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)

1941, part 2, appendices



1/5/12-0286

WD

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 4 Copy No: 15

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 II.
One Tp P Bty 3 RHA
One Coy 1 MF

17 Aust Inf Bde -
J Bty 3 RHA [redacted]. One Tp to be kept in res.
1 MF less one Coy.

2. 2/5 Bn on D-1 will move via TRIGH CAPUZZO to squares 506390 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 off the track and leave it free for MT.

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

5. Arty: TRIGH CAPUZZO and GEORGE ST will be available for Arty, including amn vehicles, on night D-1/D1, from 1800 to 0220 hrs and from 0400 hrs onwards. Small colns of inf MT will traverse GEORGE ST during these periods. Arty and gun amn vehicles 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 night D-1/D1 will move across country and relieve 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 respectively.

Bns NOT to pass fwd of 2/2 Bn area about HAGFED UAER 50553207 before 2200 hrs D-1.

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

ACK.

Time of Signature: 2200 hrs.

Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Method of Issue: Sigs.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
RAA 6 Aust Div	4
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	6
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
7 RTR	8
WDF	9
GCC	10
G	11
A	12
Q	13
AASC	14
Med	15
Ord	16
Pro	17
File	18-19
War Diary	20-21

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.

PHB/MF.

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OO No. 6

Copy No: 16

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, WDF, 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 Southern 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 MG 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: Engr 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 0540 hrs, cross A Tk ditch at 0550 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 0620 hrs and as 7 R Tanks cross the ditch fwd Coys will take up their 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 Posts in 1st Line) 43 Posts in 1st Line) 40	32-25prs 12-25prs 4-4.5 guns	3 3 2	Incl 6-6in Howes to 0545 hrs.
	Posts in 2nd Line) 42 Posts in 2nd Line) 44 Posts in 2nd Line) 46	12-25prs 4-4.5 guns 4-60prs	3) 2) 2)	At 0545 hrs 8-6in Howes lift on to those Posts.
0555-0620	Posts 42,44 46 & Posts to N E & S	36-25prs Remainder arty.	3 to 2 3 to 2 2 to 1	Fd arty. Med arty.

Time hrs	Target	No. of guns	Rate rpgpm	Remarks
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 RNA and 104 Regt RNA 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 0630 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:-

0630 to 0645 hrs	Posts 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13.	Concentrations of 6 guns on each Post in turn.

Thereafter 2/2 Fd Regt will fire 1 rnd 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 Axel Main Rd BARDIA - 04F0220 to the LEFT of their objective.

F Bty RNA, less two Tps, will be responsible from axel Post 53 to the WEST.

21. AIR:

206 Sqn RAF under Corps control are providing the following sorties on 5 Jan:-

Tac R -

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

Area - BANDIA perimeter.

Tasks -

(i) Report posn of own fwd tps.

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

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 0800 hrs 3 Jan and will open as 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 50783033 at 0500 hrs.

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde remains present location.

HQ 19 Aust Inf Bde opens 0800 hrs 3 Jan at Pt 208 50673842 (old HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde.)

W/T TENDER:

209 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	SM	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 16 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 synchronise watches at HQ 6 Aust Div at 2100 hrs 2 Jan.

ACK.

Time of Signature: 1600 hrs.

A.H.B. Berryman Colonel, GS, 6 Aust Div.

Method of Issue: LOs and Sigs.

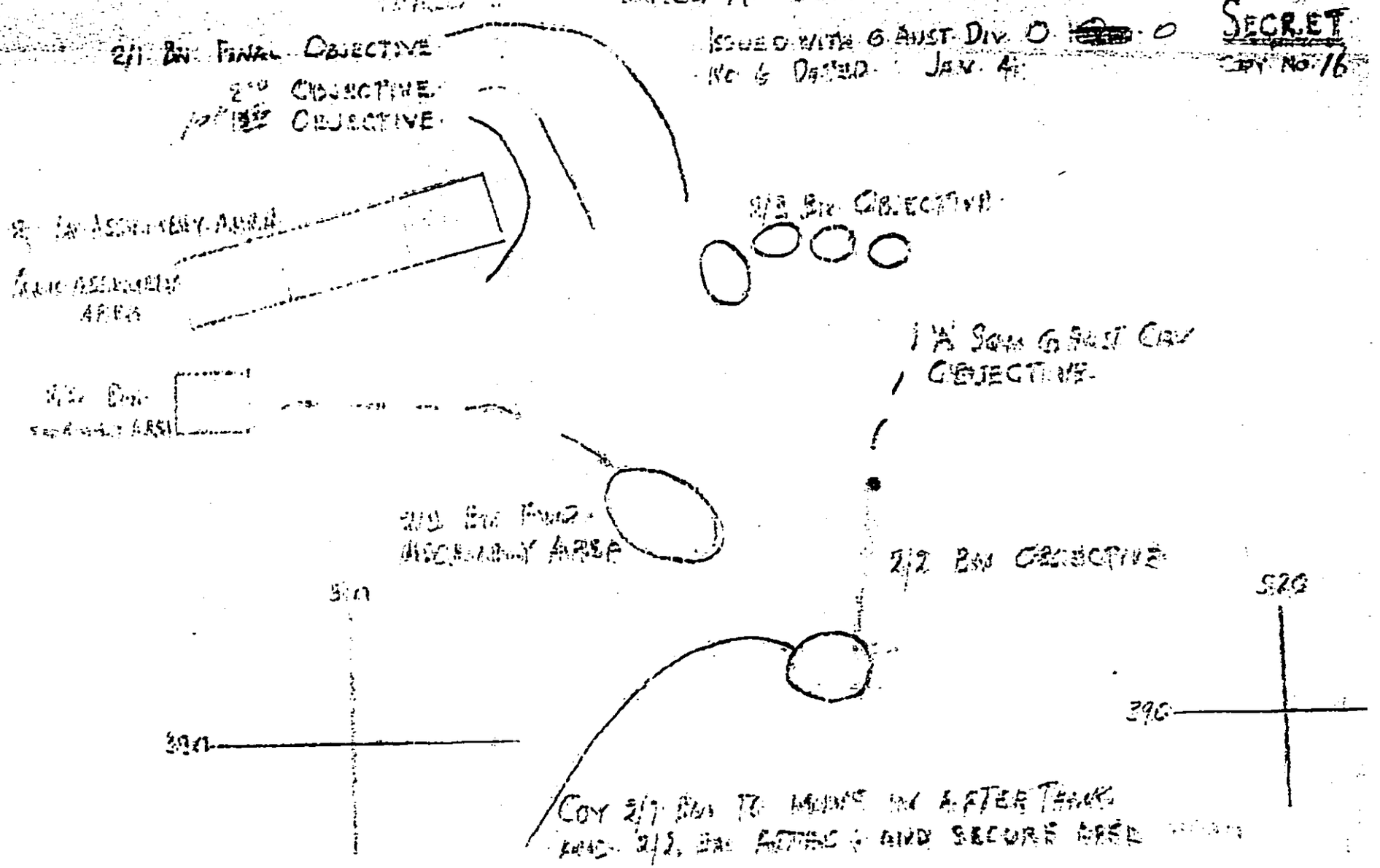
Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
RAA 6 Aust Div	4
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	6
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
7 RDR	8
WDF	9
7 Armd Div	10
GOC	11
G	12
A	13
Q	14
AASC	15
Med	16
OrC	17
1 Aust Corps	18
File	19-20
War Diary	21-22

NOTE.- PHASE II will be issued separately.

TRACE 'A' OBJECTIVES ASSEMBLY AREAS

ISSUED WITH 6 AUST DIV O [redacted] O No 6 DATED JAN. 4.

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COPY No. 16

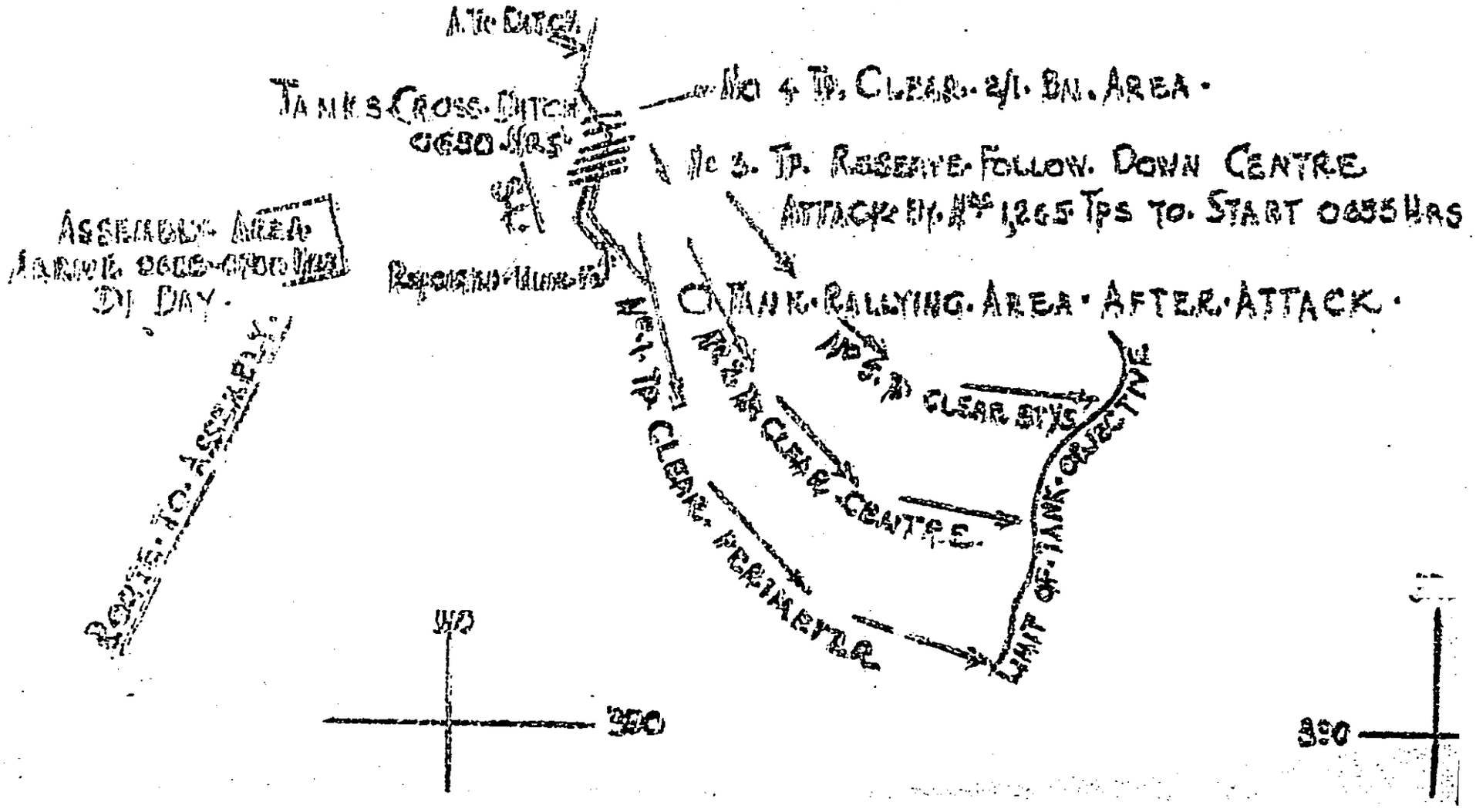


TRACE 'B'

SECRET
COPY No 11

PHASE 1. ATTACK BY 7 R. TANKS
FOLLOWED BY 2/2 BN.

ISSUED WITH G.A.(SS) DIV. O.O. = No 6
DATED 1 JAN 41.



510
400
510

· PHASE I · TRACE · C ·

ISSUED WITH 6 AUST · DIV · O · O · No 6
· DATED · 1 · JAN · 41 ·

· ARTY · TASKS ·
· AMN · ALL · H E ·

· SECRET ·
· COPY · NO ·

· Z+85 TO
Z+120 · AS · A MAX ·



Z+85 TO Z+91

Z+85 TO Z+92

Z+91 TO Z+95

Z+88 TO Z+98

Z+92 TO Z+101

Z+92 TO Z+102

Z+98 TO Z+106

Z+97 TO Z+107

Z+102 TO Z+112

Z+103 TO Z+113

Z+105 TO Z+115

Z+108 TO Z+118

Z+114 TO Z+115

LEGEND

—— FROM Z TO Z+25

—— FROM Z+25 TO Z+50

FROM Z+50 TO Z+85

510 TIMINGS AS SHOWN AGAINST EACH TARGET

386

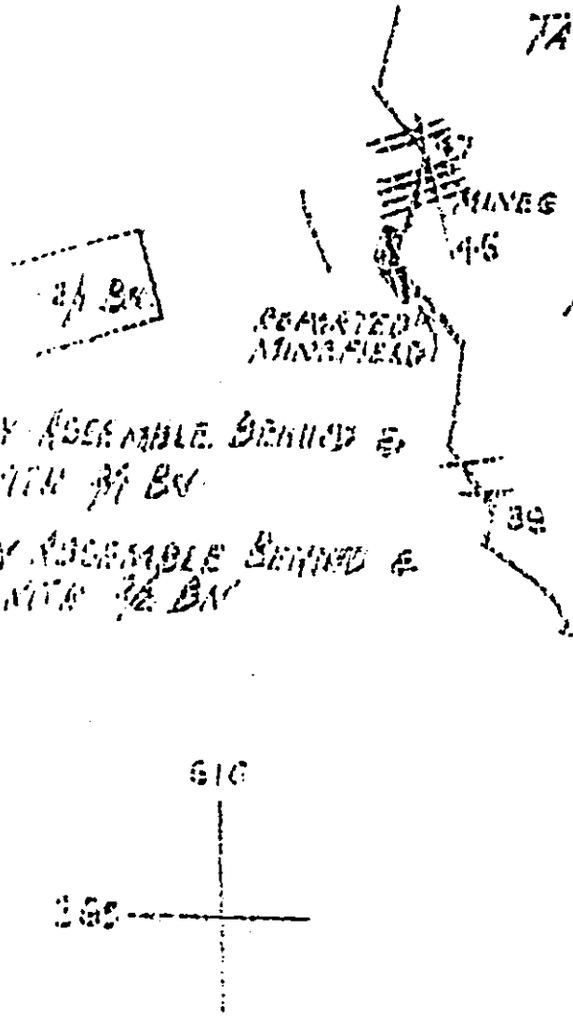
ISSUED WITH 6 AUST DIV O.O.[6] DATED 1 JAN 41.

TRACE D.

SECRET

COPY No 16

PHASE I ENGINEERS



TASKS -- (A) CROSSINGS AND CLEAR MINES FROM LINE AS SHOWN THRO POSTS 45 & 47.

(B) PARTY TO LOCATE AND MARK MINEFIELDS

PREPARE SIX CROSSINGS -- FOUR TO TAKE MT & TO BE MAINTAINED AND WORK ROUTES COMMENCE AT 0620 HRS.

MARK NORTHERN EDGE MINEFIELDS WITH RED FLAGS & RED LIGHT

3/4 FD COY ASSEMBLE BEHIND & MOVE WITH 3/4 BN

4/4 FD COY ASSEMBLE BEHIND & MOVE WITH 2/4 BN

PREPARE & MAINTAIN 4 CROSSINGS TO TAKE MT AFTER TANK AND 2/4 BN ATTACK HAS PASSED

PREPARE MT CROSSINGS AS SITUATION PERMITS

NMB/TG

S E C R E T

5 (MSI [illegible] Copy No: 16

[illegible] Jan 41.

IMAGE EX

24. The attack will be launched at 1130 hrs 5 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 of 2/6 Bn and A Sqn 6 Aust Cav (less one VMG Tp) shown on Image 2.

(b) A Sqn will protect left of 2/6 Bn and exploit enemy bty from rear after tanks have passed.

(c) 2/5 Bn will send one coy fwd to exploit in area of both fwd tps, 7 R Tanks.

26. 7 R Tanks. [illegible] on completion of tasks 7 R Tanks will assist in attack on [illegible] yds north of grid line 81050920, and remain to flank the perimeter to deal with any tank counter attacks.

27. As attack of 2/6 Bn or 7 R Tanks progresses, 2/7 Bn will [illegible] the perimeter and carry out the tasks laid down on IMAGE 2

28. Arty.

(a) At 1130 hrs will open on [illegible] and then move SE on each road in turn finishing on roads 17, A 11 and enemy bty 51923900 at 1205 hrs.

12 guns 2nd Bty and 60 pdr or [illegible] will fire on each road in turn

(b) Rate of fire arty 1130 - 1205 [illegible] rnds.

(c) Enemy bty [illegible] will be engaged by arty from 1130 to 1205 hrs.

Fire of med bty will be [illegible] more SE line of Posts.

(d) From 1205 hrs [illegible]

2/6 Bn Pnrs in [illegible]
2/6 Bn Hq [illegible]

29. Air Bombardment.

Enemy bty in vicinity of Scuba [illegible] will be subjected to intermittent air bombing from 0.30 [illegible]

30. 2/6 Bn will support left of 7/6 Bn attack by fire in vicinity at 1130 hrs.

31. (a) At 1500 hrs on each party of two armoured Brn Pd Coy with escort will be prepared to move into [illegible] and area installation.

(b) Escort Comd - [illegible]
Sqn - one Aust Tp
[illegible]

32. 17 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for protection of Southern Sector, i.e. from Mel main rd [illegible] - CAPUZZO.

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

ACK

Time of Signature: 1900 hrs

Method of Issue: L.Cs & Disp.

J.H. Bergman Colonel,
GS 3 Aust Div.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
RAA 6 Aust Div	4
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	6
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
7 RTR	8
WDP	9
7 Armd Div	10
GOC	11
G	12
A	13
Q	14
AASC	15
Med	16
Ord	17
1 Aust Corps	18
File	19 - 20
War Diary	21 - 22

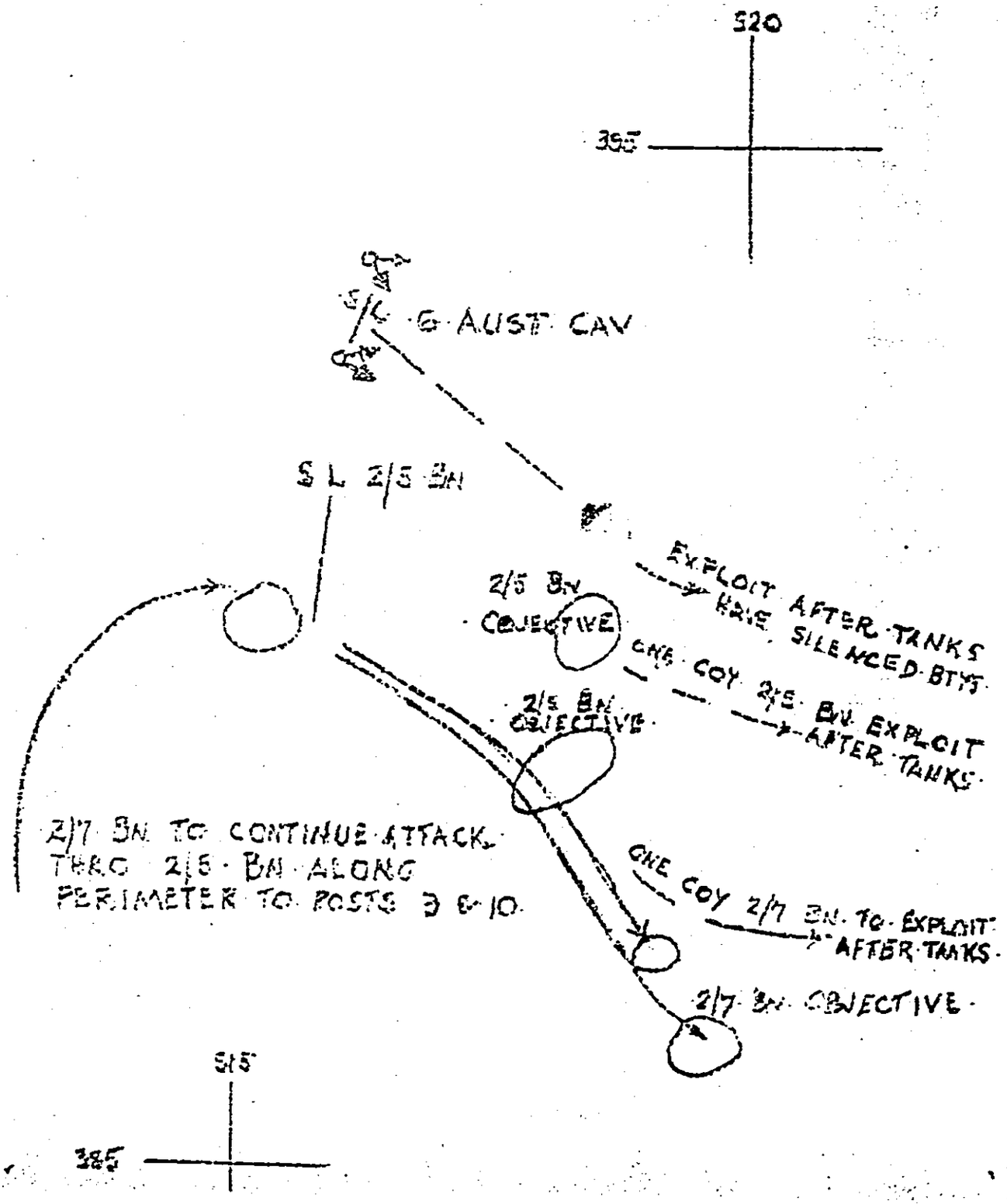
SECRET

PHASE 2 TRACE 'E'

ISSUED WITH 6 AUST DIV OO No 6 (CONT'D) DATED 1 JAN 41

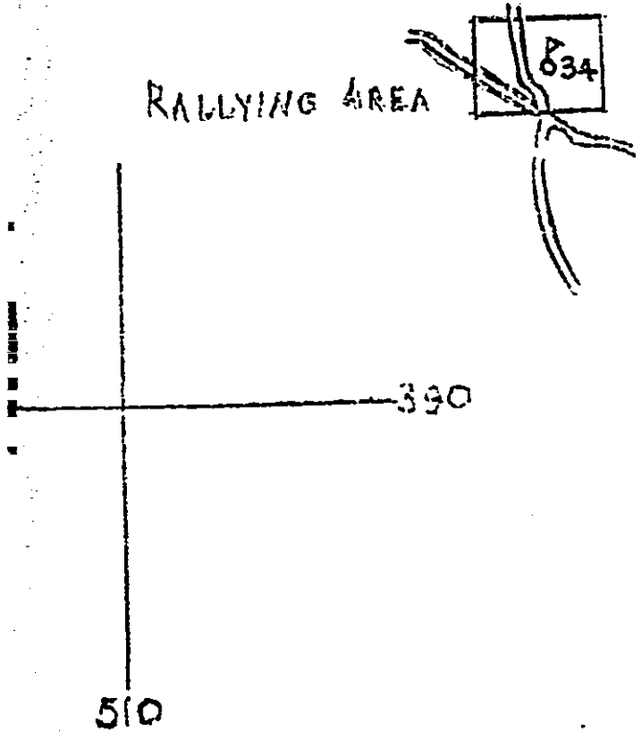
17 AUST INF BDE & 'A' SQN 6 AUST CAV

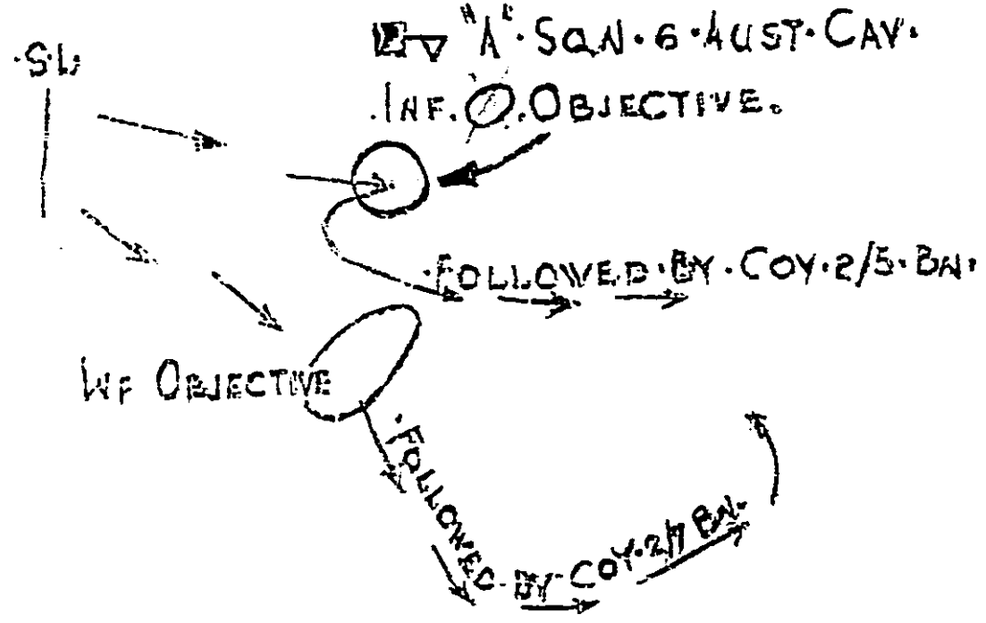
ATTACK & EXPLOITATION

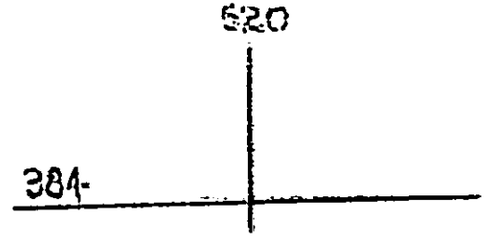


PHASE 2. TRACE "F" TANK ATTACK. SECRET.

ISSUED WITH 6 AUST: DIV O.O. No 6 (CONTINUATION) COPY. No.







COPY/EP
RKV/MF

SECRET

2 Jan 41.

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 7

INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS AND SAFEGUARDING OF CAPTURED DOCUMENTS

1. To ensure -

(a) The adequate interrogation of P/Ws captured.
(b) The collection of valuable documents, material and equipt,

NDF is providing a number of IOs, Interrogators and FSS personnel.

2. For your information these offrs and ORs will work as follows-

(i) Interrogation of Prisoners.

A NDF Interrogator will be stationed at each P/W collecting pt and at the Div P/W cage. These personnel will be responsible for sorting out and examining prisoners.

(ii) Documents.

FSS personnel will move fwd with the Engr party at 1600 hrs, 3 Jan, and take charge of documents, etc., at abandoned enemy HQs to ensure that they are NOT destroyed.

(iii) Disposal of Important Material.

NDF IOs will move between FSS unit, Bde collecting pts, Div P/W cage, and Adv NDF. They will take important information obtained from P/Ws and documents back to Div HQ and Adv NDF to be dealt with there.

3. Formations and units under this comd will, therefore, have no responsibility in the matter of interrogation of P/Ws, nor is it desired that Bde or Bn IOs should do so. It is essential, however, that every care should be taken to prevent the destruction by our own or enemy tps of enemy documents or enemy material and equipt, which may be of great value when examined by competent authorities.

ACK.

Time of Signature: 1645 hrs

Method of Issue: By LOs and Sigs.

(sgd) [illegible] Colonel.

GS 6 Aust Div.

FHB/TG

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 6.

Copy No: 16

2 Jan 41.

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

Ref 6 Aust Div CO No. 6 dated 1 Jan.

PHASE I.

1. Tank objective shown on TRACE B will include enemy btys in square 516393 and at 51563919.

2. Air Bombardment.

Between 0830 and 1130 hrs, 3 Jan, on enemy med btys at 51883904 and 52103875 intermittently.

PHASE II.

3. Cancel para 27 of OO No. 6 and substitute:-

"Two Coys 2/7 Bn under comd 2/5 Bn will be available to assist 2/5 Bn.

As tanks pass through 2/5 Bn objective, a coy will follow the right and left fwd Tp of tanks respectively. The distance the right coy move down the perimeter will be determined by Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde".

4. Arty. - Counter Bty Tasks.

Time Hrs	Target	Remarks
1130 to 1242	Bty Area 51883904	One Med Bty 2 rds gun fire at 1130, then 1 rd G.F. every 7 mins.
1130 to 1310	Bty area 52083875	One Med Bty 2 rds gun fire at 1130 hrs, then 1 rd gun fire every 10 mins.

5. After 1600 hrs, Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde will be prepared to place a bn astride the rd BARDIA - TOBRUK about 51563975.

6. (a) At 1600 hrs the engr party and escort detailed to be ready to enter BARDIA, will RV just north of rd junc on BARDIA Rd at 51993926. This party will include a small section of Security personnel from HQ WDF. Their task is to collect enemy documents etc, and escort Comd will give them every assistance.

(b) Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for giving the order for this party to enter BARDIA or for delegating this authority.

7. Attack by FRENCH Sqns.

At 1600 hrs 3 Jan two FRENCH motor coys are to attack the perimeter along and north of rd BARDIA - TOBRUK. Extent of this attack will be approx in an area 1000 metres north of the rd and 1000 metres inside the perimeter.

8. INTERCOMN

(a) A Sqn 6 Aust Cav will provide a special Armd OP to proceed in rear of 2/1 Fd Coy to Post 45. Special instructions have been issued separately to A Sqn 6 Aust Cav.

copies to
PONE PTH NAWE 2/1

8. (b) Synchronization - Watches will be synchronized in accordance with BBC time. After 2100 hrs a signal officer at HQ 6 Aust Div will give correct time every two hours.

9. Final Conference.

At HQ 6 Aust Div at 1430 hrs 2 Jan.

To attend: Div Comd, G I, AQ, CRA & CRE. Comds 16 & 17 Aust Inf Bdes. CO 7 R Tanks.

Method of Issue: - Sigs and LOs.

Time of Signature:- 1300 hrs

H.H. Bergman Colonel,
GS 6 Aust Div.

Distribution -

	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
RAA 6 Aust Div	4
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	6
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
7 RTR	8
WDF	9
7 Armd Div	10
GOC	11
G	12
A	13
Q	14
AASC	15
Med	16
Ord	17
1 Aust Corps	18
File	19 - 20
War Diary	21 - 22

SECRET

NOT TO BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF BN HQ

6 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 5 Copy No: 20

BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 2400 HRS, 3 JAN, 41.

Ref Maps: BARDIA NORTH & SOUTH 1/50,000 dated 26 Dec, 40.

1. GENERAL

On morning of 3 Jan our land forces supported by Navy and Air Force launched an extensive attack against the BARDIA defences. The perimeter was pierced just NORTH of Post 45 and 16 Aust Inf Bde, supported by 7 RTR, secured their objectives and now hold an approx line from Post 51, along top of escarpment to rd junc BARDIA - CAPUZZO, to HIGHFIELD. At the same time, a demonstration against the SW corner was staged by 2/6 Bn who hold WADI MUKTAHID. Upon completion of Phase I, 17 Aust Inf Bde attacked SW Sector from rd BARDIA - CAPUZZO and at nightfall were occupying approx line 51553920 - 51703920 - 51703911 - 51703907 - 51873906.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

Enemy inf appear to have offered little resistance in the Central Sector, whilst the Arty are holding out strongly in the Southern Sector. There was a complete absence of aerial activity by e.a.

3. PRISONERS

Estimate of P/Ws is 10,000, although it is thought that there are still many prisoners in fwd areas.

Information obtained from P/Ws appears in Appx "A".

4. CONCLUSION

Action will be continued on 4 Jan.

Time of Signature: 0900 hrs.

Method of Issue: LOs and Sigs.

for Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1-5
17 Aust Inf Bde	6-9
19 Aust Inf Bde	10-13
RAA 6 Aust Div	14-19
RAE 6 Aust Div	20
Sigs 6 Aust Div	21
Comd	22
G	23-24
AQ	25-26
ALO	27
AASC 6 Aust Div	28
ADMS	29
1 Aust Corps	30
Adv HQ MEF	31
7 Armd Div	32
7 RTR	33
War Diary	34-51
File	52-57

RRV/HF

SECRET

APPENDIX "A" to G Aust Div
Int Summary No. 5

INFORMATION FROM P/W

Tps

Bread supplied on following ration strength:-

2 Div CCNX 4 Div CCNX 64 Div	7000	
1 CCNX	10,000	
62 Div	10,000	
63 Div	6000	SS and.
GAF	5000	
	40,000	

HQ X Army - HUT 51403975 (Comment.- believed at TOBRUK Ref.)
HQ XXI Corps - WADI HELGH
HQ XXIII Corps

Identification

2 Btys of 1 Gruppo 21 Regt Arty
14, 15, 17 Btys 6 Gruppo Army GAF
(previously with 132 Regt Arty and only recently att)
2 Bty 55 Gruppo 10 Regt Arty - att 1 CCNX Div
235 Legion 1 CCNX Div (P/W states whole Div in ...DIA)
17 Bty 30 Battaglione di Copertura GAF 6 Gruppo
(Previously allotted to 2 Gruppo but changed after full of SIDI RAZEGH)
8 Coy 2 Bn 157 Regt 63 Div - (P/W states all Div left are in ...DIA)
116 Regt 62 Div
157 Regt 63 Div
219 Legion 1 CCNX Div (Staff Offr only)

XXX GAF Includes part 132 Regt.

FOOD

Main food depot hit just after retreat from MARSA M. Ration of bread is 350 grams per man per day for last 10 days. Meat - one day in four. No food in some sectors for two days.

WATER

Plentiful. Main supply from three cisterns along rd BARDIA - CAPUZZO, located on right of road at Junes 51503424, 51553312, and one between. Each has three pumps.

AMM DUMPS

Our arty ranged on main dump - built into S.W. side of small wadi about 51725367. Moved to SOUTH bank of WADI HALFAYA at MAKER 250-300 metres from sea and approx 52153927. Have plenty of ammn.

ARTY

Line of 75mm, then two lines 105mm parallel to WADI HALFAYA - grid 391. Ranged SOUTH perimeter area.

Bty of 4 guns of 149mm approx Pt 161 50023900. Were 6 guns but 2 lost with MALTESE. Comd - Lt-Col [illegible] of 1 Regt arty who is driving force behind defence; was withdrawn from SIDI RAZEGH to organise GAF defence.

BARDIA GUN is 149mm gun using triple charge, hence long pause between shots.

TOBRUK reported to be very lightly defended. Work on defences just started up in earnest.

Wireless: Main sta at HQ X Army.

AIRFORCE

NOT seen for 7 days. Believe Sqn coming from GERMANY.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Only Post Office.

CHEMICAL WAR

One CW Coy but NOT prepared for attack or defence. Most tps have lost or thrown away respirators.

TANKS

Seen 6 only type M III 12-13 CV35; may be few more but NOT many. Are 1 or 2 M 13.

MORALE

Tps are NOT anxious to fight. Mussolini asked could BARDIA hold out. BERGONZOLI replied: "BARDIA is impregnable", which annoyed tps who feel will stay there dead. Are constantly urged on with reports of a GERMAN Armd Div which is coming to assistance.

WEB/MT

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 8

Copy No: 15

3 Jan 41.

WARNING ORDER

Ref Maps: CYRENAICA 1/100,000 Sheets 19, 20, 28, 29, 30.

1. Within 24 hours after the cessation of fighting in BARDIA, 16 Inf Bde will take over BARDIA and 6 Aust Div will withdraw to an area WEST of the BARDIA perimeter. The following force will be prepared to adv on TOBRUK on 5 Jan 41:-

Adv HQ 6 Aust Div
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav
"P" & "J" Btys RHA
2/1 Fd Regt
7 Med Regt
Two Tps Lt AA Arty
One Fd Coy
19 Aust Inf Bde
1 RHP (under comd 19 Aust Inf Bde)
Comp Coy ASC
2/7 Fd Amb
Sec 6 Aust Div Pro Coy

1 Coy Sigs (less one det "J" Sec and two dets "D" Sec.)

4 Res MT Coy will be available to Left 19 Aust Inf Bde.

2. Remainder of 6 Aust Div will move as soon as the supply situation permits.

3. Role of 6 Aust Div

Role of 6 Aust Div will be to make earliest possible contact with Western arc of the TOBRUK defences. The force will est itself with its right flank on the Coast. The date of this move will be notified by signal later.

4. Role of 7 Armd Div

7 Armd Div will move to an area from which it will be in a posn to cut off TOBRUK from the WEST. Date on which this move will be taken will be notified by signal later.

Contact between 7 Armd Div and 6 Aust Div: 7 Armd Div will be responsible for making contact with the force mentioned in para 1 above and for making such provision as Comd 7 Armd Div may consider necessary to protect its left flank against a sortie by AFVs from TOBRUK.

5. Comd 19 Aust Inf Bde will study the problem of the move on TOBRUK and will be prepared to take comd of the Adv Gd.

ACK.

Time of Signature: 0500 hrs.

H.H. Bergman
Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Method of Issue: LOs and Sigs.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
RAA 6 Aust Div	4
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	6
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
MDP	8
7 Armd Div	9
CCC	10
C	11
A	12
G	13
AASC	14
Med	15
Ord	16
Pro	17
2 Aust Corps	18
File	19-20
War Diary	21-22

TRACE TO BE SUPERIMPOSED
OVER 'BARDIA' SOUTH SHT. 1:50,000
SHOWING NEW TRACKS AND
ROAD NAMES.

SID
SIDING

KINGS CROSS

KINGS CROSS RD

GIORGE ST

IRISH CAPUZZO

FRONTIER RD

BARDIA RD

PIPE RD

FENCE RD

GOT EL BESS RD

SCRUB RD

PAMLA RD

CARRIER RD

SID RD

AMARI RD

LEWIS ST

ALBERT ST

FHB/HF.

SECRET

ADDENDUM TO 6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No.8. Copy No: 15

4 Jan 41.

Para 1.

For "5 Jan 41" read "6 Jan 41".

For "Comp Coy AASC" read "AASC 6 Aust Div less dets".

After "Comp Coy AASC" insert "2/2 Fd Amb".

For "2/7 Fd Amb" read "one Coy 2/7 Fd Amb".

F.H. Berryman
Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
RAA 6 Aust Div	4
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	6
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
WDF	8
7 Armd Div	9
COC	10
G	11
A	12
Q	13
AASC 6 Aust Div	14
Med	15
Ord	16
Pro	17
1 Aust Corps	18
Files	19-20
War Diary	21-22

RE/EP

11

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 10 Copy No: 19

6 Jan, 41.

Ref: CYRENAICA 1/100,000.
Sheets 19, 20, 28, 29 and 30.

1. The Main Gd referred to in 6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 9, para 4, will move as under on 7 Jan 41.

2. DESTINATION

An area EAST of TOBRUK defences. The coln will be met by reps from recce parties on the rd BARDIA - TOBRUK about half-way between CAMBUT and TOBRUK. Reps will guide units to new locations.

3. SP:- Rd junc 51673042.

4. ROUTE:- X rds 51733043, rd junc 51683040, rd junc 51673044, thence via main rd.

5. DISTANCE - 60 miles approx.

6. SPEED & DENSITY - On rd CAPUZZO - BARDIA to SP, 15 vtm and 15 mih.

From SP to perimeter, 15 vtm and 15 mih. Then 10 vtm and 20 mih.

A Sqn 6 Aust Cav at discretion of OC.

7. UNITS PAST SP:-

Det HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde) 2/11 Bn)	0900 hrs
One Tp 6 Fd Lt AA Bty	0930 "
1 Bty 6 FPA	0940 "
7 Med Regt	1000 "
HQ 6 Aust Div less dets	1110 "
1 Coy Sigs 6 Aust Div less dets	1140 "
AASC 6 Aust Div	1200 "
2/2 Fd Amb less one Coy	1320 "
One Coy 2/7 Fd Amb	1440 "
LAD Sigs 6 Aust Div	1445 "
1 RIF less two Coys (further Coy to follow as soon as ready.)	1448 "
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	1600 "

8. HALTS. NO halts en route.

9. INDEPENDENT RUNNING:- Comds and senior SOs may proceed independently.

10. AIR ATTACK. Vehicles will continue moving but, when practicable, will move off the rd.

11. LAD. The services of LAD Sigs 6 Aust Div will be available to all units earlier in order of march NOT accompanied by unit LAD.

12. MED. One Coy 2/7 Fd Amb will be available to give assistance where necessary to units earlier in the coln.

13. On arrival in new location, heavy air attack may be expected, and all comds will give attention to maximum concealment, including track discipline and protection.

14. INTERCOMN. Adv HQ will close at present location and open new location at 1500 hrs.

ACK.

Time of Signature: 2020 hrs.

Method of Issue: Sigs.

W. Murray Moy
Colonel,
A/- GS, 6 Aust Div.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
DAA C Aust Div	4-6
J Bty RHA	7
RAE 6 Aust Div	8
Sigs 6 Aust Div	9
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	10
[illegible]	11-12
Comd	[illegible]
G	[illegible]
I	15
A	16
Q	[illegible]
AASC 6 Aust Div	[illegible]
HQC	[illegible]
CCL	[illegible]
Pro	[illegible]
Camp	[illegible]
7 Aust Div	[illegible]
[illegible] Corps	[illegible]
1 Aust Corps	[illegible]
File	26-27
War Diary	28-29

/MF

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 12

Copy No: 14

9 Jan, 41.

Ref: 1/100,000 Composite TOBRUK Sheet.

1. 17 Aust Inf Bde on arrival TOBRUK Sector will bivouac NORTH of the TOBRUK rd in the area bounded by NORTH and SOUTH Grids 4340 and 4400.

2. 2/2 Fd Regt on arrival will revert to Div control.

3. 17 Aust Inf Bde will maintain one post on the beach with the object of intercepting retiring ITALIAN stragglers and will be responsible for combing the area between the beach and TOBRUK rd enclosed by NORTH and SOUTH Grids 4300 and 4430.

13

4. ROLES OF 17 AUST INF BDE

(a) Recce a res posn NORTH and SOUTH astride the TOBRUK rd about Grid 4300.

(b) Recce 19 Aust Inf Bde Sector.

(c) Recce 16 Aust Inf Bde Sector.

(d) When the enemy is forced back onto the inner perimeter, recce a res posn astride the TOBRUK rd on the line of the WADI SIDI SELGASSEM.

5. On arrival in the TOBRUK Sector particular attention will be paid to dispersion and the obscuration of lights at night time.

6. TRAFFIC

(a) The ALUD AERODROME, SOUTH of Km Post 30 on TOBRUK rd, should NOT be used for traffic as it may be required later on for our Air Force. There is no objection, however, to vehicles moving round on the circumference of the AERODROME.

(b) MT moving through camp lines or adjacent to camp areas should NOT proceed at more than 5 mph in order NOT to raise unnecessary dust clouds.

(c) Div HQ area, SOUTH of 31 Km Post on TOBRUK rd, is out of bounds to through traffic.

ACK.

Time of Signature: 1505 hrs.

Method of Issue: LOs and Sigs.

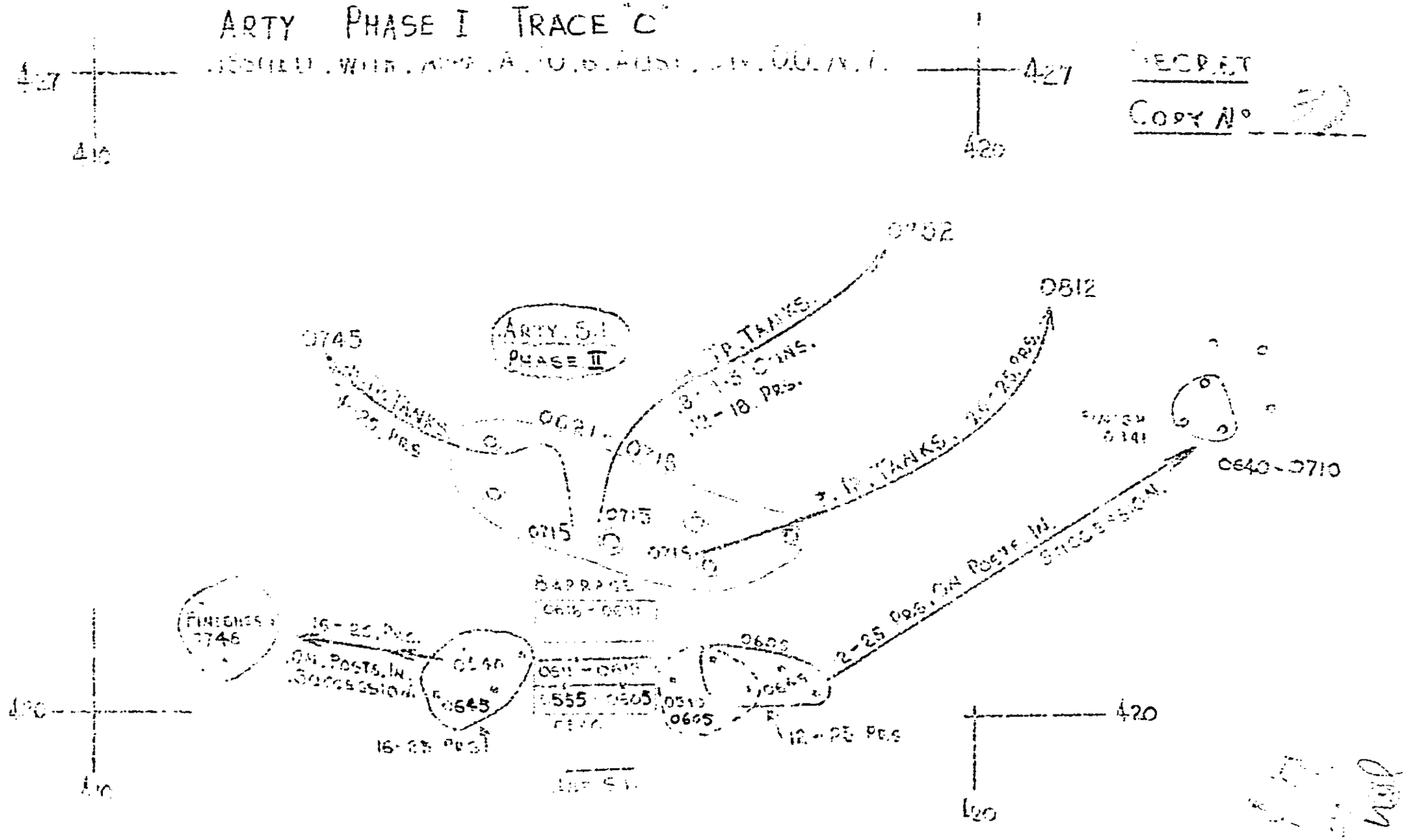
H.K. Berryman Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
RAA 6 Aust Div	4
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	6
"A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
Comd	8
G	9
I	10
A	11
Q	12
AASC	13
Med	14
Ord	15
Ere	16
XIII Corps	17
7 Armd Div	18
1 RNF	19
1 Aust Corps	20
File	21-22
War Diary	23-24

ARTY PHASE I TRACE "C"

SECRET

COPY N°



COPY/EP
RK/MF

SECRET

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 10

6 Jan 41

Ref : CYRENAICA 1/100,000
Sheets 10, 20, 28, 29 and 30

1. The Main Gd referred to in 6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 9, para 4, will move as under on 7 Jan 41.

2. DESTINATION

An area EAST of TOBRUK defences. The coln will be met by reps from recce parties on the rd BARDIA - TOBRUK about half-way between GAMBUT and TOBRUK. Reps will guide units to new locations.

3. SP :- Rd junc 81673942.

4. ROUTE:- X rds 81733945, rd junc 81663948, rd junc 81673974, thence via main rd.

5. DISTANCE - 60 miles approx.

6. SPEED & DENSITY - On rd CAPUZZO - BARDIA to SP, 15 vtm and 15 mih.

From SP to perimeter, 15 vtm and 15 mih. Then 10 vtm and 20 mih.

A Sqn 6 Aust Cav at discretion of CC.

7. TIMES PAST SP :-

Det HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde) 2/11 Bn)	0900 hrs
One Tp 37 Lt AA Bty	0930 "
J Bty 3 RHA	0940 "
7 Fd Regt	1000 "
HQ 6 Aust Div less dets	1110 "
1 Coy Sigs 6 Aust Div less dets	1140 "
AASC 6 Aust Div	1200 "
2/2 Fd Amb less one Coy	1320 "
One Coy 2/7 Fd Amb	1440 "
LAD Sigs 6 Aust Div	1445 "
1 RNF less two Coys (further Coy to follow as soon as ready.)	1446 "
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	1600 "

8. HALTS. NO halts on route.

9. INDEPENDENT RUNNING:- Comds and senior SOs may proceed independently.

10. AIR ATTACK. Vehicles will continue moving but, when practicable, will move off road.

11. LAD. The services of LAD Sigs 6 Aust Div will be available to all units earlier in order of march NOT accompanied by unit LAD.

12. MED. One Coy 2/7 Fd Amb will be available to give assistance where necessary to units earlier in the coln.

13. On arrival in new location, heavy air attack may be expected, and all comds will give attention to maximum concealment including track discipline and protection.

14. INTERCOMM. Adv HQ will close at present location and open new location at 1500 hrs.

ACK.

Time of Signature: 2020 hrs

(sgd) A..HINDS. Maj.
for Col.
GS 6 Aust Div.

AUST. DIV. 1/7 A.I.F.

SECRET.

SUBJECT :- Summary of Information Regarding TOBRUK received at H.Q., XIII Corps up to 12 Jan 41.

Headquarters,	
B.T.E.	(4)
7 Armoured Div.	(12)
6 Australian Div.	(12)
16 Inf Bde.	(4)
4 AA Bde.	(2)
7 R.T.R.	(1)
List 'A'.	(1 each)

Reference Map. TOBRUK 1/50,000 with defence overprint in RED dated 12 Jan 41.
See also Military Report on LIBYA 1936.

1. GENERAL.

TOBRUK town is situated on a promontary which juts out Eastwards from the mainland and forms the Northern side of TOBRUK Bay and Harbour.

The town has been almost entirely constructed by the Italians and is situated about 45 ft above sea level on the NW shore of the Harbour.

Although the waterless nature of the place has been a constant source of difficulty and anxiety to the Italians the latter apparently consider that the expence entailed by the costly erection of fortifications is justified by the strategic importance of TOBRUK not only as a minor Naval Base but as the pivot of the defensive system in Eastern CYRENAICA.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN.

(a) Population.

In 1938 Italians 1220 Natives 400, Jews 210.

(b) The buildings which are mostly modern include the Commandant's House (on the NORTH shore of the port in the centre of the town), Post and Telegraph office, Hospital, Bank, Hotel, Cinema, Shops, Cafes etc.

There is a power station in the NORTH centre of the town which supplies current for lighting. It has:-

One 3 cylinder machine of 100 K.W.
Two 1 cylinder machines of 50 K.W.
One 1 cylinder machine of 20 K.W.
One 1 cylinder machine of 10 K.W.

All dynamos are Italian and all Diesels of German make - 260 volts.

The power station also has as ice-making plant.
The native village is situated to the WEST of the town.

/2.....

3. TOBRUK HARBOUR.

Is the best natural harbour in Eastern CYRENAICA. It is about three miles in length, one in breadth at the harbour mouth, and slightly less across the middle, 40 feet deep in the centre, 30 feet at a distance of 900 yds from the innermost point of the bay, and 18 feet 60 yds from the shore. The harbour is protected from all except EAST winds (rare and not very strong) and is of easy access in all weathers. It is used for large cruisers, light craft and submarines, whilst the bay can accommodate ships of just over 15,000 tons. It is undoubtedly protected externally by mine fields.

There are three wooden piers SOUTH of the town, with one small crane; each pier is about 100 yds long and the most Westerly one can be used by vessels up to 5,000 tons. EAST of these are a long right angle jetty, a 'T' shaped submarine jetty, and the petrol jetty, with a large fixed crane at the landward end, near the underground fuel tanks. Next in order going EAST along the NORTHERN shore are the Repair shops (small jetty), the W/T station and the Artillery Barracks. Two booms stretch across the harbour mouth at this point. There is said to be a barrier which can be opened or shut opposite the cruiser "SAN GIORGIO". It is operated from the shore. The "SAN GIORGIO" is aground, though Italian prisoners deny the fact stremuously. She still serves, however, to defend the harbour entrance, and her AA guns are formidable.

Formerly there was a floating crane in the harbour; it is not known whether it still justifies its adjective.

In the NW corner of the harbour is a seaplane base with two hangars. On the SOUTH side is a small gantry for unloading petrol or ammunition.

The Italian Naval Command in CYRENAICA Is at TOBRUK under Admiral VIETINA.

4. BARRACKS.

There is a small Artillery Barracks on the Northern shore of the harbour near the entrance.

New Naval Barracks have been built on the Northern shore immediately above the submarine jetty. Behind them are wooden huts which composed the Old Naval Barracks. The Army has probably taken them over.

Native Barracks exist outside the town near the native village. Just WEST of these are large Engineer Barracks, which are now mainly used as a hospital.

HETIYET Barracks are situated outside the DERNA GATE; they are NORTH of the main road and consist of seven large buildings, each reported able to accommodate one Inf Bn.

There is a hotel in the town for the exclusive use of Colonial Officers.

About 300 yds SW of FORT AIRENTE is barrack accommodation consisting of 12 long huts.

In addition to the Barracks near FORT MARCUCCI there are quarters for officers and N.C.Os.

/3.....

The MUSSOLINI Barracks in TOBRUK itself are WEST of the Old Naval Barracks. It is not certain if they were destined for the CC.NN. or the 116 Inf Regt.

Other Barracks are probably located SOUTH of the EL GUBBI Landing Ground.

5. AERODROMES.

There are four aerodromes:

(i) TOBRUK EAST. Just EAST of the town. About 1,000 yds by 800 yds; surface good but cuts up badly in wet weather. Has three permanent and three temporary hangars. Searchlights connected with Power Station. This aerodrome is now little used.

(ii) EL GUBBI. About 2½ miles SOUTH of the town just WEST of FORT MARCUCCI, is 1,000 yds by 1,200 yds, parallel to the main road. It is the most important of the TOBRUK aerodromes and has been one of the Italians' principal forward bombing bases. The Air Force buildings are immediately alongside the road and some 400 yds WEST of the aerodrome itself.

(iii) A few hundred yds WEST of the road is the EL GUBBI SATELLITE Landing Ground, which is about 900 yds square.

(iv) UMM EL CHEIL (TOBRUK WEST) is about 4 miles WEST of TOBRUK, just SOUTH of the DERNA road. There are four hangars each with a capacity of 25 aircraft. It was principally used by fighter aircraft until recently.

All these aerodromes are well provided with searchlights and heavy AA guns.

(v) The Seaplane Base mentioned in para 3 above consists of two hangars, a slipway and an anchorage 1,200 by 800 yds. It is rarely used, BOMBA having been the main seaplane base.

6. TERRAIN.

(a) Coastline and Landing Places.

The coastline for about 15 miles EAST and WEST of TOBRUK is very similar to that near BARDIA, that is to say, the coast rises rapidly and consists of a line of cliffs with deep indentations where deep-sided wadis meet the sea.

Possible landing places appear to be:-

(i) MARSA UMM ES - SCIAUSC about 3 miles SE of TOBRUK.
(ii) The Northern coast of TOBRUK promontory.
(iii) MARSA EL AUDA about 3 miles NW of TOBRUK.

Further WEST in the vicinity of AIN EL GAZALA, about 40 miles WEST of TOBRUK, the coast line appears to be much flatter and less broken.

(b) General Nature of Terrain.

In the direction of BARDIA the coastal strip NORTH of the road is narrow, average width 3½ miles for 19 miles, the

/4.....

ends of the wadis approaching the road and limiting the passage of MT to the vicinity of the road.

Further EAST the coastal area broadens and the passage of MT NORTH of the road is possible.

There is a steep escarpment about 4 miles SOUTH of TOBRUK which is thought to be only negotiable by using the main road.

A second line of hills rises in the distance about 8 miles SOUTH of the point where the road tops the first escarpment.

This second line of hills gradually closes in on the BARDIA road and runs parallel and just SOUTH of it from a point about half way between TOBRUK and BARDIA.

In the direction of DERNA an escarpment runs SOUTH of the main road to a point about 8 miles WEST of AIN EL GAZALA. NORTH of this escarpment for a distance of about 15 miles WEST of TOBRUK the ground is intersected by wadis and in particular by the WADI EL SEHEL (11 miles WEST of TOBRUK) which presents an impossible obstacle for MT.

SOUTH of the escarpment referred to above (both EAST and WEST of TOBRUK) the terrain is stony and the going bad but improving towards the SOUTH.

Except for the escarpments which runEAST and WEST the going should be fit for desert equipped MT.

7. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) Sea.

Naval vessels and small ships are probably still getting into TOBRUK. Before the war there was a regular steamship service to BENGASI.

(b) Air.

Before the war believed to be a regular air service with BENGASI. No aerodromes now being used operationally.

(c) Roads and Tracks.

(i) Asphalt road TOBRUK - BARDIA 79 miles fit for all MT. Two way traffic, no bridges.
(ii) Asphalt road TOBRUK - DERNA 107 miles. Fit for all MT. Two way traffic. Bridge over Wadi SEHEL and bridge near AIN GAZALA.
(iii) Road TOBRUK - EL ADEM 17 miles. Metalled. Fit for all MT. Two way traffic.
(iv) TRICH CAPUZZO. EL ADEM - AMSEAT 67 miles. Fit for MT except in wet weather. Metalled. Very dusty.
(v) Road TOBRUK - ACROMA 18 miles. Metalled for 6 miles as far as the HAGIAG CHARGIA escarpment, remainder unmetalled. Fit for MT.
(vi) TOBRUK - GIARABUB via BIR GOBI 175 miles. Unmetalled except as far as EL ADEM. Fit for MT but "going" bad from about 60 miles NE of GIARABUB to GIARABUB itself.

(d) There are three W/T stations. One NE of the town which has a range of 270 miles and is equipped for radio telephoning,

/5.....

a second near the SE point of TOBRUK promontary just inside the harbour boom, and a third near TOBRUK WEST Landing Ground, SOUTH of the DERNA road.

There are two lighthouses one at each point of TOBRUK promentary.

(e) A telephone line exists between DERNA and TOBRUK. There are local telephone lines to ACROMA and EL ADEM and it seems probable that an extensive telephone line system exists inside the perimeter connecting "caposaldi".

8. WATER.

1. General.

Water at TOBRUK though not abundant is sufficient to maintain a garrison of at least 30,000 men. Local sources are supplemented by distilling plants and in addition there are numerous large cisterns, those near the jetties probably being filled by water tankers.

2. Sources.

(a) Wells.

(i) In the Wadi AUDA there are three wells of 3 metres (10 feet) in diameter and a depth of about 8'5 metres (28 ft). In each of them there are 2 metres (6½ feet) of water slightly brackish but drinkable. One of them is enclosed for defensive purposes and is equipped with a motor pump capable of raising 10 c.m. (2,200 galls) of water per hour, which flows into a tank with a capacity of 100 cm (21900 galls). This tank is situated 50 m (162 ft) above the level of the wells and distributes water to the habitations by means of pipes.

(ii) In the Wadi SEHEL there are 15 wells, the water from which is delivered by pipelines to the "caposaldi" on the Western side of the defences. A pipeline also probably connects this source with TOBRUK town.

(iii) Outside the SALUM gate is a well fed by a spring, with a depth of 2 metres (6½ feet). The water which is brackish can be drunk by natives.

(iv) Near the Arab cemetry SW of the town is a small well fed by a spring. Depth of well 5 metres with 4 feet of water. The water is salty but drinkable by natives.

(v) 50 yds from this well there is another containing salty water; depth of well 4 metres with a metre of water.

(vi) In TOBRUK peninsular there are six wells with salty water in them. depth of well 6 metres and a metre of water. The water is used for irrigation and is drunk by the natives.

(vii) A new group of wells approx 11 miles WEST along the coast from Wadi SEHEL (384446) has recently been exploited by the Italians as the quality of the water is believed to be better than that nearer TOBRUK. A pipeline trench with the pipes laid beside it runs from here towards TOBRUK, the work

/6.....

having evidently been left uncompleted by the Italians.

(b) Distilling Plants.

Two, possibly four, exist situated on the SW shore of the harbour and are probably similar to those captured at BARDIA. Estimated capacity of each, 100 tons a day.

(c) Water ship and lorry.

Fresh drinking water used to be brought by ship or water lorry from DERNA and ITALY.

3. Pipelines.

A pipeline runs from the AUDA wells to a cistern NORTH of the town. A second pipeline starts from the Wadi SEHEL source, runs SOUTH for approx 1,500 yds before forking, one branch continuing on up the Wadi, across the main DERNA road as far as track junction 398430 where it fills a cistern, and the other branch running SE to a cistern in square 403436. This cistern is also connected to TOBRUK town by a pipeline running almost direct between the two points. It is probable that water is pumped straight from the SEHEL wells to TOBRUK by means of this pipe, though this is not yet confirmed.

From the distilling plant mentioned above, pipelines run by way of a large pumphouse round the harbour shore to fill cisterns in the town and also SOUTH to a point immediately EAST of where the PILASTRINO road branches off the main BARDIA road. From this point one pipe runs beside the road to Fort PILASTRINO where it fills a cistern and a second continues beside the BARDIA road as far as SIDI MAHMUD where it fills a cistern. This pipeline continues on to EL ADEM and supplies several cisterns located there.

4. Cisterns.

(a) There are three large cisterns in the Southern portion of the town near the jetties. Two have a capacity each of 1000 tons and one of 100 tons. They are interconnected by pipeline. It seems probable by their position that these cisterns are filled from water tankers calling at TOBRUK.

(b) There is a cistern (capacity 200 tons) at MARCUCCI Bks which is supplied either by pipeline from Wadi SEHEL or direct from the distilling plant.

(c) A smaller cistern (capacity 100 tons) immediately NORTH of (b) is supplied direct from Wadi AUDA.

(d) Two large cisterns capacity 5000 and 700 tons respectively are situated inshore of the pumphouse. Both are fed by the pipeline running between the distilling plant and TOBRUK town.

(e) A cistern capacity 1000 tons is situated immediately SOUTH of the distilling plant and about 1000 yards to the EAST of the main pipeline running SOUTH to EL ADEM. It is fed by a branch pipe.

(f) There is a cistern at Fort PILASTRINO capacity 100 tons fed by the branch pipe to that place.

(g) There is a cistern (capacity 100 tons) at SIDI MAHMOUD.

(h) There are two cisterns on the pipeline running SOUTH along the perimeter from Wadi SEHEL, one immediately SOUTH of the main road capacity 40 tons and a second at the extremity of the pipe (track junc 397430) capacity 30 tons.

(i) In Wadi TOBRUK there is a large Roman reservoir which has been repaired and is used for irrigation. Capacity 10,000 tons.

9. AMMUNITION DUMPS.

(i) The main dump for TOBRUK is situated immediately WEST of the EL ADEM fork on the BARDIA road (SIDI MAHMUD). From, air photos it appears to be constructed in an exactly similar manner to the main dump at BARDIA in the Wadi SCEMMAS. This latter consisted of several large caves dug out of the wadi side. The dump area is surrounded by barbed wire, and is protected by at least one Bty of Hy AA.

(ii) An ammunition or petrol dump is reported in a walled enclosure with earth banks immediately NORTH of the road where it enters TOBRUK town, and WEST of and adjacent to the town wall.

(iii)There is probably an ammunition store near the SE point of TOBRUK promontary, which contains supplies for the coast defence guns. Its exact location is unknown.

(iv) Underground entrances possibly to an ammunition dump exist at the NE corner of the town aerodrome.

(v) Between the BARDIA road and the coast at the SW corner of the harbour there are some huts possibly containing ammunition recessed in the hill side.

(vi) In the vicinity of the old fort at RAS EL MEDAUAR about 10½ miles SW of TOBRUK, stocks of ammunition are said to be stored in caves.

(vii)1,400 yds NE of SIDI MAANUD are some ammunition or bomb dumps dug into the side of the slope.

10. PETROL OIL AND FUEL DUMPS.

Comparing our reports with air photographs, the following appear to be the main locations of Petrol, Oil and Lubricant dumps:

(i) Approximately 1,000 yds EAST of the main harbour jetty. Believed to consist of a number of underground reservoirs

/8....

camouflaged, and covered with thick concrete. (Reports say 5 metres thick). These reservoirs are probably connected by pipes and connect in turn to a pipe jutting into the harbour and supported by trestles. This latter is used for pumping petrol from ships. A large crane, presumably for unloading barrels from lighters, is situated near the base of the jetty. This is thought to be the main dump for petrol at TOBRUK and probably holds war reserves.

(2) About 200 yards NORTH of the Northern outskirts of the town. Stated to have a capacity of 500,000 litres. Equipped with pumps. Probably for normal refilling of MT.

(3) An underground dump immediately EAST of the town wall and NORTH of the main road. Size unknown, probably holds war reserves. This dump was previously reported as containing ammunition. Later reports confirm that it holds petrol.

(4) There are seven new oil or petrol tanks at the extreme Western end of TOBRUK Bayon the shore between the main jetty and the seaplane base.

(5) It was reported in April that underground petrol tanks were in course of construction some 400 metres in front (SOUTH ?) of the hotel at TOBRUK. These when completed were to replace those already in use on the EAST side of the square behind the HQ of the TOBRUK Garrison. (Maybe the same as the dump mentioned in para (3)). The report also stated that it was intended to join these new tanks to the port by means of a pipeline.

N.B. Reliability of this information not known.

(6) On the SOUTH shore of the harbour (almost due SOUTH from the Northern L jetty) there is a gantry for a petrol pipeline communicating with a group of three underground fuel tanks.

Coal.

The main coal depot is at the SW corner of the harbour located close to the shore where the BARDIA road bulges Eastward.

A further stock of about 300 tons is stored in the open near the shore on the EAST side of the town.

Facilities for the landing of coal are only of a makeshift nature; the temporary landing stage constructed for this purpose was destroyed by the sea early last year. It is possible that a stouter one has now been built.

11. DEFENCES.

(a) Plan of Defence.

The TOBRUK defences were originally planned as a semi-circle round the harbour at a radius of 5 - 6,000 yards but this project was never carried out and an alternative plan was made and

/executed

executed in which the same idea was used but with a radius of 10,000 yards. The principle is the same as that at BARDIA but the defensive line is 43,000 yards long as opposed to 28,000 yards at BARDIA.

(b) Defensive System.

Main Defence Line.

The defences consist of a string of fortified strong points some 800 - 1000 yards apart. A wire fence links the posts but there appear to be gaps (see map). It is unlikely that there are gaps especially on the Eastern side and as this information comes from small scale photos it should be treated with reserve; probably there is old wire [illegible] sanded over.

A secondary line of strong points about 500 yards behind the outer line fills in the gaps between the primary posts. These posts do not appear to be wired.

Second Defence Line.

Although the second line of defences as shown on the Dec 40 overprint does not exist as a fortified line, various positions similar to those at SOFAFI and TUMMAR, but much weaker, have been made inside the perimeter at distances of 3 - 6,000 yards from the perimeter. They are of recent construction and very incomplete. They also appear empty, which may indicate a garrison only sufficient to man the outer defences. The air photos of this area are not complete and it is not known if the line is continuous, but it appears to run from the head of the Wadi BEIAD to RAS EL MADAWAR.

Third Defence Line.

There is possibly a third line of defence formed by the old Roman forts round the harbour. Only one, Fort SOLARO, is visible on the latest air photos and it has been fortified on the same style as the second line and though empty on 10 Jan has seven posts in a semicircle each designed to hold an A/Tk gun and one or two MGs. Between each post is a line of "dragon's teeth". It is not known if the other forts have been fortified except that Fort MARCUCCI was not fortified on 4 Jan.

Concrete Defences.

Patrols have reported small concrete blockhouses in the area WEST of the EL ADEM road. These are joined by a wire fence but whether this is the main wire or a fence outside the A/Tk trench is not certain - probably the latter. A blockhouse is also reported in the BIR IUNES area.

(c) Description of Strong Points.

The primary strong points consist of concrete-lined MG and A/Tk gun posts flush with the ground. Above ground there are only sangars of loose stones about 18" high. Concrete-lined passages connect the posts with accommodation for the garrison. These passages have wooden planks laid across them and then are camouflaged with stones and earth.

Each strong point is designed to hold an A/Tk gun and two MGs but a few strong points have two A/Tk guns one of which may be a 65 mm Inf gun and one or two extra MGs. It is possible that all the primary strong points have extra MGs.

In spite of the small armament of these strong points the posts are spread out over a distance of 70 yards in a straight line, the A/Tk gun post normally being on the right (enemy's left).

Round each strong point is an A/Tk trench about 8 ft wide with a 4 ft vertical inner wall made of stones and mortar. It runs roughly in an oval round the strong point. This oval is 140 yards by 80 yards. The outer lip of the A/Tk trench is of stone and the side then slopes down evenly to the bottom of the inner wall.

In front of the strong points is a semicircular double wire fence. This is normally in a shallow trench as at BARDIA. The wire fence is only 18" high and this trench about 2 ft deep.

The secondary strong points are similar in design but are smaller and have no A/Tk trench. Their armament is normally one A/Tk gun or possibly a Solothurn rifle and two MGs. There does not appear any increase in the armament of these strong points. It is possible that there is a single wire fence round these strong points.

(d) Artillery.

Apart from C.D. there are probably 27 Btys of Medium Arty and 28 of Fd Arty. Air photos which are not complete show 48 Btys; the main strength is in the SOUTH and EAST and with a fair concentration of 9 Btys in the RAS MADAWAR area.

(e) A/Tk Defence.

Natural Obstacles.

In the EAST the Wadi ZELTUN from the sea to its head 200 yards NORTH of the BARDIA road is tank proof. In the WEST the Wadi SEHEL from the sea to a point 400 yards NORTH

/of the

of the DERNA road is tank proof. SOUTH of the road it is again probably tank proof for a further 1200 and possibly 3000 yards.

Inside the perimeter the two escarpments running E and W are tank proof except where tracks are shown running down.

A/Tk Trench.

From the head of the Wadi ELITUN an A/Tk trench runs in 'V's round the outside of the perimeter defences and 20 - 60 yards from them. The trench has a uniform width of approx 12 ft but the depth varies considerably. It has been very recently dug and large parts of it are only about 18" deep. From the EL ADEM road to the WEST it is 6 - 10 ft deep but Eastwards from the EL ADEM road for about 6,000 yards the ground appears rocky and has only been dug down 18". Further EAST of this it is again 6 - 10 ft deep.

Concertina Wire.

From where the A/Tk trench ends what appears to be a line of concertina wire (possibly mines) runs in front of the defences to within 3,000 yards of the DERNA road.

A similar line runs 50 - 200 yards in front of the A/Tk trench from the EL ADEM road Eastwards for 6,000 yards.

Concertina wire is also reported as crossing the EL ADEM road and for 4,000 yards to the WEST but this is not confirmed by air photos.

Mines.

Apart from previous para no mines are visible on air photos but as they have probably been laid for three weeks at least they may have been buried under drifting sand.

Patrols report a line of mines outside the A/Tk trench in the SIDI DAUD area.

There are almost certainly mines in the areas of the three roads leading out of TOBRUK where they cross the defensive line. It is also possible that there are mines in the areas where the A/Tk trench is shallow.

What from its position relative to strong points must be intended as an A/Tk obstacle appears frequently within the perimeter. It consists of a series of small pits in rows. These pits are about one yard in diameter and often arranged in threes forming an equilateral triangle with larger gaps between triangles. They can form no obstacle to any tank unless they contain mines; it may be intended to develop them later as an A/Tk trench.

/Dragon's Teeth.

"Dragon's Teeth", "blocks" etc.

These appear frequently inside the perimeter but form no obstacle to AFVs.

Road Blocks.

BARDIA Road. The BARDIA road runs just SOUTH of the head of the Wadi SELEM. From the head of this Wadi two A/Tk trenches run to the road and on again SOUTH of it. Between the two trenches is a road block consisting of two pillars of concrete about 4' x 4' x 5' through which three iron girders slide and block the road. NORTH and SOUTH of the pillars is a 30 yards stretch of concertina wire.

EL ADEM Road. The road itself is cut by the A/Tk trench and 50 yards inside from the trench is a road block similar to that on the BARDIA road. There is 50 yards of concertina wire on either side which joins up with the defence wire joining the strong points.

DERNA Road. There is a 400 yds stretch between the escarpment and a point on the Wadi SELEL, which is not tank proof. The DERNA road runs through this gap and crosses over two bridges within 300 yds. It is here that the defences cut the road.

On the road is a road block similar to that on the BARDIA road. A narrow track which runs SOUTH of the main road, and which might be passable to tanks is blocked by another concrete pillar or possibly a pillbox housing an A/Tk gun. A similar structure guards the 400 yds NORTH of the road which appears to be passable to A.F.Vs. A wire fence links these pillars.

(f) Coast Defences.

The coast defence guns are headed by an ancient but imposing 305 mm gun situated just NORTH of the town firing Northwards. Its traverse does not allow it to fire Southwards. There are also three btys of 149 or 120 mm guns, and four btys of 102 or 76 mm AA guns also used for coast defence. They are spaced evenly round the coast within 5,000 yds of the town. 120, 102 and 76 mm guns normally have all round traverse.

(g) AA Defences.

The AA defences of the town and harbour are very strong. There are 19 btys of heavy and medium AA guns and the AA guns of the "SAN GIORGIO" which is aground in the NE corner of the harbour and has probably 12 AA guns as well as searchlights. The AA fire makes it difficult and dangerous for any aircraft to remain over the area for more than a few minutes, without continually changing height.

/13.....

12. GARRISON.

Estimated at one Metro Inf Div (the 61st) including Light Tank Bn, two additional ~~Light Tank~~ Bns, two coys of Medium Tanks, Corps Troops including additional arty and XXXI Sector C.A.P.

Estimated Totals.

Men	approx	25,000
Tanks		45 Light 25 Medium (M 13).
Guns		96 Field 84 Medium 36-48 Heavy AA.

NOTE: Recent reports indicate that evacuation of part of the garrison has already taken place. This report is unconfirmed and should be treated with reserve. In stating that evacuation has taken place reports agree however, that a large amount of arty remains.

13. VULNERABLE POINTS.

(1) Quays and harbour facilities.

(2) W/T stations.

(3) Water sources in WADI EL AUDA and WADI DEHEL.

(4) Food and equipment stores near quays.

(5) Barracks. (a) New Naval Barracks.
(b) Old Naval Barracks.

(6) Power Station.

(7) (a) Petrol dumps (see para 10above)
(b) Ammunition dumps. (see para 9 above)

(8) WADI DEHEL bridge.

H.Q., XIII Corps.
13 Jan 41.

ERV/2G

33

Based on Informa[illegible]

Ref Map: [illegible]

1. ENEMY [illegible]

Enemy [illegible] reported. [illegible] the defences.

2. [illegible]

Observation [illegible] present. [illegible]

Two [illegible] aggressive and [illegible]

3. [illegible]

7 Aust [illegible] night [illegible]

4. [illegible]

A [illegible] posns. [illegible] were moved. [illegible] and livestock will be [illegible] of CANBUT to [illegible]

5. [illegible]

BIR TUMEIS: [illegible] From [illegible] banking became [illegible] not investigated.

DAHAR EL AHMAR: [illegible] A machine gun [illegible] At post R[illegible] by [illegible] from ditch [illegible]

Time of Signature: 2030

Method of Issue: [illegible]

Distribution
16 Aust Inf Bde
17 Aust Inf Bde
19 Aust Inf Bde
RAA 6 Aust Div
RAE 6 Aust Div
Sigs 6 Aust Div
Cmd
G
AQ

[illegible] 29-30 [illegible] Secretariat War Diary File [illegible]

RRV/TG NOT TO BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF Bn HQrs. SECRET

Copy No. 30

6 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 14.

19 Jan 41.

(Based on information received from 1800 hrs 17 Jan to 1800 hrs 19 Jan 41)

1. ENEMY ACTIVITY.
Confined mostly to isolated shelling, but the coastal defence bty at 41704340 on the northern headland of the harbour was used in searching for our btys.

2. OWN ACTIVITY.
Fire tasks were carried out on posts 68, 70, 71, and 73 during the night of 18/19 Jan, to which there was no reply.
One of our patrols machine gunned posts in the centre of the DAHAR EL AZAZI sector from 400 yds range.
Three direct hits were registered about midday 19 Jan on a warship in TOBRUCH harbour causing much excitement in the harbour (prosably the "SAN GIORGIO"). Enemy btys and coastal defence btys replied.
Two air shoots were carried out on hostile btys near JEBEL DAUD sector, and the TOBRUCH Wireless Ste was registered but NOT fired for effect.

3. AIR ACTIVITY. - ENEMY.
A biplane was seen flying north after TOBRUK at 1730 hrs 19 Jan.

4. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE.
(a) TOBRUK - Mail found near the hospital plane burnt out west of TOBRUK confirms that 69, 70 Inf Regts of 61 Div are in TOBRUK. Additional identification is 26 Arty Regt belonging to 27 Div.
Following is thought to constitute the garrison of TOBRUK :-

HQ XXII Corps - Corps Arty & Engineers
HQ 61 Div - 69, 70 Inf Regts - 26 Arty Regt and Divnl Div Tps
XXXI and XXXII Sections CAP
140 Bn 33 Legion 2 MVSN
34 Complement Bn 61 Div
26 Arty Regt - 27 Div.

Estimated total:- men 21,000
tanks Lt 45
med 35
guns F.G. 150
mor & by 91
AT 28 49
Plus coast defence btys

(b) West of TOBRUK. - It is thought that only 6 more divisions constitute the Italian LIBYAN garrison but the possibility of reinforcements from Italy must not be overlooked. Following is our estimate of present disposition on the information available:-

60 Div [illegible]

27 Div Thought to be in [illegible]

17 Div Moving to [illegible]

25 Div [illegible]

55 Div [illegible]

General. 60 Div took [illegible] previously thought. At present thought to be at [illegible]

5. TAC/R REPORTS.
Tac/R reports the presence of 50 MT and 300 men at MACHILI. Visibility was very bad, and more are suspected to be there. A 2M ditch has been started. There is a perimeter camp NE of the aerodrome. Tracks MACHILI - DERNA had been used but no movement has been observed in areas west of DERNA since 10 Jan, when EA reported at BIR HACHEIM.

6. FORMATION OF ITALIAN ARMD BDE.
Recent reports suggest the formation of an armoured brigade, HQ MACHILI. From present information it would seem that brigade has not yet been completed and that MACHILI garrison cannot be more than a strong mechanised column.

7. PATROL REPORTS.
Information obtained from patrols as follows:-

SIDI DAUD - About post 75 - no movement observed - no wire or booby traps observed by patrol.

SUESI - Area about and to NE of 4199-4205 carefully searched for land mines and booby traps with NO result.

DAHAR EL AZAZI. - From 41834197 two strong posts were observed on bg 11° approx 400 yds distance. At 0400 patrol opened fire with 1 Brens, enemy replying with no effect. Wire working party on wire 450 yds west of post 53. The strongly wired line appears to be from 55 to 53 to 50(?) to 48 and 51 to 46 to 49. Between 55 and 53 are two lines of posts, but the wiring is single apron on each line of posts. 150 yds west of 53 is a distinct gap in wire sufficiently large to allow MT to enter. Unable to determine whether gateway exists between 55 and 50 or 48 and 50, no wire from 51 - 50.
Posts 51, 48 and 49 command the depression in which BIR EL AZAZI lies.

Signed at 2400 hrs

[signature]
Lieutenant-Colonel,
GSO 3 (Int) Div.

Method of Issue: LOs and Sigs.

Distribution	Copy No.		
16 Aust Inf Bde	1 - 5	Nos Sqn RAF	31
17 Aust Inf Bde	6 - 9	AAS 6 Aust Div	32
19 Aust Inf Bde	10-12	ADA	33
RAA 6 Aust Div	14-23	[illegible] Corps	34
RAE 6 Aust Div	24	Adv HQ Corps	35-36
Sigs 6 Aust Div	25	7 Armd Div	37
Comd	26	7 RTR	38
G	27-28	1 RF	39
AQ	29-30	1 Yorkshire	40
		Fd Pbty	41-42
		Fds	43-44

WD

WRV/CG

SECRET

Appx to 6 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 14.

10 Jan 41.

ITALIAN A TK MINES.

Picking up a Minefield.

(a) To locate
Look for disturbed earth or the outline of the cover or corner of the cover. Use tools close and grub about with fingers only. Usually buried 1.1/2" to 2".

(b) To unfuse
i. Do not move mine.
ii. Get earth covering cautiously removed from hatch covers of mine lid.
iii. Open hatch covers.
iv. Remove cap housing containing cap and place same in tin lined with rag or cottonwool.
v. Close hatch covers.
vi. Lift mine and carry carefully to disarming point.

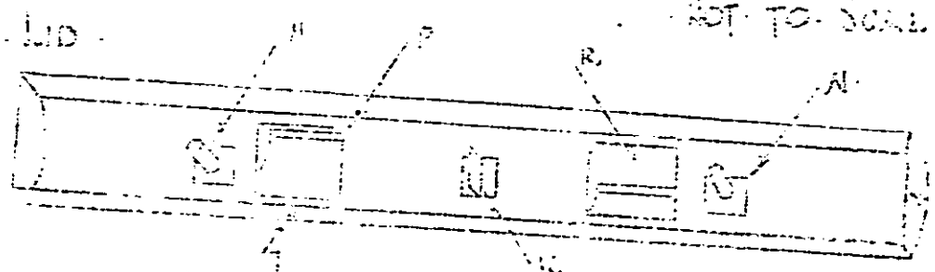
(c) To disarm
i. Remove lid entire.
ii. Remove springs.
iii. Place a large coin in space occupied by cap housing, and hold there.
iv. By turning knurled screw, tighten wire until trigger can be gently released without any danger of striker flying forward. If wire is broken or damaged in any way, on no account release trigger unless striker is held back with the other hand.
v. Holding trigger clear and coin in slot, by turning knurled screw slack off screw until striker projects fully into slot and there is no tension in wire. (If wire is missing, hold striker clear with one hand, release trigger with other, gently allow striker to come forward under impulsion of striker spring.) Remove and store wire.
vi. Remove coin.

All the above can be done by non-technical personnel after little training, provided these instructions are carefully followed.

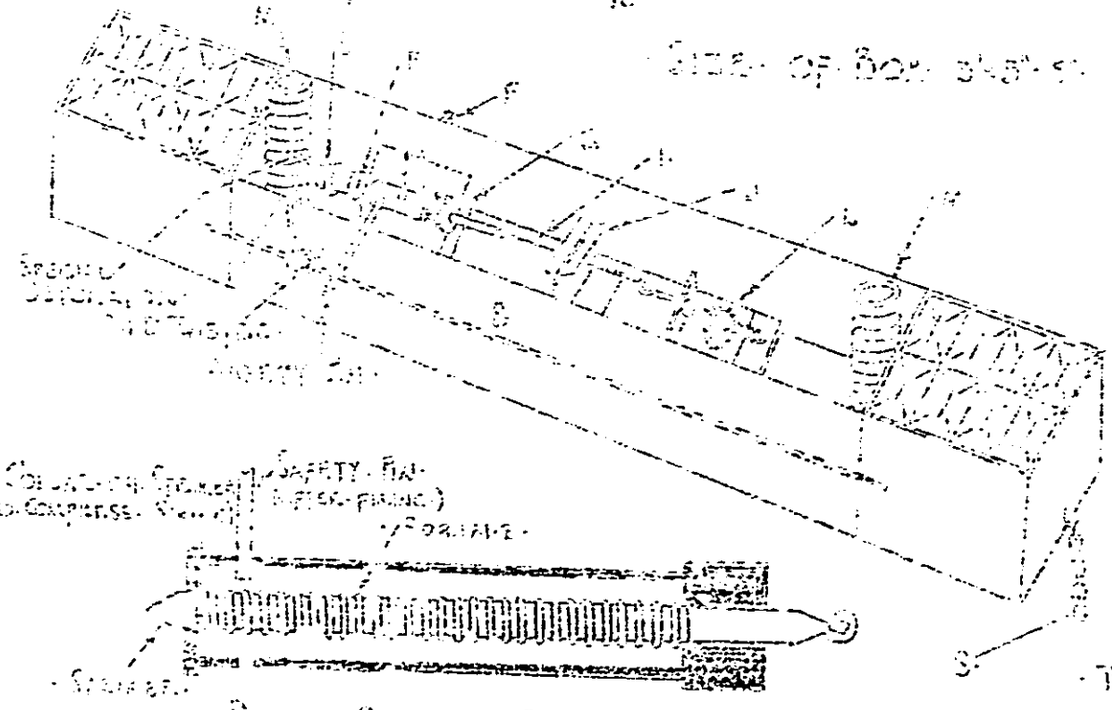
(d) To undetonate
i. Remove lid.
ii. Unscrew brass collar near lid and remove detonating detonator.
iii. Remove main charge detonators.
iv. Withdraw P.I.D. with detonators attached from mine.
v. Separate detonators and P.I.D. and pack in box.
vi. Load mines in lorries for removal or destruction.

Rough Sketch of Italian Tank Mine

Not to Scale

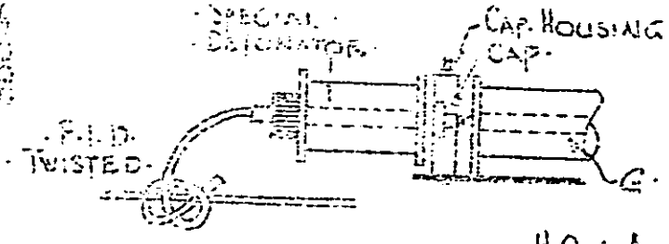


Side of Box Shewn



Detail Section Thro' Striker

Key	
A. A.	Main Charge (½ lb. Wrapped in Paper
B.	T.N.T.
C. C.	Detonator (Similar to No 27) Main Charge
D.	Ditto Secured in Position by Brass Collar Pierced Female Threaded Initiating Detonator
E.	Position of Cap Housing
F.	Trigger
G.	Striker
H.	Copper Wire
J.	Gun Cotton
K.	Crystal Edges
L.	Knurled Screw
M. M.	Springs
N. N.	Hollow Lugs Fitting into Lid
P.	Hatch No 1
R.	Hatch No 2
S.	Catch to Secure Lid in Position
T.	Slot Fitting over F



Detail of Detonator

H.Q. 6 Aust. Div.
1500 Hrs 18 Jan 41
Drawn from USSR M.D.

Appendix to 6 Aust Div Intelligence Summary No 14 dated 13 Jan 41

DISTRIBUTION OF F.S.S. AND P.W. INTERROGATORS FOR TOBRUK ACTION

Personnel	British Sec FSS	1 offr	8 o.r.s
	Aust Sec	1 "	9 "
	Corps I. O.'s	4 "	

Method of Operation FSS sections will enter the perimiter in the following order-

Brit Sec. when 16 Aust Inf Bde has passed through
Aust Sec " 19 " " " " "

Brit. Sec. will operate in the EL ADEM Sector and the Aust. Sec in the SIDI DAUD Sector of the defences. Further areas of responsibility will be allotted as the advance proceeds.

Documents located will be despatched in FSS and XIII Corps transport to HQ XIII Corps via the PW Collecting Points where papers taken from PW will be picked up.

Two Corps Interrogators will be stationed at each PW point and, when these are combined into the Div PW Cage inside the defences, three interrogators will be stationed there and one will be at Div HQ to translate important docs obtained.

LIAISON Liaison between FSS sections, Interrogators, and Div HQ will be maintained by 2 FSS ors mounted on M/Cs. They will bring important information to Div HQ for transmission to HQ XIII Corps or formations by telephone as necessary. Important PW will NOT be brought to Div HQ, but will be sent to PW collection point, where transport will be arranged to send them to HQ XIII Corps for examination.

GENERAL. Units should send all PW and docs direct to the PW cages so that important information can be obtained and acted on quickly. Assistance should be given where possible to FSS personnel in their work of safeguarding documents which may obtain information valuable in future operations.

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6 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 15. Copy No. 33

Ref Map: TOBRUCH Defences 1/50,000 R36 Overprint 12 Jan.41
Based on information received between 1800 hrs 19 Jan and 2000 hrs 21 Jan 41

1. OPERATIONS.
Attack was launched against TOBRUK defences at 0540 hrs 21 Jan, with co-operation of 7 Armd Div, Air Force and Navy.
As a deception demonstrations were staged in front of ZEITUN Sector, and in front of the SW Sector of the perimeter, drawing considerable fire.
By nightfall our fwd tps occupied a line from Post 29 along BARDIA-TOBRUCH rd to area FORT SOLARO and extending West to FORT PALASTRINO and Post 38-39

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY.
Posts appeared to be manned by approx 17 men as opposed to approx 30 men per post at BARDIA.
Coastal guns at 41974830 continued to shell the BARDIA-TOBRUK rd outside the perimeter until late afternoon. A warship in the harbour opened fire 1030 hrs, but this was for short duration. A large vessel was observed to be on fire in the harbour at 1300, and explosion from vessel was observed from Tac/R plane.
Thermos bombs reported at 3955 4097 and 41614021.

3. EQUIPMENT-MINES.
A new type of mine has been located in a semi-circle about rd junc 41344267. Described as 1ft to 1ft 6ins in diameter by 2ft 6ins to 3ft long. Area has been marked pending closer examination.

4. AIR REPORTS.
Tac/R reports ten enemy medium tanks and guns two miles south MARTUBA DERNA track junction. BACHILI is reported to be occupied.

5. ACTION IN ITALIAN EAST AFRICA.
A map is attached for assistance in following reports of activity in the SUDAN and I.E.A.

6. PW and IDENTIFICATIONS.
It is reported that it is considered reliable that the TOBRUCH garrison consists of 20,000 all ranks, but that only 10,000 are fighting troops. Prisoners of War to date are estimated to be in excess of 12,000. Identifications include:-

69 Inf Regt - 61 "Pirite" Div. (Comment - NO identifications for 70 Inf Regt have been obtained)
XXXI C.A.F. (also Army.)
XXXII C.A.F. (do)
141, 142 Regt. 64 Catanzaro Div ex BARDIA
Coy 47 mm A/Tk gun, from 40 Inf Regt (25 "BOLOGNA" Div.)
204 Arty Regt 100/17
155 Gp XXI Corps Arty 149/13
XX Corps Arty -
26 Arty Regt came across 10 Dec.
22 Arty Regt (17 "PAVIA" Div.)
13 Gp 25 Arty Regt
43 Arty Regt (61 Div)
55 Fd Arty (27 "BRESCIA" Div.)
1st A.A. Regt
1/2 Gp, 25 Arty Regt (21 Army Corps) 149/13
4 Tank Regt (1 Cn Mil)

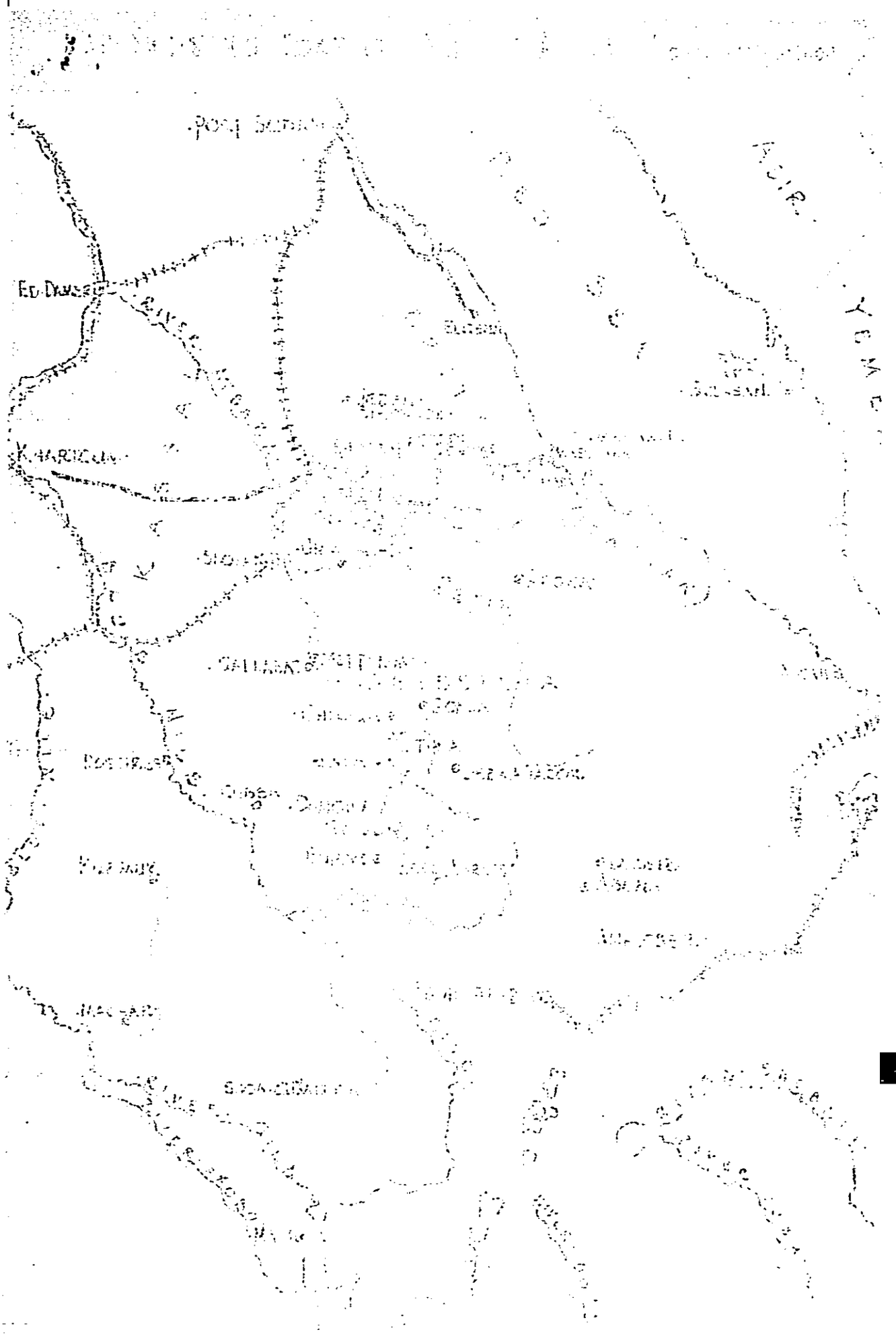
The prisoners include 3 Generals and a Naval officer.

Signed at 0015 hrs. 22 JAN. 1941 for Colonel, GS 6 Aust Div.

Method of Issue. Liaison Offrs.

Distribution: As per Intelligence Summary No.14.

POW. PTH. NAMES ATL.



RCD/EP

FILE

RETURN OF CASUALTIES PASSING THROUGH MDSs

TOBRUK 21-22 JAN 41.

A. I. P.	Wounded	Officers	13	
		ORs	215	Total 228.
	Died.	ORs	9	
BRITISH	Wounded	Officers	1	
		ORs	17	Total 18.
P.O.W.	Wounded	Officers	4	
		ORs	300	

The above figures do not include any deaths which may have occurred since 22 Jan 41.

P.O.W. Treated at P.O.W. Cage - Air field. 200.

This does not include those killed outright - number estimated about 60.

A.C. Willis Colonel.
A.D.M.S. 6 Aust Div.

Distribution.-

RRV/HP.

SECRET

(NOT TO BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF BN HQ)

6 AUST DIV INT SUMMARY NO. 16. Copy No: 33
(BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM 2000 (HRS) 21 JAN TO 2100 HRS 22 JAN 41.) 22 Jan 41.

Ref Maps: TOBRUCH DEFENCES (12 JAN) 1/50,000.
TOBRUCH, SUPPLY 1/100,000.
DERNA 1/100,000.
MOMBA 1/100,000.
BARTUBA 1/100,000.

OPERATIONS

1. At first light enemy in wadis between rd BARDIA - SALLUM and sea WEST to grid 417 were attacked and by midday opposition had been cleared. During the morning attacks were pressed NORTH to the town of TOBRUCH, which was occupied at 1015 hrs: and WEST around the perimeter. The 2nd Transh Motor Coy and elements of the Sup Gp made frontal attacks on the Western perimeter.

Isolated pkt are still resisting in wadis in the NW sector, but organised resistance ceased with the fall of the town. Little opposition was encountered and casualties are light. Mopping up will proceed 23 Jan 41.

PRISONERS

2. PW are still being rounded up. Estimate of those at present collected is 13,000. No personnel of 70 Inf Regt have yet been identified in TOBRUCH. 36 Med Tanks (M.11), all unserviceable, have been found. HQ and 1 Bn of 4 Tank Regt have been identified.

SABOTAGE

3. Underground oil and petrol dumps, together with water pumps and installations, were systematically sabotaged by the army. The dumps have been burning since late afternoon of 21 Jan.

INFORMATION OF COASTAL AREA TO WEST

4. TMIMI, GAZALA, and DERNA reported to be empty.

(a) Defences at DERNA.

DERNA is built on flat ground close to sea on either side of WADI DERNA. WADI is an impassable tank obstacle for about 16 miles, approx 20 ft deep, 40 yds wide, with steep sides crossed in the town by two parallel stone brs. Town is surrounded by an old wall, 8 ft high, pierced for various roads but undefended.

Austrian guns, captured during the last war, are in emplacements on top of the escarpment, but except for three AA btys and coastal defence guns, there are no other fixed defences.

(b) Going to DERNA.

Road from TOBRUCH is tarmac all the way and very good surface, 18 ft wide.

The br crossing the Western edge of the TOBRUCH defences has been demolished and will take time to reconstruct as the gap is reported to be 100 ft. There is a track approx 400044300, which may be used for a detour, but until recce can be made on 23 Jan, time necessary to construct a crossing of this obstacle cannot be estimated.

Other brs were recced as far as MARTUBA and found in good condition. Just WEST of the AIN EL GAZALA fork (358444) the road drops down an escarpment which forms a definite defile.

From TMIMI the road rises gradually and then drops down a steep escarpment, a definite defile. It then runs along the coastal plain to just NORTH of the BOMBA fork, where it runs through a narrow neck which may be a defile.

As far as BOMBA the going on either side is good and similar to area around TOBRUCH. Thereafter the road runs through broken rocky country with scattered stunted trees and the ground is rocky, making the going on either side difficult to MT. WADI EL KHALIG must be crossed at the road, and going on either side becomes impossible for MT from this area to WEST.

Rd drops down the escarpment overlooking DERNA in a series of hairpin bends.

Because of the WADI DERNA it is impossible to bypass DERNA without going around its head, approx 15 M to south over difficult country.

(c) Garrison in DERNA Area.

60 Div thought to be in in DERNA area - HQ reported to be at GIOVANNI BERTA. PW state 27 Div in area, but considered doubtful. Normal garrison of the town itself is one bn as there is no GAF. As 70 inf Regt is NOT included on distribution lists found in TOBRUCH and NO PW from this unit identified there, it is possible that this Regt forms the town garrison at DERNA. However, as the town is overlooked, it is possible that it is undefended and the enemy are SW of DERNA on top of the escarpment West of WADI DERNA.

5. Air reports.

Tac R 1600 hrs 22 Jan reported no movement seen South and West of DERNA.

Strat R 1500 hrs 21 Jan reported NO movement seen MACHILI or DERNA. 2 large 4 medium 2 small merchant ships anchored off APOLLONIA. 20 enemy aircraft at DERNA.

Time of issue 2245 hrs.

Issued through Sigs.

Colonel,
G.S., 6 Aust Div.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1 - 5
17 Aust Inf Bde	6 - 9
19 Aust Inf Bde	10 - 13
RAA 6 Aust Div	14 - 23
RAE 6 Aust Div	24
Sigs 6 Aust Div	25
Comd	26
G	27 - 28
AQ	29 - 30
No.3 Sqn RAAF	31
AASC 6 Aust Div	32
ADMS	33
1 Aust Corps	34
Adv 13 Corps	35 - 36
7 Armd Div	37
7 RTR	38
1 NF	39
1 Cheshire	40
War Diary	41 - 42
File	43 - 44

NOTE: Prisoners include:-

Lieut-General Fibassi MANNELLO - Comd TOBRUCH
Div-General BARBERIS - GOC CAF.
Maj-General DE LEONE - Comd Arty TOBRUCH

RRV/MAW. SECRET. 33

(NOT TO BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF BN HQ)

ADDENDUM TO 6 AUST DIV INT SUMMARY No.16 - 22 JAN 41.

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM 13 CORPS.

ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION TOBRUCH.

1. One Bn and HQ 4 Tk Regt incl 35 M.11. tks all reported unserviceable. 64 AUTOGRUPPO Bn. 22 Arty RAGGRUPPAMENTO stated by prisoners NOT same as 22 CORPS ARTY, comment unconfirmed. 70 Inf NOT yet identified. 27 DIV was expected TOBRUCH but never arrived -comment believed now located DERNA area. Remainder 203 ARTY incorporated GAF TOBRUCH.

REPORT ON DERNA.

2. 63 Lt Tk Bn - 13 LT Tk Bn - comment later doubtful. Special armoured bde reported consisting 50 to 60 M.11 Tks - ATk guns and lt arty. Two or three btys 75/27 under comd BABANI. 60 Div between DERNA and BENGHAZI. Escarpment above DERNA reported mined, also road down hill. No defences GIOVANNI BERTA.

Time of Signature: 0900 hrs. 23 Jan

Method of Issue: Sigs.

Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1-5
17 Aust Inf Bde	6-9
19 Aust Inf Bde	10-13
RAA 6 Aust Div	14-23
RAE 6 Aust Div	24
Sigs 6 Aust Div	25
Comd	26
G	27-28
AQ	29-30
No. 3 Sqn RAAF	31
AASC 6 Aust Div	32
ADMS	33
1 Aust Corps	34
Adv 13 Corps	35-36
7 Armd Div	37
7 RTR	38
1 MF	39
1 Cheshire	40
File	41-42
War Diary	43-44
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	45

COPY/EP (NOT TO BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF BN HQ) SECRET

6 AUST DIV INT SUMMARY 17. 25 Jan 41.

(Based on information received from 0900 hrs 23 Jan to 2000 hrs 25 Jan 41)

Ref Maps : BENGHASI 1/500,000
GIOVANNI BERTA 1/100,000
DERNA 1/100,000
MARTUBA 1/100,000

1. GENERAL.

7 Armd Div, which has surrounded and is engaging the enemy's Special Armd Bde at MECHILI, were joined in the DERNA area during 25 Jan by 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp.

19 Aust Inf Bde debussed one Bn one mile NORTH WADI EL CHALIC 1150 hrs today and moved at 1315 hrs on NORTH of DERNA rd objective top escarpment beyond aerodrome 3849 to exploit towards DERNA. One Bn debussed hill 308 4033 and commenced adv WEST to cross WADI DERNA vicinity EW grid 36 objective road running NE one mile beyond Wadi.

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE.

The posn is obscure but it appears that there can be in CYRENAICA at most 3 divs plus Special Armd Bde at MECHILI; at least, one div plus the Special Armd Bde.

These units are :-

60 "SABRATA" Div - all arty eliminated except 2 gps lt fd guns.

27 "BRESCIA" Div - all arty eliminated except 2 gps lt fd guns.

17 "PAVIA" Div - all arty eliminated.

XX Corps Arty (GIOVANNI BERTA?) consists of two 105/28 gps, two 75/27 gps and Hy AA Gp.

It has been proved that 70 Inf Regt was in TOBRUCH, so that all of 61 Div has been eliminated.

3. TOBRUCH - DESTRUCTION OF FACILITIES.

It is apparent that the most methodical plan of systematic destruction of important docs and facilities was carried out by the Italians. In addition, nearly all arty was put out of action.

That some facilities were NOT destroyed, e.g. food dumps and water plants, is attributed to the enemy appreciating that large numbers of PWs would need food and water after the fall of the town.

4. DERNA.

Strength and composition of garrison unknown. Enemy rear-gd (strength - 6 lorries , 4 guns, 4 M tanks) was engaged by 4 Armd Bde on 23 Jan on main rd SE of DERNA and withdrew to area DERNA LG.

Tac R reports NMS SE of LG. Patrols 4 Armd Bde reached P 2040 and report NMS top of escarpment 4 miles WEST of MARTUBA and verify enemy withdrawn to area DERNA LG.

A report, considered doubtful, states thatx 63 and 13 Lt Tanks Bns are in or about town. (see MECHILI).

The escarpment above DERNA and the road down the hill are reported mined.

Tac R reports AA WEST of town.

Tac R in the last week has reported no unusual concentrations or movements of MT (excepting MECHILI).

Road
5. DERNA - GIOVANNI BERTA

Tac R reports 1350/23. 30 large MT around inf facing EAST approx 12 miles WEST DERNA. 5 tks, 12 MT 4 miles WEST DERNA. 20 MT moving WEST between DERNA and CIRENE.

Tac R 25 Jan reports 9 MT on this road.

6. GIOVANNI BERTA.

It is reported that there are NO fixed defences but PW states he saw guns being drawn to the top of hills in this vicinity.

HQ XX Corps with Arty believed to be here.

HQ 60 Div reported here 16 Jan (PW).

7. APPOLTONIA 6 EA (3 on fire) 23 Jan

BARCE 15 EA 23 Jan

MARAUA 15 EA 23 Jan.

BENGHASI

On 23 Jan shipping appeared to have increased by 4-5 ships (Tac R).

NO unusual movements on road NORTH have been reported in last week.

Approx 160 ea reported on LGs in BENGHASI area.

8. AGADABIA.

40 MT 5 miles SOUTH 20 F on LG (Tac R)

MECHILI.

It is confirmed that the HQ of a special Armd Bde is at MECHILI.

GOC General BABINI.

Estimated Strength.

60- 70 tanks
Perhaps 2 Bns of Inf
Gp of Arty (12 guns)
Lt AA Bty
Smoke Pl.

Considerable Air Activity is reported in this area morning of 24 Jan and 250 all arms are reported within 5 miles of MECHILI in two gps morning 25 Jan.

It is believed that practically all the remaining tanks in LIBYA are incorporated in the Armd Bde.

9. GIARABUB

On 23 Jan 40 MT were reported at GIARABUB but NMS in the vicinity. There are no signs of the enemy trying to escape from the fort.

10. TOPOGRAPHICAL. (ref map BENGHASI 1/500,000)

To avoid confusion the following places in CYRENAICA which appear to have two separate names, are enumerated.

GIOVANNI BERTA - EL GUBBA
EL FAIDIA (06644) - DE MARTINO
GHEGAB (08048) - ACQUA VIVA
TECNIS (N 9618) - BORGO TORELLY

11. Attached as an appendix are particulars of British Captures in EGYPT and LIBYA since 5 Dec 40.

(sgd) I.R.Campbell. Maj.
for COL.
GS 6 Aust Div.

Movement.

PRIVATE.

SECRET

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF BN HQ)

6 AUST DIV INT SUMMARY No. 17. Copy No: 33

BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM 0900 HRS 25 JAN TO 2000 HRS 25 JAN 41. 25 Jan, 41.

Ref Maps: BENGHASI 1/500,000
GIOVANNI BERTA 1/100,000
DERNA 1/100,000
MARTUBA 1/100,000

1. GENERAL

7 Armd Div, which has surrounded and is engaging the enemy's Special Armd Bde at MECHILI, were joined in the DERNA area during 25 Jan by 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp.

19 Aust Inf Bde debussed one Bn one mile NORTH WADI EL CHARIG 1130 hrs today and moved at 1315 hrs on NORTH of DERNA rd objective top escarpment beyond aerodrome 3542 to exploit towards DERNA. One Bn debussed hill 303 4033 and commenced adv WEST to cross WADI DERNA vicinity BW grid 30 objective road running NE one mile beyond Wadi.

2 ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

The posn is obscure but it appears that there can be in CYRENAICA at most 3 divs plus Special Armd Bde at MECHILI; at least, one div plus the Special Armd Bde.

These units are:-

60 "SABRATA" Div - all arty eliminated except 2 gps lt fd guns.

27 "BRESCIA" Div - all arty eliminated except 2 gps lt fd guns.

17 "PAVIA" Div - all arty eliminated.

XX Corps Arty (GIOVANNI BERTA?) consists of two 105/28 gps, two 75/27 gps and Hy AA Gp.

It has been proved that 70 Inf Regt was in TOBRUCH, so that all of 63 Div has been eliminated.

3. TOBRUCH - DESTRUCTION OF FACILITIES

It is apparent that the most methodical plan of systematic destruction of important docs and facilities was carried out by the Italians. In addition, nearly all arty was put out of action.

That some facilities were NOT destroyed, eg food dumps and water plants, is attributed to the enemy appreciating that large numbers of PWs would need food and water after the fall of the town.

4. DERNA

Strength and composition of garrison unknown. Enemy rear-gd (strength - 8 lorries, 4 guns, 4 M tanks) was engaged by 4 Armd Bde on 23 Jan on main rd SE of DERNA and withdrew to area DERNA LG.

Tac R reports MMS SE of LG. Patrols 4 Armd Bde reached P 9946 and report MMS top of escarpment 4 miles WEST of MARTUBA and [illegible] enemy withdrawn to area DERNA LG.

A report, considered doubtful, states that 63 and 13 Lt Tanks are in or about town. (See MECHILI.)

The escarpment above DERNA and the road down the hill are reported mined.

Tac R reports AA WEST of town.

Tac R in the last week has reported no unusual concentrations or movements of MT (excepting MECHILI).

5. Road DERNA - GIOVANNI BERTA

Tac R report 1530/23. 30 large MT around inf facing EAST approx 12 miles WEST DERNA. 5 tks, 12 MT 4 miles WEST DERNA. 20 MT moving WEST between DERNA and GIOSIE.

Tac R 25 Jan reports 9 MT on this rd.

6. GIOVANNI BERTA

It is reported that there are NO fixed defences but PW states he saw guns being drawn to the top of hills in this vicinity.

HQ XX Corps with Arty believed to be here.

HQ 60 Div reported here 16 Jan (PW).

APOLLONIA 6 MA S on five 25 Jan

BARCE 36 MA 25 Jan

MARAUA 18 MA 25 Jan.

BENGHASI

On 25 Jan shipping appeared to have increased by 4-5 ships (Tac R).

NO unusual movements on road NORTH have been reported in last week.

Approx 100 on reported on Ids in BENGHASI area.

AGADABIA

40 MT 5 miles SOUTH 20 P on 19 (Tac R).

MECHILI

It is confirmed that the HQ of a Special Armd Bde is at MECHILI.

GOC General BARINI.

Estimated Strength

60-70 tanks
Perhaps 2 Bns of Inf
Gp of Arty (12 guns)
Lt AA Bty
Smoke Pl.

Considerable Air Activity is reported in this area morning of 24 Jan and 340 all arms are reported within 5 miles of MECHILI in two gps morning 25 Jan.

It is believed that practically all the remaining tanks in LIBYA are incorporated in the Armd Bde.

9. GIARABUB

On 25 Jan 40 MT were reported at GIARABUB but NM3 in the vicinity. There are no signs of the enemy trying to escape from the fort.

10. TOPOGRAPHICAL (ref map BENGHASI 1/500,000)

To avoid confusion the following places in CYRENAICA which appear to have two separate names, are enumerated.

GIOVANNI BERTA	-	EL GUBBA
EL FAIDIA (03644)	-	DE MARTINO
GHEGAB (08048)	-	ACQUA VIVA
TECNIS (H 0618)	-	BORGO TORELLI

11. Attached as an appendix are particulars of British Captures in EGYPT and LIBYA since 5 Dec 40.

Time of Signature 0900 hrs, 26 Jan

Method of Issue: Sigs

Distribution: As per Int Summary No. 16

D.C. Campbell Hyr.
Colonel.
GS 6 Aust Div.

SECRET

APPENDIX

CAPTURES

1. The following is a summary of British Captures since 5 Dec. TOBRUCH figures are still only approx. [illegible] first estimate.

	NEAR BARDIA	BARDIA	TOBRUCH
Officers	1535	2041	
Ors	33500	42527	21/30000
LIBYANS	1925	[illegible]	[illegible]
	36960	[illegible]	

Approx total 103/110,000

Med guns		7	
Fd guns	214	216	all types 200
Hvy AA	21	20	
InS guns	39	41	
A/T	14	78	Not yet assessed
AT/AA	45	52	do
Coastal Defence	3	20	do
Tanks	30	120 (+30 u/s)	at least 60
MT	1540 (plus vehicles in use by Fd Bde)	700	Not yet assessed
E/As		230	

2. The following have been wiped out:

HQ XXI Corps
HQ XXII Corps
HQ XXIII Corps
HQ Group of Libyan Divs
62 [illegible] Div
62 [illegible] Div
63 [illegible] Div
64 [illegible] Div
1 "25 March" [illegible] Div
2 "23 October" [illegible] Div
4 "5 Jan" [illegible] Div
1 Libyan Div
2 Libyan Div
[illegible] Force (equivalent to Div)
GAF (almost a Div)

3. 13 General officers plus 1 Admiral have been either killed or captured.

Wavell Papers

CAV/MP.

SECRET 100

S/51/G.

Headquarters,
6 Aust Div.

25 Jan, 41.

FRUSTRATION OF OPERATIONS BY LACK OF ROAD DISCIPLINE

1. From a study of the traffic on the rd TOBRUCH - DERNA on 24 and 25 Jan, it is obvious that unit comds and drs of vehicles have no appreciation of the relation of road discipline and ops. The traffic on the road on these two days has been congested to a degree only equalled by that of the traffic proceeding to a large race meeting. Although up to the present the Italian airman has NOT proved that he is capable of carrying out his proper role, it is NOT to say that he may not yet do so. If he had, the results on the DERNA rd yesterday and today would have been such as to delay the whole of our future ops for at least 48 hrs. The presence of German dive bombing aircraft in LIBYA has been confirmed, and all units may rest assured that they will NOT permit to pass unpunished the woeful congestion that was seen during the past two days.

2. The prime cause of this congestion may be attributed to excessive speed. It is the desire of every dr of every convoy to overtake another that causes double-banking on the roads and consequent congestion. Other causes are:-

(a) NOT maintaining the density ordered.

(b) Halted vehicles NOT pulling right off to the right of the road.

(c) Vehicles closing up when halted so that there is a solid mass of traffic on one side which prevents the possibility of other traffic passing.

(d) Personnel dismounting on the traffic side.

3. I am directed by the Comd to say that all offrs and NCOs and drs will act in accordance with the following instns:-

(a) Any vehicle which breaks down is to be moved right off the road if possible-if NOT, to the extreme right.

(b) Maintain a proper distance from the vehicle of his convoy in front.

(c) If congestion occurs, it is their duty to take immediate action to remedy it.

4. All units are informed that the max speed of vehicles on the TOBRUCH-DERNA rd is as under:-

(a) Vehicles with trailers, including guns and brake drums - 20 mph.

(b) 3-ton and above - 25 mph.

(c) 30-cwt - 30 mph.

(d) Under 30-cwt - 35 mph.

(e) Cars - 45 mph.

5. This circular will be initialled by every Offr and by every NCO who is in charge of tpt. Comds will submit through the usual channels by 29 Jan that this has been done.

6. The worst offenders seen on 24 and 25 Jan were a Fd Amb and AASC vehicles.

L.A. Vasey
Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Distribution -

16 Aust Inf Bde	20
17 Aust Inf Bde	19
19 Aust Inf Bde	19
6 Aust Cav	3
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	1
RAA 6 Aust Div	6
RAE 6 Aust Div	7
Sigs 6 Aust Div	5
Comd	1
G	2
AQ	2
Camp	1
AASC 6 Aust Div	6
ADMS	7
DADOS	1
SOME	1
DAPM	3
6 Aust Div Postal - Unit	2
6 Aust Div Fd Cash - Office	1
6 Aust Div Reception - Camp	1
6 Aust Div Salvage Unit	1

Copy to -

XIII Corps

COPY/SP
GAV/JB

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 19

S [illegible]
26 Jan 41.

Ref Maps : 1/500,000 TOBRUCH and BENGHAZI

1. The following is issued in amplification of and where indicated as an amendment to 6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 18 of 26 Jan.

2. The latest information regarding the enemy in the EL MACHILI AREA is as follows :-

	85 Inf Regt	(60 'SABRATA' Div)	
(?)	One Bn	(possibly 60 Complement Bn)	
	26 Arty Regt	(17 Div)	- less 12 guns
	42 Arty Regt	(60 Div)	- less 8 guns
	One Bersaglieri Regt		
	One Bersaglieri Coy		
(?)	60 Engr Bn		
	Two Gps Fd Arty		- less 24 guns
	5 Tank Bn	(A 13s)	
	3 Tank Bn	(A 13s)	less two coys.

Totals - Men 5,000 all ranks
Tanks 60 - A 13s
Guns 76 - All field

Note:- Bersaglieri Regt consists of two lorry borne Bns or a M/C Bn and a lorry borne Bn.
The main force has taken up a posn around the spur running NNW from MACHILI bounded on the West by WADI EL AGUAS and on the East by the Wadi running through 0.9800. The SE end of this position is strongly held. The position is believed to extend to 10 Kms of MACHILI.

3. 18 Aust Inf Bde has secured the escarpment overlooking BENIA and have reached the beach about 4 miles East of the town. They have also succeeded in crossing WADI BENIA about 5 miles South of BENIA and have established a detachment on the track about P 2343.

4. Adv HQ 6 Aust Div will move to TMIMI area and the other units enumerated in para 1 of op instn No. 18 will move to AIN EL GAZALA area on 27 and 28 Jan and HQ to BARTOLA area as stated.

5. The role of 6 Aust Div less 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp is for the present to recce the enemy positions in the EL MACHILI area with a view to possible attack in that area.

6. In pursuance of this a recce camp will be established in the area SE of EL MACHILI. 17 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for providing the camp staff for this camp, the estimated strength of which is 150 all ranks. Details of personnel to go to this camp will be notified later.

7. The role of 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp is to operate in the BENIA - GIOVANNI BERTA area with a view to containing in this area all enemy tps located there. NO increase in this Bde Gp can be anticipated.

8. Adm instns will be issued separately.

9. With reference to para 8 of 6 Aust Div op instn No. 18 the Adv Div HQ opens TMIMI area HQ BARTOLA at 1400 hrs 27 Jan and closes present location same time.

(sgd) J.A.VASEY. Col.
GS 6 Aust Div.

file

GAV/JB

SECRET

Copy No. 18

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No.19

26 Jan 41.

Ref Maps: 1/500.000 TOBRUCH and BENGHAZI

1. The following is issued in amplification of and where indicated as an amendment to 6 Aust Div Op Instn No.18 of 26 Jan.

2. The latest information regarding the enemy in the EL MACHILI AREA is as follows:

	85 Inf Regt	(60 'SAHRATA' Div)	
(?)	One Bn	(possibly 60 Complement Bn)	
	26 Arty Regt	(17 Div)	- less 12 guns
	42 Arty Regt	(60 Div)	- less 8 guns
	One Bersaglieri Regt		
	One Bersaglieri Coy		
(?)	60 Engr Bn		
	Two gps Fd Arty		- 24 guns
	5 Tank Bn	(M 13s)	
	3 Tank Bn	(M 13s)	less two coys

Totals - Men 9,000 all ranks
Tanks 60 - M 13s
Guns 76 - All field

Note: Bersaglieri Regt consists of two lorry borne Bns or a M/G Bn and a lorry borne Bn.
The main force has taken up a posn around the spur running NNW from MACHILI bounded on the West by WADI EL AGUAS and on the East by the Wadi running through O.9000. The SE end of this position is strongly held. The position is believed to extend to 10 miles NW of MACHILI.

3. 19 Aust Inf Bde has secured the escarpment overlooking DERNA and have reached the beach about 4 Kilos East of the town. They have also succeeded in crossing WADI DERNA about 9 miles South of DERNA and have established a detachment on the track about P 0345

4. Adv HQ 6 Aust Div will move to TMIMI area and the other units enumerated in para 1 of op instn No.18 will move to AIN EL GAZALA area on 27 and 28 Jan and NGT to MARTUBA area as stated.

5. The role of 6 Aust Div less 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp is for the present to recce the enemy positions in the EL MACHILI area with a view to possible attack in that area.

6. In pursuance of this a recce camp will be established in the area SE of EL MACHILI. 17 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for providing the camp staff for this camp, the estimated strength of which is 150 all ranks. Details of personnel to go to this camp will be notified later.

7. The role of 19 Aust Inf Bde Gp is to operate in the DERNA - GIOVANNI BERTA area with a view to containing in this area all enemy tps located there. NO increase in this Bde Gp can be anticipated.

8. Adm instns will be issued separately.

9. With reference to para 8 of 6 Aust Div op instn No.18 the Adv Div HQ opens [redacted] area NOF PARCHIM at 1400 hrs 27 Jan and closes present location same time.

ACK

Time of Signature 2220 hrs.

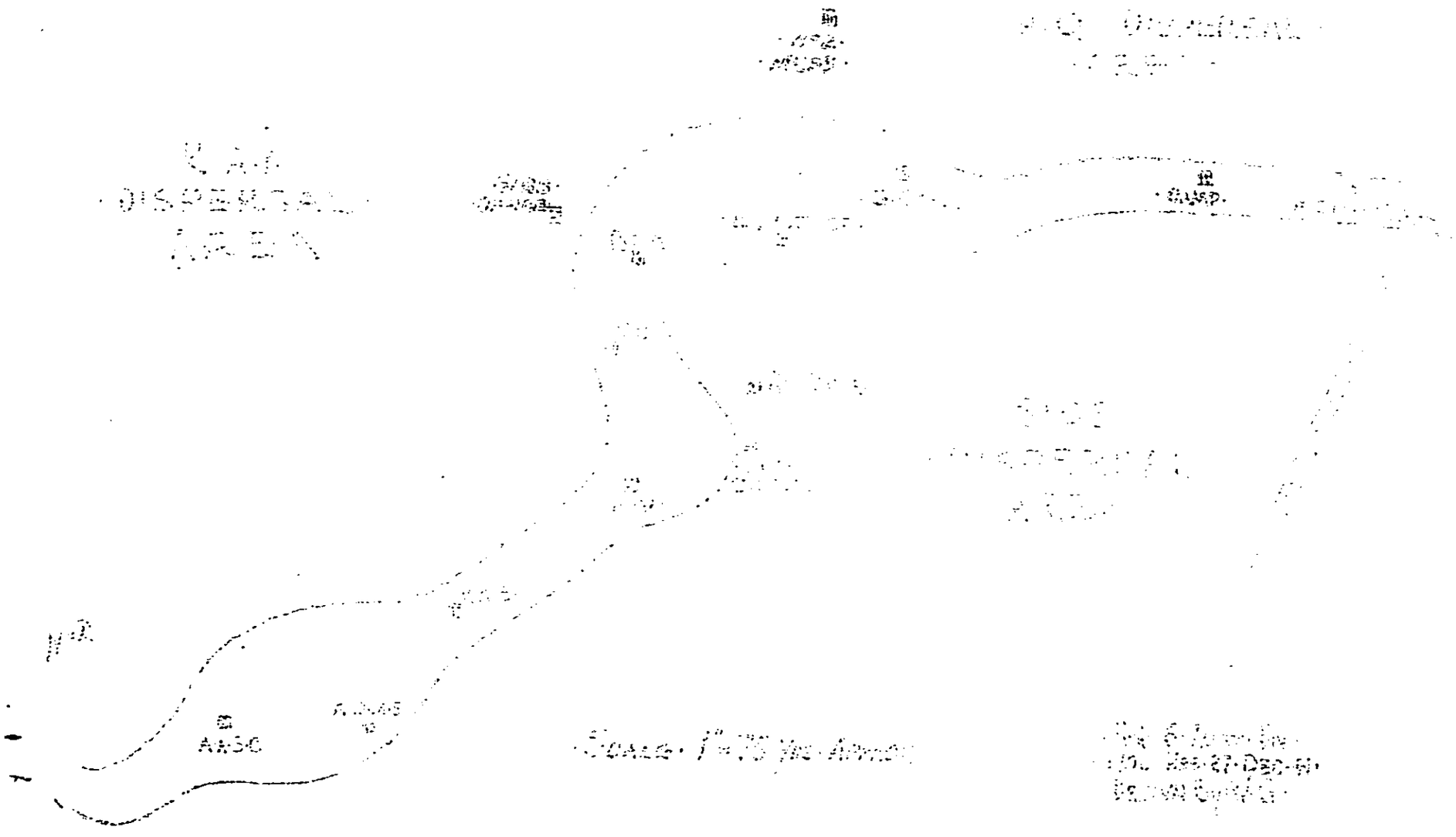
Method of Issue: Sigs

Colonel,
GS of Aust Div.

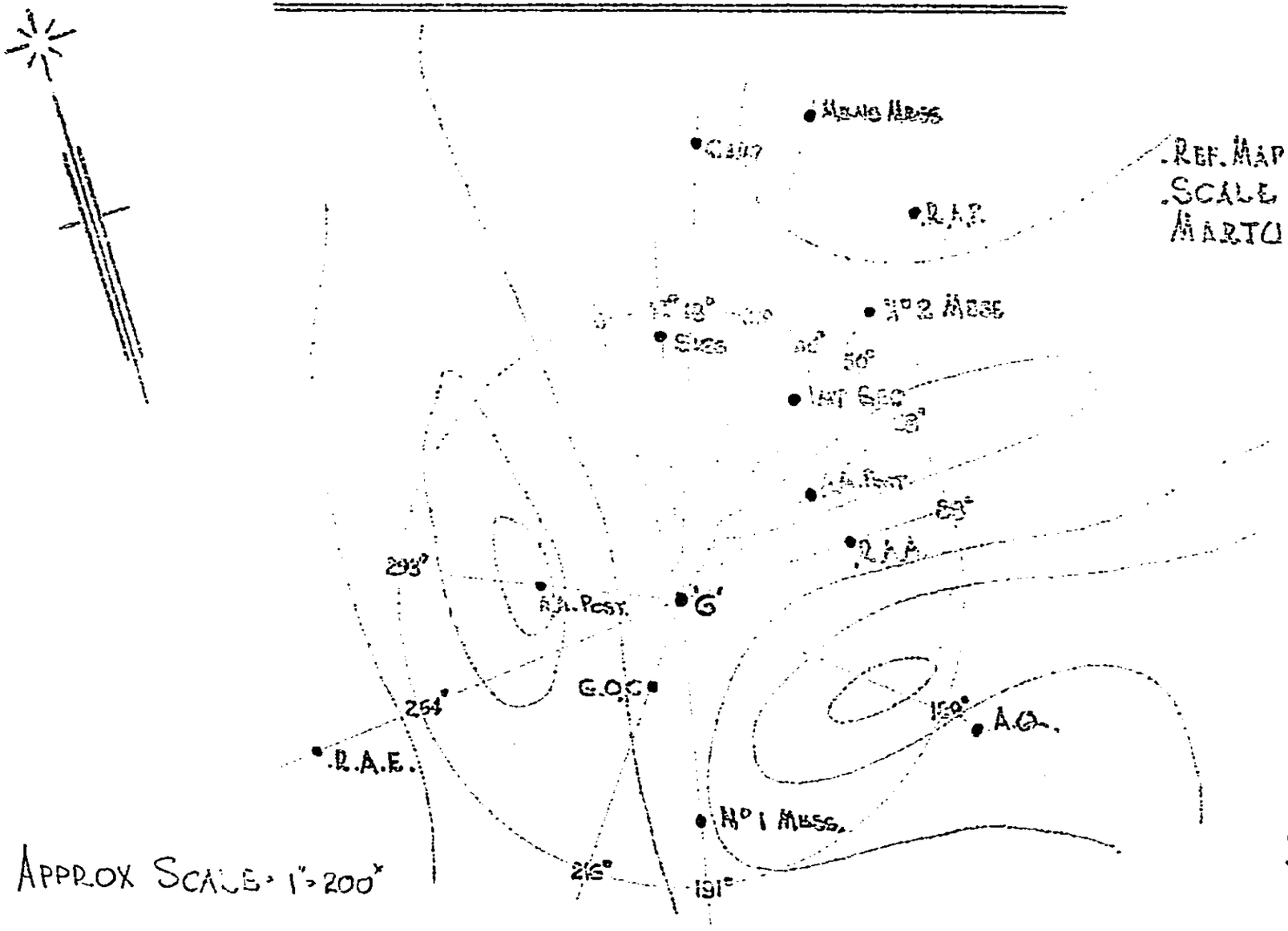
Distribution	Copy No.
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
"A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav	4
RAA 6 Aust Div	5
RAE 6 Aust Div	6
Sigs 6 Aust Div	7
XIII Corps	8
7 RTR	9
7 Armd Div	10
1 RNF	11
1 Cheshire	12
Comd	13
G	14
A	15
Q	16
AASC 6 Aust Div	17
Med	18
Ord	19
DAPM	20
Camp	21
1 Aust Corps	22
File	23 - 24
War Diary	25 - 26

ADMS

LOCATION OF 6-INCH DRY FILE-MAP DUPLICATING UNDER



.LAY-OUT. OF. ADV. H.Q. 6. AUST. DIV.



.REF. MAP. 'CYRENAICA'.
.SCALE. 1:100,000.
MARTUBA - PREDEST.

APPROX SCALE - 1" = 200'

.DRAWN. B.C.
.ADV. H.Q. 6. AUST. DIV.

SECRET

NOT TO BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF Bn HQ.

Adv Headquarter
6 Aust Div.

Copy No...7...

6 AUST DIV INT SUMMARY No. 20.

Based on information received from 1800 hrs 29 Jan to 1800 hrs 30 Jan 41.

Ref Maps: 1/500,000 BENGHASI
1/100,000 DERNA, BOMBA, CHAULAN, MARTUBA, GIOVANNI BERTA.

1. Operations. Although our patrols found posts on the rd at 0330 hrs 30 Jan, 2/11 Bn entered DERNA at 1030 hrs and found it had been evacuated. Patrols have extended one mile west of the town, which is relatively undamaged, but all official papers have been burnt, and it appears that all equipment of military value has been destroyed. The wireless station equipment has been either removed or destroyed. During morning 30 Jan 2/8 Bn had a encounter with the enemy on WADI DERNA about WADI GAMHAM (323490); the MG posts in the west bank being active and difficult to reach with arty fire. During afternoon there was NO activity in this sector - it is believed that there is no opposition now on 19 Aust Inf Bde front.

Shell fire was encountered in 17 Aust Inf Bde area to the South of 19 Aust Inf Bde, on east side of WADI DERNA morning 30 Jan.

2. Facilities at DERNA. Water is running freely and is of good pressure and quality. The harbour appears to be effectively blocked by the ship sunk across the entrance and some other obstacle sunk south of this. There are several small boats still afloat moored inside the harbour, and the moorings and wharf appears to be in good order.

The road into the town has been blown in two places down the escarpment but it is estimated that this will be repaired early 31 Jan.

There are numerous arabs in the town, who had been collecting any food and clothing they could find.

The buildings and roads in the town itself are undamaged and are clean and well kept, but it is reported that some are electrically mined. No booby traps have been reported on the 19 Aust Inf Bde front since their arrival in this area.

3. PW Statements. (a) Troop movements: Borgonzoli was seen in DERNA at 2300 hrs 29 Jan, and had been there for 10 days. He has gone to GIOVANNI BERTA.

The 5200 tps around the town left this morning.

(b) Supplies: There had been NO butter, meat or ham for 10 weeks, and population were living mainly on bread, chocolate and camel meat. Petrol was scarce - with a population of 4000 there were only 20 cars running and these were limited to 30 litres per vehicle per month.

(c) Political: A slight political trouble started in the town when the BARDIA survivors arrived with the first news of the fall of the fortress. Anti-Facist inscriptions have been put on walls of the buildings.

Time of Signature: 1900 hrs.

Method of Issue: Sigs.

Colonel,
GS 6 Aust Div.

Distribution -

As Int Summary No. 19.

1

ERV/MF

SECRET

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF BN HQ)

6 AUST DIV INT SUMMARY No. 19. Copy No: 33

29 Jan, 41.

BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM 0200 HRS 27 JAN TO 1800 HRS 28 JAN 41.

Ref Maps: BENGHASI 1/500,000. DERNA, BOMBA, CHAULAN, MARTUBA, GIOVANNI BERTA 1/100,000.

1. OPERATIONS.

On 28 Jan 2/11 Bn advanced to rd bend 346518 and reported that PORT PIEMONTE (344519) had been evacuated by the enemy. Enemy are active in shelling our fwd posns in this area which have stabilised temporarily SOUTH from coast vicinity WADI EL HASEIEN to Trig 230 (371316) along top of escarpment to PORT PIEMONTE, thence EAST bank of WADI DERNA.

The two Coys of 2/4 Bn est WEST of WADI DERNA successfully repulsed counter attacks on afternoon 28 Jan, inflicting relatively heavy losses on the enemy. During night 28/29 Jan, these Coys encircled an enemy force preparing to attack their posns and captured 4 offrs and 88 ORs, recent reinforcements to the 66 Inf Regt, and two 8cm Flat MMGs.

On evening 28 Jan, 3 RTR engaged an enemy force consisting of tanks, A Tk guns, and guns. Another force encountered at 08807 withdrew NW during night.

11 H are patrolling the CHAULAN area. A patrol was shelled at 07724 and another patrol located artificial A Tk obstacle manned by Inf and light guns at 08830 and at 09545. Ten PWs were captured in vicinity. The obstacle at 09345 is described as a bank 1000 yds east and west astride track, also 3 ft wall with men and guns behind it.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

(a) Mines. Fwd Bns report that anti-personnel mines have been found in WADI DERNA. From description these may be the usual A Tk type (SC) with weaker springs. More precise information is awaited. Mines located in a semi-circle two miles EAST of MECHILI have been disarmed and stacked by 7 A and Div.

(b) Defence WADI DERNA. MG posns are located high in the WEST bank of the Wadi between 2/4 and 2/11 Bn posns which command the Wadi and the Eastern approaches to it. Opposite 2/11 Bn posn an OP in a stone watch tower vicinity 344530 appears to direct fire to targets on the DERNA RD and WEST.

(c) Tanks. It is reported that Italian M 13 tanks fired very accurately while on the move on 24 Jan.

3. AIR REPORTS.

25 Jan, 10 mod ships and 3 smaller ships in BENGHASI, and 150 BA on LGs in the area ACRO MILA - BENGHASI - MARAUA.

28 Jan at 0750 hrs, 200 MT were observed in Wadis 06813 and a further 80 moving NW along the track to GIONTA, followed 10 mins later by 10 from the concentration in the Wadis. MT are scattered in Wadis 4 miles WEST of DERNA.

29 Jan, concentration of 40 stationary at 08216, slight movement both ways on DERNA - GIOVANNI DERNA. At 1440 hrs over 30 large MT at 01940, 20 MT halted on track 01545 and 10 MT halted 010430. At 1610 hrs 25 MT moving WEST between GIOVANNI DERNA and 01940. A large number of MT were observed around GIOVANNI DERNA track.

M fire: pre-harbour: 6 guns at 05805, 4 guns at 05151, and concentrated groups fire [illegible] vicinity 01940.

4. CHEMICAL WARFARE

A considerable number of drums of a liquid blister gas (probably [illegible]) and toxic smoke generators have been found in BARDIA. 10 per cent of the drums were empty. In May, 1942, it was believed that stocks of poison gases were stored in [illegible] and [illegible]. Stocks of a liquid chemical for producing non-poisonous smoke screen have also been found.

5. MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS. 11 mines have been found in and around the port area. All have been lifted by the enemy. Daily yield estimated to be [illegible] 2000 gals

6. AIR ACTIVITY.

[illegible] fell in vicinity of [illegible] 1 Ju 88 [illegible] wide-wing twin-engined monoplane [illegible] with [illegible] tail surfaces.

[illegible] CIRCASSIA [illegible] CIRCASSIA [illegible]

7. RECENTS

[illegible] TEDESCHI [illegible] are escaped from TOBRUCH dressed as civilians, [illegible] DERNA and [illegible] found [illegible] F 70 and [illegible] are to be [illegible] with despatches to [illegible] DERNA, reporting to Rear XIII Corps by signal.

Time of Signature: 1500 hrs.

Method of Issue: Sig.

[signature]
Colonel,
GS, 4 Arst Div.

Distribution	Copy No:		
10 Aust Inf Bde	1-3	ADVS	47
17 Aust Inf Bde	4-6	2 Aust Corps	48
19 Aust Inf Bde	7-9	Adv XIII Corps	49-50
DAA & QMG	10-11	[illegible]	51
BGS (Ops)	12	[illegible]	52
BGS (Int)	13	[illegible]	53
CRA	14	[illegible]	54
CRE	15	[illegible]	55
CSO	16	[illegible]	56
3	17-18	No. 3 Sqn RAAF	57
4	19-20	[illegible]	58
CASC 6 Aust Div	21	War Diary	59-60

NOTE:- PW STATEMENTS Gen BERGONZOLI escaped from BARDIA dressed as an Arab after having shaved off his beard. Now 90 troops DERNA after help to ROM.

HQ 90 Div at BARDIA

COPY/EP
GV/TH

SECRET
Adv Headquar
6 Aust Div.
30Jan 41.

6 AUST DIV OP INSTN No. 21.

1. Indications are that the enemy is preparing to withdraw to the west OF GIOVANNI BERTA.
2/11 Bn has secured DERNA and is occupying the line of the wadi running SE from 290555.
2/5 and 2/6 Bns today sent patrols along the WADI DERNA to investigat the area where 20 North South Grid Line crosses the wadi, and to try to find a crossing for vehicles over the wadi in that area.

2. The role of 6 Aust Div is to secure DERNA against enemy arty fire, and gain control of the road GIOVANNI BERTA - MACHILI as early as possible.

3. 17 and 19 Aust Inf Bdes will adv on 31 Jan to the general line SIDI BU HADIA 1362 - AIN MARA 1051 - Pt 407 0834.
Any difficulty in getting tpt of right bn 17 Aust Inf Bde over WADI DERNA is NOT to delay adv south of the Wadi.
Inter-brigade boundary incl 19 Aust Inf Bde Pt 557 0450- Pt 390 2642.

4. "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav will protect the left flank, and will establish patrols during the hours of daylight on the rd GIOVANNI BERTA - MACHILI, south from the rd junc 970360.

ARTY.
5. BARR Gp under Comd Lt-Col Barker, consisting of 2/1 Fd Regt less one bty and 27/26 Med Bty will support 19 Aust Inf Bde. CREM Gp under Lt-Col Cremo consisting of 2/2 Fd Regt plus one bty 2/1 Fd Regt will support 17 Aust Inf Bde. Remainder of fd and med arty within the div area under control CRA.

ENGR TASKS.
6. (a) Make passable at the earliest possible moment one rd down the escarpment into DERNA.
(b) Improve any crossing found by 17 Aust Inf Bde over WADI DERNA.

7. One Sec 2/6 Fd Coy under comd 19 Aust Inf Bde, One Sec 2/2 Fd Coy under comd 17 Aust Inf Bde for clearing and marking routes through mine fields

(sgd) G.A. Vasey. Col.
GS 6 Aust Div.

SECRET

AEB/JB

Adv Headquarters
6 Aust Div.
30 Jan 41.

Secret Map of DERNA.

Enclosed is a copy of a secret map (RAF) which may prove of use.

Colonel,
G.S. 6 Aust Div.

DISTRIBUTION.

RAA	1
RAE	1
Sigs	1
19 Aust Inf Bde	1
G	2
AQ	2
CAASC	1
ADMS	1
DADOS	1
SOME	1
DAPM	1

RRV/MF.

SECRET

(NOT TO BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF BN HQ)

6 AUST DIV INT SUMMARY No. 21. Copy No: 33

BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM 1800 HRS 30 JAN TO 1800 HRS 31 JAN 41. 31 Jan, 41.

Ref Maps: 1/500,000 BENGHASI. 1/100,000 DERNA, BOMBA, MARTUBA. GIOVANNI BERTA, CHAULAN.

1. OPERATIONS

During the morning our fwd tps advanced without opposition, but a bn moving along the coast rd met enemy opposition at BIR ES SEBIL (255570) and are held up on the line of ARCUB MEGED (245559). No other contact with the enemy has been reported. A fort was found vicinity 3145 which had been recently abandoned.

.610/ hrs

2. ENEMY TACTICS

No booby traps have yet been reported in the DERNA area, but A Tk mines (type B2) have been found with weak springs or no springs at all, thus converting them into anti-personnel mines.

3. AIR REPORTS

(a) Close. Reported that at 1230 hrs there were 20 MT at P 0355, 40 MT and dragons' teeth being constructed at P 0545, and 40 MT at P 2240.

(b) Distant. Enemy forces reported 6 miles SOUTH of GIOVANNI BERTA, and a force of 12 M.11 tanks, 4 AA guns and 40 MT were reported at 1200 hrs today approx 12 miles SW of CHAULAN. Activity was seen approx 16 miles WEST of WADI CUF at 0 0645 and 0 0545.

No movement was observed at CHAULAN at 1245 hrs, but 7 Armd Div report shell fire from this pt at 1007 hrs.

4. DERNA HARBOUR

A Naval LO reports that the harbour has a depth of 21 ft shallowing to 16 ft beside the wharf. The scuttled ship is of British make and it is thought that it has been sunk for at least six months. There are no cranes or other unloading equipt, and the wharf does NOT appear to have been damaged.

5. PW STATEMENTS

Inhabitants of DERNA thought that TOBRUCH would hold out for 8 or 10 days after our first attack, and when it fell they did NOT know whether to stay or NOT. When our tps contacted DERNA defences, the Italian tps were marched and counter-marched with BERGONZOLI cursing them. The military blamed the Fascists and the Fascists blamed the military for the defeat, and all, especially, the Arabs, blamed GERMANY.

Only 1500 of the 15,000 Arabs remained in the town, but it is expected that they will return quickly.

Time of Signature: 1835 hrs.

Method of Issue: Sigs.

J.R. Campbell Maj
for Colonel,
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Distribution -
As for Int Summary No. 19, plus 10 RTR - No. 47.