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

1/5/12
DIVISIONS

6 Australian Division General Staff Branch (6 Aust Div GS Branch)

January 1941, part 1



1/5/12-012%

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WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~
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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPUZZO	1 Jun 42		MOVE OF HQ 8 INDIA. At 1400 today, the move of this HQ was altered to VAST Maya.	
			VISIT OF C.I.G.S. Lieutenant General Sir Henry Pownall, Chief of the General Staff, called at this HQ at 1100 hrs today, later visiting Bde HQ and 17 Indn Inf Bde.	
			SITUATION. Orders for 1 Indn Div to attack and capture the Central and Sarpi Colum sectors of the GAZALA defences on 2 Jun were issued today. The Northern sector is to be dealt with by 50 Div and 1 SAF Bde, and I know they are going to undertake a strength reconnaissance of their perimeter.	
			8 Indn Div attack is to be in two phases. In the first phase 3/1 Punjab will cross the wire at (083 hrs due East of [illegible] and form a bridgehead. 3/1 Punjab will then [illegible] and will continue to assist 3/1 Punjab to their objective.	
			In the second phase will pass through 3/1 Punjab bridgehead [illegible] objective - [illegible]. 3/1 Punjab will cross obstacle at [illegible] and 3/1 Punjab will cross wire and advance to [illegible]	
			3/1 Punjab will then cross wire and advance to [illegible]	
			In the second phase 3/1 Punjab will attack with [illegible]	
			On Monday 1 Jun 42 I visited Div HQ and Bde HQ.	
			Lt Col [illegible]	

Appx. 1.
- 2
- 3

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CAPUZZO	[illegible]		[illegible]	
		✓ ✗	[illegible]	
	2 Jan 41	✓ ✗	[illegible]	Letter Op Instn D.A.Q.M.G. Appx. 4.
			[illegible]	Appx. 5
			[illegible]	6 Aust Div Op Instn No.6.
			Operation Instruction No.7 was issued at 1645 hrs detailing the procedure to be adopted in handling prisoners and captured documents.	
			[illegible]	Appx. 7. Notes on final Conf 2 Jan. Appx. 8

(31110) Wt 15442/1761 10/Cm 12 39 BPL 31/5684 Forms C2118/22

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CAPUZZO	2 Jan 41		SITUATION. Our Arty again laid a concentration for two mins at 1715 hrs, elicitting little response from the enemy. It clearly this had been done, they moved to their battle posns in preparedness for towards evening.	
			PATROLS. Our patrols [illegible] to penetrate from 0001 hrs to 0530 hrs & to [illegible] evening, and this evening commenced at hours of darkness until daylight.	
	3 Jan 41	[illegible]	INTELLIGENCE. A statement was issued at 0? hrs today showing units in security areas.	6 Aust Div Z Caution Statement. App. 4.
			[illegible] 3 Jan. 7 Aust Div to [illegible] and 6 Aust Div today, and it is [illegible] to retreat corps.	
			[illegible] At 0500 hrs today a warning order was issued instructing that 16 hrs after the occupation of Sidi [illegible], 16 Inf Bde (English) will take over [illegible] 6 Aust Div will withdraw to an area West of Bardia [illegible]. 7 Armd Div is to make contact with enemy forces at Bardia on a date to be notified and Adv HQ 6 Aust Div and 16 Aust Inf Bde Gp will be prepared to move on 5 Jan. the remainder of the Div following when the supply situation permits.	6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 8 Appx. B.
			[illegible] Zero hour was 0500 hrs this morning and our Arty opened with heavy fire [illegible] sectors, the 2/C [illegible] a show of force in the South West sector. After five minutes the Italians replied [illegible] and a number of single rounds were fired. Meanwhile in the 6th Northern Sector, 2/1 RR gained a [illegible] under cover of heavy arty barrage, and the 2/3 Inf Bde crossing over the A Tk ditch. Two tanks were caught by wire but the remainder negotiated the crossing, and from them on these one proceeded to Tobruk and the 16 Aust Inf Bde reached all objectives on time. At this stage the number of prisoners was already in the thousands. During this phase reports came to hand very well from units and Div HQ was at all times in the picture. A wireless set was sent fwd in an armd carrier of 16 Aust Inf Bde but very little progress made, but after 1030 hrs contact was lost. At 1115 hrs 2/3 RR reported they were being heavily shelled and their fwd coy was inaccurate, but they regained the counter attack up to 1200 hrs. Until 1050 hrs no enemy aircraft was sighted over the area, and the Royal Air Force appear to be maintaining air superiority by intercepting any assistance from Tobruk area.	

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CAPUZZO	3 Jan 41 (cont'd)		The second phase started on time at 1100 hrs by 2/3 in attacking across the rd junction. Unfortunately [illegible] was late & casualty before the attack began. By this time only five tanks were available for the attack, as 1/3 in had withdrawn particulars had been ordered in lieu & of the start line. [illegible] the depth of ground gained, and the situation was obscure owing to lack of communication. The [illegible] was particularly felt. Eventually it was not possible for 1/3 to overcome the resistance at 112[illegible], but taken 2/3 objective, and were continuing the advance. 2/7 in rear then on left in close [illegible] Infantry, and 3 Matilda tanks of the reserve now [illegible] at difficulty to overcome. 2/3 in were also [illegible] the top, and the attack of 2/3 and 2/7 was found extremely difficult to [illegible] Close artillery was continued during the afternoon and at nightfall, our troops were across the ridge just [illegible] [illegible] our artillery in the SW sector. The enemy have now [illegible] were observed shooting on the part of an anti [illegible] difficult. At 1600 hrs 2/3 in was moved from the perimeter [illegible] to get in touch with the [illegible] the line. The idea was instructed to block enemy communication between the North and South sectors. The British remained static until dusk returning with artillery and patrol activity continuing through the night. Enemy transport [illegible] was shelled continuously by enemy artillery. Three sorties Tac/R were used during the day at 1715, 0815 and 1215 hrs respectively, but they were subject to heavy A/A fire and the value of photographic information was limited owing to W/T [illegible] essential. By nightfall the position was situated at [illegible] 2/3 in was to hold the ridge and was ordered to close in on [illegible] in the morning, rallying on Tmn and T 1[illegible] for support.	
	4 Jan		[illegible].- At 0830 hrs it was the intention to advance on [illegible] 1/3 in moved north-wards to the road and 2/1 in north-east to a position South of [illegible]. 2/3 in then moved through the forward bns and personal R.A.M.C. hospital at 1[illegible] hrs and entered [illegible] village at 1050 hrs. During the day the 17 Anti-Tnk Bn continued to suffer severe opposition, particularly on the front of 2/3 in who were at that stage making a frontal attack. In particular the southernmost [illegible] Troop, Part II, were strongly held and inflicted severe casualties on 2/3 in. Generally, the enemy in the S western sector were putting up the most determined fight of all the Italian forces. At 2140 hrs orders were issued for 2/3 in to remain as a firm base that night at 2700 hrs also for 1/3 in to come under orders 10 Bde. It was then [illegible] 7 Aust Div and 7 RTR Bde Gp was instructed to withdraw at about 1[illegible] hrs on 5 Jan, start line and [illegible] and advancing behind 6 Aust Bde Gp on a night march movement around to the rear of	

(1110) Wt 35412/1561 100m 12 39 HPL 31 5464 Forms C(H) 2118

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CAPUZZO	4 Jan 41 (Contd)		enemy forces in the southern sector. 17 Aust Inf Bde was instructed to hold the present posns. 7 Aust Div, which was holding the perimeter sector, the Northern Sector, advised that Free French forces would attack the defences at first light, but were requested to stay this attack, in view of the risk of our troops failing to recognise the French forces. Just before dusk, the Commander Italian forces in the Northern Sector requested could it first that he and officers his evacuation with 7,000 troops, but was instructed to cease operations and that capitulation would be accepted at first light next morning. At dusk 7 Aust Div, bivouac areas around the perimeter were allocated to brigades and units for night 5/6 Jan, to be used as lighting ceased during the day. At 0001 hrs, instns were issued for the collection and collection of serviceable enemy lt and med tks, with the view to forming a div tk unit for future ops. An air raid by Italian planes was made on Tobruk at dusk, but the only casualties were Italian prisoners. The night again passed quietly, once it in the Northern Sector. 17 Aust Inf Bde was putting continuous opposition. Prisoners were in such large numbers that a count was impossible, but estimate at 20,000 total to date proved subsequently to be far below the correct figure.	
	5 Jan		Operations.- 7 Aust Div Inst No.3 was issued at 1200 hrs. Operations.- The attack of 17 Aust Inf Bde Gp commenced at 0930 hrs behind an accurate artillery barrage, and the Bde advanced according to plan, despite the very rugged country which the cost of only two casualties. As the enemy duty was gradually outflanked, 17 Aust Inf Bde advanced along the Northern perimeter, and all enemy resistance had ceased at 1600 hrs, about 11 being the first to fall. The collection, guarding and counting of prisoners was a collossal task, the total figure subsequently proving to be 25,000 odd. In addition large quantities of stores, ammo and guns were captured and it fell to (English) took over the task of collecting these items. The Italians did not attempt any systematic sabotaging of installations, and did not adopt the use of booby traps on a large scale. A number of armed hand grenades were left in the immediate vicinity of the guns in the Northern Sector and were also placed in vehicles in the pools, but no casualties were caused. The bond of the Italian forces, Gen [illegible], made his escape to TOBRUCH during night 4/5 Jan. Movement.- At 1100 hrs 7 Aust Div Op Instn No.9 was issued for the move of the div. The 3rd Bde constituted the adv gd and was to move on night 6/7 Jan, the main guard following on 7 Jan. Leading parties were to leave at 1100 hrs 6 Jan.	6 Aust Div Inst Nos 8, Appx. "I" 7 Aust Div Op Instn No.9 Appx. 2

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CAPUZZO	6 Jan 41 (Contd)		[illegible] At 2[illegible] hrs 6 Cmd "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav was instructed to select suitable tanks to [illegible] and to attach them to "A" Sqn. The formation of the unit was 2 Tps each of "A" Sqn or to delay its move on [illegible] on 7 Jan. [illegible] - 7 RTR and "B" by 4 Regt RHA reverted cond XIII Corps.	
	6 Jan 41		[illegible] - 6 Inst Div Int Summary No.3 issued at 1110 hrs.	6 Inst Div Int Sum No.3 Appx. 13
			[illegible] - Lt-Col [illegible], A.A. [illegible], arrived from XIII Corps to [illegible] and was detailed to act [illegible] by the ADC, Lieut. [illegible]. [illegible] UCH. - Recce Party 1st Div (1 patrol to Tobruk at 1[illegible] hrs. 6 Inst Div Int Summary No.1, [illegible] to [illegible] was issued to [illegible] No.2 on 7 Jan was issued at [illegible] hrs.	6 Inst Div Int Summary No.1 Appx. —
TOBRUK	7 Jan		[illegible] - [illegible] on 6/7 Jan. It [illegible] by [illegible] to arrive by [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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TOBRUK	9 Jan		[illegible] - From the fall of Bardia until the attack on Tobruk commenced, the RAF bombed Tobruk every night. It was later announced that more than 100 attacks were made on Tobruk during January, culminating on 21 January on which day a total of 97 sorties were delivered [illegible]. Anti-aircraft fire was intense, but none of our planes were lost. In addition, the RAF did valuable work each day patrolling West of Tobruk and intercepting enemy bombers bound for our areas.	
	10 Jan		MOVEMENTS.- Today 11 Aust Inf Bde Gp moved to TOBRUK area, and took over a sector of the perimeter from 7 Aust Div on the left of 18 Aust Inf Bde sector. At 1800 hrs 6 Aust Div Gp (Maj Gen IVEN MACKAY) assumed command of 17 Aust Inf Bde on arrival in TOBRUK area.	6 Aust Div Gp Instn No.10. Appx. 16
			ENEMY ACTIVITY. - At 0800 hrs an enemy aeroplane flew over Div HQ and dropped approx 12 anti-personnel bombs in the area, then proceeding along the perimeter to HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde, one mile south, dropped further bombs around that HQ. No casualties were caused, and the bombs were destroyed that day.	
	11 Jan		MOVEMENTS.- 17 Aust Inf Bde Gp moved to TOBRUK area today, and into Div reserve with [illegible] Bde HQ at [illegible].	18 Aust Bde location Statement - 11 Jan. Appx. 17
			Location Statement was issued on at 12 hrs today.	
			SIGNALS.- At 2400 hrs a signal was sent to all units instructing that between 12 Jan [illegible] all in the area used will be sent "Wireless Silent" and to be treated as friendly intruders and fired on at once.	
			ENEMY ACTIVITY.- Enemy aircraft dropped 4 anti-personnel bombs in 18 Aust Inf Bde area at [illegible] hrs on 11 Jan. Plans carried out for re-training and fighting attacks on 6 Aust Div HQ.	
			CODE WORDS. - Today HQ XIII Corps intercepted by signal that from 0001 hrs 20 Jan all units in Middle East Corps would cease using code names, and this was passed to all units.	
	11 Jan		MOVEMENTS.- Today HQ 6 Aust Div Gp moved to TOBRUK area today, and took up a position [illegible] on the South side of [illegible].	
			3 Sqn (less 1 Flt) 3 Aust Div moved from [illegible] to join the Regt complete less "A" Sqn which was operating with 6 Aust Div.	
			OPENING OF AA FIRE.- A ruling from XIII Corps regarding the opening of AA fire against unidentified aircraft was passed on to units.	S/33/G of 11 Jan Appx. 18

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TOBRUK	11 Jan (contd)		PATROLLING. 6 Aust Div Op Instn No.13 was issued at 1200 hrs dictating a policy of aggressive patrolling	6 Aust Div Op Instn 13 Appx. 19
			ARTY ACTIVITY. From night 11/12 Jan until the attack on TOBRUCH was launched, our arty placed five minute concentrations of fire on portions of the enemy defences at different times each night.	
	12 Jan		INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 6 Aust Div Int Summary No.7. issued at 1300 hrs and Summary No.8 issued at 2300 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int Summ. No.7 Appx. 20 6 Aust Div Int Summ. No.8 Appx. 21
			LOCATIONS. Statement issued as at 1800 hrs	6 Aust Div Location Statement 12 Jan Appx. 22
			PATROLLING. Patrols sent out by 18 and 19 Aust Inf Bdes each night continued to send back valuable information concerning the perimeter defences.	
			ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. By this time our air bases had been moved forward, and enemy air activity gradually declined as the RAF pushed enemy air bases further westwards.	
	13 Jan		INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 6 Aust Div Int Summary No.9 issued at 2100 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int Summ. No.9 Appx. 23
			PRISONERS OF WAR. 17 Aust Inf Bde and units located between the rd BARDIA-TOBRUCH and the sea, continued to capture numbers of Italian soldiers who had escaped from BARDIA and were endeavouring to make their way to TOBRUK around the coast.	
	14 Jan		VISIT OF GOC TO 7 ARMD DIV. Today the GOC Major-General I.G.Mackay, CMG. DSO VD., called on GOC 7 Armd Div, Major-General CREAGH. Notes taken by Major-General Mackay are attached.	Notes visit of GOC to Gen. Creagh 14 Jan 41. Appx. 24
			OPENING OF AA FIRE.- XIII Corps instructed that in the area of TOBRUK operations, light AA and SA fire might be opened against any unidentified aircraft between the hours of 1830 and 0630. Our own aircraft, if fired on, would flash the recognition signal of the period. This instn was passed to units.	
			INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No.10 issued at 2130 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int Sum No.10. Appx. 25
	15 Jan		INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No.11 issued 2230 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int Sum No. 11 Appx. 26

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK	1341 15 Jan (Contd)		ATTACHED TPS.- "F" Bty 4 Regt RHA and 1 Cheshire (MG) Bn were placed under comd 16 Aust Div today. 6 Aust Div Op Instn No.14 was issued at 2300 hrs, giving the roles of 1 NF and 1 Cheshire.	6 Aust Div Op Instn No.14. Appx.27
	16 Jan		LOCATIONS.- During night 15/16 Jan, 17 Aust Inf Bde relieved 19 Aust Inf Bde and the latter formation moved into Div Reserve. A statement was issued as at 1800 hrs today. CONFERENCE XIII CORPS.- GOC 6 Aust Div, Major-General I.G.Mackay, CMG,DSO,VD, accompanied by Colonel F.H.Berryman, GSO I, attended a conference at Adv HQ XIII Corps at 1130 hrs. Notes on the conference are attached.	6 Aust Div Location Statement 16 Jan. Appx.28 Notes Conf HQ XIII Corps 16 Jan. Appx.29
			Staff.- Major Roy King today relinquished the appointment of GSO II 6 Aust Div, to take over comd of 2/5 Bn and was relieved by Major I.R. Campbell, formerly BM, 16 Aust Inf Bde, and lately Adm Comd 2/5 Bn. INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No.12issued at 2130 hrs. ATTACHED TPS.- 2/5 Fd Regt RAA and 64 Med Regt RA were placed under comd 6 Aust Div today.	6 Aust Div Int Sum No. 12. Appx. 30
	17 Jan		GOC's CONFERENCE.- Major-General I.G. Mackay, CMG DSO VD, GOC 6 Aust Div held a conference at Div HQ at 1000 hrs today, at which CRA, Comds 16 17 and 19 Aust Inf Bdes, GI, GII, AQ, CO & 2 i/c 7 RTR, and OC "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav were present. INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No. 13 Issued at 2030 hrs.	Notes Conf HQ 6 Aust Div 17 Jan. Appx.31 6 Aust Div Int Sum No.13. Appx.32
	18 Jan	X	OPERATIONS.- 6 Aust Div Op Instn No.15, dealing with the supporting action of the Royal Navy, RAF, RAAF, XIII Corps and 7 Armd Div in conjunction with the attack by 6 Aust Div on D1 day, was issued, at~~x~~ 0120 hrs. STAFF.- Advice was received from comd 16 Aust Inf Bde that Capt R.W. Knights, BM 16 Aust Inf Bde, had been wounded by a booby trap when out with a recce patrol of 2/5 Bn on night 17/18 Jan, and had been evacuated to hospital. In view of the nearness of D1, Colonel F.H. Berryman GSO I, decided to loan Major I.R. Campbell, GSO II, to act as BM, 16 Aust Inf Bde for the attack on TOBRUK. BATTLE OF TOBRUK.- At 1115 Hrs, a signal from XIII Corps advised that D1 day was postponed 24 hours. At 2100 hrs 6 Aust Div Op Order No.7 for Phase I of the attack on TOBRUK was issued. 6 Aust Div Op Instn No.16 giving the organisation of "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav into a tank sqn (of captured enemy med tanks) and two carrier sqns for the attack on TOBRUK was issued at 2305 Hrs.	6 Aust Div Op Instn No.15. Appx.33 6 Aust Div OO No.7. Appx.34 6 Aust Div Op Instn No.16. Appx.35

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TOBRUK	18 Jan (contd)		ATTACHED TPs.- 7 RTR (Infantry Tanks) was placed under comd 6 Aust Div today. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.- XIII Corps advised that 7 Armd Div had captured four German under-officers from an enemy plane which force-landed west of Tobruk.	
	19 Jan		BATTLE OF TOBRUK.- At 2100 hrs 6 Aust Div OO No.7 (Contd) was issued, detailing the plan for Phase II of the attack. INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No.14 was issued at 2400 hrs . An appx to this summary detailed the distribution of FSS and PW Interrogators for the TOBRUK action. SHELLING.- Our daily arty concentrations still continued, but evoked little retaliatory fire from the enemy. The majority of our guns were sited outside the Eastern perimeter defences and North of the rd BARDIA-TOBRUK, and this area was the main target for enemy concentrations.	6 Aust Div OO No.7. Appx. 36 6 Aust Div Int Sum No.14. Appx. 37
	20 Jan		LOCATIONS.- During the night 18/19 Jan, marching personnel of 19 Aust Inf Bde moved from the sea coast to a position ten miles due south, and on night 19/20 Jan, moved again ten miles to the West, laying up during daylight hours. GOC's CONFERENCE.- The GOC held a co-ordinating conference at HQ 6 Aust Div at 0930 hrs. Notes are attached. DIV ARTY OP.- Arrangements were made for "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav to supply an armd carrier a wireless set for communication with Div HQ during the battle. A list of code words was arranged and is attached. OUR AIR ACTIVITY.- Sitrep from XIII Corps timed 2055 hrs advised concentrated air bombardment TOBRUCH night 19/20 Jan was completely successful.	Notes Conference HQ 6 Aust Div - 20 Jan. Appx. 38 Code Words for 6 Aust Cav Armd OP. Appx. 39
	21 Jan		LOCATIONS.- During night 20/21 Jan, units moved to their assembly areas prior to the attack on TOBRUCH. A statement was issued as at 0100 hrs BATTLE OF TOBRUCH. Zero hour for the attack on TOBRUCH was 0530 hrs and Phases I and II of the battle proceeded to timetable. Battle Diary compiled by Colonel F.H.Berryman for Tuesday 21 Jan and Wednesday 22 Jan is attached. 16 Aust Inf Bde forced a temporary bridgehead in the Southern sector of the defences, while engineers made passages for the infantry tanks. 7 RTR passed through the perimeter and were followed by 16 Bde and 2/6 Bn to make the bridgehead. On the right flank 2/6 Bn passed through 2/1 Bn and then 2/7 Bn entered the Eastern bridgehead perimeter and the two bns advanced to rd BARDIA-TOBRUCH. Meanwhile 19 Aust Inf Bde followed 16 Inf Bde through the gap and advanced North to the crossroads, 2/5 Bn joining 19 Bde during the afternoon. At 1600 hrs 19 Aust Inf Bde had	6 Aust Div Loc Statement 21 Jan Appx. 40 Battle Diary Appx. 41

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TOBRUK	21 Jan (contd)		advanced to Port Solaro and Fort Pilastrino. Prisoners of war taken during the day were estimated to be in excess of 10,000. At 2355 hrs orders for 22 Jan were issued by signal, copy of which is attached.	Signal 1 to Div Comds C.408 of 21 Jan. Appx. 42
	22 Jan		INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 6 Aust Div Int Summary No.15 issued at 0015 hrs	6 Aust Div Int Summary No.15 Appx. 43
			BATTLE OF TOBRUCH. During night 21/22 Jan 2/6 Bn(less one coy) moved to BIDI MAHMUD area and came under comd 19 Aust Inf Bde. At 0001 hrs, 17 Aust Inf Bde, which then comprised 2/7 Bn and one coy 2/6 Bn advanced north of rd BARDIA-TOBRUCH and cleaned up the wadis to the coast, resistance in this sector ceasing at 1000 hrs. At 0830 hrs, 16 and 19 Aust Inf Bdes pushed forward, 16 moving westerly towards the perimeter and 19 Bde advancing on TOBRUCH. 19 Aust Inf Bde entered TOBRUCH township at 1100 hrs, and by nightfall 16 Aust Inf Bde had cleared the western sector as far north as rd TOBRUCH-DERNA The Free French forces penetrated the north west corner of the defences during the day, but 6 Aust Div requested XIII Corps to stop their progress in view of the danger of mistaken identity, and this was done. By 1900 hrs the only portion of the defences outstanding was in the Wadis in the North West sector but all organised resistence had ceased. Prisoners of war were estimated to total 13,000 so far.	
			ATTACHED TPS. "F" bty 4 Regt RHA reverted comd 7 Armd Div from 1200 hrs.	
			MOVE TO DERNA. At 2145 hrs, 6 Aust Div Op Instn No.17 was issued, detailing the method of advancing on DERNA. A mixed mobile force (to be known as Force "A") under comd Major D. Macarthur-Onslow, comd "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav was to be ready to move forward from noon 23 Jan and 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp in MT (Force "B") was to be ready to move from 24 Jan.	6 Aust Div Op Instn No.17 Appx. 44
			INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 6 Aust ~~Inf~~ Div Int Summary No.16 issued 2345 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int. Summ. No.16 Appx. 45
	23 Jan		BATTLE OF TOBRUK.- At first light 16 Aust Inf Bde commenced cleaning up the wadis north of the rd TOBRUK - DERNA, and by 1000 hrs all resistance in TOBRUK area had ceased. Prisoners of War eventually totalled approx 25,000. At TOBRUK the Italians adopted a policy of organised sabotage, but several important installations were missed.	
			ATTACHED TPS.- Today the following attached units reverted to Comd XIII Corps - 104 Regt RHA, 61 A Fd Regt RA, 7 Med Regt RA, 64 Med Regt RA, 7 RTR, 1 Cheshire and one troop 37 Lt AA Bty was placed under comd 6 Aust Div.	

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TOBRUK	23 Jan		INT SUMMARY.- An addendum to 6 Aust Div Int Summary No 16 was issued at 0900 hrs.	Add. to 6 Aust Div Int Summary 16. Appx. 46
			LOCATIONS.- Statement was issued as at 1000 hrs. During the day, Adv HQ and Rear HQ 6 Aust Div moved to a position inside the perimeter and north of Fort Solaro. Large underground storerooms were used as offices by all branches.	6 Aust Div Location Statement 23 Jan Appx. 47
			MOVE TO DERNA.- At 1250 hrs, instns were received from XIII Corps for Force "A" to move on DERNA, and this mobile group left during the afternoon, reaching AIN EL GAZALA for the night.	
			STAFF - From the conclusion of hostilities in TOBRUCH area, Colonel G.A. Vasey DSO, took over the appointment of GSO.1. 6 Aust Div, from Colonel F.H. Berryman DSO, who had been appointed CRA 7 Aust Div. Colonel Berryman left for Palestine on 24 Jan.	
	24 Jan		MOVE TO DERNA. - During the day 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp in MT advanced to AIN EL GAZALA, Force "A" moving forward to MARTUBA area.	
			STAFF.- Major I.R. Campbell today resumed duty as GSO.II. after acting as BM 16 Aust Inf Bde, during the Battle of Tobruch.	
	25 Jan		ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.- At 0815 hrs a signal received from XIII Corps confirmed the presence in LIBYA of GERMAN dive bombers, and warning all units to take action and adopt full dispersion.	
			OPERATIONS.- 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp moved to MARTUBA area to-day and units debussed on the escarpment overlooking DERNA. Force "A" now came under comd 19 Aust Inf Bde. Steady enemy opposition was encountered in this area and the road down the escarpment ~~in course~~ had been demolished in parts. Fwd tps experienced MG attacks from low flying planes.	
			LOCATIONS.- Statement issued as at 1900 hrs.	6 Aust Div Loc Stment 25 Jan. Appx. 48
			INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No 17 issued at 0900 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int Summary No 17. Appx. 49

(4119) W1 5542 1761 100m 12 39 BPL 51 5994 Forms C2118/2

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~
(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date 1941	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK	26 Jan		LOVE TO DERNA.- at 1455 hrs 6 Aust Div Op Instn No 18 was issued, giving a movement table for road move of Adv HQ 6 Aust Div and 17 Aust Inf Bde Gp to MARTUBA area on 27 and 28 Jan. At 2220 hrs 6 Aust Div Op Instn No 19 was issued amplifying and amending Op Instn No. 18, Adv HQ 6 Aust Div was now to move to TMIMI area and 17 Aust Inf Bde Gp to AIN EL GAZALA on the dates shown. To save time in negotiating the detour on the western perimeter defences of TOBRUCH on morning of 27 Jan 17 Aust Inf Bde was moved outside the perimeter during the afternoon of 26 Jan.	6 Aust Div Op Instn No 18. Appx. 50 6 Aust Div Op Instn No 19 Appx. 51
TMIMI	27 Jan		ATTACHED TPS. - 1 Tp 6 Survey Regt RA reverted comd XIII Corps. At this time the only attached tps were - One tp 37 Lt A. Bty RA 234 Med Bty RA "J" and "P" Bty 3 Regt RHA 1 NF (MG) Bn MOVE TO DERNA.- Adv HQ 6 Aust Div Moved to TMIMI area today, and 17 Aust Inf Bde Gp (less 2/7 Bn) in MT moved to AIN EL GAZALA. LOCATION.- Statement issued as at 1800 hrs OPERATIONS.- 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp were still meeting steady resistance at DERNA. The right bn was moving eastward down the escarpment towards DERNA, and the left bn ~~were~~ endeavouring to negotiate a crossing over WADI DERNA.	6 Aust Div Loc Statement 27 Jan Appx. 52
	28 Jan		OPERATIONS.- The morning situation report from XIII Corps advised that the enemy had withdrawn from MECHILI to GIOVANNI BERTA during the night 27/28 Jan, and 4 Armd Bde had occupied MECHILI area. At 2140 hrs 6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 20 was issued giving the roles of 17 and 19 Aust Inf Bde tps and a movement table for the move to MARTUBA area on 29 and 30 Jan. ATTACHED TPS.- The following units came under comd 6 Aust Div today:- 7 RTR 10 RTR 7 Med Regt RA 1 Tp 6 Survey Regt RA 104 Regt RHA 37 Lt AA Bty RA (less one ~~Tp~~) 1 Cheshire (MG) Bn	6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 20. Appx. 53

(5110) Wt 15642 1764 10/40m 12/40 BHL 61-5084 Forms C/2118/12

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WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~
(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TMIMI	28 Jan (contd)		LOCATIONS:- 2/7 Bn moved to AIN EL GAZALA today.	
	29 Jan		LOCATIONS.- 2/2 Fd Regt RAA and 17 Aust Inf Bde (less 2/7 Bn) moved to MARTUBA area today and took up a posn on the left flank of 19 Aust Inf Bde. 7 RTR and 1 Cheshire moved to AIN EL GAZALA area.	
			INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No. 19 issued at 1900 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int Summary No. 19. Appx. 54
			ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.- PWs state that Gen BERGONZOLI escaped from BARDIA dressed as an Arab after having shaved off his beard, and made his way to ROME, returning to LIBYA as CO tps DERNA. He was seen in DERNA on 29 Jan and had been there for 10 days, but left during night 29/30 Jan for GIOVANNI BERTA.	
MARTUBA	30 Jan		OPERATIONS.- Although 19 Aust Inf Bde patrols found posts on the road at 0330 hrs this morning, 2/11 Bn entered DERNA at 1030 hrs and found it deserted. All fwd units of 17 and 19 Aust Inf Bdes encountered enemy fire early this morning but no further opposition was encountered until heavy MG fire was directed at 2/5 Bn at dusk. The road leading up the escarpment and along the coast from DERNA has been demolished in places.	
			LOCATIONS.- Adv HQ 6 Aust Div advanced to MARTUBA area this morning, and 2/7 Bn and 1 Cheshire moved from AIN EL GAZALA to join 17 Aust Inf Bde. Statement issued as at 1900 hrs.	6 Aust Div Loc Statement 30 Jan. Appx. 55
			INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No. 20 issued 1900 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int Summary No. 20 Appx. 56
			OPENING OF AA FIRE.- XIII Corps advise by signal that in present area AA fire will NOT be opened on unidentified aircraft unless seen to be committing a hostile act.	
			OPERATIONS.- 6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 21 was issued at 1330 hrs giving instns for the Westward move of 17 and 19 Aust Inf Bde Gps on 31 Jan.	6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 21. Appx. 57

(21101) Wt 35412/1761 1000m 12/39 BPL 31/5654 Forms C2118/22

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WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~
(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARTUBA	31 Jan		OPERATIONS.- The move of 19 Aust Inf Bde was being held up by necessary repairs to the road leading West out of DERNA, but 17 Aust Inf Bde continued to make slow progress across the rugged country SW of DERNA. At 1845 hrs tonight 2/6 Bn carriers were engaged by enemy MG and A Tk fire.	
			At 2155 hrs tonight 6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 22 giving instns for the move on 1 Feb was issued in signal form.	6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 22 - Signal 0.523 Appx. 57
			INT SUMMARY.- 6 Aust Div Int Summary No. 21 was issued 1835 hrs.	6 Aust Div Int Summary No. 21. Appx. 58
			LOCATIONS.- Rear HQ 6 Aust Div and 37 Lt AA Bty RA moved to MARTUBA area.	
			ATTACHED TPS.- 7 RTR and 104 Regt RHA revert comd XIII Corps. 211 Med Bty RA and 51 A Fd Regt RA come under comd 6 Aust Div.	
			MAPS.- The following maps of the area traversed by 6 Aust Div during the month of Jan are attached as Appendices:-	

Series CYRENAICA 1/100,000.

Sheet 30	BARDIA	Appx 60	Sheet 28	EL ADEM	Appx 67
" 40	SALUM	" 61	" 38	BIR EL IGELA	" 68
" 50	GASR EL ABD	" 62	" 11	BOMBA	" 69
" 20	MARZA EL ZEITUN	" 63	" 18	AIN EL GAZALA	" 70
" 29	GAMBUT	" 64	" 4	DERNA	" 71
" 39	BIR EL GUBI	" 65	" 10	MARTUBA	" 72
" 19	TOBRUK	" 66			

Series CYRENAICA 1/500,000.

Sheet 13	BENGASI	Appx 73
" 14	TOBRUK	" 74

Special Sheets

1/25,000	BARDIA DEFENCES	Appx 75
1/50,000	TOBRUK "	" 76

H.C. Campbell
Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

[illegible] Wt 15642 1761 1000m 12 39 3PL 41 5694 Forms C2118 32

GEN BERGONZOLI	Italian Commander at Bardia makes escape to TOBRUK on night 4-5 Jan.
BARDIA DEFENCES	Strong posts on perimeter consisting of wired area protected by A Tk ditch and sometimes A Tk mines. Within wire were groups of sangars connected by strongly concreted passages to dugouts. In southern sectors some dugouts connected by underground passages to adjacent strong poin Armaments generally -- 2 Breda LMGs, 2 A Tk rifles and 2 8mm MMGs.
CHEMICAL WARFARE	Considerable quantities of liquid Blister Gas (probably mustard) and Toxic Smoke generators found in BARDIA (APP 54).
FLAME THROWERS	Discovered to be fitted to some enemy tanks.
APPENDICES INCLUDE	Maps and Traces (areas from Bardia to Benghasi) Operation Orders & Instns Intelligence Summaries Location Lists

MAPS AND PLANS-A

LIBYAN MAPS	BARDIA Sheet No	30	Appendix No 60	
	SALUM	40	61	
	CASR EL ABD	50	62	
	MARZA EL ZEITUN	20	63	
	GAMBUT	29	64	
	BIR EL GUBI	39	65	
	TOBRUK	19	66	
	EL ADEM	28	67	
	BIR EL IGELA	38	68	"G" BRANCH
	BOMBA	11	69	6 AUST DIV
	AIN EL GAZALA	18	70	JAN 41.
	DERNA	4	71	
	MARTUBA	10	72	
	BENGASI	13	73	
	TOBRUK	14	74	
	(BARDIA NORTH	SPECIAL)		
	(BARDIA SOUTH	")	75	
	TOBRUK DEFENCES	SPECIAL	76	

OPERATIONS - DERNA

"G" BRANCH 6 DIV — JAN 41

MOVE TO DERNA

Force "A" comprising detachments of --

6 Div Cav Regt	-	2/1 Fd Regt
"J" Bty RHA	-	37 Lt AA Arty
6 Survey Regt	-	2/2 Fd Amb

moved out from TOBRUK area 23 Jan 41

Force "B" comprising --

19 Inf Bde Gp	-	2/1 Fd Regt (less one Bty)
234 Med Bty	-	"J" Bty RHA
No 1 Tp 6 Svy Regt (less det)	-	1 RNF (less two coys)
2/8 Fd Coy	-	2/2 Fd Amb

moved to MARTUBA area and occupied area on escarpment overlooking DERNA, Force "A" now coming under comd 19 Bde.

ADV HQ — of 6 Aust Div moved to TMIMI area and 17 Inf Bde (less 2/7 Bn) to AIN-EL-GAZALA, 27 Jan 41

OPPOSITION — encountered by fwd tps and some low-flying, machine-gunning from enemy planes.

25 JAN — 19 Bde debussed one Bn north WADI-EL-CHALIC and moved north of DERNA rd exploiting along top of escarpment towards DERNA. One Bn at Hill 308-4033 advanced west to cross WADI DERNA to objective, road one mile beyond wadi.

GERMAN DIVE-BOMBERS — Warning received of presence of these in LIBYA.

26-27 JAN — 19 Bde still meeting with steady resistance. Bn on right moving east down escarpment towards DERNA and Bn on left endeavouring to cross WADI DERNA.

28 JAN — Report received that enemy had withdrawn from MEGHILI to GIOVANNI-BERTA.

29 JAN - GENERAL BERGONZOLI — Reported by POWs that this officer having escaped from BARDIA, disguised as Arab, visited ROME before returning to LIBYA as OC Troops DERNA.

30 JAN — 2/11 Bn enter DERNA which was found to be evacuated.

31 JAN — Forward tps advancing without opposition but one Bn moving along coastal road meeting stiff resistance.

POLITICAL — POWs state minor political disturbances when survivors brought news of the fall of BARDIA. Some Anti-Fascist inscriptions found on building walls in DERNA.

APPENDICES INCLUDE

Operation Orders and Instns
Intelligence Summaries
Maps, Plans and Traces (Areas from Bardia to Benghasi)
Location Lists.

OPERATIONS - TOBRUK

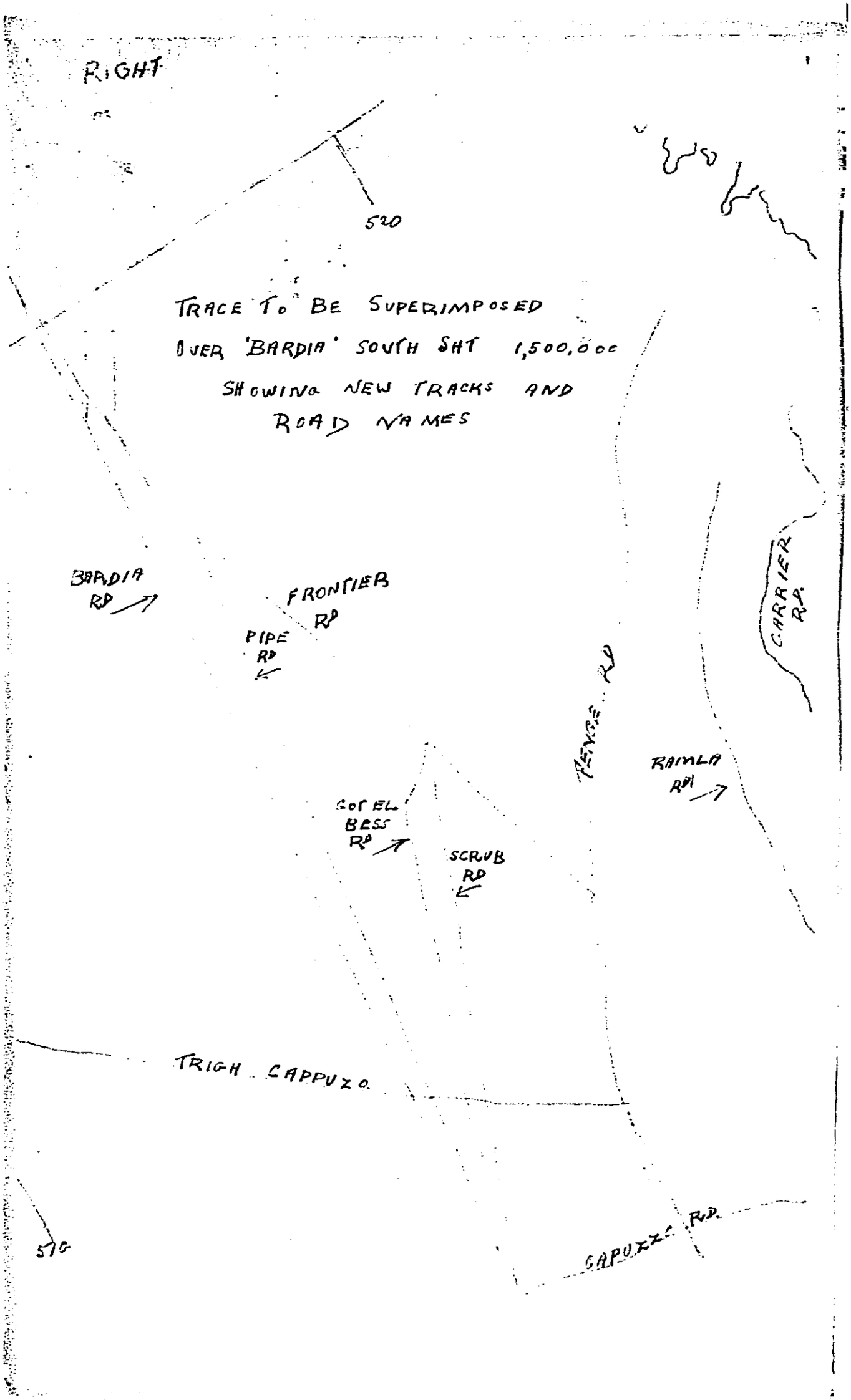
"G" BRANCH 6 DIV JAN 41

MOVE TO TOBRUK	Adv HQ 6 Aust Div and main body move out from BARDIA to TOBRUK preceded by 19 Bde Gp. Adv HQ located South of KILO 31 on BARDIA-TOBRUK rd.
PERIOD 8-20 Jan AIR OPERATIONS-ENEMY	Quantities of thermos flask bombs dropped in our areas, and some machine-gunning of tps. Operations of nuisance value only. As our air bases moved forward operations decreased and by 14 Jan had almost ceased.
RAF	Continuous operations carried out and total of 120 bombing attacks made on TOBRUK during Jan.
GROUND ACTIVITIES	Policy of "agressive patrolling" adopted, with object of reducing enemy morale, keeping his forces widely dispersed and prevention of the completion of his forward defences.
21 JAN	ZERO hour at 0530. Attack opens and first and second phases completed to timetable.
	16 INF BDE forced temporary bridgehead in Southern Sector whilst engrs made passages for tanks.
	7 RTR passed perimeter followed by 16 BDE and 2/6 Bn to form bridgehead. On right 2/6 Bn passed through 2/1 with 2/7 Bn, which had entered Eastern perimeter, advanced to BARDIA-TOBRUK Rd.
	19 INF BDE following 16 Bde through gap advanced north to crossroads, 2/5 Bn joining it during afternoon. At 1800 hrs 19 Bde had advanced to FORT SOLARO and FORT PILASTRINO.
22 JAN	0630 HRS 2/7 Bn and one Coy 2/6 Bn advanced north on BARDIA-TOBRUK road cleaning up wadis to coast. Resistance ceased by 1000 hrs.
	0930 hrs 16 Bde and 19 Bde with 2/6 Bn less one Coy advanced 16 Bde moving west toward perimeter and 19 Bde toward TOBRUK entering town at 1100 hrs. By nightfall 16 Bde had cleared sector as far north as BARDIA-TOBRUK road. Only remaining resistance was in wadis ~~and~~ in north-west Sector.
23 JAN	16 Inf Bde concludes mopping up of wadis north of BARDIA-TOBRUK rd and by 1000 hrs all resistance had ceased.
BOOBY TRAPS A TK MINES	Detailed diagram showing construction and operation of these (Apps 25 and 37)
SABOTAGE	Systematic sabotaging of essential services and equipment carried out by Italians in TOBRUK.
APPENDICES INCLUDE	Operation Orders and Instns Maps, Traces and Plans (Area from Bardia to Benghasi) Intelligence Summaries Location Lists.

OPERATIONS - BARDIA

"G" BRANCH 6 DIV — JAN 41

OO No 6 ISSUED	Operation to consist of two phases as follow:-
	0530 hrs Phase I - 2/1 Bn to cross wire forming bridgehead. One tp of tanks from 7 RTR in support. 2/1 Fd Coy build and maintain tank crossings.
	Under arty barrage 2/2 Bn preceded by tanks advance right, along perimeter defences to BARDIA-CAPUZZO rd.
	2/3 Bn supported A Sqn 6 Div Cav fills gap between 2/1 Bn and 2/2 Bn.
	2/5 Bn and two coys 2/7 Bn advance to fwd assembly posns in rear 2/2 Bn completing first phase.
	1130 hrs Phase II - 2/5 Bn and one coy 2/7 Bn attacking with 7 RTR advance east for two miles along perimeter. Two coys 2/5 Bn and one coy 2/7 Bn exploit eastward with tanks. Remainder of 2/7 Bn pass through 2/5 Bn and advan along perimeter with tanks until contact gained with 2/6 Bn.
	DEMONSTRATION to be staged by 2/6 Bn in SW corner of Southern Sector at 0530 hrs.
PROTECT BY BRIG SAVIGE	That plan agreed upon had been altered in that 2/7 Bn (less one coy) instead of remaining in Bde reserve was now to move through defences along perimeter toward 2/6 Bn (App4).
	Protest placed before GOC 6 Aust Div and BRIG SAVIGE instructed to place two coys 2/7 Bn u/comd 2/5 Bn for Phase II (App 5).
LOCATIONS & ATTACHMENTS	of units as at 3 Jan 41 (Appendices).
3 JAN	Phase I proceeds to time and 16 Inf Bde achieve all objectives.
	Phase II Advance continues and by nightfall our tps occupying posn two miles east of BARDIA-CAPUZZO rd.
ENEMY AIRCRAFT	No enemy opposition met with during day but Thermos bombs dropped on CAPUZZO-SALUM rd during night 3-4 Jan.
PRISONERS TAKEN	on 3 Jan, estimated 10,000.
4 JAN	at 0830 hrs 16 Bde commences advance on BARDIA, 2/3 Bn moving north to rd, 2/1 Bn NE to posn south of BARDIA. 2/2 Bn moved through fwd bns to enter BARDIA Village at 1615 hrs.
ENEMY OPPOSITION	of severe nature encountered by 17 Inf Bde during day, and many casualties inflicted on 2/6 Bn in vicinity POST 11
ENEMY CAPITULATION	in northern sector offered by commandant at 2145 hrs but was instructed to cease operations until morning when surrender was accepted.
ITALIAN TANKS	Instns issued for collection of serviceable tanks with view to formation of divisional tank unit.
5 JAN	Attack and mopping up commenced by 19 Inf Bde Gp at hrs. 17 Inf Bde advanced along southern sector and by 1300 hrs all resistance ceased, Post 11 be to fall.


RIGHT
520
TRACE TO BE SUPERIMPOSED
OVER 'BARDIA' SOUTH SHT 1,500,000
SHOWING NEW TRACKS AND
ROAD NAMES
BARDIA RD
FRONTIER RD
PIPE RD
CARRIER RD
REYES RD
RAMLA RD
COREL BESS RD
SCRUB RD
TRIGH CAPUZZO
570
CAPUZZO RD

RIGHT

520

TRACE TO BE SUPERIMPOSED
OVER 'BARDIN' SOUTH SHT 1,500,000
SHOWING NEW TRACKS AND
ROAD NAMES

BARDIN RD

FRONTIER RD

PIPE RD

CHARLIE RD

REYES RD

RHINOLITH RD

COYOTE BUSH RD

SCRUB RD

TRICH CHAPUZO

570

CHAPUZO RD

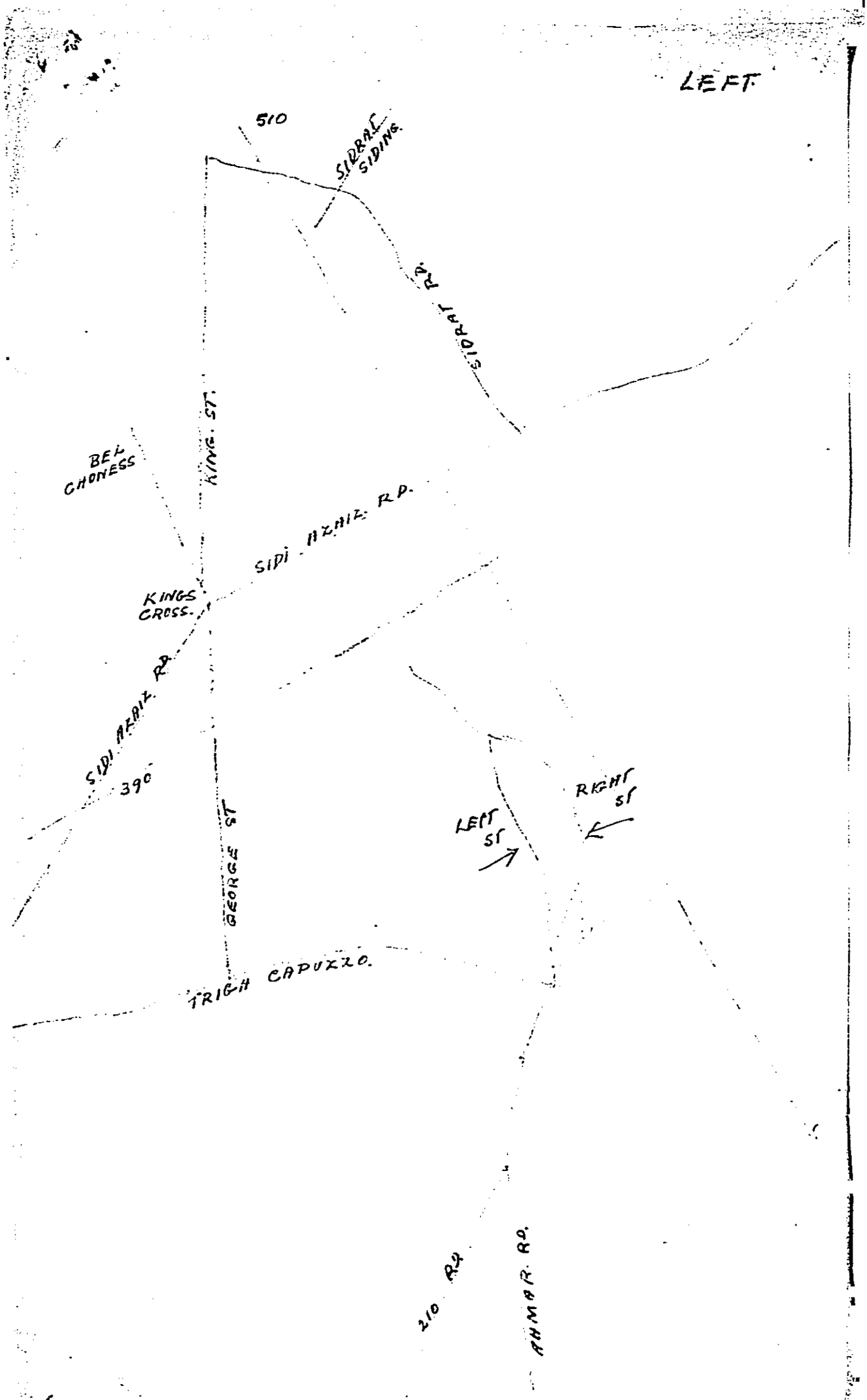
SIGNALS FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN TANKS AND INF. -

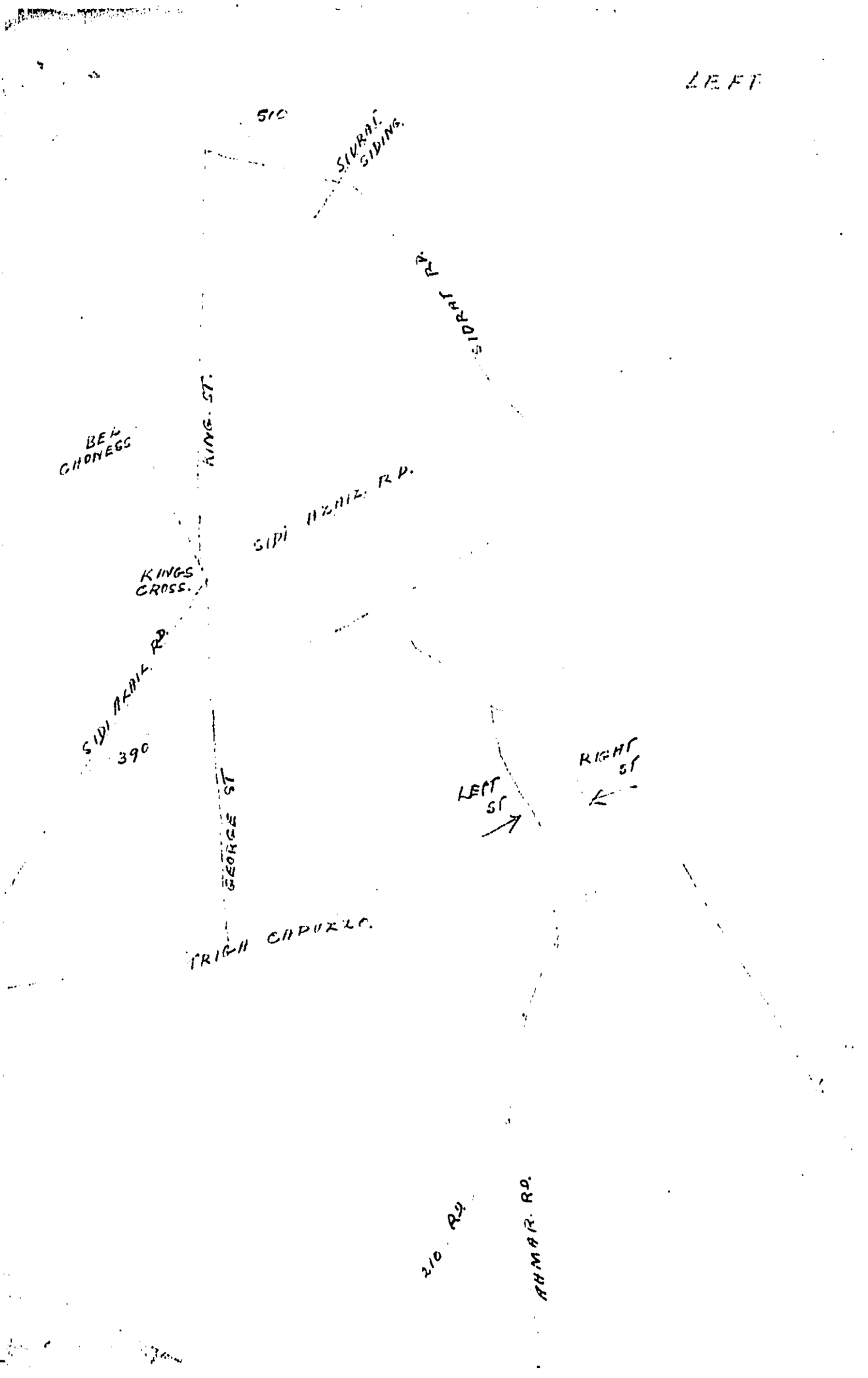
Tank Flags Signals:

(a) Red, White and Blue flags- friendly tank coming out of action.
(b) Green and White flags - Come on infantry.
(c) Red and Yellow flags - tank broken down.
(d) Blue square flag - Bn Comd tank.
(e) Red flag and Red pennant - Adjt's tank.
(f) 2 Yellow pennants - Sqn Comd.
(g) 1 pennant(various colours) - Tp Comd.

Inf Signals to Tanks.

(a) Tin hat on bayonet	Inf wants help.
(b) Two or more tin hats on bayonets, pointed towards objective.	Indicates point or linear target.
(c) Individual placing himself in front of tank with hand to side of mouth.	Indicates speech with tank comd required.


LEFT
510
SIDRAL SIDING.
SIDRAL RD.
KING ST.
BEL CHONESS
SIDI AZMIL RD.
KINGS CROSS.
SIDI AFAIL RD.
390
GEORGE ST
RIGHT ST
LEFT ST
TRIGH CAPUZZO.
210
R4
AMMAR RD.


LEFT
510
SIDRAT SIDING.
SIDRAT RD.
BEL CHONEGS
KING ST.
SIDI ISSNIZ. RD.
KINGS CROSS.
SIDI RAHIL RD.
390
GEORGE ST
RIGHT ST
LEFT ST
TRIGH CHOUZZO.
210 RD
AHMAR RD.

COPY/EP

SECRET.

6 AUST DIV

OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 92.

BATTLE OF BARDIA.

1. SUPPLIES.

(a) A.A.S.C. will deliver to "5" Ech tpt of 16 and 17 Aust Inf Bdes who will provide guides at the S.P. at 1000 hrs daily. Other units will send unit tpt to the S.P.

(b) All Inf personnel and certain Arty personnel will carry on the man one tin preserved meat and 8 oz. biscuits as an iron ration.

(c) An issue of rum to units will be made on 2 Jan. The time of issue to individuals is left to discretion of Bde Comds.

2. PETROL.

Petrol point will be established at 51733734 at 1400 hrs daily.

3. AMMUNITION.

Amn Pts will be established as under by Z X 120 on D 1 day :-

50483873
51403800

4. WATER.

(a) To avoid congestion, units will continue to draw at the point already allotted irrespective of any change in unit location. Checking of demands and recording of issues will NOT be done on D 1. Offrs in charge water points will concentrate on dispersion of waiting vehicles, security from air attack, and speed in filling.

(b) Water in enemy territory will NOT be used until passed by a Medical Officer.

5. MEDICAL.

(a) M.D.S. 51603747
A.D.S's to be established by 0400 hrs D 1 day

50453900 - 2/1 Fd Amb
50853830 - 2/1 Fd Amb
51903792 - 2/2 Fd Amb

(b) A.D.S. at 51903792 will move under orders 17 Aust Inf Bde.

(c) A.D.S. at 50453900 will move under orders 16 Aust Inf Bde.

(d) C.A.A.S.C. will detail 6 30-cwt lorries to report to M.D.S. at 1700 hrs D - 1 day. These will be available to A.D.M.S. for carrying walking wounded on D 1 days. They will be returned to C.A.A.S.C. by 2000 hrs D 1 day. They will carry red cross flags supplied by A.D.M.S.

(e) Walking wounded in 16 Aust Inf Bde Sector will be directed back to KING street where they will be picked up by the transport shown in sub-para (d) above.

(f) The position of wounded left lying on the ground will be marked by a rifle or other article stuck in the ground and to which a bandage or similar article is attached.

6. PROVOST.

(a) D.A.P.M. will detail 1 Offr (or Sgt) and one Sec Pro Coy to report H.Q. 16 Aust Inf Bde afternoon D 2 day for traffic control duties in 16 Aust Inf Bde area. These revert to control D.A.P.M. at Zero plus 60.

(b) Secs Pro Coy will be detailed as in 6 Aust Div Adm Instn No. 91 dated 1 Jan.

(c) On D 1 day Pro personnel on duty at water points will be reduced to two at each point.

7. CLEARING THE BATTLE FIELD.

(a) Bdes are responsible for clearing the battle field in their own areas. The order of priority will be :-

(i) Collection of wounded
(ii) Burial of dead
(iii) Salving of Br war material

The collection of captured material will not be undertaken until further instructions are issued.
(b) Enemy wounded and dead are to be dealt with in the same manner as our own. Personal effects of enemy dead will be collected in unit dumps.
(c) As far as possible burials should be concentrated in unit, if not bde areas. The exact site of all burials must be recorded. It is suggested that portions of the anti tank ditch be used as cemeteries.
(d) Br war material will be collected in unit dumps the location of which will be notified to Div H.Q. for subsequent collection by Div Salvage Unit. Units will ensure that any deficiencies of equipment are replaced from salvaged material.

8. CAPTURED WAR MATERIAL.

(a) Captured war material is of great value to the Empire and its allies. Consequently care must be exercised that valuable equipment is not needlessly damaged or essential parts of large equipments removed. Examples of this are sights of guns, wireless equipments and all technical equipment. These must not be interfered with: but left for subsequent collection by qualified personnel.
(b) Care must be exercised in the handling of captured weapons and explosives. Under no circumstances except for personal protection, are these to be fired.
(c) Reps of C.R.E., C.A.A.S.C. A.D.M.S. and D.A.D.O.S. will be sent forward to recce the captured area and report what stores and material relating to their respective services are in the area. Any large dumps captured will be reported by units to Div H.Q. through Bde H.Q.
(d) Captured enemy vehicles will not be taken into use by units.

9. WAR TROPHIES.

War trophies which may be captured by units will be collected under unit control - subsequent orders , for this disposal will be issued. Items which, at the time, cannot be collected will be marked with the unit vehicle number NOT the unit title.

10. STRAGGLERS.

A stragglers post manned by an N.C.O. and 3 O.R., 6 Aust Div Pro Coy will be established at 50793934 by Z X 60 D 1 day. Stragglers will be returned to their unit.

(sgd) G.A.VASEY. Col.
A.A.&.Q.M.G. 6 Aust Div.

1 Jan 41.

COPY/EP

6 AUST DIV.

SECRET

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 91

PRISONERS OF WAR

During the operations on D 1 day it is likely that a large number of P.O.W. may be captured, and the following suggestions and instructions are promulgated for the guidance of all concerned:-

1. GENERAL.

The principle to be observed is to get prisoners outside perimeter as soon as possible.

(a) Prisoners will, as far as possible be made to wear complete uniform greatcoats and head dress, and to carry blanket and water bottles, and /or water containers. All will be searched for concealed weapons, and will be disarmed immediately on capture. Papers and maps will be collected and taken back and handed over at each collecting centre in turn. It is important that none be souvenired since they may contain valuable information.

(b) Prisoners will be collected in reserve coy areas and despatched to Bde collecting centres in batches of about 100 with an escort of not more than one N.C.O. and 7 men. This move will need careful co-ordination by Bn H.Q. to ensure that a minimum number of personnel is used on escort duties at the one time. On handing over prisoners to Bde collecting centre escorts will return to their unit.

(c) Officer prisoners will be kept separate from O.Rs., and will NOT be permitted to converse together or with O.Rs.

(d) Men of the escort will march on the flank and rear of the coln at sufficient distance to prevent being surprised. Men should carry grenades as well as rifles, and if possible a bren gun.

2. UNIT RESPONSIBILITY

(a) Units will be responsible for the conducting of prisoners from the time of capture until arrival at Bde collecting centres. These will be established as follows:-

16 Aust Inf Bde - on road 50903950 moving to 51073953 at Z X 120
17 Aust Inf Bde - 51723833

(b) Coy collecting centres should be established in each forward coy area, and prisoners sent to the rear in a similar manner to that suggested in para 1 (b) above.

3. BDE COLLECTING CENTRES.

(a) One sec of the Div Pro Coy will be allotted to 17 Aust Inf Bde centre, and one sec to 16 Aust Inf Bde centre, to receive prisoners and conduct them to the Div Collecting Centre. These Secs will be at the respective centres by Zero plus 60.

(b) Prisoners will be held at Bde Collecting Centres until their numbers are approximately 1000, and will then be despatched to the Div Collecting Centre under escort of Pro Coy personnel.

(c) 19 Aust Inf Bde will provide a guard of one pl at each of these collecting centres from Zero plus 60.

4. DIV COLLECTING CENTRE.

(a) The Div Collecting Centre has been established at 51703770 where prisoners will be handed over to a guard of one pl 19 Aust Inf Bde.

(b) Instructions for the clearing of the Div Collecting Centre will be issued at the time.

(c) Prisoners will NOT be fed with Br Army rations; but from captured rations under arrangements to be made by C.A.A.S.C.

1 Jan 41.

(sgd) G.A.VASEY. Col.

A.A.&.Q.M.G. 6 Aust Div.

COPY/EP
FHB/MF

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OO No 6.

1 Jan, 41.

Ref Maps : BARDIA North and South 1/50,000
CIRENAICA 1/100,000 Sheets 29,30 and 40
CIRENAICA 1/1,000,000.

INFORMATION

1. Enemy as per 6 Aust Div Int Summaries.

2. (a) Own Tps. Supporting action of Royal Navy, RAF, NDF, and 7 Armd Div is given in 6 Aust Div Op Instn No 3, dated 31 Dec 40.

(b) Moves to assembly areas and groupings of units 6 Aust Div are given in 6 Aust Div Op Instn No 4, dated 1 Jan, 41.

INTENTION

3. 6 Aust Div will attack and capture the Central and South sectors of the BARDIA defences on 3 Jan.

METHOD

The attack will be carried out in two Phases.

PHASE I.

4. 16 Aust Inf Bde, with one Coy 1 NF and A Sqn 6 Aust Cav under comd, and 7 R Tanks will carry out the attacks in this Phase.

5. Objectives: 16 Aust Inf Bde and A Sqn 6 Aust Cav are shown on TRACE A.

7 R Tanks are shown on TRACE B.

6. Arty: Arty plan is shown on TRACE C.

7. Engrs: Engrs tasks are shown on TRACE D.

8. 2/1 Bn will cross the SL at 0530 hrs and will form a tank bridgehead by capturing the objectives shown on TRACE A and on arrival 4 Tp 7 R Tanks will capture their final objective.

9. 2/1 Fd Coy will follow 2/1 Bn and will build bank crossings as shown on TRACE D.

10. (a) 7 R Tanks will pass the inf SL at 0640 hrs, cross A Tk ditch at 0650 hrs, and send 4 Tp to assist 2/1 Bn in capturing their final objective. On completion of task, 4 Tp will come into res under comd 7 R Tanks.

(b) 7 R Tanks less 4 Tp, after crossing ditch, will attack with three Tps fwd as shown on TRACE B. Each fwd Tp will be followed by a Coy of 2/2 Bn.

(c) After capture of objective, 7 R Tanks will rally in area of Post No. 40.

11. 2/2 Bn will pass SL at 0629 hrs and as 4 R Tanks cross the ditch fwd Coys will take up posns and follow their respective Tp of tanks. 2/2 Bn will assist tanks in mopping up and will capture objective shown on TRACE A.

12. 2/2 Fd Coy will follow 2/2 Bn into the perimeter and will move down the perimeter to carry out the tasks shown on TRACE D.

13. 2/3 Bn will pass SL at 0734 hrs and capture objective shown on TRACE A.

14. A Sqn 6 Aust Cav will follow 2/3 Bn and capture objective shown on TRACE A.

15. One Coy 2/7 Bn will move into the perimeter and occupy the sector shown on TRACE A after 7 R Tanks and 2/2 Bn have captured their objective.

16. 2/5 Bn will cross the perimeter by 0800 hrs and occupy a fwd assembly area as shown on TRACE A.

17. RESERVE: Until zero for Phase II, 2/5 Bn will be at call of Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde for a purely defensive role in the event of serious enemy penetration of his front.

18. Arty: Plan shown on TRACE C.
(a) Summary of Programme.

Time hrs	Target	No. of guns	Rate rpgpm	Remarks
0530 - 0555	Posts in 1st Line 45-47 43 49	52-25 prs 12-25 prs 4-4.5 guns	3 3 2	Incl 8-6 in Hows to 0545 hrs
	Posts in 2nd Line 42 44	12-25 prs 4-4.5 guns 4-60 prs	3 2 2	At 0545 hrs 8-6 in Hows lift on to these Posts
0555 - 0620	Posts 42,44 46 & Posts to N E & S	36-25 prs Remainder arty.	3 to 2 3 to 2 2 to 1	Fd arty Med arty.
0620 - 0655	Box around tank bridgehead	All arty.	1 to 2 1 to 1½	Fd arty. Med arty.
0655 - 0730	Arty concentration moves South on each Post in turn to Posts 25,24,26.	12 guns on each post for 10 mins.		Arty concentration to move SE at rate of 5 mph.
0655 onwards	Enemy btys.	Selected Med btys.		

(b) From 0730 hrs to zero for Phase II arty will engage targets by observation.

F Bty RHA and 104 Regt RHA in support of 2/1 Bn.

2/1 Fd Regt in support of 2/2 Bn.

51 Fd Regt " " " 2/3 Bn.

2/2 Fd Regt " " " 17 Aust Inf Bde.

19. DECEPTION:

At 0530 hrs 2/6 Bn will stage a demonstration against the SW corner of the Southern sector of the perimeter. 2/2 Fd Regt will support this demonstration by engaging the following targets :-

0530 to 0545 hrs	Posts 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13.	Concentration of 6 guns on each Post in turn.

Thereafter 2/2 Fd Regt will fire regtl bursts on enemy btys and Posts 22, 24, 25, 26, 27 until 0730 hrs.

20. A Tk PROTECTION:

16 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for A Tk protection within the perimeter from incl Main Rd BARDIA- CAPUZZO to the LEFT of their objective.

P Bty RHA, less two Tps, will be responsible from excl Post 53 to the WEST.

21. AIR:

208 Sqn RAF under Corps control are providing the following sorties on 3 Jan :-

Tac R -

(a) Three sorties at 0700, 0930 and 1200 hrs.

Area - BARDIA perimeter.

Tasks -

(i) Report posn of own fwd tps.

(ii) Report dispositions of enemy forces within perimeter, with special reference to enemy AFVs.

Reports by W/T and message dropping on HQs 6 Aust Div and 16 Aust Inf Bde.

Arty R -

(b) Two sorties at call of CRA 6 Aust Div from 0730 hrs.

ADM

22. Adm Instns will be issued separately.

INTERCOMM

23. HQ 6 Aust Div remains present location.

Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde opens on track in assembly area 50903953 0500 hrs 3 Jan and will open a report centre at Post 45 after its capture.

After 2/2 and 2/3 Bns have captured their objectives, Adv Bde HQ will move to Post 40.

Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde opens Pt 206 50783833 at 0500 hrs.

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde remains present location.

HQ 19 Aust Inf Bde opens 0500 hrs 3 Jan at Pt 208 50673842 (old HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde).

W/T TENDER:

208 Sqn RAF will send one RAF tender to report to HQ 6 Aust Div by 1400 hrs 2 Jan.

FREQUENCY FOR Tac R -

2750 kcs

CALL SIGNS -

7 Armd Div	XY	16 Aust Inf Bde	SS
6 Aust Div	SK	Adv HQ WDF	LO

POSN FWD INF -

WHITE CROSSES will be displayed at HQs of leading Coys 6 Aust Div when halted to indicate to air posn reached by fwd tps.

LOs -

One Div LO and one LO 19 Aust Inf Bde will be at HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde from 1600 hrs 2 Jan.

16 and 17 Aust Inf Bdes will arrange LOs with each other.

SYNCHRONIZATION -

Reps formations and units will synchronize watches at HQ 6 Aust Div at 2100 hrs 2 Jan.

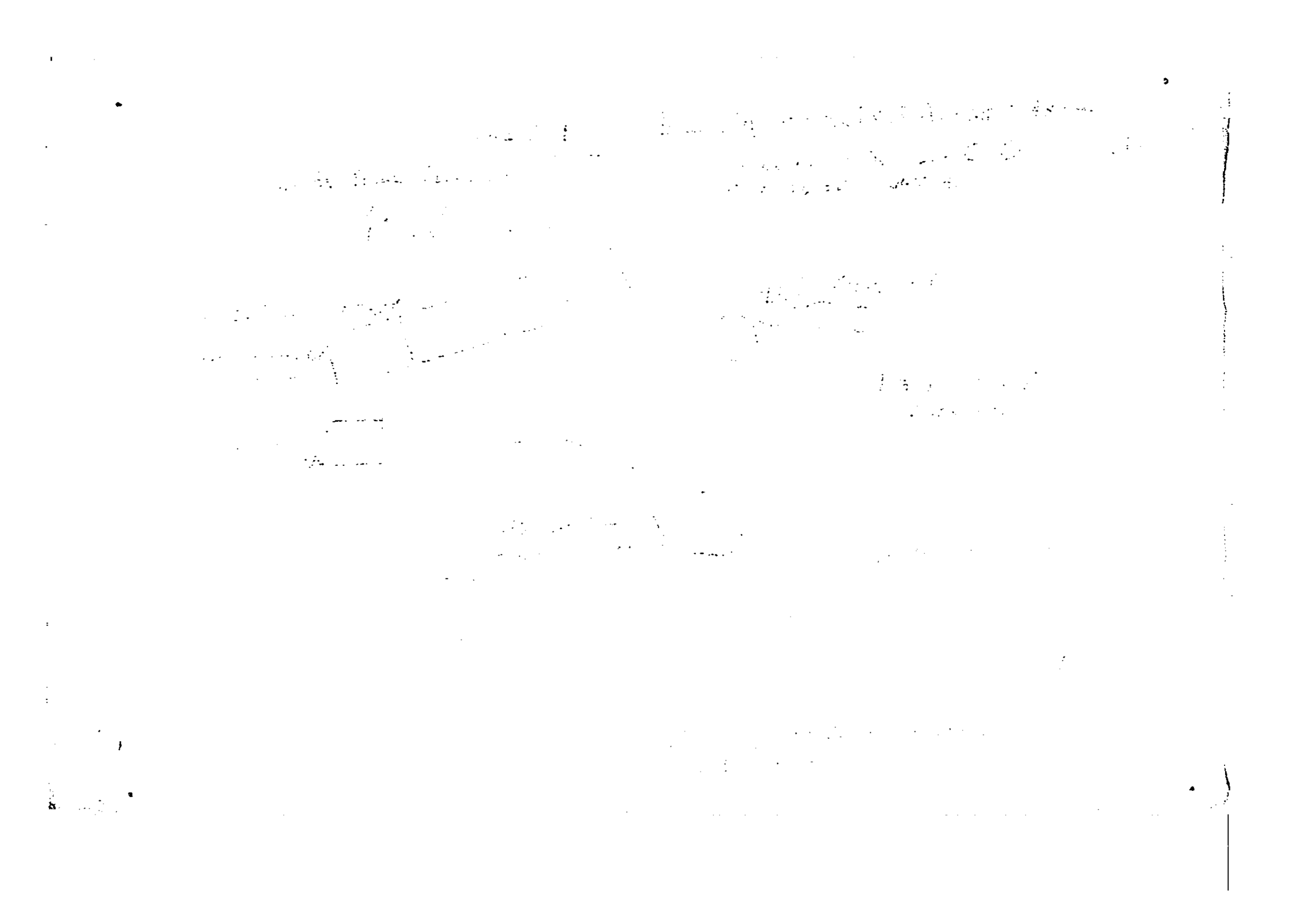
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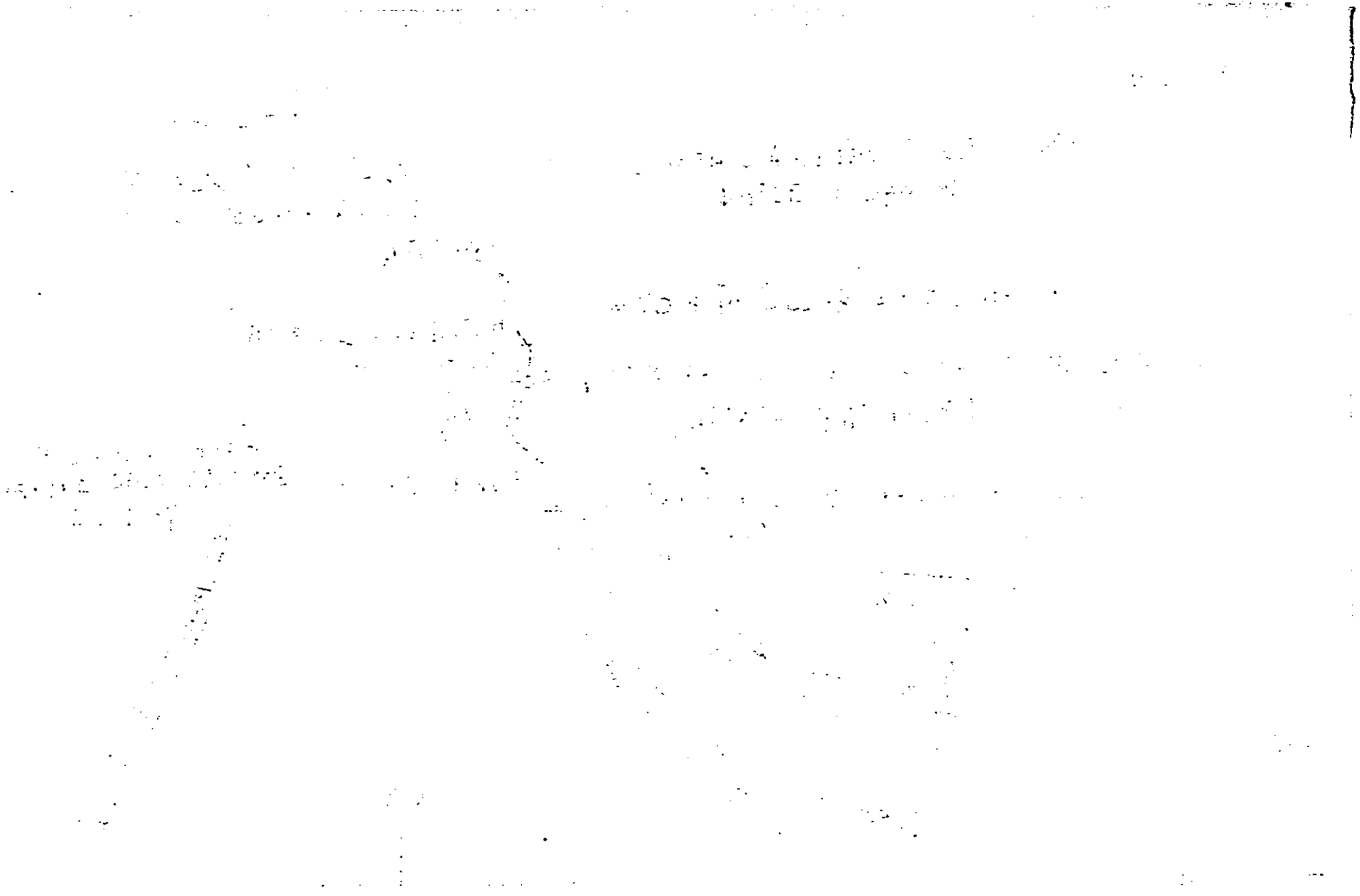
Time of Signature : 1600 hrs

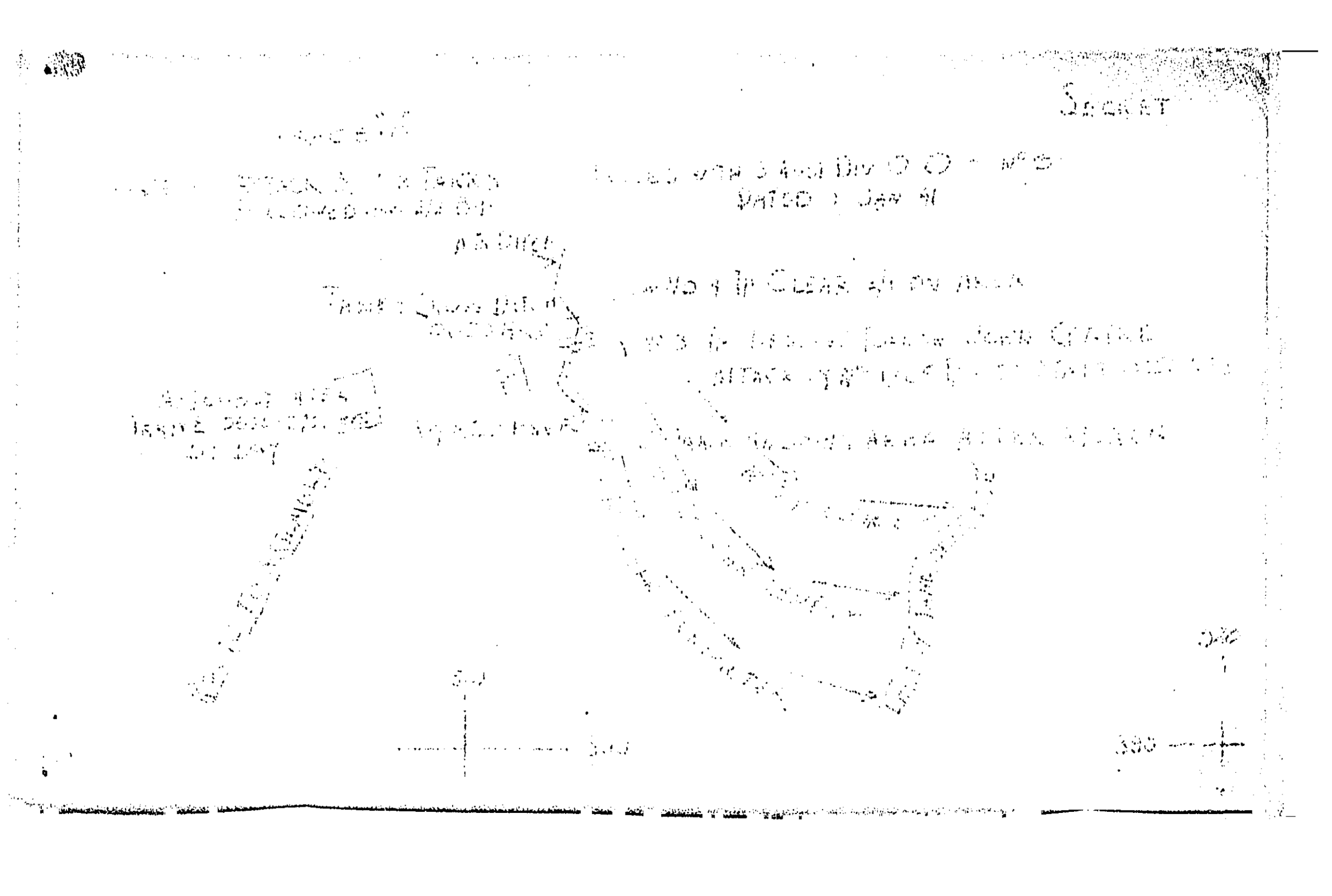
(sgd) F.H.BERRYMAN. Colonel.
GS, 6 Aust Div.

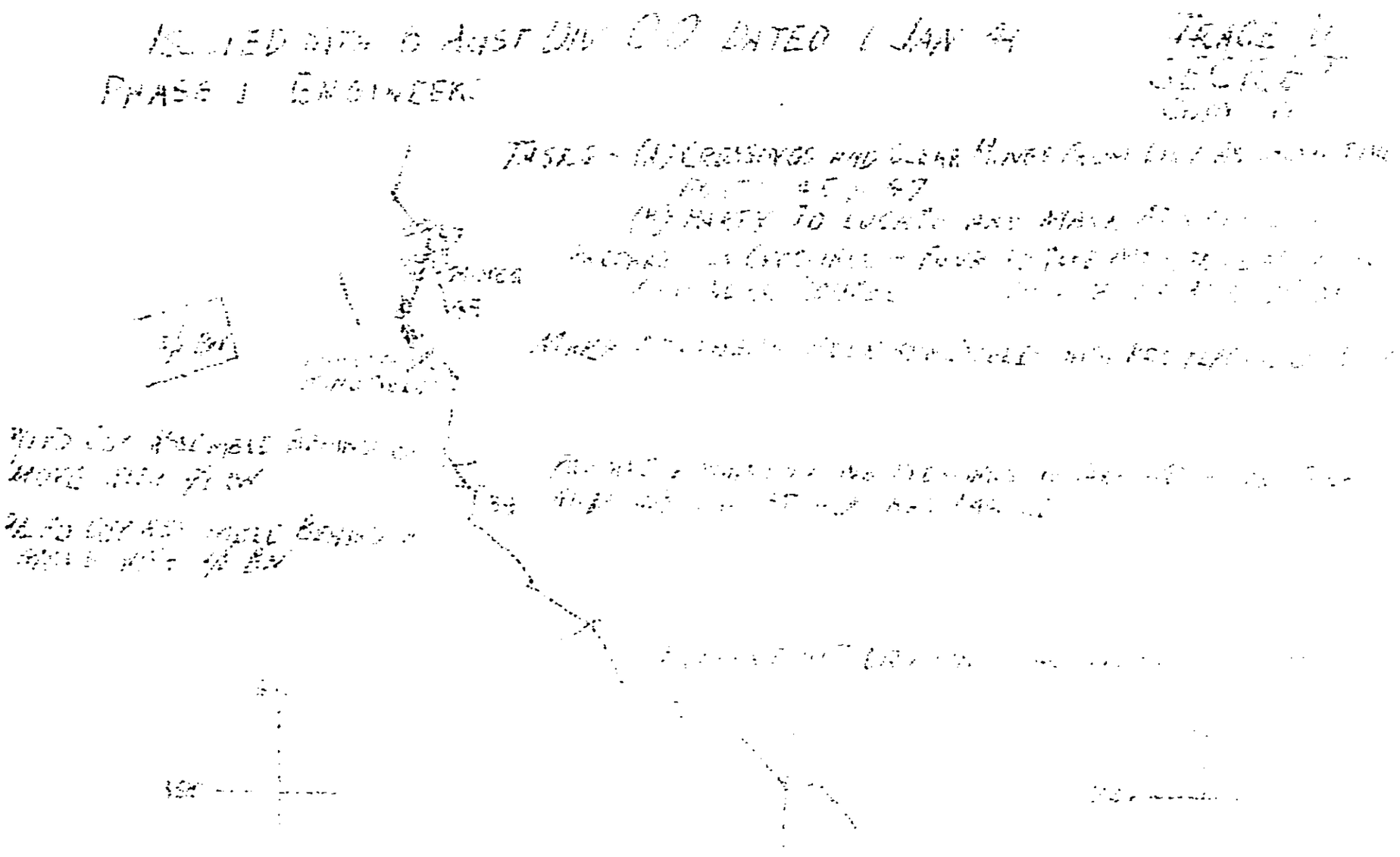
Method of Issue : LOs and Sigs.

NOTE ; PHASE II will be issued separately.









COPY/EP
FHB/TG

SECRET
1 Jan 41.

6 AUST DIV OO No. 6 (Continued)

PHASE II

24. The attack will be resumed at 1130 hrs 3 Jan by 17 Aust Inf Bde, A Sqn 6 Aust Cav (less one VMG Tp),and 7 R Tanks supported by arty.

25. (a) Objectives & SL 2/5 Bn and A sqn 6 Aust Cav (less one VMG Tp) shown on TRACE E.

(b) A Sqn will protect left of 2/5 Bn and exploit enemy btys from rear after tanks have passed.

(c) 2/5 Bn will send one coy fwd to exploit in rear of left fwd tp, 7 R Tanks.

26. 7 R Tanks. Objectives and SL shown on TRACE F. On completion of tasks 7 R Tanks will rally in area Post 34. 500 yds north of cross rds 51353923, and remain within the perimeter to deal with any tank counter attacks.

27. As attack of 2/5 Bn or 7 R Tanks progresses, 2/7 Bn will enter the perimeter and carry out the tasks shown on TRACE E.

28. Arty.
(a) At 1130 hrs will open on Posts 24 & 25, and then move SE on each post in turn finishing on Posts 17, R 11 and enemy bty 51923698 at 1325 hrs.

12 guns for ten mins and 36 guns for last three mins will fire on each post in turn.

(b) Rate of Adv arty fire - 100 yds/ 3 mins.

(c) Enemy btys east of Posts 19 to 24 will be engaged by med arty from 1130 to 1325 hrs.

Fire of med btys will be co-ordinated to move SE with arty fire on Posts.

(d) From 1325 hrs onwards fire by observation.

2/1 Fd Regt in support of 2/5 Bn.
2/2 Fd Regt in support of 2/7 Bn.

29. Air Bombardment.

Enemy btys in centre of Southern sector will be subjected to intermittent air bombing from 0630 to 1130 hrs.

30. 2/2 Bn will support left of 2/5 Bn attack by fire by observation at 1130 hrs.

31. (a) At 1600 hrs an engr party of two sub-secs 2/8 Fd Coy with escort will be prepared to move into BARDIA to seize water and engr installations.

(b) Escort Comd - CO VMG Tp 6 Aust Cav
Tps - One VMG Tp " "
One Pl 2/2 Bn.

32. 17 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for protection of Southern Sector, i.e. from excl main rd BARDIA - CAPUZZO.

33. Protection of 7 R Tanks in rallying area Post 34 during 3 Jan and night 3/4 will be responsibility 16 Aust Inf Bde. /Jan

ACK.

Time of Signature : 1900 hrs

Method of Issue : LOs and Sigs.

(sgd) F.H.BERRYMAN. Colonel.

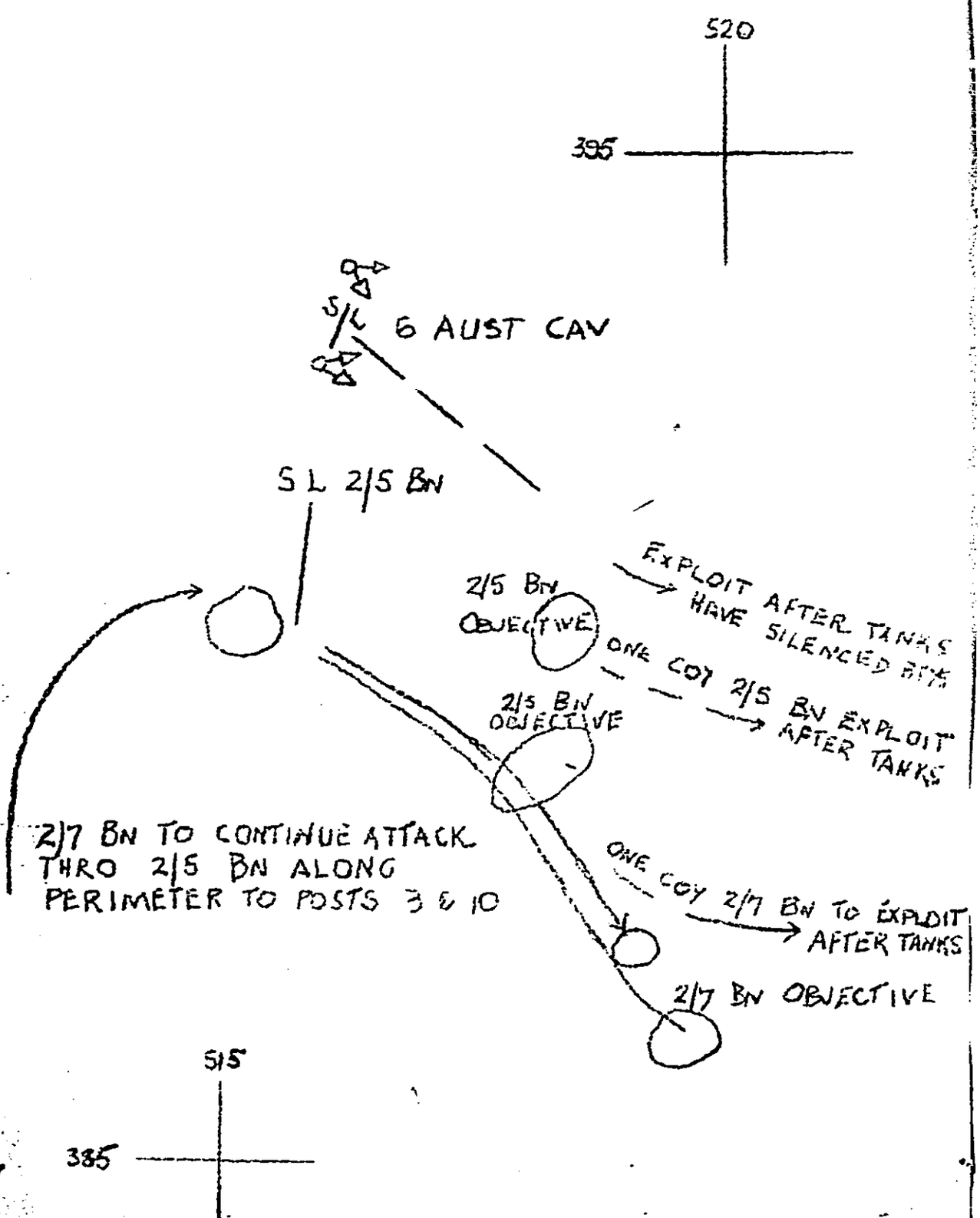
GS 6 Aust Div.

SECRET

PHASE 2 TRACE "E"

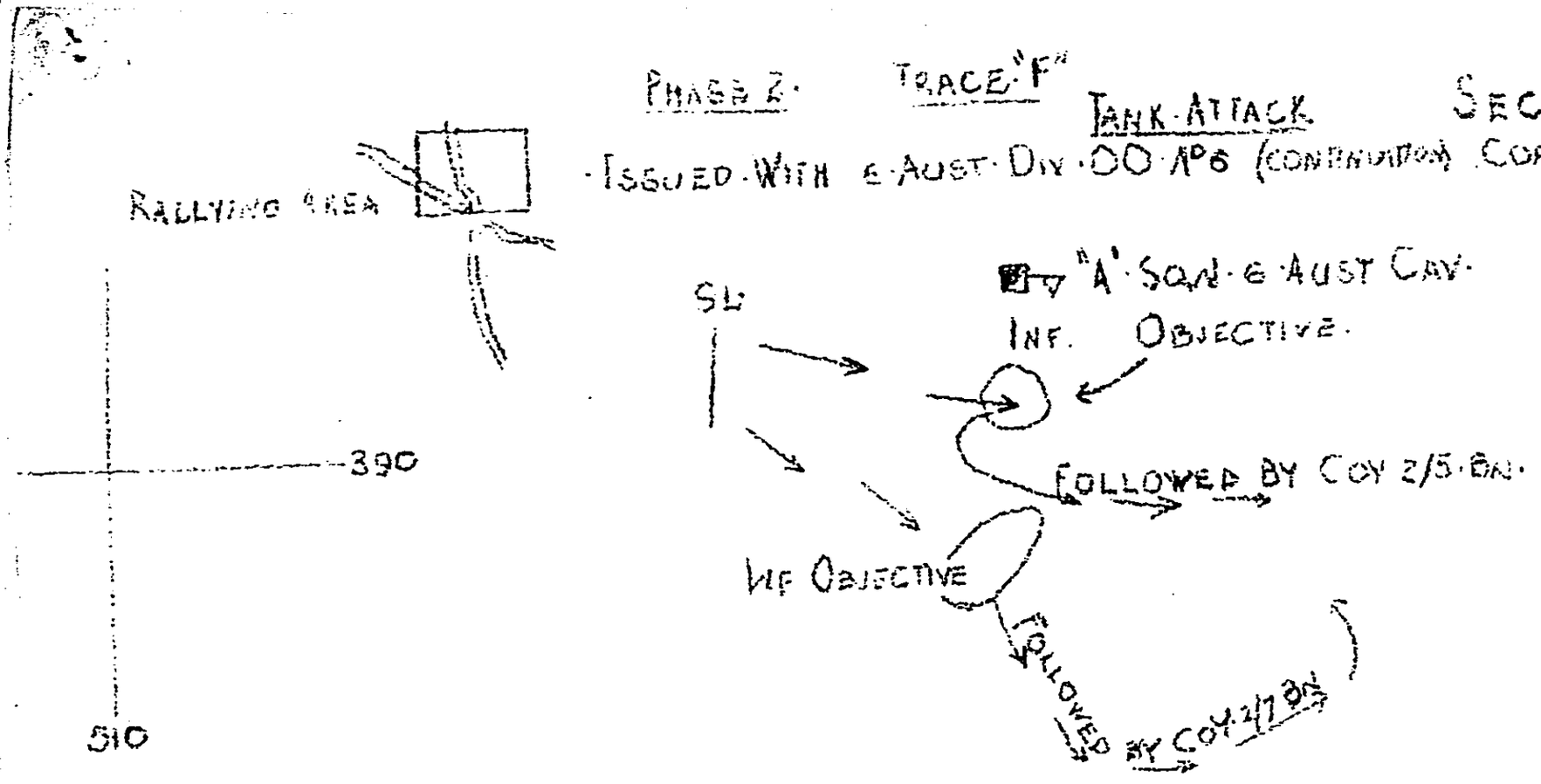
ISSUED WITH 6 AUST DIV OO Nº 6 (CONT'D)

17 AUST INF BDE & "A" SQN 6 AUST CAV
ATTACK & EXPLOITATION.



PHASE 2. TRACE "F" TANK ATTACK SECRET.

ISSUED WITH 6 AUST DIV OO Nº6 (CONTINUATION) COPY. Nº.



SECRET

ENID.
2 Jan 41.

PONE
PITH
BARB
LESA

1. In the event of BARDIA being captured it is anticipated that, an effort will be made to attack TOBRUK at an early date.

2. It is possible that an Inf Bde will move in that direction at short notice.

Medical support will be necessary.

3. In order that this may be available Fd Ambulances will reorganise immediately after the present action.

4. The decision as to which Fd Amb will proceed with the Adv Guard will be made later.

5. It appears that the main BARDIA - TOBRUK Rd will not be useable necessitating a route across country.

6. Owing to the distance involved a Fd Amb Staging Post will be necessary, and casualties will be evacuated by Div Amb Transport to the present M.D.S. site.

7. Routes will require to be well marked. Preparations will be made for this.

8. In the event of casualties in Fd Ambs, in order to bring Coys up to strength it may be necessary to temporarily disbandon one Coy of one Fd Amb. Decision as to which Coy will be made by NOEL of ENID.

Col.
NOEL.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

MINUTE PAPER.

(This side only to be written on.)

D.S.185/1.36.—C.5044.

SUBJECT:

COPY/AP

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No 4

1 Jan 41

MOVEMENTS ON D- 1 AND NIGHT D-1/D1.

Ref: BARDIA North and South Sheet 1/50,000.

1. Allotment of Tps: The following will come under comd forthwith:-

16 Aust Inf Bde -
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav until Z for Phase 11.
One Tp P Bty 3 RHA
One Coy 1 NF

17 Aust Inf Bde -
J Bty 3 RHA. Onr Tp to be kept in res.
1 NF less one Coy.

2. 2/5 Bn on D-1 will move via TRIGH CAPUZZO to squares 508390 and 507390. It will leave TRIGH CAPUZZO at Pt 208 50733863 at 1700 hrs and will be clear of that Pt by 1730 hrs.

3. Marching personnel of 16 Aust Inf Bde moving along GEORGE ST on night D-1/D1 will keep of the track and leave it free for MT.

4. 7 RTR on night D-1/D1 will arrive GEORGE ST at 0220hrs and will be clear of it by 0400 hrs.

5. ARTY. TRIGH CAPUZZO and GEORGE ST will be available for Arty, including amn vechicles, on night D-1/D1, from 1800 to 0220 hrs and from 0400 hrs onward. Small colns of inf MT will traverse GEORGE ST during these periods. Arty and gun amn vechicles will NOT use KING ST.

6. 16 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for co-ordinating movement of inf bns and supporting tps, other than arty, North of SIDI AZEIZ Rd.

7. X Bn 19 Aust Inf Bde on day D-1 and on night D-1/D1 will move across country and releive 2/3 Bn. TRIGH CAPUZZO will be crossed about Pt 195 50973837 at 1730 hrs and cleared by 1800 hrs. Relief to be completed by 2100 hrs.

8. Y and Z Bns 19 Aust Inf Bde on D-1 and night D-1/D1 will move across country and occupy the areas vacated by 2/1 and 2/2 Bns respt.

Bns NOT to pass fwd of 2/2 Bn area about HAGFED UAER 50553807 before 2200 hrs D-1.

Arrangements will be made to ensure that Z Bn does NOT interrupt traffic on TRIGH CAPUZZO and GEORGE St.

ACK

Time of Signature: 2200 hrs

Method of Issue: Sigs

R KING Maj
for Colonel
GS, 6 Aust Div.