANGE, and C.O. makes plan to hold the Area with one Coy, and 1 Tp. A.I.T.L., 1 Sec. Eng.            Reports show road from DOTSWOOD to THORNTONS GAP is nearing completion, and some work has already been done on 2 mile Creek on the further side of the GAP.</p>	
	9 Mar 42		<p>Guard at GARBUTT still continues.            Strength: 31 Officers, 863 Men.            12 men for guard at STEWARTS CREEK PRISON guarding internees until 13 Mar 42.            Blood grouping continues.</p>	
	10 Mar 42		<p>Japanese take LAE and SALAMUA in New Guinea.            Intelligence Report No. 4.            C.O. completed revised plan for defence of TOWNSVILLE along the BOHLE RIVER.</p>	<p>Appendix. B.</p> 

31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 11 Mar 42 ..... To..... 15 Mar 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	11 Mar 42		Maj. Penney detailed by Bde to proceed to HUGHENDEN to select Area for Training Bn. Q111675 Pte Grevsmuhl, O.J. absent without leave for 21 days; first case since the war began. Court of Enquiry constituted. 30 men working party at SHELL COY.	
	12 Mar 42		30 men working party at the Shell Coy. On this job the men are working beside civilians, and they can load twice as many trucks in an hour as the civilians who are earning 3/- per hour. 40 men working party at GARBUTT.	
	13 Mar 42		30 men working party at SHELL COY.  Brigadier lectures troops of this Unit at WARSAW, ARMSTRONGS PADDOCK, Pitt RIDGE, and BLACK FOREST, and appeals to them to give everything to their training, stating that soon they will be on manoeuvres, and will be moving to SELLHEIM. and that at that moment the 51 Bn were moving from CAIRNS. He insisted that against the Japs, we must rely on Attack not Defence. He also spoke of the disgusting behaviour of Militiamen whilst on leave in Townsville. First Town Picquet on Bde Instructions begins.	
	14 Mar 42		60 men working party at WHARF unloading for SHELL COY. 60 men working party at GARBUTT.	
	15 Mar 42		The Sabbath saw no rest for the working parties. 60 men unloading at the SHELL COY, and 60 men unloading at GARBUTT. "A" & "C" Coys at UTOPIA make enquiries about returning.	UPD



Unit..... 51 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 16 Mar 42 ..... To..... 18 Mar 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	16 Mar 42		Guard at dump near R.A.A.F. drone at GARBUTT still continues. Strength: 32 Officers, 858 O/Ranks. V.D.C. Course under Lieut. L. Rigby commences. Intelligence Report No.5.	Appendix C.
	17 Mar 42	1700	120 men on working parties at WHARF, DEERAGUN, and GARBUTT loading and unloading. C.O. called to conference with Brigadier. Orders given for the preparation of a plan for the defence of TOWNSVILLE.	
	18 Mar 42	0800	Vickers Post established at Breakwater during darkness to stop fishing vessels leaving the port, which is now a closed port. Precise instructions issued for Town Picquet by Bde, ordering all men back to camp by 2400 hrs each night. This BN does 2 nights in every 4 nights.	
		1400	Conference of O.Gp. at BLACK FOREST, when C.O. gives his plan for the defence of TOWNSVILLE, and orders Coy. Comdrs to carry out RECCES of areas laid down. Capt. Wilson acts for Capt. Love, and Capt. Titley acts for Capt. Theodore who are both At UTOPIA. Further conference when C.O. arranges to inspect Coy. Areas, and to meet Maj. J.A. Krause; later this meeting was postponed until 1400 hrs on 19 Mar. Leave granted to men who had been on working parties. 30 recruits marched into Camp, and were medically boarded and allotted to Training Coy. Maj. Penney returns from RECCE of camp site at HUGHENDEN. Censorship of mail introduced.	




# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time -- From..... 19 Mar 42 ..... To..... 20 Mar 42 .....

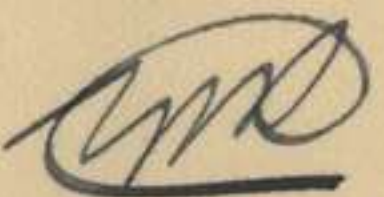
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.																		
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	19 Mar 42	1400	<p><u>DUTIES:</u> 46 men unloading at DEERAGUN. 18 men unloading at JETTY.</p> <p>Recce of Areas for BEACH Defence of TOWNSVILLE with Maj. Krause GSO11. 31 Bn Officers present were:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Maj. H. Bubb</td><td>C.O.</td></tr> <tr><td>Maj. R. STJ. Penney</td><td>2 i/c</td></tr> <tr><td>Capt. R. Honeycombe</td><td>"B" Coy</td></tr> <tr><td>Capt. A.H. Titley</td><td>for "A" Coy</td></tr> <tr><td>Capt. R.J. Rickard</td><td>M.G. Coy</td></tr> <tr><td>Capt. F. Wilson</td><td>for "C" Coy</td></tr> <tr><td>Capt. J. McCabe</td><td>"D" Coy</td></tr> <tr><td>Lieut. G.V. Roberts</td><td>I.O.</td></tr> <tr><td>Sgt. HURLOCK</td><td>Mortars.</td></tr> </table> <p>Recce of Melton Hill and KISSING POINT areas were made, and rough plan adopted.</p>	Maj. H. Bubb	C.O.	Maj. R. STJ. Penney	2 i/c	Capt. R. Honeycombe	"B" Coy	Capt. A.H. Titley	for "A" Coy	Capt. R.J. Rickard	M.G. Coy	Capt. F. Wilson	for "C" Coy	Capt. J. McCabe	"D" Coy	Lieut. G.V. Roberts	I.O.	Sgt. HURLOCK	Mortars.	
	Maj. H. Bubb	C.O.																				
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Capt. A.H. Titley	for "A" Coy																					
Capt. R.J. Rickard	M.G. Coy																					
Capt. F. Wilson	for "C" Coy																					
Capt. J. McCabe	"D" Coy																					
Lieut. G.V. Roberts	I.O.																					
Sgt. HURLOCK	Mortars.																					
20 Mar 42	<p>0900 to 1200  1400 to 1700</p>	<p>Wireless news to hand shows that Japanese intend to cross NEW GUINEA from LAE and SALAMUA to PORT MORESBY.</p> <p>Recce party consisting of Maj. Krause GSO11, Maj. H. Bubb, Capt. R.J. Honeycombe, Capt A.H. Titley, Lieut. G.V. Roberts, and Sgt Hurlock continues RECCE of PILOT HILL - SOUTH TOWNSVILLE AREA and MELTON HILL.</p> <p>Recce party consisting of Maj. Krause GSO11, Maj.H. Bubb, Maj. R. StJ. Penney, Capt. F.J. Wilson, and Lieut. G.V. Roberts continue RECCE of ORPHANAGE HILL and STANTON HILL areas. Outline plan issued by C.O. shows "A" Coy right in PILOT HILL - SOUTH TOWNSVILLE Area.</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>"B" Coy</td><td>MELTON HILL</td></tr> <tr><td>"C" Coy</td><td>ORPHANAGE HILL</td></tr> <tr><td>"D" Coy</td><td>KISSING POINT.</td></tr> </table>	"B" Coy	MELTON HILL	"C" Coy	ORPHANAGE HILL	"D" Coy	KISSING POINT.														
"B" Coy	MELTON HILL																					
"C" Coy	ORPHANAGE HILL																					
"D" Coy	KISSING POINT.																					

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From... 20 Mar 42 ..... To... 22 Mar 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	20 Mar 42		<p>As soon as "D" Coy <del>will</del><sup>can</sup> be relieved, it will occupy STANTON HILL.</p> <p>1 Fl. M.G. to "A" Coy, 1 Fl. M.G. to "B" Coy, 1 Sec.M.G. to "C" Coy, 1 SEC.M.G. on STANTON HILL.</p> <p>BHQ will be established on STANTON HILL.</p> <p>Layer orderd will be issued for Wiring Road blocks mining, etc; in the meantime section posts must be pegged and dug immediately.</p> <p><u>WORKING PARTIES:</u></p> <p>42 men to DEERAGUN, 18 men to WELARVES, 60 men to GARBUTT.</p>	
	21 Mar 42	<p>1400</p> <p>0800 to 1200</p> <p>1300</p> <p>1800</p>	<p>"E" Coy arrive from UTOPIA, suntanned and brawny. Their task on the road has been completed. They take up a position at ORPHANAGE HILL.</p> <p>"A" Coy arrives from UTOPIA, and takes up position 1/2 mile below OLD WEIR on ROSS RIVER.</p> <p>Working parties cutting saplings for rivetting. Coy Comdrs, Officers and N.C.Os mark out position of Section posts.</p> <p>First Jap RECCE plane over city.</p> <p>Our Transport Officer, Lieut. L. Williams, is in top gear and marries Miss Edna Ferguson, Lieut. W. Morrison acting as Best Man.</p>	
	22 Mar 42		<p>Further RECCES of Beach Areas by Officers &amp; N.C.Os. Preparations to work commencing tomorrow.</p> <p>Special Guard of 3 N.C.Os and 18 men detailed to R.A.A.F. Drome to guard Flying Fortresses damaged on raids on RABAUL.</p>	

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 22 Mar 42 ..... To..... 25 Mar 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed.)  <i>MD</i>	22 Mar 42		Maj. Penney goes west to PRAIRIE and TORRENS CREEK to inspect sites.	
	<del>23 Mar 42</del>		Most men given leave after strenuous fortnight's work.	
		1200	Second Jap RECCE plane over city. Strength: 52 Officers, 854 Men.	
	23 Mar 42		All hands digging on beach defence scheme or cutting saplings for rivetting slit trenches. Lieut. Pirie makes a name for himself as Bn's best "cadger" - 600 sandbags in one day from civilian sources. I/O prepares rough map of PL. dispositions for Maj. Krause GSO11 for submission to the Brigadier in anticipation of the visit, of Maj-General J.M.A. Durrant C.M.G. D.S.O.	
	24 Mar 42	1000	Work on beach defence scheme continues. Maj. Krause GSO11 gives orders for minor wiring tasks to Coys. Intelligence Summary No.6 completed. 25 men working party at JETTY. V.D.C. Course under Lieut. L. Rigby extended till 31 Mar 1942.	Appendix D.
		1730	W/O 1 H. Buchanan, our R.S.M., advised by Bde that he must join 11 Training Bn Group leaving here at 0630 hrs tomorrow. We shall miss the R.S.M.'s genial smile and happy disposition.	
	25 Mar 42		Working party of 25 men to JETTY. " " " 13 men to STEWARTS CREEK, loading flour. Arrangements made for all ranks to return unit Badges, and be issued with Australian Rising Sun Badges. Digging, Wiring and Rivetting of TOWNSVILLE defensive Areas continues.	<i>MD</i>

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form G 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 25 Mar 42 .....


To..... 27 Mar 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	25 Mar 42		<p>It is pleasing during the tours of inspection of BEACH Defence Areas to see so many ACK-ACK fully equipped with sound detectors and searchlights. These Yanks are most efficient in every thing they undertake.</p>	
	26 Mar 42	1900	<p>Working party of 60 men at GARBUTT. Digging, Wiring, and Rivetting of TOWNSVILLE Defensive Areas continues. Message from 11 Inf. Bde: "Reports received indicate possibility enemy landing NORTH QUEENSLAND by end of month. All units will be at 12 hours notice from this date. No leave to be granted that will take members beyond six hours recall. Acknowledge." The text of this message was immediately sent to all Coy. Comdrs. in this unit.</p>	
	27 Mar 42	1830	<p>Loading party of 40 men to GARBUTT. Information gained from Bde Officers shows that there is an enemy convoy in the CELEBES coming towards AUSTRALIA; hence the message of yesterday. Also, that all fighting units are being moved from SELHEIM to the coast, and that this unit will have to concentrate its Coys. to ensure adequate control. "A" Coy moves from dispersal area near OLD WEIR to WARSAW. taking the place of the TRAINING COY, which has been dissolved as from to-day. Personnel in the TRAINING COY. are allotted to COYS not up to strength. Routine Orders to-day states that Steel Helmets will be worn or carried on all occasions.</p>	

Unit..... 51 Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 28 Mar 42 .....

To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	28 Mar 42		<p>36 men for working party at GARBUTT. Issue of respirators to all personnel commences. H.Q. Coy makes arrangements to move tomorrow from PITT RIDGE to an area called CHINA APPLE about <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> mile due WEST of BLACK FOREST Area. Hot torrid day.</p>	<p>be in T.G.H.) 6 weeks. )</p> <p>occupation </p>
	29 Mar 42		<p>Lieut. A. Feather injured in Motor accident with 6 ton YANK lorry. Has broken bone in foot, and will be in T.G.H. 6 weeks. H.Q. Coy moves from PITT RIDGE to CHINA APPLE. Units from SELLHEIM have moved to TOWNSVILLE - 26 Bn at STUART, 51 Bn CLUDEN, FD. ARTY REGT. on ROSS RIVER south of NEW WEIR. FIERCE HOT TORRID DAY, but very little sign of rain.</p>	
	30 Mar 42	1855	<p>It looks as though the AMIEU have defeated the <u>army</u>, and our personnel who were meatworkers in civil life are gradually being taken back to their civil <del>life</del> occupation after being fully trained. <u>WORKING PARTIES:</u> 11 men to WHARF as loading party. 40 men to GARBUTT unloading for YANKS.  Strength: 33 Officers, 871 Men.  Guard at DUMP at GARBUTT continues, as does guard on damaged Flying Fortresses at GARBUTT, and guard on internees at STUART.  Message received from Bde by phone, stating 50 unidentified planes over AHERTON flying south - all precautions for the safety of troops taken. Subsequently we were advised by Bde that the report had not been confirmed elsewhere. Most of us returned to bed disappointed.</p>	

Unit..... 31 Bn.....

Date and Time - From..... 30 Mar 42.....

To..... 31 Mar 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville. Area (Dispersed)	30 Mar 42		<p>News received of the appointment of Brigadier Porter as Brigadier of 11 Inf. Bde; Brigadier F.R. North, M.C. D.S.O. has been transferred to the 7 Inf. Bde stationed in BRISBANE. Brigadier PORTER will arrive this week.</p> <p>Work on beach defensive positions continues. To-day, some coys. commence work on alternate positions.</p> <p>Sgt D.M. Gould of "E" Coy and Sgt O.C. Ruddick of "B" Coy receive notification of first appointment to commissioned rank.</p> <p>1400 Conference of C.O. and Adj. of Bn at Bde under Maj. Krause - discussion on M.T. movement.</p>	
	31 Mar 42		<p>Work on defensive positions of TOWNSVILLE Area continues. There is no doubt the men have worked hard, particularly in the rock areas, where they have hewn the rock away with a pick and shovel - no dynamite.</p>	
	1100	<p>Intelligence Report No. 7.</p> <p>Telephonic report from Bde states <del>20-30</del> 20-30 unidentified planes over FLEMING FISH POINT near INNISFAIL flying south - all coys. advised immediately.</p>	Appendix.E.	
	1130	<p>Further telephonic report from Bde states 20-30 unidentified planes over LUCINDA POINT near INGHAM flying south. These planes too disappeared into the blue. All clear signal received from Bde.</p> <p>1800 Brigadier Porter arrives in TOWNSVILLE by air. No. 5 M.G. Post on STANTON HILL withdrawn on orders from Bde.</p> <p>Guards at Aerodrome on FLYING FORTRESSES and INTERNEES at STUART to be withdrawn at 0900 hrs tomorrow on orders from Bde.</p>		

*MD Sgt F.G. Barell of A Coy receives his first appointment*

*MD H. Bubb Major*

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

31 Bn (Unit)

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

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
* .....			
* .....			
Lieut.-Colonels .....	1		
Majors .....	3		
Captains .....	8		3
Lieutenants,.... ..	22	2	
2nd Lieutenants .....			
Quartermasters .....	1		
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>35</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	Hutchinson H.G.	B Coy	2 Feb 42	Appointed Lieut
"	Small G.	B Coy	4 Feb 42	"

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
<del> </del>			
<del> </del>			



**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj T Lt/bat	034531	Beattie O A	21 Bn	No	leave
Capt - Maj	032751	Bubb H	21 Bn	Yes	
Lieut - Maj	032752	Penney R H	✓	✓	
"	032753	Travers J A	✓	No	B.M. Trained - 11 Inf Bde
Lieut - Capt	032755	Honeycomb R J	✓	Yes	
"	032759	Titler J H A	✓	✓	
"	032756	McLabe J R	✓	✓	
"	032760	Richard J R G	✓	✓	
"	032757	Strang J B	✓	✓	
"	032758	Theodore J A	✓	✓	
"	032765	Town J J	✓	✓	
"	032766	Wilson J J	✓	✓	
Lieut	032767	Pirie J M B	✓	✓	
"	032771	Bannan J B	✓	✓	
"	032776	Ruby J J	✓	✓	
"	032780	Quinn J A	✓	✓	
"	032923	Laurie J J	✓	✓	
"	033156	Roberts J B	✓	✓	
"	0110002	Wooten H M	✓	✓	
"	032812	Riley H M	✓	No	course
"	033765	Smith R A B	✓	Yes	
"	032838	Leisure O J	✓	✓	
"	032795	Evans J S B	✓	✓	
"	032873	Morrison W	✓	✓	
"	032868	Christie R M	✓	No	course
"	032917	Yeather J R	✓	Yes	
"	033039	Allan J H	✓	✓	
"	032935	Holmes J E	✓	✓	
"	032925	Barry J B	✓	No	course
"	033069	Williams J B	✓	✓	
"	032851	Roberts W E	✓	✓	
"	032817	Garlick A B	✓	Yes	
"	033698	Smith J B	✓	✓	
"	032809	Hutchinson J H B	✓	No	course
		Garlick R	A J B 21 Bn	Yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Quartermaster Hon Lieut		Garlick R	A J B	1 Jan 40	Q M 21 Bn

21 Bn

(Unit.)

4 Mar 42

(Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)

11 Inf Bde

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



31 Bw.

Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.		
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.	
Bricklayers															2	2	
Butchers							8	8									
Carpenters and Joiners																	
Clerks							8	8									
Blacksmith															1	1	
Despatch Riders																	
Draughtsmen (topo)																	
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																	
Electricians																	
Farriers																	
Fitters																	
Masons																	
Painters and Decorators																	
Plumbers and Gasfitters																	
Saddlers and Harness Makers																	
Signallers																	
Storemen technical																	
Vickers Machine Gunners																	
Cooks																	
Range Takers															1	1	
L.M.G. & Ducking Gunners							26	26	1	1	3	17				22	
Mechanics M.I.															1	1	
Mechanics															27	27	
Tailor															1	1	
General duty personnel																	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)							26	16	42	1	1	3	17		33	55	

31 Bw

Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch

4 Mar 42

11 Inf Bde

Area 31

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

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

31 Bn (Unit)

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

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels	1		
Majors	3		
Captains	8		3
Lieutenants	25	5	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters	1		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	Ruddick	O.6.	B boy	20/10/44 appointed Lieut
✓	Gould	D.M.	E boy	✓
✓	Barrell	I.J.	A boy	21 ✓

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<del> </del>				

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
<del> </del>			

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj T Lt/600	034531	Beattie D.A.	31 Bn	no	Leave
Capt - Maj	032751	Bubb H.	✓	yes	
Lieut - Maj	032752	Penney R.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032753	Fraser J.A.	✓	no	N bond - Brisbane
Lieut - Capt	032755	Honeycombe R.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032759	Tittle J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032756	M'babe J.R.	✓	yes	
✓	032760	Richard J.D.	✓	yes	
✓	032757	Strange J.D.	✓	yes	
✓	032758	Theodore J.A.	✓	yes	
✓	032762	Lowe J.J.	✓	yes	
✓	032766	Wilson J.J.	✓	no	Course
Lieut	032767	Pure J.M.	✓	yes	
✓	032774	Bannan J.B.	✓	yes	
✓	032776	Riaby J.L.	✓	yes	
✓	032780	Airshuller J.A.	✓	yes	
✓	032923	Saure J.J.	✓	yes	
✓	033756	Roberts J.D.	✓	yes	
✓	0110002	Woster J.M.	✓	yes	
✓	032812	Riley H.M.	✓	yes	
✓	033765	Smith R.A.B.	✓	yes	
✓	032838	Le Feuvre J.J.	✓	yes	
✓	032795	Evans J.B.B.	✓	yes	
✓	032873	Morrison W.	✓	yes	
✓	032868	Strickland K.M.	✓	yes	
✓	032917	Leather A.R.	✓	yes	
✓	033039	Allan J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032935	Hoffenetz J.E.	✓	yes	
✓	032922	Barry J.B.	✓	no	Course
✓	033069	Williams J.B.	✓	yes	
✓	032821	Labequer W.G.	✓	yes	
✓	032877	Garlick J.B.	✓	yes	
✓	033698	Smith J.B.	✓	no	Course
✓	033809	Hutchinson N.B.	✓	yes	
✓	032996	Ruddick O.B.	✓	yes	
✓	031043	Gould D.M.	✓	yes	
✓	034116	Barrell J.J.	✓	yes	
		Garlick J.	21 Bn	✓	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Quartermaster Hon Lieut		Garlick R.A.	J.B.	1 Jan 40	R.M. 21 Bn.

21 Bn

(Unit.)

6 Apr 42

(Date of Despatch.)

J. Bubb Maj  
(Signature of Commander.)  
Adm. Bond at Bn.  
Area 31

11 Inf Bde

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



31 Bw

Unit.

Army Form W.3009  
(page 2)

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.		
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.	
Bricklayers															2	2	
Butchers							8	8									
Carpenters and Joiners																	
Clerks							8	8									
Blacksmiths															1	1	
Despatch Riders																	
Draughtsmen (topo)																	
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																	
Electricians																	
Farriers																	
Fitters																	
Masons																	
Painters and Decorators																	
Plumbers and Gasfitters																	
Saddlers and Harness Makers																	
Signallers																	
Storemen technical																	
Vickers Machine Gunners																	
Cooks																	
Ranger Takers															1	1	
L.M.G. + Vickers Gunners							49	49	1	1	1	8				11	
Mechanics M.T.															1	1	
DN Mechanics															27	27	
Tailor															1	1	
General duty personnel																	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)							49	16	65	1	1	1	8		33	44	

31 Bw

Unit.

*A. A. Babb* Maj  
Signature of Commander.  
Adm Bond 31 Bw  
Area 31

Date of Despatch 6 Apr 42

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

TELEPHONE—

SECRET 51/42.

SOS/GES

# Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Bn	1942	
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*Address*

*Date*

31 Bn.,  
Headquarters,  
HOME FORCES.  
17 Apr 42.

Officer in Charge Records,  
N.Comd Records Office,  
363 Adelaide St.,  
BRISBANE. QLD.

WAR DIARY YOUR REF. 4957.

Enclosed find A.F. W3008 and W3009 each in duplicate. These were inadvertently omitted from the Original and Duplicate copies of the War Diary 1 Mar 42 to 31 Mar 42. Would you please annex them to the original and duplicate copies.

*H. Buss* Maj.,  
Adm Comd 31 Bn.



TELEPHONE—

SOS/GES

~~SECRET 51/42.~~  
Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Bn	1942	
-------	------	--

Address

Date

31 Bn.,  
Headquarters,  
HOME FORCES.  
17 Apr 42.

Officer in Charge Records,  
N.Comd Records Office,  
363 Adelaide St.,  
BRISBANE. QLD.

WAR DIARY YOUR REF. 4957.

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*H. Buss* Maj.,  
Adm Comd 31 Bn.

3

Australian Military Forces—1st Military District.

CYB/GES  
Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Bn 1942		

Address  
Date

31 Bn.,  
Headquarters,  
TOWNSVILLE.  
2 Mar 42.

31 BN Intelligence Report No 3 from 1000 hrs 21/2/42  
to 1000 hrs 2/3/42.

1. OPERATION INTELLIGENCE.

- (a) OWN TROOPS: NIL.
- (b) ENEMY TROOPS. NIL.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

No rain since 19/2/42. Most bush roads are now passable. On 22/2/42 a one ton van came down from DOESWOOD STATION on HERVEYS RANGE in 7 hrs after being bogged on several occasions. Since then other vehicles have come through without trouble.

3. MILITARY SECURITY.

- (a) Security within the unit is improving, but it needs to be brought before Tps almost daily.
- (b) NIL.
- (c) Today camouflage painting of vehicles will be completed after about 8 days work.

Blackening of lights on vehicles is beginning.

*[Signature]*  
Lieut.  
I.O. 31 Bn.

11 Inf Bde.

Intelligence Report No 3 herewith.

Copies

- (1) 11 Inf Bde.  
(2) File.  
(3) and (4) War Diary.

*[Signature]* Maj.,  
Adm Comd 31 Bn.

## Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Bn	42	37/42
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IO/ALA

Address

Date

Headquarters,  
31 Bn,  
HOME FORCES.  
9 Mar 42.

B

**31 BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT No.4**  
**from 1000hrs 2 Mar to 1000 Hrs 9 Mar.**

**1. OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE:**

(a) OWN TROOPS: Troops complain that they came to Camp to train to meet the Japanese, not to take part in working parties. Reports of those in charge of working parties show their work is excellent.

(b) ENEMY TROOPS: Nil.

**2. MILITARY SECURITY:**

(a) Security still needs to be brought before the troops daily.

(b) Nil.

(c) Blackening of lights on vehicles completed.

**3. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:**

FINE and HOT. All roads passable.

*G. W. Roberts*

Lieut.  
I/O. 31 Bn.

11 Inf. Bde.

Intelligence Report No. 6 herewith.

*Thompson* Capt  
10

Maj.  
Adn. Cond. 31 Bn.

TELEPHONE—

SECRET.

*Appendix C*  
Australian Military Forces—1st Military District.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Bn	42	37/42
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IO/ALA

Address

Date Headquarters,  
31 Bn,  
HOME FORCES.  
17 Mar 42.

*B*

31 BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 5.  
from 1000 hrs 9 Mar to 1000 hrs 16 Mar.

1. OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

(a) OWN TROOPS: Nil.  
(b) ENEMY TROOPS: Nil.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

Fine with occasional showers; no interruption of road communication.

3. MILITARY SECURITY:

Nil.

*George Roberts*

Lieut.  
I/O 31 Bn.

11 Inf. Bde.

Intelligence Report No.5 herewith.

17 Mar 42.

*H. B. Webb* Maj.  
Adm. Comd. 31Bn

*Appendix D.*

## Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Bn	42	37/42
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IO/ALA

Address

*D*

Date Headquarters,  
31 Bn,  
HOME FORCES.  
24 Mar 42.

31 BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 6  
from 1000 hrs 16 Mar to 1000 hrs 23 Mar.

1. (a) OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

(i) OWN TROOPS: Under orders from 11 Inf. Bde, the Unit is preparing a beach defensive plan for the defence of TOWNSVILLE. The work will take at least 3 weeks.

(ii) ENEMY TROOPS: Nil.

(f) ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:

Enemy RECCE planes reported over TOWNSVILLE on 21 Mar and 22 Mar 42.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

Fine and HOT.

3. TOPOGRAPHY:

(a) Affecting our own operations.

Road from TOWNSVILLE via DOTSWOOD to MINGELA on the TOWNSVILLE - CHARTERS TOWERS Ry Line completed on 21 Mar 42. This road crosses HERVEYS RANGE and provides a second road to and from TOWNSVILLE from the West. Reports from A and C Coys of this Unit who have been working on the road show it is now a first class bush road.

4. MILITARY SECURITY:

(a) Censorship of mail introduced on 18 Mar 42. This will assist security of information materially.

(b) & (c). Renewed efforts made to secure personnel and material in view of enemy Aerial RECCE.

11 Inf Bde.

Intelligence Report No 6 herewith.

24 Mar 42

*George Burt*  
Lieut  
Maj. I/O 31 Bn.  
Adm Comd 31 Bn.

TELEPHONE—

S E C R E T.

*Appendix E*  
Australian Military Forces—Northern Command. *E*

Please quote this Number when replying.

IO/ALA=

31 Bn	42	37/42
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Address Headquarters,  
Date 31 Bn,  
HOME FORCES.  
30 Mar 42.

31 BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 7  
from 1000 hrs 23 Mar 42 to 1000 hrs 30 Mar 42.

1. (a) OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

(i) OWN TROOPS: DIGGING, WIRING and RIVETTING being carried out to complete beach defensive plan for the defence of TOWNSVILLE. Work will take at least 2 weeks more.

(ii) ENEMY TROOPS: Nil.

(g) ENEMY SEA ACTIVITIES:

Information from 11 Inf. Bde on 27 Mar 42 shows that an enemy convoy is at present in the CELEBES moving towards AUSTRALIA, and may come to NORTH QUEENSLAND.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

FINE and VERY HOT.

3. MILITARY SECURITY:

(a) (i) Further lectures by SECURITY OFFICER to Troops.

(ii) All Unit badges withdrawn, and Australian Rising Sun badges issued to all ranks.

(iii) Photographs of all officers pasted in their paybooks for identification purposes.

(b) (i) Respirators issued to all ranks.

(c) & (d) (ii) Bn ready to move at 12 hours notice. Leave to places within 6 hours recall.  
Nil.

*Grogan*  
Lieut.  
I/O 31 Bn.

11 Inf. Bde.

Intelligence Report No. 7 herewith.

30 Mar 42.

*W. B. ...*  
Maj.  
Adm. Comd. 31 Bn.

31<sup>ST.</sup> BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Aust. Inf. Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 1 Apr 42 ..... To..... 30 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	1 Apr 42	0900	<p>Conference at Brigade when Brigadier PORTER meets all Comd. Officers of respective units.</p> <p>Arrangements made to obtain Engineers' assistance to blast away ROCK in certain places in beach defensive Areas.</p> <p>Guard at DEERAGUN relieved by Garrison Bn.</p>	
	2 Apr 42	1215	<p>Work on Beach Defence Areas continues.</p> <p>Brigadier PORTER with Brigadier F.R. NORTH M.C. E.D. inspect BLACK FOREST AREA.</p> <p>Officers Mess at BLACK FOREST entertain Capt Connor, Capt Long, and Lieut Bunty of the U.S. Army - our friendship with the YANKS is further consolidated.</p> <p>Brigadier Port calls for a report on all Officers and N.C.Os, Equipment and M.T. of this Unit immediately.</p> <p>New list of code names for Disposition of Troops.</p>	Appendix A.
	3 Apr 42		<p>Good Friday - but there is no rest for sinners.</p> <p>Ban on leave within 6 hours notice lifted, and 50% of BN strength allowed leave to-day and 50% on coming week-end.</p> <p>Bde Routine Orders require a 3 weeks' training syllabus beginning on 6th instant. Considerable pep-up to training required. Troops to be able to march 25 miles per day for 5 successive days.</p> <p>Beach Defence work still continues.</p> <p>Return of report on Officers, N.C.Os, Equipment and M.T. required by Brigadier G.A. PORTER D.S.O. completed and sent to Bde.</p>	

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit... 31 Aust. Inf. Bn .....

Date and Time -- From... 4 Apr 42 ..... To... 6 Apr 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	4 Apr 42	0800  to  1700	<p>Brigadier Porter inspects Beach Defence Areas thoroughly from Section Post to Section Post. He is accompanied by Maj. R. St.J. Penney, Capt S.O. Strange, and Capt R.J. Rickard. Officers in respective areas accompany inspecting parties. Brigadier approves of the general scheme, but gives important advice about <del>smaller</del> smaller matter.</p>	
	5 <del>th</del> Apr 42	0900  to  1230	<p>Sunday. Brigadier Porter, Maj. H. Bubb, and Lieut Wooster with "D" Coy Officers, carry on inspection of KISSING POINT and BEACH AREA. Brigadier lays down an outline plan for the defence of TOWNSVILLE in which GARRISON BN look after areas dug by us at SOUTH TOWNSVILLE. V.D.C. look after MELTON HILL, KISSING POINT and other FORWARD Areas. The 31 BN will take up a position on the WESTERN and <del>point</del> SOUTHERN SLOPES of CASTLE HILL. Brigadier suggests these localities which are pointed out on the ground.</p>	
	6 Apr 42	0800          0915	<p>Coy. Comdrs conference at BLACK FOREST. C.O. issued outline plan - "D" Coy - ROWES BAY (inc) to DIRECTIONAL FINDING STN "B" Coy - D.F. STN (inc) to ECHLIN ST (<del>exc</del>) (exc) "C" Coy - on saddle between BISHOPS LODGE and GRAMMAR SCHOOL to act as Mobile Reserve. "A" Coy - Ross Creek from RAILWAY STN to CUASEWAY. Coy. Comdrs to go about their RECCE. Conference at Bde when Brigadier meets C.Os and Adjts. of 31, 26, 51 BNS, and outlines at length certain points to be observed in TRAINING and matters he particularly wants stressed in Units.</p>	



# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit... 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.....

Date and Time - From... 6 Apr 42..... To... 9 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	6 Apr 42	1430 1900	<p>The outline of his lecture is set out in the Notes of a lecture given by Capt. S.O. Strange to the Officers at 1900 hrs. to-day.</p> <p>Blood grouping of <u>stragglers</u> completed.</p> <p>Conference of all Officers at BLACK FOREST AREA when Capt S.O. Strange gives an outline of the Brigadier's conference. Maj. Bubb also spoke to Officers about Coy. Stores.</p>	<p><del>at 1900 hrs</del></p> <p>Lecture Copy of outline of <del>lecture</del> by Adjutant, Appendix B.</p>
	7 Apr 42		<p>Guard at Flying Fortresses at AERODROME continues.</p> <p>M.G. Post on <u>BREAKWATER</u> to prevent unauthorised ships entering or leaving port continues.</p> <p>STRENGTH c 36 Officers 855 O/R</p> <p>Maj. Penney commences wiring plan for TOWNSVILLE Area in conjunction with engineers.</p> <p>C.O. makes RECCE of new Coy. AREAS.</p> <p>Intelligence Report No. 8</p>	
	8 Apr 42		<p>C.O. continues inspection of new Coy. areas.</p> <p>Wiring and digging on old areas continues.</p> <p>Maj. Penney on instruction from Bde, gets a party of 11 men to carry out extension wiring programme for the city area under the supervision of engineers.</p>	Appendix C.
	9 Apr 42		<p>M.T., Mortar, Signal and M.G. Courses to train reservists for their specialists tasks begin. These courses are the result of the Brigadiers instruction.</p> <p>Wiring and digging on old areas continues.</p> <p>C.O. continues inspection of New Coy. Areas particularly M.G. plan.</p> <p>M.G. Post on <u>BREAKWATER</u> withdrawn.</p>	

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2113.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31. Aust. Inf. Bn.....

Date and Time - From... 10 Apr 42..... To... 13 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	10 Apr 42	1745	<p>Pay Day. Further advice that more meatworkers are to be released. Bn supplied list of men, they are prepared to let go. This list excluded all specialists. C.O. orders conference of all officers for 1900 hrs on 13th inst.</p>	
	11 Apr 42		<p>Bde advises that we are getting a new Brigadier in place of Brigadier S.H. Porter D.S.O. who has been given a special appointment. Maj. H. Bubb meets Lieut/Col RADFORD of 15 Gar. Bn. and points out work done in SOUTH TOWNSVILLE is preparatory to it being taken over by that unit.</p>	
	12 Apr 42		<p>No.4 Signal Post at MAGNETIC ISLAND recalled. This locality has now been taken over by YANKS with detector apparatus.</p>	
	13 Apr 42		<p>STRENGTH      36      OFFICERS      852      O/R</p> <p>Guard at Flying Fortresses at DROME continues. Post at PILOT HILL withdrawn. Intelligence to train personnel (reserve) for section begins. Wiring of Beach Defensive Areas of TOWNSVILLE continues. Beautiful fine clear weather. 3 American Doctors - Captains BOXER and VETTER, and Lieut HOLMES have the evening meal with us. They have only been here three days and have been working continuously. They brought with them some excellent mellow AMERICAN whiskey - SEA GRINS 7 CROWN. Instructions from Bde to march out 16 meatworkers.</p>	

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Aust. Inf. Bn .....

Date and Time - From... 14 Apr 42 ..... To... 16 Apr 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	14 Apr 42		<p>Brigadier S.H. PORTER leaves to take up his new appointment.</p> <p>News of first appointment of Sgt J.W. Wilkinson dated from 4th inst.</p> <p>Word to hand that Capt P.J. MONAHAN is to go to Rockhampton to 11 Fd. Coy.</p> <p>It is also rumoured that Lieut. R. GARLICK will leave us shortly for some L. of C. job.</p>	
	15 Apr 42	1430	<p>Intelligence Report No. 9 furnished</p> <p>Meatworkers march out - unions have defeated Army in the first round.</p> <p>C.O. and Adjt see Lt/Col MURRAY V.C. acting Brigadier,</p> <p>He advised that L/Col CARDALE has been appointed commanding officer of this unit, and that he is bringing with him CAPT. J.A. OLIVER.</p> <p>BOTH Are DUNTROON MEN.</p>	Appendix D.
	16 Apr 42	1150	<p>Full arrangements made for BAND CONCERT in ROXY THEATRE on SUNDAY EVENING next. Recently the Band has conducted two excellent Concerts at the ROXY on Sunday evenings, resulting in a profit of over £45 to Unit FUNDS.</p> <p>Vist of BRIGADIER J.W. CRAWFORD D.S.O. E.D. to BLACK FOREST AREA when he met senior officers down to COY COMDRS.</p> <p>He spoke briefly to officers about their jobs, and of the co-operation he needed. He enquired of exemptions for meatworkers and sugar workers, and was told by Capt. S.O. Strange that there were 212 sugar workers in the Unit.</p>	

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Aust Inf. Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....16 Apr 42..... To.....18 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	16 Apr 42	1150	He also spoke of soldiers in the unit of enemy origin, and was told this matter was well in hand. He assures us that we wont continue to be a labour unit.	
	17 Apr 42		<p>Wirwing and digging on BEACH DEFENSIVE positions continue.</p> <p>Capt. J.A. Oliver arrives to take up an appointment in this unit.</p> <p>Brigadier J.W. Crawford makes quick tour of BN BEACH DEFENSIVE POSITIONS with Maj. BUBB. He stated he was not satisfied with dispositions, particularly incomplete ring at the back of Castle Hill. He advised Maj. Bubb that he would give orders later on the matter.</p>	
	18 Apr 42	1045	<p>Short Official visit from the GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND, SIR LESLIE WILSON; with a party of Senior Officers, he inspected the forward positions on MELTON HILL, and later with officers of <del>this unit</del> other units, morning tea was served at the SHOWGROUNDS.</p> <p>Working party of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men for wiring for Bde.</p> <p>Men on Route Marched up to 15 miles.</p> <p>Lieut. Duddington from Bde brought notes on a conference with Brigadier Crawford which were briefly as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) What is officers' opinion on the spending of the extra 1½d per day per man;</li> <li>(ii) Draught beer will be supplied to the troops in 9 gal. kegs on the basis of 1 pint per diem per man;</li> <li>(iii) Requisition for wiring must be submitted progressively and not in by lots. Trip wires should be laid first;</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>EM</i></p>	

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit... 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.....

Date and Time -- From... 18 Apr 42..... To... 19 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	18 Apr 42		<p>(iv) Soldiers who cannot write English must send letters to Bde for censorship. Lieut. R. Garlick transferred to L.of C., and Capt T.H.A. Titley takes over Q.M. work.</p>	
	19 Apr 42	0930	<p>Maj. Penney meets V.D.C. Comdrs with object of handing over positions in FORWARD BEACH AREA to V.D.C. COYS. Owing to misunderstanding between all concerned, the meeting was not a success, and arrangements were made to meet V.D.C. Comdrs at a later date.</p>	
		1100	<p>Visit from Lieut Duddington of 11 Inf. Bde with notes from conference with Brigadier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) It is anticipated that two instructors, possibly officers, will be attached to the unit for instruction in Querilla Warfare;</li> <li>(ii) C.O.s may see Brigadier at any time;</li> <li>(iii) Beer will be sold to troops at cost plus 5% handling charge.</li> </ul>	
		1430	<p>Our Band meet contingent of A.I.F. men returned from <del>the</del> the MIDDLE EAST, and march with them to STRAND, where they are addressed by the QUEENSLAND GOVERNOR, SIR LESLIE WILSON. Later the Australian Comforts Fund entertain the A.I.F. men. Band and party of 30 men from this unit had a most enjoyable afternoon tea at MASONIC HALL,</p>	
		2030	<p>BAND Concert at ROXY THEATRE was a great success financially. The BAND did an excellent job, but some of the supporting artists were poor. Brigadier J.W. Crawford sent a special message to Maj. H. Bubb complimenting him on Band's performance in A.I.F. march.</p>	

# 31ST. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit... 31 Aust Inf Bn.....

Date and Time - From... 20 Apr 42..... To... 21 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	20 Apr 42		<p>Maj. H. Bubb indisposed with Bronchitis. STRENGTH 37 OFFICERS 812 O/Rs BRIGADIER J.W. CRAWFORD arranges to visit BN at 1430 hrs but <u>later cancels visit.</u></p>	
		1430	<p>Conference at Bde when Officers representing all units were present. The Brigadier stated the conference was to discuss the question of leave. After much discussion he laid down that leave was to be as follows:</p>	
		1545	<p>1 day a week which can be accumulated up to 4 days in certain cases; only 10% of the Bnit to be away at one time; night leave reduced to 5% of the unit on any one night. These precautions taken to prevent overcrowding in city streets.</p>	
	21 Apr 42	1500	<p>Police take Pte L. TARDIANI and PTE M. NAVONI to internment camp. Something must be done immediately about persons of alien extraction.</p>	
		0400	<p>Loud explosion. Later ascertained it was a GLEN MARTIN Bomber which crashed 500 yards WEST OF JIMMYS LOOKOUT.</p>	
		1030	<p>Troop of A/Tk Bty arrive and take up position in BLACK FOREST AREA. Message received from Bde concerning Enemy Parachutists. Orders given to "E" Coy to have emergency Platoon ready at all times.</p>	
0900m 1135	<p>Intelligence Report No. 10 Mr Duddington called and advised (i) That all indents for rations would shortly have to be forwarded through Bde G.O. (ii) A list of those in this Unit who have had relatives interned.</p>			

Appendix E.

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Aust. Inf. Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....22 Apr 42..... To.....23 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	22 Apr 42		<p>Conversations with Bde confirm report as to PARACHUTIST near GIRU. Parachutist was seen by man and his wife both of whom are reliable persons.</p> <p>W.O.1 ORME arrives from BRISBANE to take up position with this Unit. He is allotted to "C" Coy temporarily as C.S.M.</p> <p>H.Q. Coy move to KENILWORTH on CHARTERS TOWERS RD. Orders from A.H.Q. through Bde that leave of all MEATWORKERS be stopped.</p>	<p><i>Appendix J.</i></p> <p><i>Appendix H</i></p>
	23 Apr 42		<p>All Coys have nearly completed wiring and digging and rivetting tasks on BEACH AREAS. Instructions are received from Bde that when these areas are completed 3 Coys will dig in from ROWES BAY to SHOWGROUNDS, and one Coy will have a counter attack roll. This will still leave a large gap on the SOUTHERN SIDE OF CASTLE HILL which Bde will arrange to fill.</p> <p>Verbal reports from Bde show that there is Enemy Air Activity over GULF OF CARPENTARIA; also that local detectors picked up 2 unidentified planes on the 20 and 21 Apr. Further investigation into the parachutist incident seems to show that a parachutist <sup>did</sup> actually land. Another Bde Report shows that a Japanese plane flew very low over a large mob of cattle near BOBOWABA on the BOWEN LINE. This report has yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>Bde are endeavouring to organise a system of LIAISON between the AIR FORCE, U.S. ARMY and this BDE. for the co-ordination of information. LIEUT DUDDINGTON has been appointed LIAISON OFFICER to this unit, and he is in charge of Liaison work at Bde.</p>	

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Aust. Inf. Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....23 Apr 42..... To.....25 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	23 Apr 42		Orders from May J.A. KRAUSE for BN to occupy WESTERN slopes of CASTLE HILL, and to proceed immediately with areas as soon as BEACH areas are completed.	Original Order Appendix G.	
		2150	Warning order from Bde to have fighting patrol of 50 men ready at once for special job.		
		2350 to	"A" Coy ordered to have 1 Off 2 Sgts 24 O/Rs ready to move as operational patrol, with 2 Brens, 3 T.S.M.Cs, 10 magazines and 60 grenades.		
	24 Apr 42	0200	C.O. and O/C Patrol, Lieut R.D.B. Smith, called to Bde where he received orders for party of 1 Off., 2 Sgts and 15 O/Rs including 1 signaller to embark in a Flying Boat at <del>0200</del> 0700 hrs. Party were to take with them 2 BREN guns, 3 carbines, Ammunition, and 4 days rations. They are to carry out special mission under sealed orders.		
		0700	Lieut R.D.B. Smith of "A" Coy is chosen for the job, together with men from that Coy. Special party departs. The day is windy and overcast with light rain towards evening.		
		0920	Working party of 10 men to unload Canteen Stores. Maj. General MILFORD, Comd of 5th Aust Div., arrives in TOWNSVILLE on a special visit.		
		1845	Preliminary air raid warning from Bde. Coys notified but nothing came of it.		
		2100	Message from Bde that Maj. General MILFORD wishes to meet all officers at BLACK FOREST at 1300 hrs.		
		25 Apr 42			The morning dawned grey and wet, and so the ANZAC dawn parade, which was to be held in the BLACK FOREST area, was abandoned.



# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31 Aust Inf Bn.....

Date and Time - From.....25 Apr 42..... To.....26 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	25 Apr 42		<p>Air Raid warnings are explained by Bde as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Air Raid warning YELLOW - air raid likely but not imminent.</li> <li>(ii) " " " RED - air raid imminent.</li> <li>(iii) " " " WHITE - all clear.</li> </ul>	
		1250	<p>MAJ GEN. MILFORD, Comd 5 th Div, accompanied by BRIGADIER J.W. CRAWFORD D.S.O. E.D. and Maj FRASER arrived at BLACK FOREST area. He was introduced to all officers and chatted <del>inform</del> informally. MAJ. F. FRASER, previously an officer of this unit, acted as his aide. MAJ FRASER is now carrying out the duties of G.S.O.11 in 5th Div. After lunch the party left to continue tour of inspection.</p>	
		1700	<p>Fighting patrol returns from CAPE MELVILLE without any scalps. Investigation showed that there was no trace of the enemy in that locality. Lieut R.D.B. SMITH furnished written report.</p>	
	26 Apr 42	1847	<p>Lieut. K.M. CHRISTIE appointed L.O. to Brigade, and Lieut H.M. WOOSTER goes to "C" Coy as 2 i/c,</p> <p>Message from Bde:</p> <p>"Information from H.Q. Melbourne possibility AIR RAID by Carrier based air craft in force against east coast of AUSTRALIA by 2 May stop take every precaution, protection of personnel and supplies stop anti aircraft weapons continuously manned repeat manned stop ack."</p> <p>As a result L.M.G. for Ack-ack purposes are manned continuously.</p>	<p><i>Appendix I Report furnished direct to Bde Appendix K.</i></p>

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Aust Inf. Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 26 Apr 42 .....

To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	26 Apr 42	1000	<p>Brigadier orders that all sig. offices be dug well underground to continue operations during AIR RAID.</p> <p>Sunday. RECCE by C.O. and Coy Comdrs of BN defensive positions on area west of CASTLE HILL. Formulating M.G. and A/Tk fire plan. Forwarding rough situation and fire plan map to BDE.</p>	
	27 Apr 42	0815 0906	<p>Further RECCE by C.O. and Coy. Comdrs of Coy Areas on WEST of CASTLE HILL. Wet miserable day. Air Raid Warning YELLOW. Air Raid Warning WHITE. STRENGTH 39 OFFICERS 815 MEN Range Practice every day this week. Brigadier stresses need for getting information back to Bde <u>at once</u>.</p>	
	28 Apr 42	1610  2200 2215	<p>Troops commence digging on BN positions WEST of <del>WEST</del> CASTLE HILL. Further RECCES made. Orders from Bde to send two machine gunners to ship LANAKA to do night shift over period of week. Lieut. J. McD. PIRIE has been delegated to "scrounge" water containers for the unit. To date he has done well. Air Raid Warning YELLOW from Bde. " " " WHITE " " Working party of 8 men to unload canteen stores.</p> <p><i>Intelligence Report no 11 furnished</i></p>	<p><i>Appendix I</i></p>

*RM*

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 Aust Inf Bn .....

Date and Time - From..... 28 Apr 42 ..... To..... 30 Apr 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	29 Apr 42	1940	<p>8 vickers gunners report to WHARF (No1) on Bde orders to protect ships for 48 hours,                      Indications are that Japanese Air Activities in the north are becoming greater particularly in the GULF OF CARPENTARIA .</p>	
	30 Apr 42	0910	<p>Bde require 2 Vickers Machine Gunners and 8 Bren Gunners to man guns on vessels in harbour.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p>	

*[Signature]*

.....Lt Col  
Comd. 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.

9/5/42.

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

(Adapted)

31 Aust Inf Bn (Unit) 4 May 1942 (Date).

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

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.	8		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	2		1
Staff Serjeants	1		
Serjeants	46	5	
Corporals	81		5
Troopers, Privates, &c.	707	7	32
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>38</b>

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

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
3 A.I.C.	1 R.S.M.		
	1 R.Q.M.S.		
	1 O.S.M.		

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

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

31 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.	
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers														2	2	
Butchers																
Carpenters and Joiners																
Clerks																
Blacksmiths														1	1	
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																
Electricians																
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers																
Signallers																
Storemen technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners																
Cooks																
Range Takers														1	1	
2. A.G. + Beckers Gunners				5				7	12		1	5			6	
DR mechanics														27	27	
Mechanics A.I.														1	1	
General duty personnel																
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)				5				7	12		1	5		32	38	

31 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

*A. Cardan* Lt/Col  
Signature of Commander.  
6000 21 Aust Inf Bn.  
Area 21 11 Aust Inf Bn

Date of Despatch 5 May 42

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

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

31 Bw

(Unit)

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

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels	1		
Majors	3		
Captains	9		2
Lieutenants	26	5	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

**Officers JOINED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	Wilkinson J.H.	6 Coy	17 April	appointed Lieut
Capt	Oliver J.A.	H.Q. Coy	19 April	transferred to

**Officers QUITTED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Quartermaster Hon/Lieut	Garlich R.	A.I.C.	25 April	Transferred to H. of B.

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
(This section is currently blank and crossed out with a diagonal line.)			

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Major Lt/Col	034351	Beattie O.A.	21 Bn	no	leave
Capt-Maj	032751	Bubb H.	✓	yes	
Lieut-Maj	032752	Penney R.H.	✓	yes	
Lieut-Maj	032753	Fraser J.H.	✓	no	d. bond
Lieut-Capt	032755	Honeycombe R.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032759	Jitly J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032756	McBabe J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032760	Richard R.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032757	Stranger J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032758	Theodore J.H.	✓	no	bourse
✓	032765	Love J.H.	✓	yes	
Lieut	032766	Wilson J.H.	✓	no	bourse
✓	032767	Pirie J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032744	Bannan J.H.	✓	no	bourse
✓	032776	Rigby J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032780	Armstrong J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032923	Quire J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	033756	Roberts J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	0110002	Wooters J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032812	Piley J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	033765	Smith R.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032838	McFure J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032795	Evans J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032843	Morrison J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032868	Christie K.H.	✓	no	trans off 11 Aust Bde
✓	032917	Feather A.H.	✓	yes	
✓	033039	Allan J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032935	Holmes J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032925	Barn J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	033069	Williams J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032851	Jobson J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032871	Smith J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	033698	Smith J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032809	Hutchinson J.H.	✓	no	bourse
✓	032996	Riddick J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	034043	Coold J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	034116	Barrell J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	032791	Wilkinson J.H.	✓	yes	
Capt	Y.I. 1539	Oliver J.H.	✓	yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.

21 Bn

(Unit.)

2 May 42

(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*

(Signature of Commander.)

11 Aust Inf Bde Area 21

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

SECRET.

36/52

Appendix A

SECURITY OF DISPOSITION OF TROOPS - 31 BN.

When speaking on the telephone and for other purposes Areas will be referred to as follows:

Bn H.Q.	BLACK FOREST
H.Q. Coy	CHINA APPLE
"A" Coy	WARSAW
"B" Coy	BLACK FOREST
"C" Coy	MANGO
"D" Coy	ARMSTRONG PADDOCK
"E" Coy	BLACK FOREST
Mt. Marlowe	No. 1 Post
Castle Hill	No. 2 Post
Pilot Hill	No. 3 Post
Magnetic Island	No. 4 Post
Carriers	CHINA APPLE
M.T.	BLACK FOREST

2 APR 1942

*Therby* Capt.  
Adjutant 31 Bn.



Notes on Lecture delivered by Adjt.  
to Officers of 31 Bn on 6 Apr 42.

(From conference by Brig. S.H. Porter D.S.O.)

(1) OPERATIONS - Communications.

Coys to be practised in wireless intercom. NOW.

Battle Organisation.

Efficient Tng and organisation of Headquarters of Units and subunits. Coys to have "R" Gps and "O" Gps etc ready for prompt action.

Protection.

(2) TRAINING. - Toughness.

Toughness an essential in war against Japanese.  
Marching long hours.  
No midday meals.  
Value of aggressive PATROLS.  
TELL MEN WHY THIS TNG IS NECESSARY.

Rapid Production of Plan.

Subunits Comds Thumbnail Appreciation.  
Think as you march.

Rapid Action and Movement.

Jock Column - 3-6 Carriers; 2 4/5 Hows; 2 Pl. Riflemen; 2-3 Engineers.  
Hit enemy from unexpected quarters.

(3) TRANSPORT. Discipline.

Insist on strict M.T. Discipline.

Camouflage.

Nets useless unless pegged out/

Maintenance.

Weekly inspection by officers.

(4) SPECIALISTS. Training Reserves.

M.T. Drivers and Sigs 100% reserve.  
M.M.G. Gun Numbers and  
Mortars. 50% reserve.  
Carriers 100% from among M.T. Drivers.

(5) WIRING. Siting.

Plan based on M.M.G. plan then Artillery then H.M.G.s  
Wire not to be too tight.  
Loose wire in between D.A. Fences constitutes the best obstacle.

(6) LEAVE. A privilege NOT a right.  
Only a process of restitution to produce more efficiency.  
No man can do too much work.

(7) DISCIPLINE. Must be voluntary.  
Team work and mutual confidence in object.  
Saluting a sign of mutual trust.

(8) ALIENS. When in doubt play safe.

- (9) SECTION FORMATIONS. - Arrow Head - useless.  
 Suggested divide Sec into 3 gps.  
 Gp 1 - 2 scouts.  
 Gp 2 - S.L. then 3 members (L.M.G.)  
 Gp 3 - Sec 2 i/c (Tommy Gun) other members with spare amm etc.

In action riflemen main task to feed, serve and protect L.M.G.

Spare numbers fill magazines flat out.

Tommy Gunner to be alert, good runner.

*W. H. Hargreaves*  
 Capt.,  
 Adj. Lt. Bn.

Distribution.

- C.O. 1
- 2 i/c 2
- Adj. 3
- I.O. 4
- Q.M. 5
- M.O. 6
- H.Q. Coy 7 - 12
- "A" Coy 13 - 17
- "B" Coy 18 - 22
- "C" Coy 23 - 27
- "D" Coy 28 - 32
- "E" Coy 33 - 37.

TELEPHONE—

# Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Bn	42	37/42
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IO/ALA

Address

Date Headquarters,  
31 Bn,  
HOME FORCES.  
7 Apr 42.

31 BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 8.  
from 1000 hrs 30 Mar 42 to 1000 hrs 6 Apr 42.

1. (a) OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

(1) OWN TROOPS: Digging, wiring and rivetting is continued to complete beach defensive plan for the defence of TOWNSVILLE. BRIGADIER PORTER issued orders on 5th instant for further LOCALITIES to be similarly prepared to complete a defensive ring of CASTLE HILL.

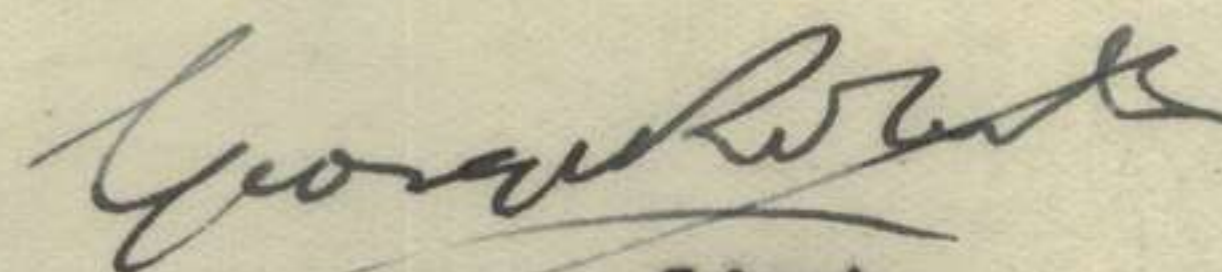
MORALE - In "D" Coy, men who are not meatworks employees are disgusted over the release of meatworkers for BORTHWICKS at BOWEN. They say these men's place to-day is in the army.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

Fine and very hot.

3. MILITARY SECURITY:

Nil.

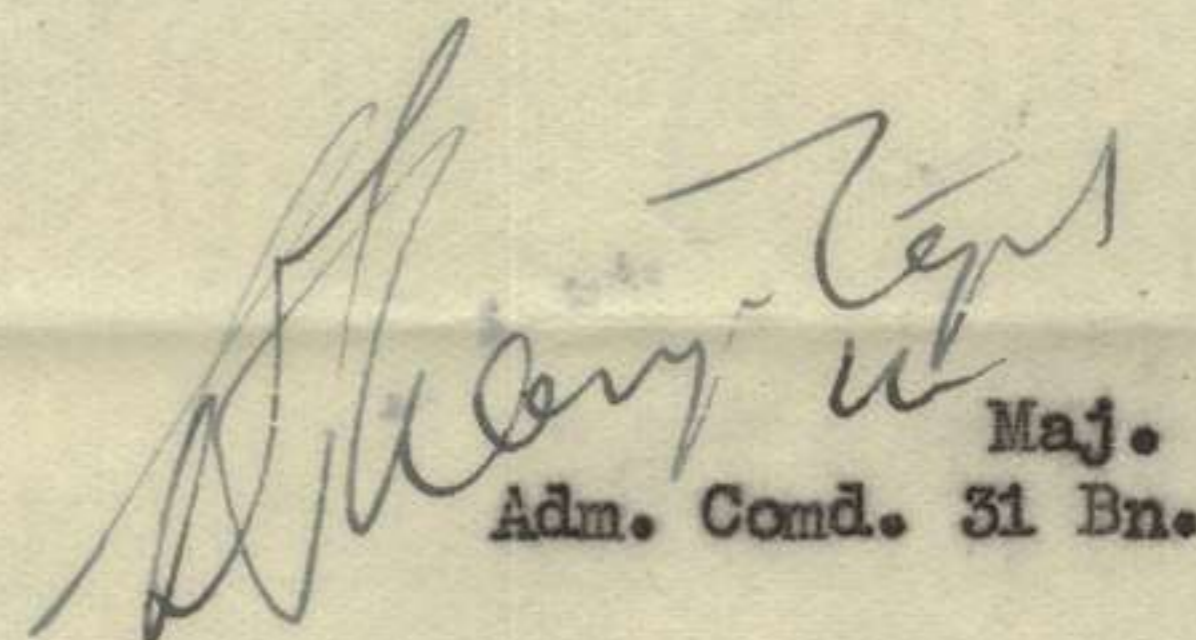


Lieut.  
I.O. 31 BN.

11 Inf. Bde.

Intelligence Report No. 8 herewith.

7 Apr 42.



Maj.  
Adm. Comd. 31 Bn.

## Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31Bn	42	37/42
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IO/ALA

Address

Date Headquarters,  
31 Bn,  
HOME FORCES.  
15 Apr 42.

31 BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 9  
from 1000 hrs 6 Apr 42 to 1000 hrs 13 Apr 42.

1. OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

(1) OWN TROOPS: Digging, wiring and rivetting for defensive plan of TOWNSVILLE continues. No work has yet commenced on the areas selected to complete the defensive ring of CASTLE HILL.

MORALE - Men who are not meatworkers cannot understand the release of meatworkers. It makes them think the chances of attempted invasion are not as serious as they have been led to believe. Meatworkers who are N.C.Os and specialists, who have not been released, have stated that they think it is unfair they should be kept in camp.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

Cool, clear days with little likelihood of rain.

3. MILITARY SECURITY:

- (a) (1) Further lectures by Security Officer to Troops.  
(11) Breaches of security still occur e.g. 7 men of this unit signed a visitor book at St. George Club City, giving away the identity of their unit. Precautions have been taken to warn troops of this unsuspected trap.  
(111) Information shows that men are avoiding censorship by posting letters in public Post Offices.
- (b) Pte Tardiani, a soldier of Italian extraction, says he will not fight against the Japanese, and asks to be interned or placed in a Labour Corps. He says there are others of Italian descent of the same opinion who wouldn't speak up. Tardiani is at present held under guard pending Court Martial.
- (c) & (d) Nil.

*W. G. W. R. R. R.*

Lieut.  
I/O. 31Bn.

11 Inf. Bde.

Intelligence Report No. 9 herewith.

15 Apr 42.

*A. B. B.* Maj.  
Adm. Comd. 31 Bn.

37/42

Australian Military Forces—1st Military District.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Bn	42	37/42
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IO/MLA

Address  
Date Headquarters,  
31 Bn,  
HOME FORCES.  
21 Apr 42.

31 BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 10  
from 1000 hrs 13 Apr 42 to 1000 hrs 20 Apr 42.

1. OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

(1) OWN TROOPS: Digging, wiring and rivetting for Defence plan of TOWNSVILLE continues. No work has yet commenced on the areas selected to complete the defensive ring of CASTLE HILL.

MORALE: (a) Release of further meatworkers, and talk of release of sugar workers has made many of the men think that their civil jobs are just as important as the army. The actual and contemplated release of these men tends to make the men think the war situation is not so serious after all.

(b) The interment of Pte M. NAVONI of "C" Coy, and the interment of F. Reitano, father of J.J.A. Reitano a member of that Coy, have again seriously affected the attitude of that coy towards members of Italian extraction. Something must be done and done immediately to rid this Unit of any person of alien extraction who is not above suspicion.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

Cool, overcast at times with very light showers of rain. Very windy.

3. MILITARY SECURITY:

(a) SECURITY OF INFORMATION: (1) All outward letters not written in English are now sent to 11 Inf. Bde to be censored.

(11) Report furnished by this Unit to 11 Inf Bde shows large percentage of mail is being posted by men at civil post offices to avoid censorship. Steps have been taken in all Coys. to point out to the men the dangers of this practice, and it has been made an offence to have an unposted letter on one's person when leaving a camp area. Men have found Military Postal Services are extremely slow in this district, and that letters are delayed unnecessarily e.g. letters written from Proserpine to this Unit are first sent to Brisbane to be sorted.

(111) Frequently letters are received in the Unit showing the Unit's whereabouts as TOWNSVILLE. Steps should be taken immediately by Postal authorities, both CIVIL and MILITARY, to inform the public that letters so addressed will be rejected. It is suggested that wide publicity should be given to the matter as was given with the addresses for A.I.F. mail. As it is now, the whereabouts of the Unit is frequently being revealed.

(b) SECURITY OF PERSONNEL: (1) Security Officer has during the week made a very careful and detailed check on persons of alien extraction. In a few days, the unit will be in a position to advise those who cannot be trusted.

(11) Pte NAVONI and Pte TARDIANI interned on 20 Apr. Pte NAVONI was not interned on this Unit's recommendation.

(c) SECURITY OF MATERIAL: Nil

*G. G. G. G.*  
Lieut.  
I.O. 31 Bn.

11 Inf. Bde.

Intelligence Report No. 10 herewith.

*A. J. J.* Maj.  
Adm. Comd. 31 Bn.

SECRET

Copy No. 1

23 Apr. 42.

11 AUST. INF. BDE. GP. O. O. No. 2.

Ref. Map - QUEENSLAND.

INFORMATION.

1. (a). Air recce 23 Apr. following on intelligence reports submitted some weeks ago is as follows,-  

2 two-masted schooners anchored 350 yards off EAST coast CAPE MELVILLE Stop Rowing boat carrying five men seen approaching shore Stop No buildings but tracks visible possibly leading to caves.
- (b). Earlier intelligence reports referred to,-
  - (i). Presence of two flying boats.
  - (ii). Use of caves for storage places.
  - (iii). Many tracks on beach

In the vicinity of CAPE MELVILLE.
- (c). CAPE MELVILLE lies close to the main shipping route to DARWIN and PORT MORESBY.
- (d). An enemy submarine engaged our aircraft within the area between CAPE MELVILLE and RABAUl on 23 Apr. 42.
- (e). It is necessary to investigate CAPE MELVILLE area and the caves referred to as a possible enemy supply dump.

INTENTION.

2. A Bde. patrol furnished by 31 Aust. Inf. Bn. will proceed by flying boat to investigate
  - (a). The schooners referred to.
  - (b). The caves at CAPE MELVILLE.
  - (c). Any likely areas away from the beach to which tracks appear to lead.

METHOD.

3. Party will consist of,-
  - 1 Offr.
  - 2 1 Sgt.
  - 1 Med. Ord.
  - 10 O.R. including 1 Sig.
  - 1 Spr. 11 Aust. Fd. Coy. attached for demolition duties.
4. Time depart TOWNSVILLE 0700 hrs. 24 Apr. 42.  
Party to be at wharf 0615 hrs. 24 Apr. 42  
Time of flight 3 1/2 hrs. approx.
5. Landing site approx. 1 mile on western side of objective.  
Move from landing site to objective will be made overland.
6. Return of Party will be at discretion of O.C. of party.

Embarkation will be completed by 1600 hrs. 24 Apr. 42 if O.C. desires return that day. Otherwise flying boat will collect at most suitable point available during A.M. on 25 Apr. 42.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO PATROL LEADER.

7. Should a vessel or vessels in harbour be found to be enemy do NOT endeavour to board, but you are at liberty to engage should they refuse to heave to.

In the event of JAPANESE or other enemy nationals being found they will be disarmed and made prisoners.

One prisoner will be sent back as early as possible.

ADM.

8. Stores -
- 2 Brens,
  - 3 T.S.M.G's.
  - Rifles.
  - 1 Morse (Lucas) Lamp.
  - 2 Picks and 2 shovels supplied by 11 Aust.
  - 50 Lb. explosives. Fd. Coy, R.A.E.

9. Amn.
- 20 magazines per Bren.
  - 10 magazines per T.S.M.G.
  - 100 rds. per man for rifle.
  - 2 grenades per man.

- 10 Supplies - 4 days hard rations and water will be carried.

11. All papers relating to the unit, etc. will be removed from all members of the patrol before departure.

12. Med.
- First field dressing will be carried.
  - Casualties will be evacuated with the patrol.

13. Tpt.
- It will be the unit responsibility to convey the party to the wharf.

INTERCOM.

14. Party will endeavour to contact flying boat between 1130 hrs and 1200 hrs 24 Apr. 42 by lamp.

ACK.

*J. K. Kaus*  
Major  
B.M. 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. Gp.

Issued by Verbally  
Signed at 0040 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION:

31 Aust. Inf. Bn.	1.	C.D.H.	5.
11 Aust. Fd. Coy	2.	File.	6 - 7.
Captain, Flying Boat	3.	War Diary	8 - 9.
R.A.A.F.	4.		

TELEPHONE—

SECRET 36/42.

# Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

51 Aust Inf Bn	1942	
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*CA* *F*

*H*

Address  
Date

51 Aust Inf Bn.,  
Headquarters,  
NORthern FORCES.  
25 Apr 42.

## SECURITY OF DISPOSITION OF TPS.

When speaking on the phone and for other necessary purposes, H.Q. Coy which is now situated at Kenilworth, 127 CHARTERS TOWERS RD., INDE PARK will be referred to as "COCONUT." All other place names remain the same.

*Harvey*  
Capt.,  
51 Aust Inf Bn.

### Distribution.

- 1.11 Aust Inf Bde.
- 3 - 7 All Coys.
- 8. File.
- 9 - 10 War Diary.



SECRET.

## Australian Military Forces—1st Military District.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Aust. Inf. Bn. 42	37/42
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IO/RSH.

Victoria Barracks,  
Brisbane, Headquarters,  
31 Aust. Inf. Bn.,  
HOME FORCES.  
28 Apr. 42

31 BN. INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 11.  
from 1000 hrs. 20 Apr. 42 to 1000 hrs. 28 Apr. 42

①) OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

(1) OWN TROOPS. Digging, wiring, and rivetting for Defense. plan of TOWNSVILLE continues. Work on Forward beach Areas is almost complete and 8 Coy. Areas will on completion, be handed over to V.D.C. No work has yet commenced in the Areas to complete Defensive ring of Castle Hill, although full recces. have been made and 31 Bn. will take up position on Western base of Castle Hill from Rowes Bay (incl) to Show Grounds (incl).

Fighting Patrol sent on 24 Apr. at 0700 hrs. by Air to Cape Melville to investigate schooners and Caves in that Area. Patrol returned at 1700 hrs. on 25 Apr. 42. stating no trace of enemy in that Area. Requests to join in this Patrol came from all parts of the Unit.

(11) ENEMY TROOPS. Reports from Bde. show that enemy parachutist landed 13 Miles South West of GIRU.

(2) ENEMY AIR ACTIVITIES. (a) Information from 11 Inf. Bde. shows. unidentified planes in the vicinity on 20 & 21 Apr. (b) Message from Bde. 0400 hrs. 27 Apr. warns Unit of likelihood of Aerial attack based on Aircraft Carrier on or about 1 or 2 May.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS. Overcast most of period. Showery since 24 Apr. with heavy rain 27 Apr.—country roads wet and slippery and passable with difficulty. Cleared 2000 hrs. on 27 Apr. and all sign of rain gone.

(3) MILITARY SECURITY. (a) Security of Information. All ranks are now becoming more accustomed to censor ship. (b) Special precautions taken to protect troops against parachutist by the formation of a Mobile Pl. in accordance with 11 Inf. Bde Orders. (Op. Int No 5) (c) Precautions taken to disperse Res. Amm. in Coy. Areas and to adequately protect same.

*[Signature]*  
Lieut.  
I.O. 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.

11 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Intelligence Report No. 11 herewith.

*[Signature]*  
Maj.  
Adm. Comd. 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.

J.

3/Bw. Copy only.

To.

KUJO WUKU DEFU/rptd. MAMA NENA REKU KOJU TUGI NUMI.

From

GODA.

originators Number.  
08

Date  
21

Reliable confirmed report 1730 20th April is that a single parachutist was seen descending vicinity 13 miles south of Giru Stop Owing to delay transmission message police action alone taken stop Units will warn all air Sentries vital importance accurate information being transmitted speedily these H.Q. of any further parachute activities Stop Units will maintain one full pl or similar sub-unit with M.T. ready move at one zero mins notice stop Detailed instructions regarding primary areas unit responsibilities follow stop ack.

0905 hrs.

## Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

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K

Address

WARSAW

Date

25 April, 1942.

REPORT OF 31 BN. PATROL CARRIED IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH 11 INF. BDE. O. O. NO. 2.

As a result of investigations made by the above patrol the following information was obtained.

- (a) The two schooners referred in O.O. were,
- (1) A two masted pearling lugger 'MEDLAR' owned by Jack Dunwoody of CAIRNS and handled by 14 TORRES ST. islanders under Command of Bill Samson also an islander. They had anchored off West Coast of Cape Melville on 23 April to get fresh water.
  - (2) A two masted schooner abandoned because of damage to the hull. There was water up to the floor of the hold and the engine was approximately a third under water.
- ((b) There was nothing suspicious about either vessel. The Caves referred to were not openings in the cliffs but openings caused by large granite boulders. Only two of any size were found. One about four feet high showed signs of having been used as a shelter some time previously as an old fire was found outside. The other approximately about six feet high and four feet wide and extending twenty to thirty feet back was some half mile from beach did not show any signs of ever having been used. There were no caves visible on Eastern Coast of the Cape.
- (c) Many tracks were seen and followed. Practically all were made by cattle. Two others led us to a small water hold and were made by the islanders present. There was found near the hole an empty case of 22 Long Solid Rim Cartridges showing signs of being in weather for some weeks at least. An empty tube of Pyrex Tooth Paste was found also. One track led to a stock yard which didnt appear to be in good repair. No boot tracks were seen.

GENERAL. There was nothing to show that the area was being used by enemy as refuelling depot although that would be possible. On flight to the Cape three two masted pearling luggers were sighted and were investigated by Flight Lieutenant Mathers also a motor launch about 30 feet long. The exact position was logged by Flying Officer Daniels and later, a report furnished to A.C.H. They were a long south of CAPE MELVILLE. On reaching objective the two schooners mentioned were lying at anchor on Western Coast of the Cape and approximately two miles from it. We landed a further mile from the Cape, at 1020 hours. The disembarking was covered by three Air Force M.G. and one of our Brens. Disembarking completed at 1130 hours. Islanders from 'MEDLAR' came down beach to meet us and were unarmed and quite friendly. One (later found to be the skipper) named Bill Samson spoke good English and gave me the information about his own lugger and said that the other did not appear to have any one on board. They had three rowing boats but there was no dinghy with the other vessel. They said that they had seen this at THURSDAY ISLAND over month previously with a number of women and children refugees from NEW GUINEA. The vessel was later boarded by myself and a party.

TELEPHONE—

## Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

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Address

Date

### Cont'd.

It was the GOODWILL. The holds contained approximately 30 bags of crude rubber, 10 bags of Kapok and several of some type of resin. Samples were brought back and given with this report. The next morning the vessel was again boarded and the door of the opened by means of my pistol. An envelope addressed to MRS. JANET COWLING of DARU NEW GUINEA and bearing a U.S.A. post-mark. Also a letter addressed to SHARRATT apparently Miss COWLING and signed JOHN. Letter with report.

On charter on wall was found the following information.

Owner of Vessel.	Mrs. J. COWLING.
Port of Registration.	PORT MORESBY. 12148.
Master.	R.R. TANGEE.
Tonnage. Gross.	42 Nett 29.
Certificate issued.	14 Oct. 38.
Cancelled or Suspended.	4 Oct. 39.

The Cargo is in my opinion worth salvaging.

As there was no chance of Area being searched by 1600 hrs. flying boat returned to CAIRNS. Later in afternoon some half dozen native Gunyas were found but did not show signs of recent use. In front of one was a large shell on which was written in charcoal in very fair printing the following.

SAFER  
LAR  
BIT  
HANAM ? A little blurred this One.  
PIT JONA  
HALA  
DEMAS

At night we camped in open space and had two sentries together patrolling our front with the sea behind also being watched. A recce. party was sent in morning in opposite direction to the previous day but again only cattle tracks were found. Flying Boat arrived at 1010 hrs. left with party at 1215 hrs. when I asked Bde. to be notified that we were leaving safely. Apparently this message was not received. I forgot to mention that after having conversation with skipper of lugger after landing a message was given to Fl. Lt. Mather for Bde. information. I heard today they had experienced some trouble with their wireless communication.

sgd. R. D. B. SMITH.  
Lieut.  
25 April, 1942.

Unit..... 31 INF BN .....

Date and Time -- From..... 1 May 42 .....

To..... 4 May 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Townsville Area (Dispersed)	1 May 42	1045	Air Raid Warning YELLOW received from Bde, followed 15 minutes later by warning WHITE. Reliable reports state that unidentified planes were over Townsville on this day, and certain A/A defences opened fire on them. Work on tactical positions round Castle Hill from ROWES BAY to SHOWGROUNDS continues.	
	2 May 42	1300	11 Inf Bde H.Q. Op. Section closes at old location, and reopens at top end CHURCH ST, WEST END. 5 Div. H.Q. takes over 31 BN H.Q. area, consequently Bn H.Q., "B" Coy, "E" Coy, and M.T. move to new posns in Stagpole St, Stagpole St, Ralston St, and Princes Road respectively, by 1630	Appendix A. ↗
		1330	Bn H.Q. established new location at LOWER STAGPOLE ST WEST END	
	3 May 42		Day spent by improving new areas, and digging trenches for local protection. 31 Bn Band ran another Concert for Bn funds at Roxy Theatre. Very successful. New C.O., Lt/Col P.H.G. Cardale takes up his duties, and spends a greater part of the day inspecting the Coy Areas.	
	4 May 42	1000	Orders issued to <del>all</del> "A", "B", "C", & "D" Coys to cease work on tactical positions, and concentrate on slit trenches for local protection.	
		1900	"E" Coy instructed by Bde to supply six No.1 men on Vickers Gun to tanker "Solar" at Wharf. Party to be required for two days.	
		1915	Staff Captain requires 50 men of enemy origin to report at Showgrounds to-morrow Tuesday. Adj. estimates that only 30 men would be available. Intelligence Report No. 12 furnished	Appendix B



31st. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form G 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit... 51 INF BN .....

Date and Time - From... 8 May 42 ..... To... 11 May 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOWNSVILLE AREA ( Dispersed)	8 May 42	1900	<p>Capt Strange still indisposed. C.O.s called to conference with Brig. and receive operation orders for Defences, Bde Area. Lieut O.C. Ruddick and Lieut H.C. Hutchinson transfer from "B" Coy to "A" Coy. General dismay on receipt of news regarding new leave arrangements viz. one day from 0700 hrs to 2359 hrs every two weeks. Bde request that the nominall roll of personnel of enemy origin reach them before 1200 hrs.</p>	Appendox C.
	9 May 42	1100	<p>Advice from Bde re possibility of landing <del>mf</del> by enemy commando troops. C.O. immediately summons Coy. Comdrs to conference, and issues warning order. Allots <del>na</del> patrols for various coys, also areas to be guarded. Posts and patrols to be named on receipt of advice.</p>	Appendix D
		1159	<p>While conference in progress, report received from Bde viz " all posts to be manned by one man. Troops to stand to at one hour beofre dawn 0515 hrs.</p>	
		2015	<p>Message from Bde received as follows: " Submit names of personnel capable of acting as interpreters of Italian. Careful investigation is necessary for security work; preferably intelligent private soldiers". Coys all advised.</p>	
	10 May 42	1000	<p>C.O. recce ROSS ISLAND area for possible posns of H.Q.s.</p>	
11 May 42	0930 1100	<p>C.O. makes recce of "C" Coy Area RAILWAY ESTATE. Brig., C.O., and O.C. "B" Coy Capt R.F.J. Honeycombe make recce of area over ROSS RIVER near OLD WEIR with</p>		

*[Handwritten signature]*

# 31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 INF BN .....

Date and Time - From... 11 May 42 ..... To..... 14 May 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOWNSVILLE AREA (DISPERSED)	11 May 42		a view of placing coy. to protect area between MT. LOUISA and ROSS RIVER.	
		1400	C.O. makes further Recce "C" Coy Area.	
	12 May 42	0700	119 personnel of enemy origin were entrained at Stuart for 9 Labour Coy - thirty one (31) of these were from 31 Bn. The conducting party of 1 Off., 1 Sgt, and 3 Cpls were supplied by 31 Bn. They were not advised of destination or even movement until 0300hrs except officer and sgt who were given full details 1200 hrs 11 May.	
		1000	Bde advise as follows: " 31 Bn be prepared man beach posns including mouth ROSS RIVER to include PORT KISSING PT. Ack."	Ack. Bde.
		2010 2030	Air Raid Warning YELLOW. All clear.	
	13 May 42	1330	C.O. receives orders to prepare posns from mouth ROSS RIVER to MUNDAY CREEK. Calls Coy. Comdrs to conference at WASHINGTON area to receive their coy. areas and tasks. Intelligence Report No. 13.	Appendix E.
14 May 42	1000 1400	Maj. Penney and party inspect proposed Bn H.Q. Area. Work is commenced on new areas and underground offices for sigs. and "I" Sec commenced. System of Patrol Exercises commence, "A", "B", & H.Q. Coys participating. By noon coys are given orders by adjt as to where and when type of patrol etc.		

*W*



# 31ST. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit.....31. INF. BN......

Date and Time - From.....15 May 42..... To.....17 May 42.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOWNSVILLE AREA (Dispersed)	14 May 42	1830	C.O. calls officers not on duty to a discussion on patrols, held at Presbyterian Church West End. Quite a few points were brought out and it is anticipated that such discussions should be held regularly.	
	15 May 42	1900	The day commence with a cold westerly wind blowing. followed by brilliant sunshine - a beautiful day for the C.O. and 2 i/c to make a recce of Roads between HERVEYS RANGE ROAD and INGHAM RD. Warning order received from Bde - orders to prepare to relieve 51 BN on BOHLE. Move to commence night 19/20, to be completed night 20/21. BN R/Os cancel all night leave, and give only one day per fortnight.	
	16 May 42	0950	Warning order to move given to coys. Capt. F.J. Wilson takes over "A" Coy during Capt G.A. Theodore's absence, and Lieut G.V. Roberts returns to Intelligence.	
	17 May 42	0900	Sunday. Call made for volunteers for Independent Coys - must be between 25 and 35 years of age. Conference of R. and O. Groups, when C.O. outlined plan for move from our present area to 51 BN area on BOHLE, and allotted Coy areas. Coy Comdrs to recce their new areas this morning, and this afternoon show their present areas to 51 BN Coy.Comdrs. RVs fixed. Advance party to move by 0930 hrs tomorrow. Tents and floor boards to be exchanged.	

*EMA*

31ST. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 INF BN .....

Date and Time - From... 17 May 42 ..... To... 19 May 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOWNSVILLE AREA (Dispersed)	17 May 42		<p>Recces by Coy. Comdrs and I.O.s and liaison between C.O. of both units continue throughout the day. Capt S.O. Strange knots out the problem of exchange position in the two units, and still maintaining an unbroken front. This is done by moving Reserve Coys of each unit to forward posns in their respective new areas, and continuing to keep one Coy from each unit on the move; the last units filling the Reserve Coy. posns.</p> <p>We are going to find it hard to move to <del>our</del> our new areas because of our comforts and cover. Nevertheless there is nothing like the bush for a good camp - city areas have too many attractions. 51 BN Officers on Recces in city area this afternoon had grins like cheshire cats after they had finished their recces - they thought it was paradise.</p>	
	18 May 42	0930	Advance parties under Maj Penney leave for 51BN area.	
		1000  1615 1800	<p>51 BN advance parties arrive in our areas. Preparations made to pack up all gear and equipment ready for the move.</p> <p>Received Bde O.O. No.4 Copy No.1.</p> <p>C.O. and Adjt busy drafting order for this unusual exchange of positions.</p>	Original Order Appendix F.
	19 May 42		<p>Conference of R. and O. plus specialist officers at WASHINGTON, when Operation Order was issued. After officers had read it through, C.O. discussed same at length, and stressed that although times had been laid down, it might not be possible to adhere to them. Arrangements are made for the exchange of all maps, in this respect 51 BN gained considerably. Coys must move to their battle posns and hand over from there.</p>	O.O. No. 1 Appendix G.

*lm*

31ST. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 INF BN .....

Date and Time - From..... 19 May 42 ..... To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOWNSVILLE AREA (Dispersed)	19 May 42	2400 0001	Adm. arrangements made for the move throughout the day.	Map OF TOWNSVILLE BEACH AREA showing Coy dispositions dug by the unit in last 3 months herewith. Map of TOWNSVILLE SUBURBAN AREA showing Coy dispositions dug by the unit in last 3 months herewith. Above Appendix H.
			Move commenced at 1900 hrs and continued throughout the night. Coys got behind schedule time, and some slips occurred, but considering the unusual type of move, everything went fairly well, and our mistakes, it is hoped, will assist us.	
			31 BN H.Q. opens its H.Q. on BOHLE RIVER. Coy. on the move into their new posns. "A" and "D" Coys arrive late. "A" Coys' lateness was caused by the late arrival of the 51 BN at the other end. By daylight, the move had been completed.	
20 May 42	The dawn breaks grey with very light rain, and the unit surveys in the dawn, with mixed feelings, the barren lands of BOHLE. All ranks stood to between 0515hrs and 0615hrs in their new positions. The unit settles in, and sleeps for the rest of the day. Gone are the comforts of the town, but it is felt that with a little organisation everything can be improved out of sight. Bathing facilities are limited, and the difficulties in this respect can not easily be overcome for the troops.	1500	B Echelon moves into area from the city.	
	Lengthy conference of R. and O. Groups, plus specialist officers to discuss operations of the night 19/20, and to bring out lessons to be learnt therefrom. C.O. goes through each coys move and discusses matters brought up by each coy. Training Syllabus is discussed on the basis of 2 days a week laid down by Bde. Adm. Parades in the early morning are also discussed at length.		0930 to 1130	

*WR*

31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 INF BN .....

Date and Time - From..... 21 May 42 ..... To..... 24 May 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOWNSVILLE AREA (Dispersed)	21 May 42	0930 to 1130	<p>Padre E.L. Thompson is appointed amenities officer from this unit, and a discussion took place on the spending of canteen profits including the purchase of sporting material etc. Working party of 2 N.C.Os and 28 O/Rs for Bde. Coy. Comdrs make further Recces of Coy. Areas. C.O. makes further Recces of area. Intelligence Report No. 14</p>	Appendix I.
	22 May 42		<p>Digging of Coy positions continues; one coy. training. New area will in future be called DREAMLAND. Pay Day. C.O. makes further recce of area. Lieut H.M. Wooster and 8 O/Rs recalled just as they were boarding the Southbound train for a Course at Cabarlah. Bn began to have its own password, but Bde cut this out immediately.</p>	Appendix J.
	23 May 42		<p>Digging of Coy positions continues; one Coy. training. "A" Coy supplies Working Party of 1 Off &amp; 50 O/Rs to Stuart. Q.M. establishes Bulk Canteen Store for Coys.</p>	
	24 May 42	0925  1140	<p>Sunday. Bde require working party of 2 N.C.Os and 20 O/Rs for working party all day. Bde require following duties: 25 May 2 N.C.Os 20 O/Rs Fwd Bde H.Q. 0800 hrs; 26 May 1 Off 2 N.C.Os 50 O/Rs Stuart 15 Fd Coy; 27 May 2 N.C.O.s 20 O/Rs Fwd Bde H.Q.; 28 May 2 N.C.Os 20 O/Rs Fwd Bde H.Q.;</p>	

31ST. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit... 31 INF BN .....

Date and Time - From... 24 May 42 ..... To... 26 May 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOWNSVILLE AREA (Dispersed)	24 May 42	1415 Afternoon	<p>29 May 1 Off, 2 N.C.Os, 50 O/Rs Stuart 15 Fd Coy.;                      30 May 2 N.C.Os, 20 O/Rs Fwd Bde H.Q.;                      31 May 2 N.C.Os, 20 O/Rs Fwd Bde H.Q.;                      1 June 10ff, 2 N.C.Os, 50 O/Rs Stuart 15 Fd Coy;                      2 June 2 N.C.Os, 20 O/Rs Fwd Bde H.Q.</p> <p>Two M.M.G. men to report to Crane Wharf at TOWNSVILLE JETTY immediately for three days.                      Bn plays Essential Services Rugby League at SPORTS RESERVE, and wins 16-12. Team is so far unbeaten. Next week Bn meets 51 BN.</p>	
	25 May 42	0810 1015	<p>"B" Coy from their BIV area located a white object in the sky, and the matter was reported to Bde.                      Warning order from Bde that 51 BN would take over 26 BN area, and 26 BN would make necessary recce to defend area between Sout-East spur of Mt Louisa, and North West spur of Mt. Stuart.                      One Coy. training, the remainder working on Coy areas or on working party for Bde.                      3 Days course for sigs (wireless personnel) begins.</p>	
	26 May 42		<p>One Coy training, remainder working on Coy areas or on working party for Bde.                      Lieut- General Sir John Laverack, Comd 1 Aust. Army, visits BN area with Major-General Milford and Brigadier Crawford, and they are met by C.O. and 2 i/c and Adjutant. They make a detailed recce of the area.                      Weather has been showery and warm for the past three days. Very little rain has fallen. Roads are not affected. Canteen store proves most successful, and further funds have to be drawn on to finance it.                      C.O. goes on Aerial Flight over defensive areas.</p>	

*M*

31ST. BATTALION

## W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 INF BN .....

Date and Time - From..... 26 May 42 .....

To..... 29 May 42 .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOWNSVILLE AREA (Dispersed)	26 May 42	1830	Message received from Bde orders that all surplus gear must be dumped and officers obtain necessary equipment.	
	27 May 42	1500	Wiring and digging continues in defensive area; one coy training.	
			Received 10 Thompson Sub-machine Guns from D.A.D.O.S	
			Aerial Photos received of BOHLE area through 32 Squadron R.A.A.F. show how obvious are the positions which the 51 BN dug. Every opportunity is being taken to drive home to officers and men the absolute necessity for concealment and camouflage.	
	28 May 42	1825	Weather becomes cooler. Rocket sighted by Lieut Roberts - bearing 155° from B.H.Q. position. Bde were advised. <i>Intelligence report no 15.</i>	<i>Appendix h.</i>
		1008	Wiring and digging continues on defensive positions. Air Raid Warning RED; this was a practice alarm in accordance with a civilian test in the city of TOWNSVILLE. It was quite successful in this unit.	
1025 1100		Air Raid Warning GREEN. Warning order from Bde advising that unit would be given 24 hrs notice to move, and that 51 BN was moving.		
29 May 42	2050	Warning order from Bde advising that unit would now be given 12 hrs notice to move. Unit to-day received 4 more A/Tk Rifles and 11 Bren guns.		
		0830	Conference of Coy Comdrs when contemplated move is discussed. Move to be for the purpose of training - 4 weeks individual. section, Pl., and Coy Tng; 2 weeks Bn tng; 1 week Bde tng. Move will probably be to-morrow.	



31<sup>ST</sup>. BATTALION

W A R D I A R Y.

Army Form C 2118.  
(Adapted)

Unit..... 31 May 42 .....

Date and Time - From... 31 May 42 ..... To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
LITTLE BOHLE AREA IN BIVOUC	31 May 42	1600	<p>Sunday. Bn settles into its new positions - digging of slit trenches continues. C.O. and Adjt busy settling new training programme. BN football team defeats A.A.S.C. team on TOWNSVILLE SPORTS RESERVE; scores 20-15. Our team played excellently in the second half and in the last 15 minutes scored 2 tries one of which was converted. A.A.S.C. team was made up largely of State Reps. "C" Coy moves to STUART to carry out duties of Labour Coy for DIV for 4 days.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>[Signature]</i> 18/6.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p>	



# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

31 Inf Bn. (Unit)

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

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	2		1
Captains ...	9		2
Lieutenants ...	24	3	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				
<del> </del>				

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
<del> </del>			
<del> </del>			
<del> </del>			
<del> </del>			
<del> </del>			

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt/Col	17483	Gardale P.H.G.	31 Bn	yes	
Capt-Maj	Q32751	Bubb H.	31 Bn	no	course
Lieut-Maj	Q32752	Pennley R.H.G.	✓	yes	
Lieut-Capt	Q32755	Honeycombe R.H.	✓	no	course
✓	Q32759	Tittle J.H.A.	✓	yes	
✓	Q32756	M'Gabe G.B.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32760	Richard G.B.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32757	Stranger S.O.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32758	Theodore G.A.	✓	no	course
✓	Q32765	Love G.J.	✓	yes	
✓	Q32766	Wilson F.J.	✓	✓	
✓	177539	Olwin G.A.	✓	✓	
Lieut	Q32767	Pirie J.M.D.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32772	Bannan G.B.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32776	Rigby G.L.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32780	Aulmuller G.A.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32923	Squire G.J.	✓	no	B.D.H.
✓	Q33756	Roberts G.H.	✓	yes	
✓	Q110002	Wootter H.M.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32812	Riley H.M.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32838	LeFevre G.J.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32795	Evans G.B.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32873	Morrison W.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32917	Feather G.B.	✓	no	course
✓	Q33039	Allan J.H.	✓	yes	
✓	Q32935	Hoffensetz D.E.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32925	Garey G.B.	✓	✓	
✓	Q33069	Williamis G.B.	✓	no	course
✓	Q32851	Lobiger W.G.	✓	yes	
✓	Q32877	Garlick A.B.	✓	✓	
✓	Q33698	Smith G.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32809	Hutchinson H.B.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32996	Ruddick A.B.	✓	✓	
✓	Q34043	Gould D.M.	✓	✓	
✓	Q32116	Barrell F.J.	✓	no	course
✓	Q32791	Wilkinson J.H.	✓	yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.

31 Inf Bn  
(Unit.)  
23 May 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
Capt  
31st Inf Bn  
(Signature of Commander.)  
Area 2 11 Aust Inf Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

31 Inf Bn (Unit) 23 May 1942. (Date).

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

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.	8		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	6		
Staff Serjeants	1		
Serjeants	46	5	
Corporals	80		6
Troopers, Privates, &c.	707	7	32
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>38</b>

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

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
3 A.I.C.	1 R.S.M.		
	1 R.Q.M.S.		
	1 C.S.M.		

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

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

31 Inf Bn

Unit.

Army Form W. 3009  
(page 2)

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.					REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers														2	2	
Butchers																
Carpenters and Joiners																
Clerks																
Blacksmiths														1	1	
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																
Electricians																
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers																
Signallers																
Storemen technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners																
Cooks																
Rangitakers														1	1	
Lt Col Duches Guvda					5	7		12					6		6	
Dr. Mechanics														27	27	
Mechanics 77														1	1	
General duty personnel																
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)																

31 Inf Bn

Unit.

Date of Despatch

23 May 42

*[Signature]*  
Capt  
Signature of Commander.

Area 21

11 Aust Inf Bde

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

IO/ALA

SECRET.

56/42

A

SECURITY OF DISPOSITION OF TROOPS - 31 BN.

When speaking on the telephone and for other necessary purposes  
Areas will be referred to as follows:

Hq H.Q.	WASHINGTON
H.Q. COY	ROSTOV
"A" COY	WARSAW
"B" COY	MOSCOW
"C" COY	MANGO
"D" COY & Q.M. STORE	ARMSTRONG PAIDOCK
"E" COY	TEXAS
M.T.	BANNOCKBURN
CARRIERS	ROSTOV

*W. J. Lenny Maj.*

*Capt.*  
Adjt. 31 Aust Inf Bn.

31 Aust  
Inf Bn

42

37/42

IO/ALA

Headquarters,  
31 Aust. Inf. Bn.,  
HOME FORCES.  
5 May 42.

B

31 BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 12.  
from 000 hrs 28 Apr 42 to 1000 hrs 5 May 42.

1.(a) OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

(1) OWN TROOPS: Work on Forward Beach Areas for the Defence of Townsville has been completed, and digging, wiring and rivetting is being carried out steadily in positions on Western Base of CASTLE HILL from ROWES BAY to SHOWGROUNDS.

On Saturday 2 May 42, All Coys in Aitkenvale Area - Bn HQ, "B" Coy and "E" Coy and Motor Transport - vacated the locality previously occupied and moved to the following places:

Bn H.Q.	-	N.W. End Staggole Street;
"B" Coy	-	N.W. End Staggole Street;
"E" Coy	-	Ralston Street;
M.T.	-	Princes Road.

(f) ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:

Unidentified planes reported over TOWNSVILLE during Friday.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

Fine and moderate with cool nights.  
Roads are now generally dry and passable.

3. MILITARY SECURITY:

Nil.

*Whieff* Sst  
Lieut  
I.O. 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.

11 Aust Inf. Bn.

Intelligence Report No. 12 herewith.

*Capt*  
Lt /Col.  
Comd. 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.

To be filed by Intell Sec

MOST SECRET.

Copy No. 2

8 May, 42.

11 Aust. Inf. Bde. O. O. No. 3.

Ref. Maps 1" to 1 Mile MAGNETIC: BOWLING GREEN.  
TOWNSVILLE. MANTON. AYR.

INFORMATION.

1. (a) An early attack on PORT MORSEBY is probable and this may be followed by a landing on our N. E. coast with a view to a progressive advance southwards.
- (b) Inter Bde. boundary 11 & 29 Inf. Bdes. incl. 11 Inf. Bde. JERRY (9687) MOUTH ROSS RIVER - ROSS RIVER - MEATWORKS BRIDGE (9280) - MT. STUART (9076).  
7 Inf. Bde. on arrival in TOWNSVILLE area will go into DIV. PLS. in vicinity ANTIL PLAINS.

INTENTION.

2. 26, 31, 51 Bn. will prepare defences within the areas allotted to them.

METHOD.

3.

Areas of Responsibility.

- 26 Bn. NUNDY CK. - line of BEACH - SHELLY BEACH - BOHLE RIVER - LINE (excl.) BOHLE R. through MT. ST. JOHN to point 905860 - line point 905860 - BISHOPS LODGE - NUNDY CK.
- 51 Bn. Line inclusive point 905860 - MT. ST. JOHN - BOHLE R. -  
West Esst Slope MT. LOUISA - WEIR - BLACK SCHOOL - ROSS R. - ADMINISTRATIVE LANE.
- 31 Bn. ROSS Is. and Western slopes MT. STUART.

4.

Supporting Fire.

two Btys. support 51 Bn. ) Areas and btys.  
three Btys. support 26 Bn. ) allocated later.

By mutual arrangement, all batteries to be superimposed on any area of action.

5.

Priority of Works.

(a) Pln. and coy. localities will be prepared for all round defence and where possible be sited in tank proof areas. The latter may involve some sacrifice due to plunging fire where defences are located some distance up hills; but section posts lower down these hills should be prepared in addition. These will provide alternative defences according to whether the enemy attacks with or without tanks.

(b) The necessity for defence in considerable depth in thickly timbered country must be kept in mind.

(c) The employment of tank obstacles, minefields etc. should be considered and requirements for material for these be submitted to C.R.E. for supply as stores are available. Accurate records must be kept of all minefields and copies to be submitted to Div H.Q.

(d) The defences will be prepared to the following

sequence:-

- (i) Weapon Pits - first task connected by crawl trench
  - (ii) Clearance of fields of fires.
  - (iii) Wiring of Defensive posts.  
(i) (ii) (iii) to proceed immediately and to be completed by 1800hrs 15 May 42.
  - (iv) Preparation of Carrier runs within defensive positions to deal with penetration.
  - (v) Preparation of A. Tk. obstacles, minefields, tank traps etc.
  - (vi) Preparation of Battle H.Q.
  - (vii) Wiring to completely close platoon localities and the employment of trip wire between platoon localities.
- Note : The necessity for concealment of dispositions and the use of camouflage must constantly be kept in mind. Track discipline must be watched closely in order to avoid revealing dispositions.

#### 6. METHOD OF DEFENCE.

(a) Since the enemy's direction and method of operation cannot be forecast the creation of a number of defensive posns. in depth and designed to meet various contingencies must be aimed at rather than the elaborate construction of a single posn. Time may be short; rapid construction of essentials is the first objective.

(b) An active mobile defence will be undertaken, reconnaissance will be active and continuous within the Bde. and Units and cross-country routes including routes through the hills will be fully reconnoitred. Coys. will bivouac close to the posns. they are to occupy and be prepared to man these at 30 mins. notice. QPs will be manned continuously. By night patrolling will be carried out to considerable depth in front of defensive posns.

(c) Complete records will be made of all defensive arrangements and will include the tactical disposition of infantry M.Gs. Mortars A/Tk. and Field Arty. and will show :-

- Arcs of fire
- OPs. and zones of observation
- M M G fixed lines.
- Battery and troop posns.
- H.Q. locations
- A Tk mine fields
- Demolition (effected and/or proposed)

Copies of the above records will be forwarded through the usual channels.

(d) In preparing posns provision should be made for alternative dispositions. These will be available to the units holding the positions to permit of alternate occupation or in the event of additional forces being allotted to a sector such posn. will be available for that Unit's immediate use.

(e) In the event of heavy enemy attacks against any portion of the defences, defending units will hold out to the last man unless definite orders are received from higher command to vacate their posns. Any orders which appear to indicate withdrawal must be verified before being acted upon, as it is a habit with the enemy to induce withdrawal by circulating false orders.

ACK.

Issued by D/R  
Signed at 2115 hrs.

*J. A. Krause*  
MAJOR  
B.M. 11 AUST INF BDE.



DISTRIBUTION.

- |          |      |             |
|----------|------|-------------|
| Copy No. | 1    | 26 Bn.      |
|          | 2    | 31 Bn       |
|          | 3    | 51 Bn       |
|          | 4    | 2 A/Tk. Bty |
|          | 5    | Bde Comd    |
|          | 6    | BM          |
|          | 7    | 5 Aust Div  |
|          | 8    | File        |
|          | 9+10 | War Diary   |

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 MAJOR  
 E.M. H. AUST LIEUT.

Issued by D/A  
 Signed at 215 hrs.

SECRET.

ACTION IN EVENT OF COMMANDO LANDING.

1. A Commando force landing in vicinity of TOWNSVILLE will have as its objective or objectives, the town and civil installations, military installations and communications.

2. These objectives include:

Post Office and Wireless Stns.  
Power House  
Oil Installation  
Gas Works  
Reservoirs and Weirs  
Supplies  
Military establishments, particularly H.Qs.  
Aerodrome

3. To carry out these tasks, landing would probably be made on the coast within easy striking distance of the objective or objectives.

4. To guard against this, areas of responsibility are allotted to units and sub-units covering the likely areas where such landings may be made.

5. Areas of responsibility for bns are as under:

26 Bn. 1 Coy. incl. MUNDY CK. to exclusive THREE MILE CK.  
1 Coy. incl. THREE MILE CK. to CAPE PALLARENDA  
1 Coy. SHELLY BEACH  
1 Coy. present posn on BOHLE to mouth.

31 Bn. 1 Coy ROSS Is - (incl) Mouth ROSS R. to ROSS CK.  
1 Coy. incl ROSS CK to incl SEAVIEW BATHS.  
1 Coy. exclus SEAVIEW BATHS to excl MUNDY CK.

51 Bn. 1 Coy. BOHLE Br. to 26 Bn. Coy Area.

6. These areas of responsibility will cover objectives as under:

26 Bn. A.A. Btys. THREE MILE CK. - MT. ST. JOHN  
& 51 Bn. AERODROME  
POWER HOUSE  
WEIR

31 Bn. C RESERVOIRS  
D POST OFFICE  
D RAILWAYS  
C GAS WORKS  
A { 4 TO WIRELESS  
OIL INSTALLATIONS.

7. To carry out this task, bns. will arrange for effective

patrolling of the waterfront in their areas of responsibility.

8. H.Q. of units and establishments must be effectively guarded.

9. Patrolling will commence forthwith.

*J.A. Krause*

(J.A. Krause) Major.  
B.M. 11 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:

1. 26 Bn.
2. 31 Bn.
3. 51 Bn.
4. H.Q. 11 Aust. Inf. BDe. Def. Pln.
5. File
- 6-7. War Diary.

CODE NAMES.  
(for Patrols.)

26 Bn.	H.Q.	NEKO
26 Bn.	A Coy	NEDO
	B	NODE
	C	NODO
	D	NEDE
31 Bn.	H.Q.	KIFO
	A Coy	KIKI
	B	KAKA
	C	KOKO
	D	KEKE
51 Bn.	H.Q.	SIHA
	A Coy	SELO
	B	SALE
	C	SOLD
	D	SALT
Def. Pln.		VOCO
11 Bde.	H.Q.	VUNU

Code Name for putting the plan  
into operation

TOIT

*all lookouts to be married by  
man  
0515 all troops to be*

## Australian Military Forces—1st Military District.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31 Aust Inf Bn	42	
-------------------	----	--

Address

Date Headquarters,  
31 Aust Inf Bn.,  
A.M.F.  
9 May 42.

D

To  
H.Q. Coy,  
"A", "B", "C", "D", and "E" Coys.

From 31 Aust Inf Bn.

WARNING ORDER:

(1) In event of possible Commando landings in the vicinity of TOWNSVILLE, Coys will be responsible for patrolling ~~the~~ waterfront areas as under:

"A" Coy - incl. mouth of ROSS RIVER to excl. ROSS CREEK;  
"D" Coy - both incl. ROSS CREEK - SEAVIEW BATHS;  
"C" Coy - excl SEAVIEW BATHS incl MUNDAY CREEK.

(2) In addition to patrolling the above, Coys will be responsible for protection of the following points:

"A" Coy - 4 TO WIRELESS  
OIL INSTALLATION  
SOUTH YARDS of RAILWAYS

D "C" Coy - RAILWAY STATION  
POST OFFICE

"C" Coy - GAS WORKS  
WATER RESEVOIRS

"E" Coy - 31 BN H.Q.

(3) For the purposes of these patrols, the following code names will be used:

31 BN H.Q. - KIFO  
"A" Coy - KIKI  
"B" Coy - KAKA  
"C" Coy - KOKO  
"D" Coy - KEKE

(4) Code name for putting plan into operation is TOIT.

(5) Addressed "A" "B" "C" and "D" Coys, repeated H.Q. and "E" Coys.

(6) Acknowledge.

2355 hrs

*P. J. Ardah* Lt/Col.  
Comd. 31 Aust Inf. Bn.

APPENDIX "A" O.O. NO.1.

RIFLE COYS.

<u>Serial</u> No.	<u>Sub Coy.</u>	<u>R.V.</u>	<u>Time Begin</u> <u>Move.</u>	<u>Time</u> <u>at RV</u>	<u>Time of Com-</u> <u>mencement of</u> <u>Relief.</u>	<u>Time Relf.</u> <u>Completed</u>
1	B Coy.	Gate 933977	1900	1930	1945	2100
2	A Coy.	Rd. Junction 906011	2100	2130	2140	2300
3	D Coy.	Rd. junction 918013	2300	2330	2340	0100
4	C Coy.	Rd. junction 931015	0100	0130	0140	0300
5	Mortars	Ry Xing 915010	2100	2140	2200	2300
6	Bal of HQ (less QM stores & Carriers)	Wind Pump 938981	2300	2355	0005	0100
7	B.H.Q. & Sigs (less C.O. Party.)	Track Section 927987	2230	2315	2315	2400
8	R.A.P.	Track Junction 939986	2000	2040	2050	2130
9	M.M.G. 19 Pl.	Dal. Rd. 923977.	2030	2115	2120	2150
10	20 Pl.	Main Rd. Junction 918013	2330	0015	0020	0050
11	21 Pl. & Coy. H.Q.	Ry Xing 915010	0230	0315	0320	0400 <del>0400</del>
12	C.O. Party	Track Section 927987	0330	0400	0420	0430

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APPENDIX "B".

R.Vs. - 51 BN.

		<u>Arrive RV.</u>	<u>Relief Com.</u>	<u>Relf. Compl.</u>
B Coy.	Rd. Xing <sup>039015</sup> <del>03995</del>	1945	2000	2100
19 Pl.	Junct. Harold St. & Percy St. 006022	1930	1935	2030
D Coy.	Street 031026	2145	2150	2300
20 Pl. & Coy. H.Q.	006022	2230	2235	2330
A Coy.	Street 009041	2345	2350	0100
21 Pl.	Junc. Harold & Percy Streets. 006022	0130	0210	0230
C Coy.	Rd. Junction 960955	0200		0300
3 Det. Mortars.	Harold St. 005024.	1920	1945	2100
3 Det. Mortars.	do.	2325		
H.Q.	Rd. Junc. Ch. Trs. Rd. 017999	2320	2340	0010
R.A.P.	Cr. Echlin & Stagpole Streets. 013018	2225	2245	2300
B.H.Q. less C.O. Party	013018	2125	2135	2200

-----oOo-----

INTERCOMMUNICATION(Contd):

B - REMISS  
 A - REDUCE  
 D → RECALL  
 C - RELINE  
 MORTARS - RESELL  
 Bal. of  
 HQ - REFUTE  
 BHQ - REMAIN  
 RAP - REFEAL  
 19 Pl M.M.G. - RETAKE  
 20 Pl M.M.G. - RESULT  
 21 Pl M.M.G. - RETARD

18. PASSWORD:

Password for move will be COUGH DROPS.

19. Copies 1-11 of this order will be returned to BHQ by 1600 hrs 20 May 42 for destruction.

20. Ack.

Issued by D/R at 0900 hrs 19 May 42.

*A. H. Hange*  
 Capt.  
 Adj. 31 Aust. Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1	"A" Coy
2	"B" Coy
3	"C" Coy
4	"D" Coy
5	"E" Coy
6	HQ Coy
7	Q.M.
8	"A" Tp 101 A/Tk Regt.
9	C.O.
10	2 i/c
11	Adj. /
12-14	11 Aust Inf Bde
15-	51 Aust Inf Bn
16	L. of C. Area ( for A.A.S.C.)
17-18	War Diary
19	File
20	Spare.

9

W/D

31 AUST INF BN.

SECRET.  
Copy No. 18  
Date. 18 May 42

OPERATION ORDERS NO. 1.

Ref. Map: COONAMBELAH 2" = 1 mile.

INFORMATION:

- (1) An early attempt on PORT MORESBY is probable and this may be followed by a landing on our N.E. coast with a view to a progressive advance southwards,
- (2) 11 Aust Inf Bde is holding the general line incl. MOUTH of ROSS RIVER KISSING POINT, CAPE PALLERENDA MT. BOHLE, BLACK SCHOOL with 26 Bn from incl MUNDY CREEK CAPE PALLERENDA to BOHLE RIVER MT ST. JOHN, 51 Bn MT ST JOHN WEST SLOPE MT LOUISA to BLACK SCHOOL; 31 Bn MOUTH of ROSS RIVER - KISSING POINT, MUNDY CREEK and detached coy at NORTH WEST SLOPES MT STUART.

INTENTION:

- (3) 31 Aust Inf Bn with attached troops and 51 Aust Inf Bn will carry out relief of present fixed defensive posn, each relieving the other.

METHOD:

- (4) Advance parties have already <sup>moved</sup> out in accordance with orders issued separately.

- (5) Main body 31 Aust Inf Bn will move in accordance with MOVEMENT TABLE attached as Appendix A to this order.

- (6) GUIDES: (a) 51 Aust Inf Bn will provide guides at R.Vs (as shewn in Appendix A to this order) to lead coys forward to new areas;  
(b) Sub-unit Comds of 31 Aust Inf Bn will detail guides to wait at R.Vs as specified Appendix B to this order, and guide 51 Bn Sub-units into their new areas. (In most cases guides down to Platoons will suffice. Pl. guides may await relieving parties further forward than coy R.v.s as specified in Appendix B, coy guide only being at R.V.)

- (7) Relief will be completed by 0500 hrs 20 May 42.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- (8) NIGHT DISCIPLINE: (a) Relief will be carried out without noise.  
(b) Lights will not be used unless shaded.  
(c) Smoking during move is prohibited.

- (9) MEDICAL: (a) Minor casualties sustained during moves will be sent to old R.A.P. position, until 1945 hrs, then to new position at 932990.  
(b) Serious cases will be taken direct to A.D.S. at 006989.

- (10) AMMUNITION: (a) Sub-units will carry first line ammunition.  
(b) Unit Quartermasters will arrange for an exchange of AMN reserves.

- (11) TRANSPORT: (a) Unit Stores will be loaded into Unit transport by 1700 hrs 19 May 42.  
(b) The following vehicles of the 115 Reserve M.T. are being provided as under:-



11. TRANSPORT (Contd).

Sub-Unit	No. of Vehicles	Capacity	Place of Reporting	Time of Reporting
B.H.Q.	5	3 ton	Present BHQ 002026	1600hrs 19 May 42
R.A.P.	1	3 ton	Present RAP 011022	1700hrs 19 May 42
HQ Coy	7	3 ton	HQ Area 017002	1500hrs 19 May 42
	8	3 ton	Q.M. Store 998984	0800 hrs 20 May 42
		(Covered)		
	2	3 ton	Carrier Area 017002	0800 hrs 20 May 42
A	5	3 ton	Warsaw 994982	1630 hrs 19 May 42
B	5	3 ton	River Xing 963951	1700 hrs 19 May 42
C	5	3 ton	Mango 0204	1700 hrs 19 May 42
D	5	3 ton	Q.M. Store 998984	1630 hrs 19 May 42
E	2	{1-3 ton (1-30cwt	Present "E" Coy H.Q. Ralston St, West End	1630 hrs 19 May 42

(c) Coy. Unit vehicles will RV under sub-unit comds arrangements and will be met by vehicles containing personnel when they have been relieved. ALL Coy vehicles will then move to RV in new areas as set out in Appx A.

12. SUPPLIES AND STORES:

- (a) Coys will move "self-contained" and will take sufficient rations to last until B Echelon arrives in new posn at 1500 hrs 20 May 42.
- (b) Reserve rations will be taken to new posn by Q.M. on 20 May 42.
- (c) WATER: (i) Strictest water discipline will be enforced;  
(ii) All water bottles will be filled before leaving present areas;  
(iii) No water will be drawn from unauthorised sources;
- (d) Q.M. will arrange to exchange such items as floor boards, tents etc with Q.M. 51 Bn.  
No tents or floor-boards will be removed by Coys from present areas.
- (e) Duplicate receipts will be obtained, and one copy ~~forwarded~~ <sup>sent</sup> to BHQ to be passed to 11 Aust Inf Bde HQ.

13. GUIDES:

- (a) Except in case of "B" Coy and R.A.P. all guides will move with their coys.
- (b) R.A.P. guide will report to present BHQ.
- (c) "B" Coy Comd will arrange for transport of guides left in his area.

14. MARKING OF AREA.

H.Q. Coy will arrange for the marking of routes in the new area.

INTERCOMMUNICATION:

15. BHQ will close at STAGPOLE STREET and reopen at new posn at 2330 hrs,
16. C.O. and Adjt will remain in old posn until relief complete ~~and~~ <sup>then</sup> move to BHQ.
17. (a) Each coy will report to 51 Aust Inf Bn HQ when move is completed. This information will be passed to 11 Aust Inf Bde HQ and 31 Aust Inf Bn by 51 Aust Inf Bn. All location reports of 51 Bn Coys will be sent by 31 Bn to 11 Aust Inf Bde and 51 Bn HQ.
- (b) These reports will consist of code words as under with time of completion of relief:

**F**

SECRET

Copy No. 1

17 May 42.

11 Inf Bde 0 0 No. 4

Ref. Map: TOWNSVILLE (Emergency) 17 - 2 mile.

INFORMATION.

- 1. (a) No change in enemy posns.
- (b) Our own forces remain unchanged.

INTENTION.

2. 31 & 51 Bns will carry out relief of present forward defensive posns each relieving the other. Supporting units will conform.

METHOD.

- 3. Relief commences 1900hrs 19/20 May and will be completed by first light 20/21.
- 4. CO's reconnaissance commences forthwith.
- 5. Advance parties each relieving unit will move into new areas not before 1700 hrs 17/18 May.
- 6. No increase of traffic during the hrs of daylight.
- 7. 51 Bn will remain in fwd defensive posn 24 hrs after completion of relief before retiring to bivouac area.

ADM.

- 8. Exchange standing tents and floor boards to meet requirements to be effected.
- 9. Amn Dumps will be handed over on relief. Only 1st line SAA grenades & fireworks to be carried.

INTERCOMM.

- 10. L/T cable will remain in present locations.
- 11. Comds will remain responsible for present areas. Comd of new areas will pass on completion of relief when relief is completed.
- 12. Progress reports will be rendered to this H.Q. in code in accordance with Unit 0 0's for the relief.

ACK

Issued DR

Signed at 0430 hrs.

*Frankwell*  
Major  
B.M. 11 Aust Inf Bde.

*Received by the HQ at 1615 hrs 18 May 42*

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. 1	31 Bn
2	51 Bn
3	26 Bn (see information)
4	2 Bty 101 A/T Regt
5	Bde Comd
6	B.M.
7	B.M.C.O.
8	I.O.
9	S.C.
10	T.O.
11-14	5 Aust Div (for G, A, GRA & CASG)
15	101 A/T Regt
16	File
17-18	War Diary.

*Stewart Capt*

*1.0. For filing*  
19 MAY 1942 *Stewart* Capt.

# MESSAGE FORM.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.	IN	Intelligence Report no 13	No. of Groups GR.	Serial No.
	OUT			

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

E

TO **VUNU**

FROM **KIFO**

Originator's Number. **9117.** Date. **13.** In Reply to Number

KIFO	Intelligence	Report	No	13	1000
has	5	plan	to	1000	has.
13	plan.	operational	Intelligence	own	tips
work	western	base	CASTLE	HILL	stopped
and	Cops	concentrate	on	training	and
digging	trenches	for	local	protection.	o
various	beers	made	on	SOUTH	TOWNSVILLE

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS:

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

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY.

TIME OF ORIGIN

1850

SIGNED

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

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

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

# MESSAGE FORM.

<b>CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.</b>	IN	No. of Groups GR.	Serial No. OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

**TO**

**FROM**

Originator's Number.

Date.

In Reply to Number

area	proposed	new	defensive	posn.	and
bank	Commenced	on	to	may.	mainly
cutting	mangroves	and	improving	areas	previously
occupied	to	B.	by	was	to
area	south	of	ROSS	RIV	near
clear	weir	and	will	take	up
pond	to	defend	-that	area.	o

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN**  
BY ANY MEANS:

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

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS  
DEGREE OF PRIORITY.

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNED

SIGNED  
(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

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

T.O.R.

# MESSAGE FORM.

<b>CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.</b>	IN	No. of Groups <b>GR.</b>	Serial No.
	OUT		OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

**TO**

**FROM**

Originator's Number.

Date.

In Reply to Number

<i>morale</i>	<i>du</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>leave</i>	<i>arrangements</i>
<i>the</i>	<i>morale</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>troops</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>considered</i>
<i>to</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>lowered</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>climate</i>	<i>conditions</i>
<i>fine</i>	<i>weather</i>	<i>prevail</i>	<i>roads</i>	<i>passable</i>	<i>in</i>
<i>military</i>	<i>security.</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>members</i>
<i>of</i>	<i>these</i>	<i>security</i>	<i>positions</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>sw</i>
<i>under</i>	<i>any</i>	<i>areas</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>suggested</i>	<i>that.</i>

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS:

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

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY.

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNED

SIGNED  
 (BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

# MESSAGE FORM.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.	IN	No. of Groups GR.	Serial No. OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM	Originator's Number.	Date.	In Reply to Number
------	----------------------	-------	--------------------

Security	measures	within	the	unit	were
was	looked	after.	0 on	12	may
thirtyone	men	of	enemy	origins	marks
cut	to	a	labels	copy.	

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

*Shange Capt*

SIGNED

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

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS  
DEGREE OF PRIORITY.

TIME OF ORIGIN

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

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

# MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

No. of Groups  
**GR.**

OFFICE DATE STAMP

**CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.**

IN  
  
OUT

*Stellinger report no 14*

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

**TO**

*VUNU*

**FROM**

*KIFO.*

Originator's Number

*GR 6*

Date

*21*

In Reply to Number

<i>Football</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>MT</i>	<i>STUART</i>	<i>near</i>	<i>old</i>
<i>WEIR</i>	<i>work</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>these</i>	<i>areas</i>	<i>commis</i>
<i>after the</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>sentiment</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>order</i>
<i>received</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>release</i>	<i>SI</i>	<i>BN</i>	<i>at</i>
<i>BOHLE</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>position</i>	<i>occupied</i>	<i>night</i>
<i>of</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>two</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>full</i>
<i>unit</i>	<i>now</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>defensive</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>BOHLE</i>

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ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS  
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNED

*[Signature]*

SIGNED

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*2930*  
**T.H.I.**

**T.O.R.**

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

# MESSAGE FORM

**CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.**

IN

OUT

No. of Groups  
**GR.**

Serial No.  
 OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

VUNU

FROM

KIFO

Originator's Number

GRB

Date

21

In Reply to Number

KIFO	Intelligence	Report	Number	14	1000
to	13	May	to	1000	to
20	May	0	Operations	Intelligence	man
to	B	ordered	to	defend	the
whole	7	Townsville	from	Ross	RIV
and	5	MUNDY	ex	excl	0
one	Co	still	to	remain	at

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ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS  
 DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNED

SIGNED

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

T.H.I.

T.O.R.



# MESSAGE FORM

**CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.**

IN

OUT

No. of Groups  
**GR.**

Serial No.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

*GR 6*

*21*

<i>RIV</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>Military</i>	<i>security</i>	<i>enquiries</i>	<i>made</i>
<i>carefully</i>	<i>throughout</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>unit</i>	<i>show</i>	<i>that</i>
<i>there</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>organised</i>	<i>plan</i>	<i>amongst</i>	<i>the</i>
<i>to</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>AWL</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>persons.</i>
<i>of</i>	<i>also</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>still</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>go</i>
<i>to</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>Corps</i>			

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ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS  
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

*0930*

SIGNED

*[Signature]*

SIGNED

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

**T.H.I.**

**T.O.R.**

SUBJECT: NAMES OF DISPOSITIONS OF T.P.S OF 31 INF BN.

TELEPHONE—

SECRET 37/42.

Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

31 Inf Bn., H.Q.?  
A.M.F.

Please quote this Number when replying.

31	Inf Bn	1942	
----	--------	------	--

*J*

Address  
Date

22 MAY 1942

When speaking on the telephone and for all other necessary purposes the Bn areason the BOHLE will be referred to as DREAMLAND.

*[Signature]* Capt.,  
Adjt 31 Inf Bn.

Distribution.

- (1) A.
- (2) B.
- (3) C.
- (4) D.
- (5) E.
- (6) H.Q.
- (7) 11 Aust Inf Bde.
- (8) A Tp A/Tk.
- (9) Btn H.Q.
- (10) File.
- (11) War Diary.
- (12)

# MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.  
 OFFICE DATE STAMP

**CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.**

IN *Intelligence Report* **L**  
 OUT *no 15.*

No. of Groups  
**GR.**

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO *VUNU*

FROM *KIFO*

Originator's Number  
*GR 18*

Date  
*27*

In Reply to Number

<i>KIFO</i>	<i>Intelligence</i>	<i>Report</i>	<i>Numbers</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1000</i>
<i>no.</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>may.</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>two</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>may.</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Intelligence</i>	<i>own</i>
<i>400</i>	<i>BN</i>	<i>Containing</i>	<i>with</i>	<i>working</i>	<i>digging</i>
<i>and</i>	<i>clearing</i>	<i>fields</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>fire</i>	<i>in</i>
<i>Both C</i>	<i>AREA</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>accordance</i>	<i>with</i>	<i>situation</i>
<i>maps</i>	<i>already</i>	<i>furnished</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Skeleton</i>	<i>manning.</i>

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TIME OF ORIGIN

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SIGNED

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**T.H.I.**

**T.O.R.**

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

# MESSAGE FORM

**CALL  
AND  
INSTRUC-  
TIONS.**

IN
OUT

No. of Groups  
**GR.**

Serial No.  
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

<i>of</i>	<i>proms</i>	<i>during</i>	<i>Louis</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>darkness</i>
<i>as</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>as</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>patrolling</i>	<i>o</i>
<i>MILITARY</i>	<i>SECURITY</i>	<i>four</i>	<i>personnel</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>also</i>
<i>interaction</i>	<i>phll</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Labour</i>
<i>Comps</i>					

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

**T.H.I.**

**T.O.R.**