

AWM52

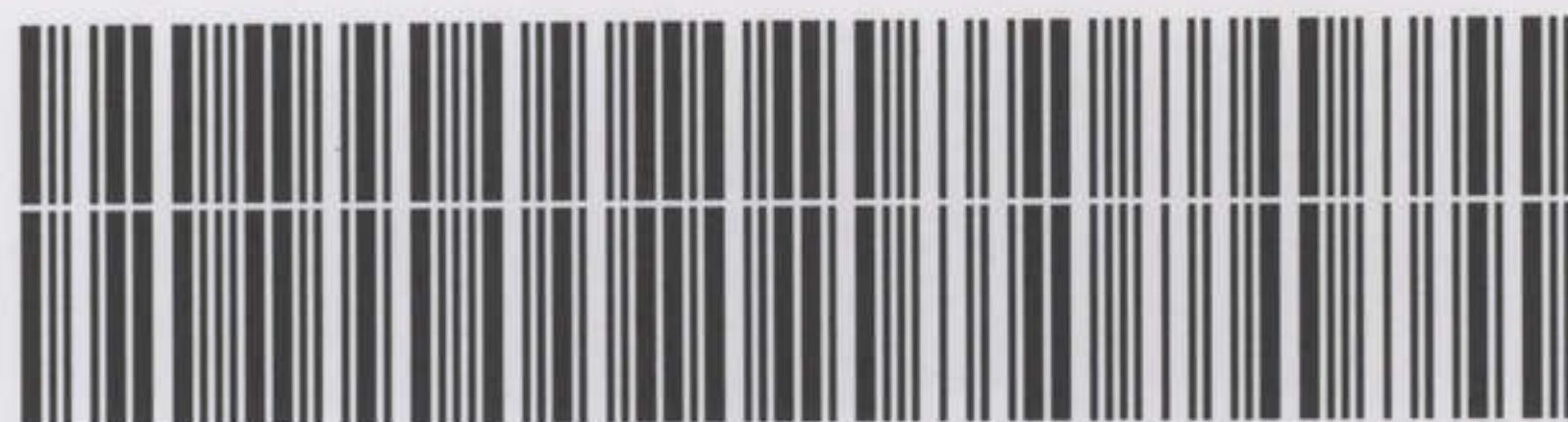
**2nd AIF (Australian Imperial Force) and CMF
(Commonwealth Military Forces) unit war diaries,
1939-45 War**

Miscellaneous - POW
Independent Companies

Item number: 25/3/6/5

Title: 2/6 Independent Company

December 1942



AWM52-25/3/6/5

25/3/6

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

DECEMBER
1942

ORIGINAL

2/6 INDEPENDENT
COMPANY

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 0615 - 1 Dec 42 To every 1 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	1 Dec 42	<u>ADV. HQ.</u>		<u>Map References</u>
<u>C. ENDAIDERE AREA.</u>		0615	4 enemy mortar bombs fell quite close to O.P. No damage, do not think enemy had discovered O.P. but was probably trying for our outpost line.	<u>for Operations</u>
		0815	Arrangements made by US for airbombing of bridge at 282.252 and area nearby caused outposts and O.P. party to be withdrawn to safe distance - whole retired to location of 1st O.P. near cocoanut grove at approx. 289.247.	<u>to 10 Dec 42</u>
			Our A/C bombed defences in bridge area, timber nearby and area behind RUNWAY during morning. Several bombs fell very near bridge and the pillboxes there.	<u>are to</u>
		1230	Parties moved back to outpost line and O.P. No.2.	<u>"TARGET PLAN</u>
		1445	9 Jap bombers with fighter escort flew over RUNWAY and dropped over 80 parachutes bearing bundles. Probably stores as parcels did not appear to be men.	<u>BUNA</u>
			Some Jap. movement seen on N. of RUNWAY during day.	<u>No 24</u>
			Verbal instructions issued by HQ 128 Regt. during day for attack on bridge and defences at W. end of NEW STRIP to take place 2 Dec. Airbombing and strafing of area N. and NW of bridge to proceed, arty. and mortar bombardment of bridge - defences adjacent and timber on E. & W. Smoke to be included in arty & mortar fire.	<u>see Appx. 7, 8, 9</u>
			'I' Coy. 3/128 to be reinforced by "A" Coy. 1/128.	<u>Vol. I. War Diary. for</u>
				<u>Nov. 42.</u>

del.

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From *Ev. 1 Dec* To *0900 2 Dec 42.*

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<i>C. ENDAIDERE AREA.</i>	1 Dec 42		Inf. will form up before end of arty. and mortar bombardment in position to advance under cover of the smoke as soon as bombardment ceases at 0845 hrs.	
			2/6 role = to have one patrol on LEFT of Inf. protecting them from attack from timber in SW corner of square 28.25.— (BLAINNEY detailed for this task) and the remainder on RIGHT to advance in and neutralise enemy action from edge of timber behind pillboxes to E. of bridge. (FIELDING & SCOTT detailed for this).	
			Hot day - breeze from E. and E. by S. = quiet night - moonlight.	
	2 Dec 42	0800	Air straffing by planes of W. end of NEW STRIP & BRIDGE and bombing of areas behind.	
		0815	Arty and mortar firing - several wounded Japs seen to leave defences on RIGHT of bridge.	
		0845	Arty and mortar fire ceased.	
			Patrols out in position - BLAINNEY on LEFT - TRECAR THEN in centre with Capt. BELMER - FIELDING & SCOTT on RIGHT. SCOTT close up to smoke waiting for it to lift - FIELDING only just behind.	
		0900	US Inf. move out to position - Smoke had lifted. BLAINNEY's patrol in timber on extreme LEFT and moving forward	
				<i>Lh</i>

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/12

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 0910 2 Dec To 1300 - 2 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>C. ENDAIADERE AREA.</u>	2 Dec 42	0910	Inf. line began to advance and did so until they were within 150 yds. of defence works when heavy M.G. fire opened. Inf. had to cease advance. Capt. BELMER was killed by a sniper at this time while trying to find a line of advance. Lieut. FIELDING assumed command.	
			SCOTT's patrol engaged pillboxes with LMG and rifle fire without results being observed. Most of our automatic weapons brought into action on all possible occasions.	
			BLAINEY on LEFT moved through bush to a position within 30 yds. in rear of S. end of defences S. of BRIDGE. Here patrol came under accurate M.G. fire from an emplacement facing to the rear - roughly S. to W. and patrol was held up. Attempts to throw hand grenades into emplacement drew heavy fire.	
			BLAINEY stayed fwd. although held up.	
		0950	Orders came for Inf. to withdraw which was done without enemy interference.	
		1030	Inf. withdrew further.	
		1040	BLAINEY unable to see Inf. action - sent back runner who was killed.	
		1045	The other patrols withdrew to original outpost line. Own arty. opened fire on bridge and defences.	
		1050	BLAINEY sent a second runner to ascertain position as he could not see Inf. and our shells were falling near to his position. On return of runner with infm.	
		1300	BLAINEY withdrew patrol - bringing in body of 1st runner, Pte. BLAKE.	

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 1400 - 2 Dec To 6. 3 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>C. ENDAIADERE AREA.</u>	2 Dec 42	1400/ 1600	Patrolling in area of NEW STRIP. Japs seen repairing earthworks and bunkers or pillboxes.	
			More men sick - some to hospital - Strength 9 Off. 69 0/Rs. 4/45 in fwd. positions, 5/24 HQ, Sigs & Engineers. Battle casualties 1 Off. 1 O/R killed. 1 O/R wounded.	
			During night a plane or planes flew up and down over coastal area and out to sea and kept dropping parachute flares. Identity of plane unknown.	
			Col. MARTIN - US Army - takes over comd. of TASK FORCE and pushes more aggressive policy and more determined methods to US Inf.	
			Weather - fine - slight S.E. breeze. Quiet night - moonlight.	
	3 Dec 42		Relatively quiet day - some patrolling across STRIP toward timber N.E. of bridge.	
			1/126 US Inf. moved from coast to position on Rd. DOBADURA-BUNA at approx. 281/248. 'I' Coy. 3/128 & A Coy. 1/128 rejoining own Bns.	
			Our O.P. still observing but little to report this day - Our A/C overhead - only little Jap A/A gun and no IMG A/A opposition - slight arty. activity. Patrols outposts taken over by US Inf. and our men had support position. TREGARTHEN's patrol withdrawn for rest.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From Ev. 3 Dec To 1400 4 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>C. ENDAIDERE AREA.</u>	3 Dec 42		Sickness still a problem - mostly fever and tinea due to waterlogged area. 69 have been sent to hospital since leaving EMO .	
			many flares A/C activity at night - many planes dropped out to sea - plane sounds like ours but could not get confirmation during day.	
			Strength 9 Off. 61 O/Rs, 4/37 fwd., 5/24 HQ, Sigs., Engrs. Fine day - quiet night overcast for some time, light rain, moonlight.	
	4 Dec 42		No particular activity - little air or arty. action.	
		1000	FINDING's and other patrols (less O.P. Party) withdrawn to Coy. H.Q. for few hours rest - wash up and cooked food.	
			O.P. reported our air activity - no enemy - some A/A fire from RUNWAY AREA. The japs seem to move their guns a good deal or have several because fire seems to come from different sources. Our arty fire on several targets. Arrival of recce party to place 37 gun in position vicinity of O.P. - told NOT to put gun too close.	
		1400	Conference 128 US Regt. HQ re' plans for attack on 5 Dec.	<u>Appx 'AA'</u>
			Bren carriers from 2/7 Bns. A.I.F. to be used to support infantry - these A.F.V. have a tank task to do for which they are unsuited. Pointed this out to U.S. comdrs. and emphasised that Inf. must move on heels of carriers all the time as these are NOT tanks. Must be used in packs of at least 3 and NOT singly.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 4 Dec 42 To 0600 5 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>C. ENDAIADERE AREA.</u>	4 Dec 42		The Coy. engineers built sand crossing over estuary for carriers: <u>fortunately</u> the morning tide washed sand into mouth of estuary and effectively closed it.	
			One carrier used the bridge built by the Eng. Section and crossed safely but rather strained the bridge which was not built to take a $3\frac{1}{2}$ ton load - actually this carrier, crew and load weighed approx. 4 tons.	
			Orders given to FIELDING and other officers re' their role on 5th. To provide contact patrols between 1/128 and 1/126 and to take any chance of inflicting casualties on enemy or opening avenues through which Inf. advance could move. To be in position by 0700 hrs. 5 Dec.	
			Strength 9 Off. 63 0 /Rs = more sick evacuated to hospital.	
	5 Dec 42	0600	Patrols moved out to battle positions.	
			RIGHT Patrol under Lieut. BLAINBY in contact with 1/128.	
			CENTRE Patrol under Lieut. SCOTT.	
			LEFT " " " TREPARTHEN in contact with 1/126.	
			Oi/c Lieut. FIELDING.	
			The general scheme of attack was for Inf. to push fwd. immediately after air and arty bombardment and under cover of arty smoke and turn the enemy line, pivoting on a point approx. S.W. of BRIDGE at 283.252. The a/b appeared heavy and accurate as did the arty & mortar fire.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 0600 5 Dec To 1300 5 Dec 42

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
C. ENDAIADERE AREA.	5 Dec 42		An excellent smoke screen was placed across front of enemy defences near the BRIDGE at 283.252. The .37 mm. gun placed in vicinity of O.P. fired at emplacements near the above BRIDGE.	
			On RIGHT the inf. were unable to advance more than a few yards and the carriers were put out of action.	
			In the centre no advance was made - Lieut. BLAINIEY's patrol moved fwd. and across E. end of NEW STRIP but could not move further forward alone. They patrolled to the LEFT across the STRIP and contacted the centre patrol and after patrolling fwd. towards timber at approx. 283.254 moved back to far side of NEW STRIP.	
			SCOTT's patrol in the centre moved fwd across the NEW STRIP and failing to wait for the Inf. advance moved fwd. until they were nearly into the timber N. of the STRIP. Here they waited for the Inf. advance to come up to them.	
			The enemy SA fire did not seem to be directly aimed at these two patrols - they were able to pass through the fire screen unharmed as most of it passed over their heads.	
			The Inf. on the LEFT moved to the advance a little too late to obtain full benefit from the smoke screen and the enemy opened heavy m.g. fire. The line to earth went to earth and was not again able to move forward. Enemy mortars joined in the fire on the LEFT but their shells appeared to be badly aimed or directed as all fell behind our lines in open patches of grass.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 1335 5 Dec To 1600 6 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>C. ENDAIAVERE AREA.</u>	5 Dec 42	1335	Our 25 pdrs. again began shelling the enemy positions E of BRIDGE at 283.252 and it was presumed that the advance had ceased for the day. SCOTT's patrol withdrew to line of NEW STRIP as 25 pdr. shells were falling very near to his patrol position.	
		1500	Lieut. TREGARTHEN with his patrol given instructions to endeavour to find line of approach through bush and swamp in N.E. of sq. 27.24 with view to outflanking enemy position on our LEFT. If passage through not possible to the NORTHWARD patrol were to try further SOUTH. The patrol were to contact 1/126 Bn. on its way out.	
			Weather = fine, slight breeze from EASTWARD, Quiet night - some rain - heavy towards morning of 6 Dec.	
	6 Dec 42	0730	Lieut. FIELDING instructed to maintain small outposts along line of NEW STRIP and to search out enemy snipers if possible - several 'kills' recorded.	
			Two U.S. inf. patrols also went out towards enemy lines - one followed closely in SCOTT's path.	
			Our A/C bombed RUNWAY.	
		1600	Report from TREGARTHEN that he was moving WESTWARD through bush W. of Rd. DOBUDURA-BUNA. Area very swampy - doubtful if movement of large parties would be practicable. If not successful in this line will try further to SOUTH.	<i>Let.</i>

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 1630 6 Dec To 1100 7 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<i>C. ENDAIADERE AREA.</i>	6 Dec 42	1630	Jap gun believed mountain gun opened fire on our arty positions. The gun appeared to be firing from a point on NORTH EASTERN side of BUNA RUNWAY and about 1/2 way along. O.P. sent word to 25 pdrs. who fired one or two rounds - to attempt to register position - heavy mortars also fired at the presumed gun position. The arty and mortar shells fell wide of the gun but enabled detail ee to be collected for later use.	
		1800	Considerable Jap movement was observed in and about BUNA RUNWAY this day. Requests repeated to 128 Regt. for HMG harassing fire to be used. Offered to take over HMG and man them.	
			No wider activity during day - rain had made conditions in swamp area very bad.	
			Heard during day that Adv. HQ, NGF wanted to recall the Coy. Hope this not true as we want to be in at the finish.	
			Strength now only 9 Off. & 50 O/Rs, 40ff 4 Off. & 27 O/Rs in F.D.L., HQ, Sigs, & Engineers 5 Offr. 23 O/Rs.	
			Quiet night - a/c now known to be ours patrolling coast and dropping flares during hours of darkness.	
			Much A/C activity - our A/C bombed RUNWAY AREA several times. Formation of Jap A/C - bombers with fighter cover flew over about and sounds of aerial combat were heard and one plane seen to fall.	
	7 Dec 42	1100		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 1315-7 Dec To 0900 8 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
C. ENDAIDERE AREA.	7 Dec 42	1315	Later on there was more aerial combat and several planes fell into sea. We heard later they were enemy planes and that our A/C smashed up enemy formations which bombed DOBADURA AREA.	
			During the day considerable Jap movement was observed in and about the RUNWAY area. M.G. harassing fire would stop a lot of this. The positions to and from which they move are all recorded.	
			No particular activity - some patrolling across NEW STRIP.	
		1910	Jap patrol of 4 moved out towards our O.P. - laid in grass for short time and then went back. Could not fire at them from O.P. because of disclosing position and grass prevented our patrols or posts from seeing them.	
		1915	Jap truck moved down RUNWAY towards bridge loaded with troops.	
		1918	Japs moving between emplacement at EAST of BRIDGE (E7) and M.G. nest on WEST of BRIDGE.	
			Strength 9 Off. 50 O/Rs.	
	8 Dec 42	0730	Faint SAA fire from beyond far end RUNWAY heard.	
		0900	Member of American patrol wandered into O.P. wounded in arm. He was rather incoherent but stated he thought the other two members of his patrol were killed near E7.	

11

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From *morning 8. Dec* To *0700-9 Dec. 42.*

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<i>C. ENDAIDERE AREA.</i>	8 Dec 42		O.P. becoming overcrowded unnecessarily and therefore, to obviate this, it will be policed.	
			Our A/C active during day and our mortars and arty shelling.	
			Enemy light SAA heard at 'Y' of NEW STRIP.	
		1915	Two Jap motor trucks moved down RUNWAY towards BRIDGE at 283.253 - had troops on board. Arty fire asked for by O.P. and target position described.	
		1918	First 25 pdr. shell landed 50 yds. to LEFT of trucks - Japs ran into timber on RIGHT - correction given to Arty. Second shots landed right into this timber.	
	9 Dec 42		Visibility became bad so arty. fire stopped.	
			Strength = 8 Offrs. 50 O/Rs.	
			Fine day - fairly quiet.	
			1/126 Regt. to make an attack on enemy emplacement in vicinity of BRIDGE. Arty bombardment to take place early - smoke to be used and attack to follow. Our men to patrol on LEFT and RIGHT Flanks of 1/126 U.S. Bn.	
		0630	Arty observers moved to O.P.	
		0655	3.7 guns ranged on emplacements E. of BRIDGE.	
		0700	Barrage opened - arty and mortars and 3.7 gun.	

Lek

WAR DIARY ~~or~~ INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 0700 - 9 Dec To 1000 - 9 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<i>C. ENDAIADERE AREA.</i>	9 Dec 42		All firing good - enemy emplacements near BRIDGE bracketed and many near misses - timber to E. and W. of BRIDGE heavily shelled.	
			Smoke screen good - light N.E. wind only - smoke drifting very slowly.	
		0728	Smoke almost gone - 20 odd U.S. Inf. advance towards enemy emplacements. Two seemed to get into end of emplacement on E. of BRIDGE followed by 4 more.	
			SCOTT's patrol reported later that this emplacement (17) seemed empty as they passed to watch woods behind it.	
		0730	Several Japs apparently wounded moved or limped from enemy positions and went back along runway.	
			To the RIGHT of O.P. - in vicinity of 'Y' of NEW STRIP - there was mortar and m.g. fire but no movement could be seen.	
		0900 - 0910	About 10 U.S. Inf. moved back from near enemy position E. of BRIDGE towards their own lines.	
		0915 - 0930	Our planes bombed timber EAST of RUNWAY and over towards coconut grove N.E. of EAST end of NEW STRIP.	
		0958	5 U.S. Inf. move back from near enemy emplacement E. of BRIDGE.	
		1000	Our mortars opened up on enemy emplacements. The attack appeared to have failed - reason not clear as enemy S.A.A. fire was only spasmodic and not heavy.	

L.S.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 1000 - 9 Dec To 1600 - 9 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
C. ENDAIADERE AREA.	9 Dec 42		SCOTT considered that if his patrol had been larger he could have occupied emplacement E. of BRIDGE but he is not sure he could have held it unaided. Our patrol movement hindered somewhat by mortar shells which fell short of timber.	
			FIELDING stated that although there is some enemy fire from W. of BRIDGE he thinks that had more Inf. followed the first into the enemy empl. E. of the BRIDGE this could have been held and the fire coming from the W. silenced.	
			BLAINEY on RIGHT was to move up with 1/128 Bn. across E. end of NEW STRIP. If enemy opposition was not great this Bn. intended to advance to timbered area behind. Advance was unable to overcome enemy fire.	
		1215	Jap. movement on gun fired from a position along N.E. side of RUNWAY. Appeared to be trying to find mortars behind our O.P. Some shells fell very close to O.P. and much shrapnel passed through tree.	
		1500	Lieut. TREGARTHEN's patrol returned. Had found passage of swamp S.W. of RUNWAY impractical for passage of troops. Water was 4' to 6 feet deep in places and bush very thick. Patrol pushed through to kunai grass clearing in sq. 27.25 but a body of troops could not have reached there undetected	
		1600	Orders were received from 128 U.S. Regt. H.Q. that Coy. would cease to be under their comd. as from 1200 hrs. 10 Dec. and were to proceed to H.Q. 7 Div. at SOPUTA. Contacted fwd. tps. and told them to hand over O.P. to 128 Regt. and report to Coy. H.Q.	

St.

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 1000- 10 Dec To 0800 11 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>C. ENDAIADERE AREA.</u>	10 Dec 42	1000	Preparations made to move. FIELDING's party withdrawn from fwd. area - 4 Offs. 38 O/Rs. Decided that as they had been in line without rest for 19 days to let them wait at HARIKO until 11th or 12th. Men tired and feet very bad owing to constant wet.	
<u>en route to SOPUTA</u>		1300	H.Q. party (5 Offs. 26 O/Rs.) moved out to SOPUTA via HARIKO and SENEMI.	<u>Map referred to</u>
			While on route between HARIKO and SINEMI a formation of 12 enemy bombers and 9 fighters passed over. No bombing heard or observed.	<u>until 24 Dec 42.</u>
<u>SENEMI.</u>		1700	Arrived SENEMI - decided to halt here for night owing to trying march over corduroy Jap track through kunai grass and condition of men.	<u>'BUNA' 2nd Edition</u> <u>Provisional</u> <u>1" = 1 m.</u>
			Day hot and fine - Night very wet - began to rain at 1900 and continued for hours.	
<u>en route to SOPUTA.</u>	11 Dec 42	0800	Moved out in heavy rain - passed WARISOTA - turned N.W. to ANGO which was reached about 1000. Met here by guides sent over by 7 Div from remnants of A & D patrols who were with 7 Div. H.Q.	
			Met en route by L.O. from Adv. H.Q., N.G.F. who wanted information re possibility of using M.3. Light Tanks in Cape ENDAIADERE area and near NEW STRIP. Gave details and said that with care it was possible.	
				<u>Lib</u>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 1210 - 11 Dec To 13 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>SOPUTA.</u>	<u>11 Dec 42</u>	<u>1210</u>	Reached GIRUA RIVER opposite SOPUTA, waded across and moved to camp site on Rd SOPUTA - SANANANDA.	
			Reported to H.Q. 7 Div. Coy to concentrate SOPUTA for use if required. H.Q. very disappointed at small strength - informed them that a few more would be arriving.	
			Wet morning - fine afternoon - very wet night - thunderstorm and torrential rain.	
	<u>12 Dec 42</u>		Clearing up - obtaining fresh clothes from Ordnance dump and going over weapons.	
			32 U.S. Div. say they will move Rear H.Q. to ANGO as soon as possible.	
			Fine day - dry night.	
	<u>13 Dec 42</u>		Fine day. Camp improved - men rested.	
			32 U.S. Div. say Rear H.Q. will arrive BARIKO night 13/14.	
			7 Div. H.Q. informed us that Lieut. WINKLE and 16 O/Rs (remnants of 'A' and 'D' patrols) were attached to 21 Aust. Inf. Bde for patrol duty.	
			6 O/Rs from above patrols marched into camp from 7 Div. H.Q. camp.	
			Fine day and night.	<i>Li.</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 14 Dec To 16 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>SOPUTA.</u>	14 Dec 42		Resting in camp, refitting, etc.	
			C.O. to 7 Div.: G.O.C. stated that if Coy. increased in strength sufficiently he would employ it - otherwise it may move back to base to refit and re-organize.	
		1500	7 Div. asked for a party to move to A.A.O.C. and A.A.S.C. DUMP at JUMBORA as guard against Japanese marauding parties who were about AMBOGA RIVER area to the N.W. Lieut. TREGARTHEN and 18 O/Rs. moved out. Instructions given to patrol towards AMBOGA and to N.W.	
			Fine day - dry night.	
	15 Dec 42.	0800	Lieut. SOUTHWOOD to HARIKO to contact Capt. KING and Rear H.Q. and go through stores to decide what should be brought on. Instructed to hand in to Ordnance all usual issue equipment, uniform, etc. and only to bring records, personal property from men's packs and special equipment.	
		0830	C.O. to ADV. H.Q., N.G.F., POPONDETTA to carry out recce for tank route from IONONDA to SOPUTA (POPONDETTA second Ed. Prov. 1" to 1 mile).	
		1800	Lieut. SOUTHWARD on 'phone to say that Capt. ROSE-BRAY and 28 O/Rs had left HARIKO that day en route to SOPUTA.	
			Fine day - very wet night.	
	16 Dec 42.		C.O. still out on recce.	
			Lieut. MOOREHEAD and 8 O/Rs moved to JUMBORA.	

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 16 Dec 42. To 18 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>SOPUTA</u>	16 Dec 42.	1400	C.O. returns from Tank recce.	
		1500	Capt. ROSE-BRAY and 18 O/Rs marched in. 10 O/Rs had to be sent to hospital at DOBADURA en route.	
		1600	Cpl. WYATT and 2 Ptes. marched in from KAMBESI (Strat Sheet via KOKODA. These men were members of 'A' Patrol who had been left at KAMBESI sick when 'A' Patrol left for KOKODA.	
			Very wet day - dry night.	
	17 Dec 42.		Capt. ROSE-BRAY's party being re-equipped and refitted.	
			Sgt. PICKERING and 4 O/Rs marched in from Lieut. WINKLE's Patrol with 21 Aust. Inf. Bde. Cpl. GIBBONS, one of the party brought news of the probable death of Ptes. HUNTER and MARR while on patrol on 13th Dec.	
			7 Div. asked to assist in getting Rear H.Q. and stores over from ORO BAY. Said they could not spare carriers. Stores would probably have to be dumped and salvaged later.	
			Fine day.	
	18 Dec 42.		7 Div. asked for party of 1 N.C.O. and 8 men to look after P.O.W. cage. Prisoners expected from operations at road block at SANANANDA R oad.	
			ROSE-BRAY with 11 O/Rs. moved to JUMBORA.	

Di

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 18 Dec To 21 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>SOPUTA.</u>	18 Dec 42		No news of task for Coy. Asked 7 Div. if we could go out round Japs N.W. of AMBOGU but permission not given.	
			Sign. HILL sent to HARIKO with message for Capt. KING. Left 0730 hrs. and returned 1835 hrs. with reply. An excellent effort.	
	19 Dec 42		Party of 1 N.C.O. and 5 O/Rs posted 7 Div. H.Q. as G.O.C's guard.	
			General camp routine.	
	20 Dec 42		Visited JUMBORA. Patrols had searched area N. of AMBOGU and N.W. of JUMBORA. No enemy seen.	
			Lieut. SOUTHWOOD returned from HARIKO. No further developments re' move of Rear H.Q. and stores. Gear at HARIKO being sorted and some made ready to hand in to Ordnance Dump.	
	21 Dec 42	0800	'Phone message from 7 Div. H.Q. to ask if we could send a patrol behind Jap lines to attempt to blow up stores dumps or guns or do other damage.	
			Called Lieut. TREGARTHEN and 20 others in from JUMBORA.	
			Obtained demolition stores, etc. from 6 R.E. 7 Div. Guncotton, some '808', Cordtex, safety fuse and detonators available. Obtained air photos from 'G', 7 Div. Lieut. MOOREHEAD and sappers made up portable charges.	
				<i>LI.</i>

WAR DIARY ~~or~~ INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 21 Dec To 23 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>SOPUTA.</u>	21 Dec 42		C.O. and TREGARTHEN moved up to 30 Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. to arrange detail passwords. Patrol to leave first light 22nd. Proposed personnel:	
			Maj. HARCOURT, Lieut. TREGARTHEN, Lieut. P.C. BENNETT (Sig. Sect. with W/T set), Lieut. E. MOOREHEAD (Eng. Sect.), 17 G/Rs, 2 Signalmen, 2 Sappers, 1 A.A. M.C. Sgt.	
			Later 7 Div. instructed Maj. HARCOURT that he could not accompany patrol.	
	22 Dec 42	0600	Patrol moved off.	
			No particular activity during day.	
		1800	Phone message from C apt. KING at HARIKO to say that he had received orders from Adv. H.Q., N.G.F. to embark with essential equipment on a boat at HARIKO for PORT MORESBY. Expected to leave night 22/23 and arrive P.M. about 27.	
			Fine day - wet night.	
	23 Dec 42		Orders from 7 Div. for details of Coy. to move to POPONDETTA AIRSTRIP for movement to PORT MORESBY.	
			Visited JUMBORA and arranged for party there to move 1st light 24th.	
			Details at SOPUTA to move 0730.	
				<i>LS</i>

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 23 Dec To 24 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>SOPUTA.</u>	23 Dec 42	1700	Sgt. PICKERING and 1 O/R returned from TREGARTHEN's patrol with 2 natives captured behind Jap. lines. Sent them to 7 Div. for investigation. Patrol behind enemy lines at approx. 2227. on night 22/23. Very wet conditions. Water everywhere. In places over 3' deep and appeared to run right to edge of Rd. SOPUTA - SANANANDA. Heavy bush or kunai grass patches. Native prisoners stated (unconfirmed) that Japs were short of food and shells for their guns.	
			Find day - light rain and overcast night.	
<u>POPONDETTA</u>	24 Dec 42	0730	Moved to POPONDETTA AIRSTRIP - arrived 1130 hrs. ROSE-BRAY's party following.	
		1400	Party moved in planes to WARD's DROME and on arrival were taken by road to camp at DONADABU. 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. Stores re-equipped party with clean clothes and all washed, fed and bedded down. Thoroughly enjoyed a good meal and bread - first for nearly three months.	
<u>DONADABU</u>				
<u>Port Moresby Area</u>				
			During day orders had been sent by H.Q., N.G.F. for party of 2 N.C.Os and 6 men to report to H.Q., N.G.F. for special patrol. Party to be ready for month's work.	
			Sgt. TWOHILL from Rear Details (men ex hospital who were camped near DONADABU) and 7 others selected, equipped and sent to N.G.F.	
			On way to DONADABU C.O. called in to see Rear Details (men ex hospital) and 2 Officers (Lieuts. G.W. THOM and J. GLENN) and 52 O/Rs, re-inforcements recently arrived from AUSTRALIA.	<i>Lib</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 25 Dec To 28 Dec 42

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>DONUDABU</u>	25 Dec 42		Christmas Day. Letter and parcel mail delivered. Some parcels nearly 4 months old and very broken, or pilfered - but all pleased to get a parcel mail.	
			Good dinner - hamper, and bottle beer to each man most appreciated.	
	26 Dec 42		Rest day. <u>TREKARHANI patrol. returned.</u> C.O. to N.G.F. to ask for orders and about TWOHILL's patrol.	
			i. The Coy. is to rest at DONADABU.	
			Strength only <u>7 off. 64 ORs. plus 29.</u> Rear Details, plus 2 & <u>52</u> Reinforcements. <u>48</u>	
			ii. TWOHILL's patrol is to move into MADANG AREA by air to BENA-BENA and report to D.O. there. Task is to arrest pro-German or Pro-Japanese missionaries. Patrol will be away at least a month. Suggestion that as a med. corporal be included approved. Cpl. RICHARDS sent to join TWOHILL as Med. Cpl. Called on Records and Graves Registration to clear up details of casualties and evacuations.	
	27 Dec 42		Rest and cleaning.	
	28 Dec 42		Lieut. WINKLE of 'A' Patrol asked to prepare short report of 'A' Patrol's movements.	<u>Appx A</u>
			Cpl. KIMBER & Sign. McINTOSH of 'D' Patrol asked to prepare report on 'D' Patrols movements after last report from Lieut. NICHOLS and after him becoming MISSING.	<u>Appx B & C respectively</u> <u>Lh.</u>

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 28 Dec To 31 Dec 42:

216 Aust. Ind. Coy.

[illegible]

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 9 Dec To 10 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>REAR HQ</u> (entered by Capt. G.G. KING, 2i/c.)	
<u>PONGANI</u>	9 Dec 42		Instructions given for Rear H.Q. to be moved fwd. from PONGANI as soon as possible.	
		0930	Contacted G4, 32 U.S. Div. by 'phone. He arranged for the move to take place as soon as shipping was available.	
			Rear H.Q. warned to be ready to move 10 Dec.	
		1400	Left Adv. H.Q. for ORO BAY by trail.	
<u>EMBOGU</u>		1830	Arrived EMBOGU.	
			Found Sig. McKENZIE and LEES there. They had been left in charge of wireless equipment which they had been unable to get fwd.	
<u>ORO BAY.</u>	10 Dec 42	0830	Left EMBOGU for ORO BAY.	
		0945	Arrived ORO BAY. Contacted Q.M. 32 U.S. Div. Arranged for a small ship to pick up personnel and stores at EMBOGU night 10/11 Dec. and to then go down to PONGANI to pick up Rear H.Q. and move them to ORO BAY.	
		1930	Ship picked up personnel at EMBOGU but owing to bad weather was unable to reach PONGANI. Returned to ORO BAY. <i>all</i>	
		2030	Ship arrived at PONGANI - loading commenced. Loading continued until 0230 when further loading became impossible. Hindered by lack of canoes and a strong breeze from the sea. <i>all</i>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 11 Dec To 14 Dec 42

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>ORO BAY</u>	<u>11 Dec 42</u>	1630	Returned with some stores and personnel to ORO BAY.	
		1630	Message received by Rear H.Q. "Coy moving to SOPUTA attached to 7 Aust. Div.	
		1930	Ship left ORO BAY 1930 hrs. for PONGANI but owing to rough weather was unable to enter the channel. Returned to EMO.	
	<u>12 Dec 42</u>		Spent the day at EMO and at 1900 hrs. left for PONGANI.	
		2000	Loading commenced 2000 hrs using a new double canoe and proceeded quickly.	
	<u>13 Dec 42</u>	0500	Remainder of personnel and stores arrived ORO BAY.	
		1930	Capt. ROSE-BRAY and 9 O/Rs left for HARIKO. Unable to move stores owing to a breakdown in the American supply system. Throughout the move these unnecessary breakdowns occurred, causing considerable trouble and loss of time.	
	<u>14 Dec 42</u>		Capt. ROSE-BRAY instructed to find out where the Coy. had gone and what stores they required.	
		1600	Telephone message from ROSE-BRAY "Coy arrived moved to SOPUTA. Only very limited quantity of stores required including personal gear and wireless equipment."	
			Commenced sorting stores into those required and not required. Arrangements made for remainder of stores to be H.O. to III F.O.D. at ORO BAY.	
			Message from 32 U.S. Div. to Rear H.Q. "Stores would be moved night 14/15 Dec." However, this was not done.	

Del

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 15 Dec To 20 Dec 42.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>ORO BAY</u>	<u>15 Dec 42</u>		No ships available to move stores to HARIKO.	
	<u>16</u>		Capt. KING went fwd. to HARIKO and contacted Lieut. SOUTHWARD. He had come over from SOPUTA to find out where Rear H.Q. was.	
			32 U.S. Div. unable to move stores fwd. night 15/16 Dec. No carriers available for some time to carry stores from HARIKO to ANGO.	
			Capt KING returned to ORO BAY the same night.	
	<u>17 Dec 42</u>	<u>1630</u>	Stores loaded at PONGANI and those not required handed over to III F.O.D.	
		<u>1930</u>	Ship left for HARIKO and arrived 2230.	
	<u>18 Dec 42</u>		Contacted 32 U.S. Div. to obtain carriers to move stores to ANGO. Informed that no carriers would be available for some time. Then contacted 7 Div. who agreed to send carriers to HARIKO to bring stores fwd.	
		<u>1900</u>	Capt. KING returned to ORO BAY to arrange for the move fwd. of some personal gear.	
	<u>19 Dec 42</u>		Remainder of personal gear moved fwd to HARIKO.	
	<u>20 Dec 42</u>		SOUTHWARD left for SOPUTA.	
		<u>1000</u>	Contacted 7 Div. Unable to provide tpt for stores from HARIKO. Then contacted N.G.F. They were also unable to provide tpt.	

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Date and Time.—From 21 Dec To 26 Dec 42

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>ORO BAY</u>	21 Dec 42		Contacted 32 U.S. Div. No carriers were available as they were busy moving wounded to DOBADURA.	
	22 Dec 42		Received orders to take stores to MORESBY by sea. Remainder of Coy. to be flown over.	
			Asked if arrangements had been made for ships to take stores round and was told to make enquire my own arrangements.	
		2230	Loaded stores on lugger at HARIKO for ORO BAY.	
	23 Dec 42	0600	Arrived ORO BAY. No ship leaving for MILNE BAY until night 24 Dec.	
	24 Dec 42	1700	Loading of stores completed.	
		2300	Ship left.	
	25 Dec 42		At sea.	
	26 Dec 42	1100	Arrived MILNE BAY.	
			Went ashore and found that no one had been informed of our arrival.	
			No. 1 ^{No. 1} Contacted No. 1 ^{No. 1} and found that the ship was going to TOWNSVILLE - not MORESBY.	
		1600	Eventually contacted D.A.Q.M.G., MILNE FORCE and arranged to have stores unloaded; after much trouble and unloading completed 2130 hrs.	<i>Ch</i>

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/6 Aust. Ind. Corp.

Date and Time.—From 27 Dec To 31 Dec

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

[illegible]

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.
Hq's 128 Inf

Field Order (For Opns 5 Dec. 42)

No. _____

APPX 'AA'
Vol VI War Diary
Dec '42
Dec 4, 1942

Map: Buna Tgt Plan, No 24.

1 inch equals 450 yds

1. a. The Known Jap strong points are as shown on overlay.

& Our aviation, and the arty located at Dobudura are available to this C.T.

2. This C.T. in conjunction with our aviation, and the Dobudura arty, attack tomorrow A.M. Dec. 5, 1942 and will capture initial and final objectives as shown on overlay.

Time of bombing by Air Force: 0800 L by 3d

Time of attack: See overlay.

Line of Departure: Positions now held by 3d Bn, 128 & 1st Bn, 126.

Zone of responsibility: See overlay.

3d Bn, 128 on the right.

3. a. Our aviation will make one bombing run across enemy position from S.W. to N.E. as shown on overlay starting at 0800 L hrs.

& Our arty will fire concentrations as shown on overlay, starting at 0830 L

Concentration No's:

1- 0830 to 0840 hrs

2- 0842 to 0852 hrs

} 3.7 Missions

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

II

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 3. 0830 to 0850 hrs | } | 25 th Missions |
| 4. 0852 to 0902 " | | |
| 5. 0830 to 0850 " | } | Dobudura |
| 6. 0830 to 0850 " | | |
| 7. 0852 to 0907 | } | Arty Missions |

Thereafter they will fire controlled fires on targets of opportunity.

C. 3d Bn 128, with Bren Carrier Group attached will attack on a front of 300 yards, capture North Portion of initial objective and continue attack to final objective, upon capture of final objective, Bren carriers revert to Regt/ control.

Line of Departure: Positions now occupied,
Direction of attack: See overlay.

Time of attack: 0840 L hrs.

D. The 1st Bn 128, less Co C, echeloned to left rear of 3d Bn. Will attack and capture center portion of initial objective, then continue attack to position indicated on final objective (See overlay) it will pay particular attention to SE corner of woods to their left front.

Line of Departure: See overlay

Direction of attack: See overlay

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

III

Time of attack; 0850 L hrs

e. First Bn, 126, from positions now occupied will attack and capture southern part of initial objective, then continue attack and capture and hold southern half of final objective, (see overlay)

Line of Departure: Positions now occupied.

Direction of attack: See overlay

Time of attack: 0850 hrs

f. 2/6 Ind Co (Aust) will maintain contact between 1st Bn, 128 and 1st Bn, 126, by small patrols.

g. 25# Btry and 3.7 guns will fire in conjunction with Dobudura arty in accordance with preceding schedule.

h. Co C 1st Bn, 128, will be held in readiness in vicinity of 1st Bn present CP. They will constitute Regt'l Reserve Co.

x Units will maintain contact from left to right. Bren carriers will be given closest possible support and protection from snipers and grenades.

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

V

4 a. All Units will carry two days rations either
C or D

b. Ammu. Dist point (See Overlay)

Route for Ammu. advance coastal trail to
Coconut Grove

c. Regtl. aid Station (See Overlay)

5. a. Communications by T.P. will be kept well
forward with assault Units

Line of Communication (See Overlay)

C.P.s

Regtl. - See Overlay

Bns. To be reported

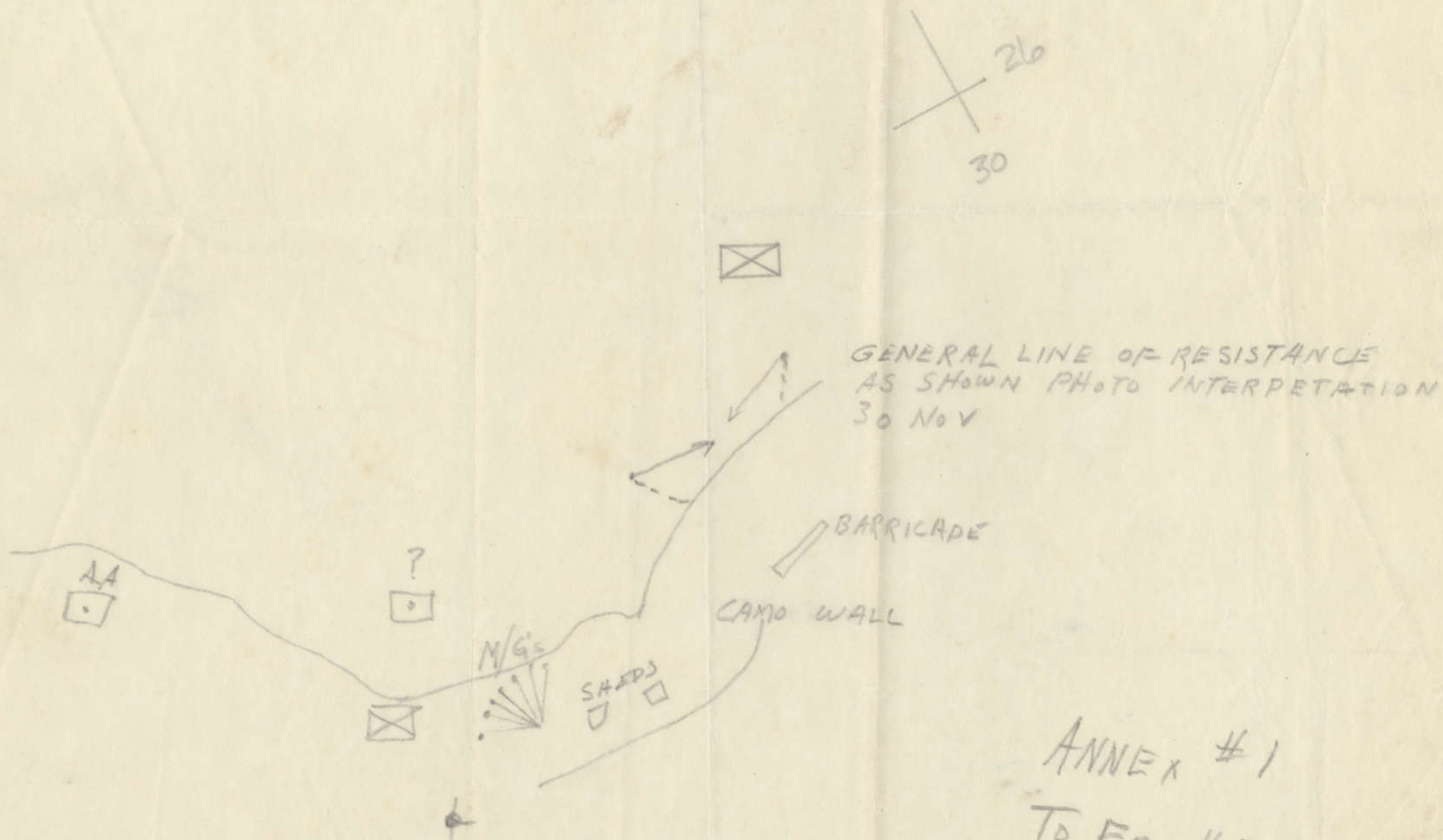
By Order of

Col Martin

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

SECRET ~~AA~~ ~~AA~~
ENEMY INFORMATION
TO 1400L 4 DEC

BUN A TARGET
PLAN No. N.24



ANNEX #1
TO FO. #2

2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

Appa AA

SECRET
A.A. 11/11/44
ENEMY INFORMATION
TO HQ 4 DEC

PLAN A TARGET
PLAN No. 124

30
5/2



GENERAL LINE OF RESISTANCE
AS SHOWN PHOTO INTERVIEW
30 No. 1

BARRICADE

CAMP WALL

2422
2423



?

AA

ANNEX #1

TO FO #5

216 Aust Ind. Coy.

AA 11/11/44

GENERAL REPORT VOL VI WAR DIARY, DECEMBER, 1942.

The month opened with the Coy. holding about 1000 yds. of front across the NEW STRIP and linking up the two flanks of the U.S. TASK FORCE. The number of men available for fwd. duty varied between 35 and 47 and with the active patrolling carried out this put a great strain on them.

Excellent work was done by the patrols and the two men who undertook O.P. duty. The daily logs sent back for forwarding to TASK FORCE H.Q. were most valuable.

Sniper hunting and active patrolling was carried on and apart was taken in each of the attacks made by the U.S. Inf. It was noticed that the drive put into these attacks was gradually improving as the Inf. gained in battle experience and their leaders acquired confidence. Advantage was frequently lost through the attacks not following quickly enough upon the lifting of our air bombing or arty fire and our patrols frequently found themselves out in front on their own, having been taught to follow in immediately our arty fire lifted. On one occasion one of the patrols could have occupied an enemy strong post (E7 on 9 Dec.) had their orders NOT been specific that their task was to protect the RIGHT flank and rear of this post so as to cover the occupation of it by the Inf. - which, however, did not happen.

On the 10 Dec. the Coy. was withdrawn from this area and moved over to come under comd. 7 Div. at SOPUTA. The low strength of the Coy. did not allow it to be used for any active work on a wide scale and guard duties with a few short patrols were carried out.

On 22 Dec. a patrol moved fwd. past the road block on the Road SOPUTA - SANANANDA and endeavoured to get behind the enemy's fwd. lines to blow up dumps, stores or guns, but owing to the swamped conditions it did not achieve any success.

On 24 Dec. the Coy. moved to POPONDETTA and from there moved by air to PORT MORESBY and thence to a rest camp at DONADABU where a very enjoyable wash, clean up, feed and rest marked Christmas Day.

The remnants of 'A' and 'D' Patrols rejoined the Company and submitted reports of their activities since last contact with the Company.

The Units in camp were thrilled to hear that they were to proceed to AUSTRALIA for re-organising, and leave.

9 Jan 43



Major
O.C. 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy.

REPORT OF 'A' PATROL BY OI/c, LIEUT. WINKLE of 'C' PLATOON.

- Sep 20. Lieut. WINKLE, 5 O/Rs and 3 Sigs. left on patrol to recon track across WHARTON RANGE to FOFOIA (Q) C2825. Loaned two police (one speaking a little English and Motu and one speaking Motu and Fuyigi - language of local tribes) by D.O., Capt. THOMPSON. Police boys to act as guides and assist in controlling carriers. 20 mountain boys, European rations for 10 days taken. Intend to buy food for carriers from villages en route. Will trade with salt. Carrying two 208 wireless sets as it may be necessary to set up an intermediate station.
- Sep 20-24. Track difficult - extremely steep climbing on either side of range through stunted scrub. Trees covered with dank mossy growths. Large expanse of flat marshy country on top also areas of stunted scrub. Track ill-defined and overgrown in portions - not considered suitable for troop movement. Natives proved invaluable in indicating camp sites with available water.
- Sep 25. Reached FOFOIA - larger village than most in this area. Camped in empty native hut as heavy rain started early before tents could be pitched. Myriads of fleas made sleep impossible. It rains regularly each afternoon in WHARTON RANGE area. Received signal today to return to base at KAMBISI (approx. (Q) B. 9922) as soon as possible.
- Sep 26-30. Returned via IONGAI (Q) C 2734 and KLAPA to KAMBISI track well-defined - much steep climbing but easier going from KLAPA to KAMBISI a graded bridle path made by Fathers of ONONGE MISSION. All of patrol showing effects of strenuous climbing in area covered, plus the trip from KANOSIA to ONONGE.
- Sep 30. Capt. COONAN has returned to MORESEBY. Assumed command of patrol (Sgt. PICKERING temporarily in charge of base). Base is on same site as spotting station manned by A.N.G.A.U. personnel. Men comfortably established in native type huts. Food supply is low as second relay of carriers from KANOSIA with further rations are overdue.
- Oct 2. Signalled to 7 Div. asking for food to be dropped at ONONGE. Also sent police boy to locate carriers from KANOSIA. Necessary to kill a pig today to supplement rations. Will pay the owner £1 when he lodges his complaint. This is not conducive to good relations with the natives but we must eat and they will not sell a pig.
- Oct 3. Food dropped by plane but large percentage damaged or unable to be found. Dropping was done over a large area.
- Oct 5. Signal from 7 Div. to send patrol to KOKODA area to observe enemy L. of C., disposition of troops, defence of drome and whether enemy preparing for offence or defence.
- Oct 6. In bed with malaria so sent Cpl. WYATT in charge of 5 O/Rs and 3 sigs with instructions to establish a fwd base near YODDA and patrol from there. Only enough rations on hand to give WYATT 12 days' supply. Lieut. DESHON A.D.O. (A.N.G.A.U.) expected soon with further supplies for us from KANOSIA. Will have to send out ration party to WYATT when these arrive. Patrol is being constantly hindered by lack of rations on hand.
- /over

- Oct 10. Lieut. DESHON arrived with 2 days rations only - states there is nothing further for us at KANOSIA. It seems the chain of carriers supposed to arrive here at end of SEPTEMBER have "gone bush" with our stores. Have had to shoot another pig to supplement rations. Also signalled for further plane dropping. WYATT's rations will be very low by the time I can get more to him.
- Oct 14. 3 RAAF planes dropped rations. Percentage of loss very low due to care taken in dropping.
- Oct 16-22. WINKLE, 1 O/R, Sig. Sgt. and 1 Sig. moved out with further rations for fwd. base. Sigs. brought a spare 208. Left them at intermediate station KLAPA to place the 208 as a second intermediate stn. This should obviate poor communication existing at present. (see sig. report on this). Moved on with Pte. FRAZER to fwd. base. Had been out of rations for 2 days and living on sweet potatoes from nearby garden.
- From time of his arrival to now WYATT has patrolled YODDA area. Reports that it is clear of Japs and YODDA buildings have been strafed. Foot prints along YODDA - KOKODA track and evidence of their visits to gardens here indicate that patrols are still moving in this area.
- Oct 24-26. WINKLE, Cpl. WYATT and 1 O/R moved out on patrol to KOKODA. Basing plan on information that it was 6 hrs. walk from YODDA to KOKODA. Was intention to walk for 5 hrs. under cover of darkness on night of 24, lie doggo for night and approach through jungle to KOKODA on morning of 25. 4 hours walk brought us across a swing bridge and upon climbing up formed stairway leading up to a small plateau. Observed Japs seated round a camp fire just over the brow of the hill (later learnt that posn. we had moved into was KOKODA). There was a complete absence of guards or sentries. From here moved back across swing bridge and into low scrub where we slept for night. Mosquitoes, sandflies and rain made for an uncomfortable night. Moved at dawn on morning of 25th to gain advantage of fog. Intention was to move through jungle between KOKODA and OWEN STANLEYS and approach from that angle. Crossed what later proved to be the air strip but no sign of it being used as was covered with grass two to three feet high. Crossed number of ridges and small streams finally came to a cleared track running along a ridge - encountered a patrol moving along this track but avoided them by moving into the scrub and lying "doggo". Shortly after this heard intermittent small arms and mortar fire quite close. Continued in general direction stated above. Fired at from post on ridge with cleared track along ridge similar to one previously mentioned. Apparently used by patrols from posns along ridges or for fixed line firing. Came to conclusion that we were moving amongst front line of Japs towards OWEN STANLEYS so decided to withdraw. Moved back to fringe of clearing near air strip and waited here for darkness before crossing the clearing. Moved into YODDA reaching there approx. midnight 25-26. Slept here and moved into fwd. base on morning of 26.
- Oct 27. 4 of men sick - 2 with tropical ulcers other 2 fever probably. Sent them back to rear base for attention. 5 left here at fwd base - WINKLE, Cpl. WYATT, 1 O/R, and 2 Sigs.

/over

- Oct 28. All batteries for 208 flat. Sig. WALK sent back to Int. Stn. for fresh batteries. Short patrols to YODDA have been maintained.
- Oct 30. Fwd. base attacked by Jap patrol about 1400 hrs. Cpl. WYATT and Lieut. WINKLE sniped at. When we moved into timber to take cover (pre-arranged plan for such an event) large patrol heard closing in from other side of camp in semi-circle so withdrew. Had to abandon equipment etc. as had only stood to with weapons. Hopeful that documents will not be found as have made a practice of concealing them in my hut.
- Nov 2. Met ration party at BURI - very welcome as we had had no food since chased out of fwd. base. Also borrowed some clothes from party as I had only towel wrapped around me. Clothes were drying at time of Jap attack.
- Nov 3. Reached Int. Station.
- Nov 4. Received message from 7 Div. to report to Adv. H.Q. 7 Aust. Div. KOKODA.
- Nov 6. Left for KOKODA with fwd. elements of patrol. Sent signal to rear base KAMBISI to follow on and report to me at KOKODA.
- Nov. 9. Arrived KOKODA with fwd. party. Quartered at Transit Camp with instructions to rest and re-equip here and rejoin Adv. H.Q. when re-equipped. Have sent message to Capt. Coonan re' our stores.
- Nov. 14. Admitted to KOKODA M.D.S. with malaria.
- Nov. 24. Rear base party arrived KOKODA under Sgt. PICKERING less 5 sick at ONONGE under Cpl. WYATT.
- Nov. 26. Instructed by Station Command, KOKODA to send patrol fwd. to 7 Div. Placed Sgt. PICKERING in charge of 25 and they left for 7 Div. H.Q. ~~That patrol had been fired on by enemy H.Q.~~
- Dec. 6. Rejoined patrol at SOPUTA. Remnants of "D" Patrol there also. Took over command of remains of A & D patrols from Sgt. PICKERING. Large percentage evacuated with malaria.
- Party guarding Divisional Commander (General Vasey) and manning air spotting post.
- Dec. 10. Instructed by 7 Div. to report with fit men to 21 Bde. Moved with 15 men. Two of remaining men sent to guide Coy. to SOPUTA. Sick left at SOPUTA under Cpl. NORTON.
- Dec. 12. Instructed by 21 Bde to recce area WEST of AMBOGA and observe beach track in this area for L. of C.
- Dec. 13. Set up base WEST of AMBOGA. Sent patrol under L/Cpl. DOWLING on recce to mouth of AMBOGA. Rest of patrol to move further WESTWARD. 1 Sig, 1 O/R returned sick.
- Dec. 14. DOWLING's patrol overdue. Moved over area he was working in to investigate. Guided by native and shown posn. of pocket of enemy - also posn. of sentries posted. On return to base GIBBONS, a member of DOWLING's patrol had returned.

/over

He reported that patrol had been fired on by enemy m.g. post. HUNTER believe killed. Remainder scattered into bush.

- Dec. 15. Returned to 39 Bn. posn. Sent 2 sigs., 2 O/Rs back to Bde. sick.
- Dec. 16-17. WINKLE and 1 O/R returned to area WEST of AMBOGA to observe beach for L. of C. No L. of C. activity observed. Party observed returning to AMBOGA mouth area with native food. Tracks of other parties seen leading to gardens. DOWLING contacted at previous base wounded. Sent back with natives.
- Dec. 18. Returned to Bde.
- Dec. 21. Warned to take a 2/14 Bn. patrol of 8 men WEST of AMBOGA. Patrol cancelled due to Bde movement. Placed under command of Colonel CHALLON.
- Dec. 22. Rejoined Coy. at JUMBURA. My section all either in hospital or absorbed on Coy. patrols.

SHORT REPORT BY CPL. D. KIMBER OF MOVEMENTS OF 'D' PATROL
AFTER LIEUT. W. NICHOLS WAS REPORTED "MISSING" (Lieut. Nichols
O/c 'D' Patrol).

- - - - -

Before Mr. Nichols returned from assisting 2/14 Bn., 'D' Patrol was recalled to MORESBY 5 Oct. 42. We moved back carrying all our gear on back. Word was sent out to Cpl. WESTBROOK, who was with Pte. FOSTER on patrol EFOGI track. We rafted down KEMP WELCH RIVER from village SAROMI on log rafts. I was handed a message about 3 hrs. walking time from GOVT. PLANTATION by Sig. O'BRIEN, who with Stan WRIGHT were moving back with 208 set to contact Mr. NICHOLS. The message said, "Rest at Plantation a day and return with 5 fittest men". I did and met Lieut. ROSSA, Cpl. WESTBROOK, Pte. AULT coming back. We were at ARAPARA when we met, 16 Oct. They told me Mr. NICHOLS had decided that he, Sig. MacINTOSH and Pte. FOSTER were sufficient for the OIVI Patrol and I was to return.

We all returned to GOVT. PLANTATION. Three days later 7th Div. ordered the patrol to contact Mr. NICHOLS at BURUMBILA. After having the men's health checked by U.S.A. Doctor and arranging for rations, etc. patrol, consisting of 14 men, moved out 20th Oct., remainder being unfit. On arrival at LARUNI 27th Oct. sent message to H.Q. 7 Div. giving our position.

Taking 3 days' rations we moved over the range following our old track to JAURE. Sig. O'BRIEN had left and we were concerned about this, as although we had been trying to contact Mr. NICHOLS by radio we had been unsuccessful. Meantime the patrol was ordered to contact 7th Div. at KOKODA. I decided to follow Mr. NICHOLS tracks and went on to BURUMBILA 8th Nov. Contacted 7 Div. H.Q. and asked for batteries to be dropped. They dropped a flat battery. U.S.A. here told me MacINTOSH and Sig. O'BRIEN were working for them around ASSISI. I sent for information.

As MacINTOSH had lost radio I was told a runner would have to be used. I sent one but got very little information back. H.Q. 7 Div. told me to concentrate at BURUMBILA and move when the situation permitted. A message was picked up saying Aust. troops were fighting in the ILLIMOR AREA and to tighten belts and push on. I decided to move towards ~~WABEP~~ WAIROPE.

When crossing a creek 3 hrs. march from WAMBULA the patrol was halted by two U.S.A. men who said Capt. MEDENDORF and 126 Inf. approx. 80 men, were retiring after a few skirmishes with Japs near SIORATA and ASSISI and he ordered no one to move up the trail.

We returned to WUMBULA and later in the evening Capt. MEDENDORF with his troops arrived, all tired and telling various tales. From these stories I deduced that they did not know how many Japs there were and where they were. Capt. MEDENDORF asked me to send a patrol forward to where he had left Lieut. FENTON, U.S.A. and a few men.

I, with Ptes SUBLET, AULT, ORR and LANE reached FENTON after 4 hrs. march. The remainder of the patrol I left in charge of L/Cpl. MILLER who with the rest were suffering from malaria and dysentery and were with the main body of Yanks. We were now camped just out from SIORATA 1 hr. I noticed that the natives in this area were not the usual type I met before on this track but seemed to be cunning and were thieves. Also they had been, as I proved later, bringing back to the Yanks false information and grossly exaggerated.

While we were there they said the Japs were at WAIROPE and although when I went forward the next day into WAIROPE our troops had passed through.

Contacted H.Q. 7 Div. here and found 7 Div. was at POPENDETTA.

Nov. 18 approx. moved towards POPENDETTA. On the way noticed a few Jap footprints crossing the road. Evidently stragglers. Saw planes dropping food in the distance and located the rations 2 hrs. from AMBOGO CROSSING. Here we camped the night, with the rear party of 25 Bn. (not certain re' 25th). They were out of rations and I reported to the C.O. the position and location of dropped rations. Next day, Nov. 20th. approx. reached POPENDETTA and reported into 7 Div. H.Q. Reached SOPUTA next day with 7 Div. H.Q.

Nov. 22 approx. sent out to contact Yanks and to find out disposition of U.S.A. troops. Contacted them at DOBADURA. Delivered message by phone to 32 Div. Also reported where 7 Div. could connect land line to form liaison between 7th Div. & U.S.A. Forces. Returned Nov. 24th approx. to H.Q. 7 Div., SOPUTA.

The remainder of 'D' Patrol had arrived at SOPUTA and reported into 7 Div. H.Q. under L/Cpl. MILLER, with Cpl. GODLEY, Cpl. ATHERTON, Sig. MacINTOSH, Pte. GORDON, TAYLOR, BARNES, the total now being 12 men in all. Pte PULLYN, who was sick at WAIROPE came in next day approx. 25 Nov. Total 13 men who were Cpl. KIMBER, Cpl. GODLEY, Cpl. ATHERTON, L/Cpl. MILLER, Ptes. PULLYN, SUBLET, GORDON, BARNES, LANE, AULT, ORR, Sig. MacINTOSH, Sig. O'BRIEN.

We did guard duty at 7th Div. H.Q. On the 27th Nov. Major. SUBLET wanted a patrol of 7 men. As the Sigs. were then working with 7 Div. Sigs. and myself SUBLET and PULLYN not fit, L/Cpl. MILLER, Pte. AULT, ORR, TAYLOR, LANE, BARNES and GORDON made the party. Object of patrol to blaze a trail through from JUMBORA to EAST of SANANANDA. The patrol left SOPUTA 27 Nov. approx. and passing through JUMBORA made 25th Bn. Adv. H.Q. in 5 hrs. Camped night whilst MAJOR SUBLET made enquiries regarding track to make.

Left. H.Q. 25 Bn. 0700 hrs. and proceeded to starting point on edge of very thick jungle. Hacked way through for 1½ hrs. and came to conclusion it was worthless. Returned to grass strip working on a compass bearing and after 3 hrs walk we came upon an old garden which had recently been cleaned out by Japs. Proceeded further 2 hrs. and came on wide strip of water - probably backwater from sea. Major SUBLET decided to camp the night. L/Cpl. MILLER and Pte. AULT swam water to other side and encountered swampy jungle and deep water. Reported it to the Major. All crossed the river and tried to get through. No good. Returned to river and followed up it and found 3 RABAU boys deserters from Japs. Took them back to the Major who gained information. We also located 117 more and returned to SOPUTA 1st Dec. approx.

Kimber, Miller, Barnes, O'Brien, Orr, Ault, Lane, MacIntosh, Pullyn, were put in M.D.S. on 5th Dec. and evacuated to base 6 Dec. Also Cpl. Godley and myself returned to SOPUTA from A.D.S. POPENDETTA and the others went by plane back to Hospital. On arrival back Mr. WINKLE had arrived and gone out towards GONA. SUBLET and THOMPSON had been sent to contact 6 Ind. Coy. coming over. I reported to 2/6 Aust. Ind. Coy H.Q. on SANANANDA trail and worked with Mr. TREGARTHEN, 'C' Platoon.

CHANGES IN TRAILS Peep trail from BOROKOVILLE (GOVT. PLANTATION) to NEPEAN made by U.S.A. Engineers. From DOROBISOLO to LAURUNI - don't go through NAURA, keep moving up river and it cuts out big climb.

CHANGES IN NATIVES On going through to JAURE it was very noticeable that they were less pliable owing to being overpaid by U.S.A. troops. One councillor wanted from ~~4~~ 5/- for 4 bananas. They also wanted money to carry cargo.

COMMUNICATIONS Bad owing to letting Sigs. get out of control ~~are~~ through not knowing their proper position on patrol regarding N.C.O. in charge. Orders from H.Q. : Too many and not connected owing to N.G.F. and 7 Div. getting mixed up with us.

SHORT REPORT BY NX86139, SIG. McINTOSH of 'D' PATROL of
 LIEUT. W.H. NICHOLS' (O/C 'D' PATROL) LAST PATROL BEFORE
 HE WAS REPORTED "MISSING".

- - - - -

- 6 OCT. 42. Lieut. NICHOLS and 2 O/Rs left DOROBISOLO to proceed to OIVI to recce enemy defences and L. Of C.
- 10 OCT. Passed JAURE. Americans have established dropping base here.
- 14 Passed through KOVIO and MOROGUBE and arrived at BURUMBILA.
- 15 Lieut. NICHOLS and Pte. FOSTER left for OMBI (SIRORATA No.1) and returned shortly afterwards with information from natives of large party of Japs moving along track towards JAURE.
- 16 Pte. FOSTER and native police boy INGITA ~~en~~ making recce to ascertain Jap positions and movements.
- 17 A member of W.O. JARRETT's party (A.N.G.A.U.) reported remainder of the party missing after surprise attack by Japs at BORADE. Later a message was received reporting JARRETT's party safe at EUROBE.
- Lieut. NICHOLS left for EUROBE seeking information re' enemy positions and movements
- 18 Lieut. NICHOLS returned to BURUMBILA.
- 19 Camp shifted to native garden.
- 20 Lieut. NICHOLS and ~~Lieut.~~ SMITH attempted to locate FOSTER. Message received from FOSTER reporting Jap withdrawal to ASSISI but still evidence of Japs as far as CORABUNA. FOSTER and Police Boy shot 2 Japs in an ASSISI garden. FOSTER camped in bush hut owned by ALEXANDER (Mission Boy) in vicinity of SIRORATA No.2. Lieut. NICHOLS decided to move W/T station to bush hut.
- 22 Sig. McINTOSH arrived at bush hut with W/T equipment. Lieut. SMITH to JAURE.
- 23 U.S. A/C attempted to drop rations at bush hut.
- 24 (dawn) Our party left SIRORATA No.2 to avoid Japs on main track to ASSISI. After passing through PAIVA and crossing OFAHI RIVER we left main track near ASSISI took bush track towards OIVI, crossed the AIVA and ILIMOR RIVERS.
- 25 Crossed ILIMOR - KOKODA track and established W/T station in clearing near BORADE.
- 26 Lieut. NICHOLS and FOSTER on patrol to BUNA track. Returned during afternoon to report to 7 Div. on Jap movement and equipment.
- Lieut. NICHOLS discovers his maps are missing since leaving SIRORATA.
- 27 Lieut. NICHOLS and Pte. FOSTER with Police Boy Serai left for OIVI on 3-4 days' recce. Advised to contact SAMBAI, a reliable native at OIVI.

/over

- 30 OCT. 42. Message from Lieut. FINTON, U.S. Army, stating Japs have cut bush tracks. Natives confirmed this and added that Japs were camped in hut 20 minutes march from us.
- 31 Lieut. NICHOLS and Pte. FOSTER considered overdue. Decided to follow NICHOLS. Dismantled W/T station and moved along track taken by him to OIVI. Camped in deserted hut. Pitched tent in thicket of bushes approx. 50 yds. from hut and stacked all gear away. Relying on camouflage to protect wireless in event of surprize attack by Japs.
- 1400hrs.approx. Attacked by Japs but escaped into bush after exchange of shots. Guided by native towards SIORATA, I met Sig. O'BRIEN and Sgt. De MEY (U.S. Forces).
- 1 NOV. 42. Our party of three decided to return to scene of attack ~~ss=fnna=thst~~ and found all gear, including W/T set had been removed by Japs.
- 2/3 De MEY returned to SIORATA but O'BRIEN and I decided to proceed to BUNA trail in vicinity of ILIMOR to report on Jap movements and equipment.
- ~~#/5~~ We
- 4 We returned to SIORATA.
- 5/6 An American patrol under Lieut. HILL went to ILIMOR bush hut with the intention to harass Japs on BUNA trail but after receiving message from Capt. MEDENDORP stating Japs moving towards SIORATA from BORADE Lieut. HILL and party returned to SIORATA.
- 6 O'BRIEN and I proceeded to BUNA trail. En route we were spotted by armed native. O'BRIEN fired on native and we escaped. Japs fired wildly into bush. We returned to SIORATA.
- 8 O'BRIEN and I left SIORATA on recce. Object = to ascertain Jap method of transport across KUMUSI RIVER. After dumping rations in ASSISI bush hut we followed KUMUSI R in direction of WAIROPE. Spotted by armed native and decided further progress risky and unnecessary (natives report Japs using boats for tpt.)
- On return trip we were surprized by large patrol of Japs previously engaged by Americans. At bush hut we learnt from Lieut. HILL (mentioned above) of attack by Japs on Americans at PAIVA. Japs tried to encircle Americans and they were therefore forced to scatter. Lieut. HILL returned to PAIVA to ascertain fate of rest of his party.
- Nov.9/10 Sig. O'BRIEN and RYALL, P.F.C., on recce to ASSISI.
- Nov.10. Sgt. De MEY and myself returned to SIORATA where we found portion of 'D' Patrol~~s~~ had arrived.
- Nov.11. Cpl. KIMBER and party went to ASSISI to await remainder of 'D' Patrol.
- News of fall of WAIROPE received through Sig. O'BRIEN.
- 'D' Patrol left for SOPUTA.

2/6 AUST. IND. COY.

SHORT MEDICAL REPORT OF 'D' PATROL, 5 SEP. 42 to DEC. 42 by
CPL. C. ATHERTON, 'C' PLATOON MEDICAL ORDERLY.

On first outward patrol to YAURE, health of men generally good, except one who had to return to base after three days out on patrol. (This man was taken against medical advice, and shows futility of taking physically unfit men on a hard patrol.)

On return from YAURE to BASE (RIGO) 22 Sep 42, malarial cases (4) commenced, who with other members of patrol found it particularly arduous in carrying packs, roughly 80-lbs., back to base. This stage definitely had detrimental effect on patrol.

During this patrol 41 members of 14th Bn. (3 picked up on DOROBISOLO - EFOGI track and 38 NORTH of YAURE), were given medical attention and supplies, and assistance back to RIGO. One of these men died at DOROBISOLO.

Second patrol RIGO - ARAFARA and return - 6 ~~men~~ men and myself returned fit.

Third patrol RIGO to SOPUTA (20 Oct 42 to 23 Nov 42) 14 commenced patrol; 14 commenced patrol; one member had to return to BASE (RIGO) with malaria 1st day out; on fourth day out a second member had to return, with dysentery. The remainder of patrol reached SOPUTA. The majority of patrol on this stage suffered attacks of dysentery, and malaria, and one case of dengue fever.

On the last patrol use was made of American Hospital Units who willingly granted medical supplies. Also at RIGO BASE where returning members of patrol were given attention.

POINTS OF NOTE

It was noted that in dysentery cases, where patrol was on the move, the use of mag. sulph. in treatment was not advisable as it further weakened the patient. Any affected member must report immediately and in most cases will respond to MIST BIS SED and Dovers, or Camphor and Opium tablets, but in more severe or cases delayed in reporting, SULFAGUANIDINE is essential.

For tropical ulcers, the best drill was found to be SULFAMILANIDE powder treatment and not in one case did an ulcer reach any serious proportion.

Where a party of native carriers accompany a patrol provision for medical attention for these carriers must be made. Main troubles will be sore shoulders and ulcers. TANNAJEL was found to be a good curative agent for the shoulders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That safe supplies of the following be carried on any patrols of a similar nature:

SULFAMILANIDE, SULFAGUANIDINE, QUININE, ATTABRIN, PLASMOQUIN (for full treatment on lengthy patrols where a base is established.), ASPIRIN, IODINE, TINCT BENZ CO., SILVOL (or kind), TINEA Preparation, CHLOREDYNE, DOVERS, CASCARA, MORPHIA, PROCAINE (very useful for severe sprains or injured ankles or knee, when marching is essential and patient could not otherwise walk), HYPO. SYRINGE, THERMOMETER, HEALING OINTMENT, SUNDRY DRESSINGS, BANDAGES, TAPE, &c.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

(Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	3		1
Lieutenants	15		2
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	19		3

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Capt	Bulmer R S	2/6 & 9 B.	2/12/42	Wounded in action

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
LIEUT.	CLARK E	GUERRILLA	G W S FOSTER
		WASSGARE	VICTORIA
		SCHOOL	
		FOSTER	

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

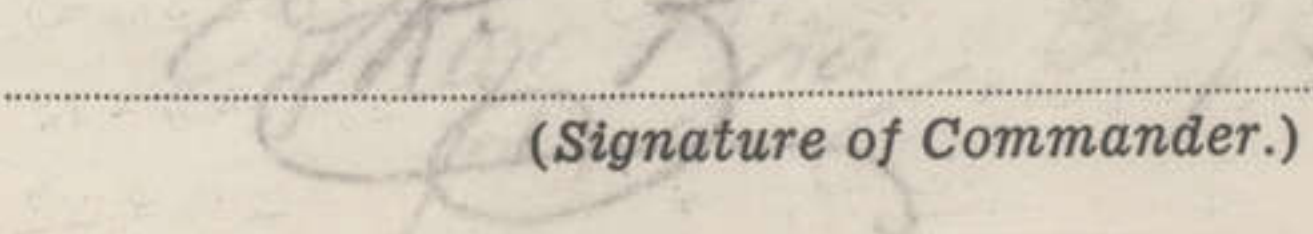
1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
MAJOR	TX2156	HARLWORTH H.G.	240 A.I.C. C.O.	YES	
CAPT.	NX71008	KING G.G.	240	YES	
CAPT.	NX46438	CORRY C.W.	PL. COMDR	NO	DETACH TO 7 AUST. DIV.
CAPT.	NX60608	ROSE-BRAY A.E.B.	" "	YES	
LIEUT.	QX16686	BASSINGTHWAITE A.	SEC. COMDR	NO	HOSPITAL AT MORESBY.
"	NX9438	BENNETT P.C.	SIG. SEC. COMDR	YES	
"	NX76314	BLAINEY G.C.	SEC. COMDR	YES	
"	VX54448	EGAN R.H.	"	NO	HOSPITAL AT MORESBY.
"	WX12059	FIELDING G.R.	"	YES	
"	WX11427	FOLLAND D.W.	"	NO	HOSPITAL AT MORESBY.
"	NX67114	HANNAGAN B.J.	"	N.O.	MURRAY BARRACKS.
"	NX68180	IRELAND C.J.L.	"	YES	
"	NX68478	LINKLATER A.W.	"	NO	HOSPITAL AT MORESBY.
"	VX62685	MOORHEAD E.W.	ENG. SEC. COMDR	YES	
"	WX29814	NICHOLS W.H.	SEC. COMDR	NO	DETACH TO 7 AUST. DIV.
"	WX11399	SCOTT R.T.	"	YES	
"	WX17097	SOUTHWOOD E.T.	"	YES	
"	QX2138	TREGARTHEN A.C.	"	YES	
"	QX16005	WINKLE F.J.	"	NO	DETACH TO 7 AUST. DIV.

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
CAPT.	VX67344	PRATT R.V.	A.A.M.C.	24 MAY 42	M.O. 74 A.I.C.

76th Aust. Ind. Bty.
(Unit.)

6. Dec. 42
(Date of Despatch.)


(Signature of Commander.)

NG 3rd
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

(Adapted)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

246 Aust. Ind. Coy (Unit) 6 Dec 1942 (Date).

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.	1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants			1+
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	6		3+
Corporals	30		
Troopers, Privates, &c.	223	7	61
TOTALS	260	7	65

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Sgt.	A.A.M.C.		
4 P.Os.	A.A.M.C.		
1 P.O.	A.A.O.C.		
1 P.O.	N.G.F. POSTAL UNIT.		

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

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
		* To be promoted from within unit.		
		* Two to be promoted from within unit.		
		Intelligence Sgt. required.		

Unit.

Date of Despatch 6 Dec. 42

Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

Signature of Commander.

