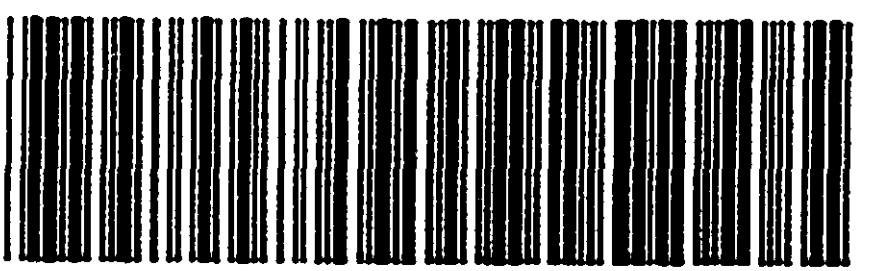
AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/8/22

BASE AND LINE OF COMMUNICATION AREAS (SUB)

Merauke Area Headquarters

November - December 1944



1/8/22-0033

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ Merauke Force *Date and Time.—From* 1 Nov 44 *To* 30 Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE	1 Nov	1222	a/i AC reported 50 mls SW of base course NE. One P40 scrambled.	
		1247	AC identified as friendly.	
		1500	Message from Post 6 that patrol by HDMLs to AJAM, BOERCH and DJOENI has been completed. Infm obtained re Jap held areas is still conflicting.	
			Adm instn "J.A.G. Memo No.22" issued.	App A
	2 Nov			
	3 Nov	0740	HDMLs arrived back from patrol in Post 6 area.	
		0930	Conferance held in Comds office to discuss a proposed patrol into the area NW of Post 6 to check recent native rumors. Minesweeper "TEROE" and one HDML may be used.	
		1000	Patrol reports brought back from Post 6 contain native infm on Jap held village of TIMOEKA. The comds name is stated to be T.CHU and the personnel wear white and green with anchor design on the front of their caps.	App B
	4 Nov		Figures for watercraft operations for the week show a total of 172 trips covering a mileage of 279 and carrying 246 personnel and 26 tons of cargo.	App C
			Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy weekly report states that, from the security angle, the main in this area is very good. Morale continues to be good.	App D
	5 Nov		Adm Instn "Volunteers for Chemical Warfare Experimental and Research Work" issued.	App E
	6 Nov		In the second Victory Loan finalised today, £C70 was raised in this area.	

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ Merauke Force *Date and Time.—From* 1 Nov 44 *To* 30 Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE			Patrol Instn No. 3 covering a patrol into OTAKWA and JAPERO areas commencing 9 Nov, issued.	App F
	7 Nov	0740	SMEROE and HDML 1322 departed for Post 6 to carry out above patrol.	
	8 Nov	1425	Gen VAN OYEN (NEI Army) Col. F.W. WRIGHT (C in C's LO with NEI) and Col. COSGROVE (Canadian attache to AMF) arrived in area. It is expected that handover of area to NEI will be discussed.	
		2000	SMEROE and ML arrived Post 6	
	9 Nov	1000	SMEROE and ML with patrol party from Post departed Post 6 for OTAKWA-JAPERO area.	
	10 Nov		154 Lt AA Bty participating in Lt AA shoot.	App G
	11 Nov	1000	Dr. Van De Plaz (Head of NEI civil administration and Chairman of NEI Commission) visited Comd to discuss handover to NEI.	
		1330	"CAMERON CUP" race meeting held on A Street race track by DNGRC. Cup winner's owner (Tpr. N.F. FRANKLIN) presented with trophy by Force Comd (Lt.Col D.A. CAMERON). Winner was BOAR CHIEF ridden by Sgt. T. APPs.	
		1800	Dr. Van De PLAZ entertained at Force Mess.	
	12 Nov		HIVOT CK floodgates have been completed and are at present maintaining a difference in level of approx 6 ft which achieves the purpose for which they were originally installed i.e to prevent tides effecting swamp levels.	

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ Merauke Force *Date and Time.—From* 1 Nov 44 *To* 30 Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE	13 Nov	1300	S.S. THEDENS arrived ex BRISBANE with general cargo.	
		0830	Signal sent to Rear Ech First Aust Army protesting against the non-arrival of mail for six days, in view of the fact that it had been possible to freight films of the Melbourne Cup within 24 hrs.	
		1300	Instns received from Rear Ech First Aust Army that 4 18pdrs originally provided for beach defence, and for which no amn is now held, are to be retained in the area.	
		2215	NOIC in receipt of a message from ML on OTAKWA-JAPERO patrol, indicating that patrol has encountered difficulties. Air support is requested.	
		2230	Conference in Cond's quarters to discuss patrol message. Air recce arranged for first light on 14th.	
	14 Nov	1000	Air recce by two P40s located SMEROE and ML but did not gain any further infm. Vessels were camouflaged and in hiding in the WEST KASTEEL RIVER and stated they intended to return to Post 6 during nightfall.	
	15 Nov		Grass and scrub fires have lately hampered comms considerably. About four miles of cable has been burnt in recent weeks. Preparations for the changeover of the switchboard to a new site has been delayed for the same reason.	
		1425	Messages now coming through from Post 6 indicate we have lost five personnel on the OTAKWA patrol due, apparently, to a Jap ambush of the patrol craft.	App H
			In an effort to preserve the roads during the present protracted spell of dry weather 20 mph has been laid down as the maximum speed for all vehicles.	App J
	16 Nov	1000	Lt AA practice shoot by 154 Bty.	
			Arrangements have been made for TANAHMERAH to be	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted)

Unit HQ Merauke Force *Date and Time.—From* 1 Nov 44 *To* 30 Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE			serviced by a weekly plane service commencing 20 Nov. This will overcome the difficulty of supplying this outpost.	RHd
	17 Nov	0630	An additional naval craft - HDML 1326 - arrived in area.	
		0900	Fd firing practice commenced by 20 Aust Mot Regt (AIF)	App L
		1618	Arrival from THURSDAY ISLAND of watercraft vessel CARPENTARIA, which will be placed on outpost supply run.	RHd
	18 Nov	0800	2 pdr sub-calibre shoot commenced by 20 Aust Mot Regt.	App M
		1800	MEROE and ML 1322 departed Post 6 for this area.	
			Complaints by a few tps on the monotony and boredom of this area, and of being left here too long without leave, are the only exceptions to an otherwise high morale as noted by 1 Aust Fd Censorship Det in their weekly report.	App H RHd
	19 Nov		Preparations by NEI to take over this area are being steadily advanced. Certain vehicles have already been loaned to NEI authorities, and lists are being prepared of engineering, medical and other equipment desired by them for retention when AMF leave the area. Instn in the use of this equipment is already being given to NEI personnel.	RHd
	20 Nov	0800	Live grenade trg practice by tps in LAMPOE BATOE locality.	
			No rain for the past month makes a total of only 13 points in three months. Further water restrictions are considered.	
			Pile driving at the Main Jetty has been completed and 27 Fd Coy engineers estimate that the structure will now last at least another 12 months. Several coconut piles were used and were found very satisfactory.	RHd

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ Merauke Force *Date and Time.—From* 1 Nov 44 *To* 30 Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE	21 Nov	0655	SMEROE and ML 1322 back from Post 6, with safehand reports of happenings on OTAKWA patrol. The patrol was apparently ambushed at OTAKWA village whilst still in a motor launch and all members of the AMF either killed or captured. One native, MIN, escaped but after returning to the SMEROE and telling story of patrol, later dived overboard and disappeared.	RAA
		1934	Notification received from Wing HQ that a warning order to move has been received for Radars No. 316 (KOMBIESE) 323 (MAPPI) and 342 (EILANDEN RIVER). Units will not cease to function until instructed to do so by NEA.	
	22 Nov		Astro 5 sawmill is now producing 1000 s/ft a day and this, supplemented by another 800 s/ft a day from the MOPAH mill, is sufficient to meet all needs. Average water consumption during the past month has been 21000 gals per day and on these figures, the supply in the wells should be sufficient for a further 27 days. MERAUKE RIVER water has been tested and found unsuitable for either cooking or washing and a mixture of one part river water to 6 parts fresh water was found still too salty to drink. Two sulphur springs close to the river in the town area are suitable for washing and ablution and arrangements are being made to utilise this supply.	RAA
	23 Nov		Construction of the slipway near INDEPENDENT KNOLL is still delayed by non-arrival of steelwork for construction of the cradle. A temporary substitute using 24 in railway gauge wheels and the tailshaft of an old vessel is being rigged to enable half the cradle, 32 ft, to be used for slipping small craft.	RAA
	24 Nov		The expenditure of an additional 1/- per man to provide Xmas fare has been approved by higher formation. A request	

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted)

Unit HQ Merauke Force *Date and Time.—From* 1 Nov 44 *To* 30 Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE			has also been submitted to permit of the issue of an additional two bottles of beer per man.	App O
			By R/Os published today, a new scale of issue to assist in water conservation will come into operation on 29 Nov. This allows for 2 gals of fresh water and 3 gals of suplhur water per man per day.	App P
	25 Nov		Further intelligence report from Post 6 indicates that one of the natives - JACOB - who took part in the OTAKWA patrol, has returned.	App Q
			Complete report of OTAKWA patrol plus a summary of events, dispatched to Rear First Aust Army.	App R
			The rat campaign continues and units have now been instructed to lay unpoisoned baits until 28 Nov after which date poisoned baits will be substituted.	
	26 Nov		100 per cent of mail from Post 6 was checked during the week by censorship and only one serious breach was detected.	App T
	27 Nov		Adm Instn issued calling conference of all COs and OCs to discuss impending visit on 30 Nov of Lieut Governor General of NEI (Van De MOCK)	App U
			20 Aust Mot Regt engaged on 2 in Mortar practice shoot.	App V
	28 Nov		Former 31/51 Bn area now being taken over by NEI for use of civilian evacuees.	
			Engineers report that construction of TANAHMERAH airstrip is now complete and only maintenance work is now being performed.	
	29 Nov		Outline itinerary drawn up for first day of Lieut Governor Generals visit.	App W

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ Merauke Force Date and Time—From 1 Nov 44 To 30 Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE			To further assist in the preservation of water, a waterpoint and showers which draw from the sulphur springs in the the town area, have been erected.	RHJ
	30 Nov	1400	LMG, rifle, and grenade throwing practice by 20 Aust Mot Regt (AIF).	
		1520	Arrival of Lieut Governor General and party who were met by NEI authorities and Force Comd and a Guard of Honor. After inspection of the latter the official party proceeded to Assistant Resident's residence.	
			Bush fires are numerous and today one blaze threatened a dump of 17000 gals of fuel. Four drums blew up but excellent work by tps prevented the blaze spreading.	
			Security Bulletin published for infm of unit security offrs.	RHJ App Y

D.A.C. Cameron Lt.Col
(D.A. Cameron)
Comd Merauke Force
8 Dec 44

4-43—Govt. Printer, Canberra.

War Diary APP A

BB

SUBJECT:- J.A.G. MEMO NO. 22

A42/15797. HQ Merauke Force
1 Nov 44

J.A.G. memo No 22 is forwarded to you for your information:

Lt
A/SC'A' Merauke Force

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
No.1 Area, LHQ
134817 30th September 1944

Distribution (not copied)

J.A.G. MEMO NO. 22

CONDUCT TO THE PREJUDICE ETC (SPECIAL FINDING).

In a recent case a soldier was charged with conduct to the prejudice etc and the particulars ended with the statement "contrary to Standing Orders for Drivers of Mechanical Vehicles para 19A".

No evidence was given that the soldier knew, or should have known, of the Standing Orders and a submission was successfully made that there was no case to answer.

The Judge Advocate should have advised the Court that as there had been no proof that the soldier knew, or should have known of the Standing Orders it could not regard a breach of such Orders as conduct to the prejudice etc. If however the Court considered, on the evidence, that the prejudice irrespective of the Order mentioned, than the Court could make a special finding excepting the words "contrary to Standing Orders for Drivers of Mechanical Vehicles para 19A" (21/7/44).

POWERS OF A CONVENING AUTHORITY TO WITHDRAW A CHARGE

A convening authority may withdraw any charge before the accused has been called upon to plead and has pleaded to the charge.

Rule of Procedure 35(C) only deals with the power of the prosecuting officer and has no reference to a convening authority.

Although after an accused has pleaded to a charge the convening authority cannot withdraw it, he can at any time stop the trial by cancelling the order convening the Court. This has the same effect as withdrawing a charge and therefore should, in my opinion, only be used on rare occasions, and good reasons, as normally if a man has been arraigned and pleaded he is entitled to a verdict (14/9/44).

DECLARATION BY AN INVESTIGATING OFFICER. AMR & O 448A.

A declaration of an investigating officer as to the accused's illegal absence was tendered to the Court and admitted in evidence. The document was inadmissible and should not have been received as it showed on its face that the investigating officer was ordered to make the investigation by A.G (PS) Vic L of C Area and not by the CO of the accused and that therefore the investigating officer had no authority under the Regulation to make the investigation.

AMR & O 448A only authorises the CO of the absent soldier to direct an officer to investigate the alleged absence and an order by any Declaration within the Regulation (14/8/44).

LIMITATION OF TRIALS BY COURT-MARTIAL.

Attention is drawn to D.A. Sec 103 as the finging of several Courts have had to be quashed through failure to remember this Section.

For example :- a man was charged with desertion from 30th December 1940 to 25th August 1944. Such a charge was valid as desertion comes within the exception in Section 103.

The Court found the accused not guilty of desertion, and then proceeded to find him guilty of absence without leave for the whole time charged in the particulars.

The Court had only jurisdiction to convict the man for AWL from 25th August 1941 and the finding and sentence had to be quashed as there is, at present, no power to vary such a finding and convert it into a legal one (26/9/44).

A RECENT CASE

ABDEL MUHAMMED EL DABBAL v ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR PALESTINE
60 T.L.R. PAGE 456 (SEE R.P. 751)

In this case the Privy Council dealt, inter alia, with the contention of the appellant that he had a right to have the witnesses, whose names were on the information but were not called to give evidence for the prosecution, tendered by the Crown for cross examination by the defence.

The Court stated that the prosecutor

" has a discretion as to what witnesses should be called for the prosecution and the Court will not interfere with the exercise of that discretion unless perhaps it can be shown that the prosecutor has been influenced by some oblique motive."

The Court quoted from Reg v Woodhead (1847) 2 Car. and Kir. at p. 520 ;)-

" You are aware, I presume, of the rule which the Judges have lately laid down, that a prosecutor is not bound to call witnesses merely because their names are on the back of the indictment? The witnesses, however, should be here, because the prisoner might otherwise be misled ; he might, from their names being on the bill, have relied on your bringing them here, and neglected to bring them himself. You ought, therefore, to have them in court, but they are to be called by the party who wants their evidence. This is the only sensible rule."

If the defence calls such witnesses they are of course liable to cross examination by the Prosecutor.

(J. BOWIE WILSON)

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

B

EXTRACT FROM "K" PS SEC POST & ROUTINE REPORT [illegible]
[illegible] BY [illegible] AND [illegible]

"TIMIKA has two settlements, one on each side of a creek. On one side are 2 houses with the Jap commander living in one, while the other is occupied by 10 men. Across the creek are many Jap soldiers and natives, but the above two natives were NOT allowed in this area. Here the Japs wear white and green clothes with the anchor ensign on the front of the cap.

The Japanese Commander's name is KACHU and his house is under three very tall trees, approx 500 yards back from a small jetty in TIMIKA River. The distance from the airstrip is less than one hour's walk. Near KACHU's house is one large gun.

There are NO planes on TIMIKA airstrip with the exception of one which was damaged in a bombing raid. Occasionally, planes in pairs come from the direction of the sea and stay overnight only.

There is NO radar at TIMIKA but the Japs use field glasses when searching the sky."

Australian Military Forces

APP. C.

Please quote this Number when Replying

Address Det.14 Aust Small Ship Coy.

Date 4 Nov '44

... Aust Water Tpt.Gp.
AUSTRALIA

Copies to HQ.Morsuke Force
14 Aust Small Ship Coy.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS MORAUKE AREA 28 OCT - 3 NOV. 1944

1. Det.Strength at 3 Nov '44:

	Offrs.	ORs
Unit	7	41
Sigs	-	7
20 Motor Regt	-	1
	7	49

X List Sgt Homan, Sprs McMurtrie, Hitchcock and Sig Dyer.

2. Summary of activities for week:

Vessel	No. of Trips	Miles	Eng. Hours	Personnel	Cargo.
AM.1440	2	2	1	-	-
AB.200	113	67	19.30	111	4
AB.275	22	142	26	59	18
AB.284	35	68	16	76	4
	172	279	62.30	246	26

3. Arrivals and Departures:
AS.69 sailed for Posts 3 and 6 on 31 Nov'44.

4. Craft Position:
In commission: AB.200, AB.275, AB.284, AM.1440, AS.69, AV.2016
Out of commission:

Vessel	Date placed out commission	Date expected recommissioned	Repairs nec. & by whom carried out
AM.172	28/5/44	15/11/44	New engine being installed by AEME.
AB.199	5/8/44	14/11/44	One engine & gear box installed the other engine to be install by AEME
AS.70	18/9/44	21/11/44	Engines to be reinstalled by AEME
AM.75	20/10/44	Loaded onto AV.2016 for shipment to Thurs.Island	

5. AV.2016 has now been repaired by AEME and will proceed on river trials on 4 Nov '44.

6. Technical Officer's report attached.

7. Lieuts. Stark and Sawyer arrived from Thurs.Island on 31/10/44.

8. Morale Fair.

9. Health. Personnel in hospital: Sgt.Homan, Sprs.Hitchcock, McMurtrie Sig.Dyer

10. Normal schedules of ferry runs have been resumed.

Lieut
O.C.Det.14 Aust Small Ship Coy.

Det 14 Aust Small Ship Coy.
4 Nov '44

O.C.,
Det 14 Aust Small Ship Coy.

Technical Officer's report for week ending 28 Oct-3 Nov '44

1. AM.1440 General maintenance, pumps replaced, water tank welded bilges cleaned.

2. AB.275 Distributer cap replaced, general maintenance.

3. AB.200 General maintenance

4. AB.234 Replaced throttle Rack and carburretor baffle

5. AB.70 Preparing for replacement of engines, bilges cleaned.

6. AM.175 Preparing for the replacement of engine and equipment.

.....Lieut
Tech.Officer.

I 344

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this Number when Replying

Address Det 14 Aust Small Ship Coy.

Date 25 Nov.'44

H.Q. 11 AUST. INF. BDE.
A.Q.
30 NOV 1944
No. Week

HQ.14 AUST SMALL SHIP COY.

Copies to HQ Merauke Force

REPORT OF OPERATIONS MERAUKE AREA 18 - 24 NOV 1944

1. Detachment Strength at 24 Nov '44.

	Offrs	ORs
Unit	5	31
Sigs	-	8
Motor Regt	-	1
	5	40

X List Sgt Homan, Sgt Craig, Cpl Owen.

2. Summary of activities for week:

Vessel	Trips	Miles	Eng.Hrs.	Personnel	Cargo
AB.200	22	104	13.75	99	6
AB.275	12	36	8	18	1
AM.187	1	182	28.30	6	11
AM.1440	17	49	8.25	29	-
AS.69	1	700	100	13	22
	53	1071	158.30	165	40

3. Arrivals and Departures:
AS.69 arrived from Post 6 on 22 Nov '44
AM.187 departed for Post 2 on 19 Nov and returned to Merauke on 22 Nov'44

4. Craft in commission: AB.199, AB.200, AB.275, AM.187, AS.69

Craft out of commission	Date placed out of commission	Date expected recommissioned	Repairs etc & by whom carried
AM.172	28/5/44	30/11/44	Exterior e[illegible] being fitt[illegible] out by AEM[illegible]
AM.1440	23/11/44	30/11/44	Now being overhauled by AEME
AB.284	16/[illegible]/44	30/11/44	Burntout exhaust pi[illegible] new ones being fitt[illegible] & engines overhauled by AEME
AS.70	16/9/44	30/11/44	Trial run on river 28/11/44

5. Technical Officers Report attached.

6. Morale Only Fair

7. Health Personnel in hospital, Sjts Homan, Craig, Cpl Owen

[signature] .....Lieut

Det 14 Aust Small Ship Coy.
25 Nov '44.

O.C.Det 14 Aust Small Ship Coy

TECHNICAL OFFICERS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 24 NOV '44

1. AB.199 Repairs finished,in service

2. AB.200 Repairs to wiring, in service

3. AB.275 General maintenance, in service

4. AB.284 Undergoing repairs to exhaust etc., out of service

5. AM.172 Replacement of motor and interior fittings, out of service

6. AM.187 Forward deck recaned, fuel tanks drained and cleaned, in service

7. AM.1440 Replacing Gear Box , out of service

8. AS.69 In service

9. AS.70 Engines have now been replaced and adjustments being carried out, out of service

.....Lieut
Technical Officer

071530K

CONFIDENTIAL. AHN D

DNG Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy
H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE.

I 266
TS 13

Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy
TORRES STRAIT AREA.

Copy to: H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE.

EXTRACTS AND INFORMATION.
For week ending 4 Nov 44.

1. UNIT CENSORSHIP.

The standard of franking throughout the Area remains good and very little additional treatment by this Det has been necessary. A few cases have been noticed of officers failing to sign at the bottom of their own letters, as a franking signature.

The use of Green Envelopes is very popular in the Area and it is evident that the majority of troops take full advantage of this privilege.

2. "G" BRANCH.

The standard of morale appears to be good, this appears to be due to several things including good living conditions and rations, the anticipation of leave in the near future, and the sucesses of Allied Forces both in the Pacific and in Europe. Many referrences are noticed about listening to the overseas news and the following extract is typical of many remarks.

" Heard the news again to-night, the affair in Holland seems to be
" slow but satisfactory. The Yanks have done well in the Phillipines
" havn't they? It is very good news. I notice our C-in-C has
" said that the AIF will be in action again soon, I wonder when
" and where? "

From the security angle the mail in this Area is very good and it is some considerable time since a major breach was discovered. The recent mail delays are still being explained in tactful and harmless ways and all ranks seem to be well aware of the need for security.

3. "A" BRANCH.

Future leave is always a very popular topic for discussion in letters from all ranks. Members of several Units state that they expect some leave within the next few months and go into details of length of time since last leave and the length of their stay in this Area. No definite dates when leave is expected are given.

The Amenities of the Area are always well discussed and the work of the YMCA and Comforts Fund receive favourable comments as well as the motion films shown in the camps. The pictures seen are often described in detail and it is evident that these form a very important break in the monotony of camp life. The following is an extract similar to many, it was taken from mail of HQ Merauke Force

" Saw an excellent show last night, Hot Spot was the name of it -ith
" Betty Grable. It wasn't like her usual shows but it was very
" good. I don't know what we would do -ithout the pictures for a
" bit of a break. Everyone sees each programme and the boys go
" a couple of hours before it starts so as to get a decent seat."

An unfavourable reference to the Woman's Services was noticed during the week. A member of 20 Aust Motor Regt, -rote:-

" I wouldn't like you to join the AWAS Dear, think about it more
" before you do. I've seen a bit of their form and heard plenty
" more about them, some may be OK of course but a lot of them lead
" a pretty wild life and the officers and other chaps that work ith
" them always seem to consider them easy game. "

/4. "Q"

CONFIDENTIAL.

4. "Q" BRANCH.

As usual, many favourable comments about rations were seen during the week. The majority of writers seem to be well satisfied and descriptions of good meals are common. Fresh meat is always very much appreciated and is frequently mentioned. The most common complaint noticed was the shortage of sugar.

The Postal Services came in for a lot of comment in the letters, as was only natural under the circumstances. Many writers complained of mail delays but most of them expressed anticipation of better service in the future. Several writers mentioned getting fresh letters before they received older ones.

Very little comment about clothing or general supplies was noticed. One writer complained of waiting a long time for boot repairs.

5. "G" BRANCH.

Nothing of interest to report.

6. GENERAL.

The subject of Industrial strikes received more than usual comment in the letters this week. All writers were opposed to the strikes and some made very bitter remarks on the subject. An extract showing a fairly common attitude was taken from a letter from a small Dot care of HQ NEW GUINEA FORCE, the writer said:-

" I think any leader of a strike in war time is guilty of treason " and should be shot. It's a pity that some of those butchers and " coal miners and so on, were not on HMAS Australia when she was " hit, or were up in the Phillipines now. If they were they might " wake up to the fact that we have a war on our hands."

7. ADMINISTRATIVE.

Nothing to report.

Sgt NCO I/c.
DSS Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy.

"G"

CONFIDENTIAL. I292

DNG Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy
H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE. TS 13

Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy
TORRES STRAIT AREA.

Copy to: H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE.

EXTRACTS AND INFORMATION.
For week ending 11 Nov 44.

1. UNIT CENSORSHIP.

Franking throughout the Area remains xxx good and the only mail requiring further treatment by this Det was mail from Post 6 which needed a few minor delations. No breaches of a serious nature were discovered.

2. "G" BRANCH.

The tone of the majority of letters continue to indicate a high standard of morale in the Area. No serious complaints were noted.

Three writers referred to listening to enemy broadcasts but said said nothing to show the effects of the propaganda heard.
A Bdr of A Trp 154 Aust Lt A/A Bty, wrote:-
" It is good to listen to the Jap radio one night a week when
" they put over a programme for the Allied Service men in S.W.P.A.
" for it is good music and plenty of laughs thrown in for good measure."

General security in the Area remains good and letters often show that the writer is security minded.

3. "A" BRANCH.

The chances of future leave was, as usual, very much discussed in letters from all ranks. A fairly common attitude is expressed in the following extract, taken from mail of 14 Aust Small Ship Coy:-
" I had hopes of getting some leave by Christmas but I have just
" about given up hope of that now, one thing the longer I stay here
" the more leave I will have due and the more chance of getting it."

The local race meeting to be held on 11 Nov 44, was frequently mentioned in the mail and all writers seemed to be looking forward to it with pleasure. The Melbourne Cup was often mentioned and also the arrangements that had been made to listen to it being broadcast and to see the motion picture news reel of it.

4. "Q" BRANCH.

The most interesting item about rations noticed during the week was from a member of a small Det care of HQ MERAUKE FORCE who discussed the operation ration known as type C2. He seemed to think that the ration was very satisfactory except for two points, as followes:-
" First there is a patent tin opener inside to open the meat tins etc.
" well any man who can open the tins with it is a better man than me,
" the principle is OK but its cheaply made. I think it would be
" better and cheaper to forget the pocket tin opener and assume that
" a soldier would always have a bayonet or knife to open them. In
" any case if a man was so done in that he had lost all his weapons
" and equipment, then I wager he wouldn't have either the strength or
" the patience to use this pocket tin opener either. The second thing
" that struck me was that there is no atabrine included which I think
" would be a good idea. "

5. "O" BRANCH. Nothing to report.

6. GENERAL. Nothing of interest noted.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE.

An application to transfer to this Coy was received from NX166679 Cnr HORRELL D.B. of HQ 52 Aust Comp A/A Regt. The application with covering letter was sent to Coy HQ.

W. Broadbent Sgt FCO I/c

SM10959

SECRET

Headquarters,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE EXPERIMENTAL AND RESEARCH WORK

1. Volunteers are required for experimental work which will be commenced in Qld L of C Area shortly and continue until 30 May 45. The experiments will involve exposure, under supervision, to blister gas.

2. It is desired that the personnel required be supplied from within the resourses of REAR ECHELON FIRST AUST ARMY and QLD L OF C AREA.

3. The work is of National importance and every effort will be made by the formation and L of C Area concerned to supply suitable volunteers.

4. The total number to be provided is 600 and they will be required at the rate of not more than 120 in any one month. A sufficient excess will be held, if available, to compensate for any subsequent movement of original volunteers.

5. Volunteers will be drawn from as many units as possible but NOT from personnel alloted to FIRST AUST ARMY or 1 AUST CORPS.

6. Formation and L of C Area concerned will ensure maintenance, as far as practicable, of the required flow of personnel and if necessary call for volunteers will be repeated at intervals.

7. While it is cinsidered desirable that volunteers be medically 'A' class. Personnel accepted must not have been exposed previously in trials with blister gas.

8. Volunteers will not be available for normal duties during the period of their attachment to 1 AUST FD EXPERIMENTAL STA.

9. It is anticipated that no group of personnel will be required to remain at the Experimental Station for a period in excess of three (3) weeks and it is not expected that there will be a high percentage sufficiently effected to require hospital treatment. No individual soldier will be subjected to more than one exposure.

10. Action will be taken by REAR ECHELON FIRST AUST ARMY and QLD L OF C AREA to call for suitable volunteers from units under command.

11. QLD L OF C AREA will be responsible for the co-ordination of the provisions of this instruction and the supply of groups of volunteers as and when required by 1 AUST EXPERIMENTAL STA, and the quartering of the personnel concerned. In this respect liaison will be established between the Formation and L of C Area concerned, and [illegible]

12. Nominal rolls of volunteers will be compiled by QLD L OF C AREA and submitted to 1 AUST EXPERIMENTAL STA., copy to LHQ.

13. The first group of 55 volunteers is required to report to Det 1 AUST FD EXPERIMENTAL STA, INNISFALL, on 15 Nov 44. The strength, destination and, where applicable, the medical classification of subsequent groups will be notified to QLD L OF C AREA by DET 1 AUST FD EXPERIMENTAL STA 14 days prior to the date on which they are required to report.

14. Information as follows will be imparted to all personnel whose services are sought in connection with the experiment referred to -

(a) volunteers will be required to take part in experiments with gas, involving exposure of to blistering gas.

(b) The experiments will be directed with the view to proving the effectiveness of our defensive gas equipment.

(over)

(c) there will be a small element risk of burns or blisters but no risk of permanent injury.

(d) volunteers will normally be away from units for a period of three weeks .

(e) volunteers will undertake to preserve secrecy on all matters relative to or associated with the experiments.

15. As far as practicable a proportion (approx 1 to 7) of NCOs will be included in each draft. Each party of twenty (20) or more ORs will be accompanied by one (1) officer to each twenty (20) ORs. These officers will assist in the administration of their respective parties.

16. The return to unit of the personnel concerned wilk in all cases be expediated and in this respect QLD L OF C AREA will ensure that all necessary arrangements are made prior to the completion of each series of tests.

17. Normal documentary procedure covering the attachment and movement of the personnel selected to Det 1 AUST FD EXPERIMENTAL STA will be followed.

18. QLD L OF C AREA will advise LHQ when each group of volunteers report for duty in accordance with this instruction.

(SGD) K. DAWSON - Lt. Col
for Major General.
for ADJUTANT GENERAL.
16 Oct 44.

BB

SECRET

SUBJECT:- VOLUNTEERS FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE EXPERIMENTAL AND RESEARCH WORK.

HQ Merauke Force
5 Nov 44
A54/15801

ALL A.M.F. UNITS

Attached hereto is copy of LHQ SM10959 of 16 Oct 44, calling for volunteers to assist in Chemical Warfare Experimental and Research Work.

Returns are required at these HQs NOT later than 0900K 4 Nov 44.

The return should be in the following pro-forma:-

Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Medical Classification

Lt
A/SC 'A' Merauke Force

AHQ F

SECRET
Copy No. 12
HQ Merauke Force
GS 64

PATROL INSTRUCTION No. 3 - POST 6

(Ref Map EITAIDEN RIVER AREA 1:250,000)

OC POST 6

1. You will carry out a patrol in accordance with the following instns:-

2. INFORMATION: No relative infm is available other than that already possessed by you.

3. TASK IN GENERAL: Your task in general is to gain infm about Japanese activities, intentions and general dispositions in the JAPERO-OTAKWA area.

4. TASKS IN PARTICULAR: (a) To investigate the reports previously received by you that an attack on Post 6 is contemplated.
(b) To ascertain by observation whether JAPERO and/or OTAKWA is held by the enemy and if so in what strength.

5. SHIPS: (a) Ships available for this Patrol will be:-
One HDML manned by RAN.
One minesweeper (SMERCE) manned by NEI Navy.
(b) On no account is the safety of either of these ships to be jeopardised by exposure in the JAPERO-OTAKWA area.
(c) Two praaus will be necessary (minimum).

6. COMMANDER: Patrol comd at discretion of OC Post 6.

7. PERSONNEL: (a) The following personnel from MERAUKE will be incl:
Naval IC
One NCO from FS Sec
(b) Personnel from Post 6 at the discretion of OC Post 6 with the following reservations --
Not more than one offr from Post 6 will accompany the patrol.
FS NCO from Post 6 will be incl.
Total personnel to be mutually agreed between OC Post 6 and commander SMERCE.
(c) Two native interpreters plus three AYAM natives will be taken.

8. ROUTE: Route to be taken will be as shown in trace attached as App A, as far as RV - vicinity area (z)K 400503, thence by separate praaus to vicinities JAPERO and OTAKWA by routes at discretion of OC Post and naval commander.

9. TIMINGS: Timings to be mutually arranged between OC Post 6 and naval commanders, subject to the following outline schedule:-

TIME	DATE	ACTION
a.m.	7 Nov 44	Dep MERAUKE
p.m.	8 Nov 44	Arr Post 6
First Light	9 Nov 44	Dep Post 6
Evening	"	Halt area WEST EASTERN RIVER
Evening	10 Nov 44	Arr RV area vicinity (z)K 400503
	11 - 15 Nov (both incl)	Patrol by praaus towards JAPERO and OTAKWA. Ships remain at RV.
a.m.	16 Nov 44	Ships depart RV for Post 6.
Evening	16 Nov 44	Halt area WEST EASTERN RIVER.
	17 Nov 44	Arr Post 6
a.m.	18 Nov 44	Dep Post 6
	19 Nov 44	Arr MERAUKE

NOTE: The above timings will be adhered to under normal conditions.

10. AIR COOPERATION : (a) Air support cannot be guaranteed and in any case could only be on a very limited scale.

(b) Air searching will be arranged if necessary.

(c) AC cannot be guaranteed over the RV area under two hours from the time of receipt of request at this HQ.

(d) S/Ldr SHEPHERD (RAAF) will be travelling in SMEROE. All questions of air cooperation will be referred to him.

11. RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS:

(a) In the event of air support or search being called for, water will be colored with seamarker compound and smoke candles ignited when AC is seen overhead. Supplies of smoke candles and sea-marker compound are being made available by RAAF and will be taken by the ships from MERAUKE.

(b) In the event of praoes not returning to the RV by first light on 15 Nov, the following procedure will be adopted:

(i) OC patrol will inform this HQ immediately.

(ii) Occupants of praoe/s not returned to RV will, if possible, color the water in their vicinity to assist RAAF. Such coloring will be done on sighting of AC. Smoke candles will also be ignited.

(iii) Praoes on patrol will carry sea-marker compound, smoke candles and rolls of sanitary paper to assist in recognition from the air.

12. REPORTS : Patrol reports will be made by safe hand per ships when returning to MERAUKE.

13. CODE NAMES: As laid down in App B attached.

14. INTERCOMM: (a) Wireless silence from Post 6 until return to Post 6 unless:-

(i) Patrol is attacked.

(ii) One or both praoes fail to return to RV by first light on 15 Nov 44.

(b) Communication with AC -- By VHF set to be installed in SMEROE and operated by RAAF signaller.

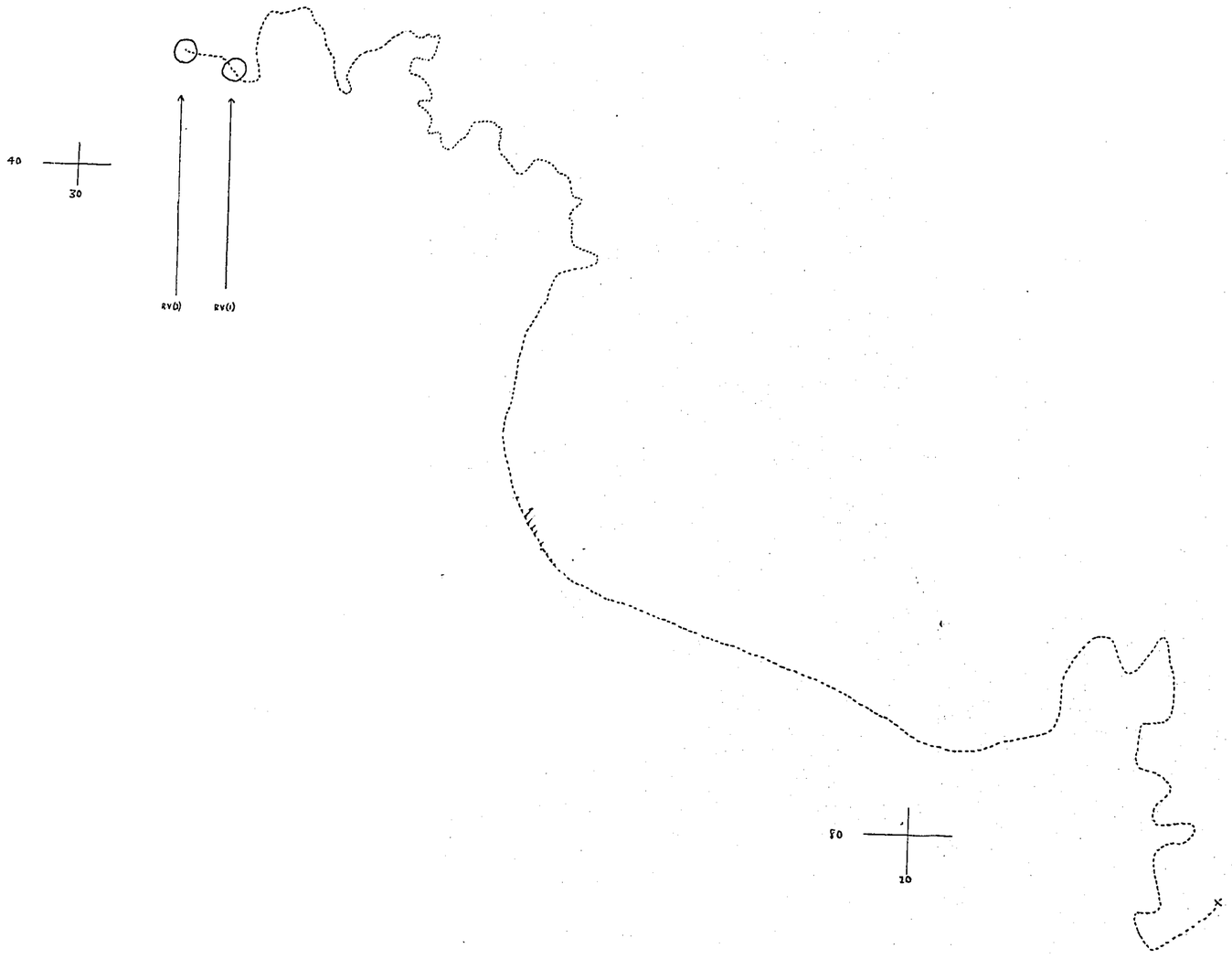
Signed at 061455 K

[signature] Maj.
GS MERAUKE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No.
OC Post 6	1
OC Patrol	2
Rear Ech First Aust Army	3
RAN	4-6
72 Wing RAAF	7,8
NEI Navy	9,10
War Diary	11,12
File	13

REF MAP EILANDEN RIVIER AREA

APPENDIX 'A' TO MERAUKE FORCE GS 44 OF 5 NOV 44.



003284H

Patrol has NOT returned in time laid down	10
Being attacked by	11
Expect attack by	12
Air reece required	13
Air support required	14
Enemy patrol sighted	15
Am experiencing	16
Will return to Post 6	17
Mission completed	18
My position is	19
Own patrol	20
Enemy patrol	21
Own praoes	22
Enemy praoes	23

ALPHABET

A	59	O	73
B	60	P	74
C	61	Q	75
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Able	31
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Bad	34
Bomb-ed-ing-s	35
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Casualty-ies	98
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Complete-ly	42
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Camp	44
Day-s	45
Down	46
Dawn	47
Destroyed	48
Enemy	49
Estimate-d	50
Enemy troops	51
Enemy aircraft	52
Expect	53
East	54
Experiencing	55
From	56
For	57
First	58
Fast	165
Go-ne-ing	166
Ground	167
Good	168
Heard	169
Hours	170
Heavy	171
High	172
Is	173
Identified	174
Injured	95
Immediately	96
Inflict-ed	97
Know-n	99
Leave	100
Left	101
Light	102
Limit-ed	103
Latitude	104
Longtitude	105
Live-ing-ed	106
Miles	107
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Now	116
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On	120
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Possible	127
Post	128
Rendezvous	129
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Require-d	133
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Repair	135
South	136
Sight-ed	137
Satisfactory	138
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Stop-ped	144
Short	145
To	146
Tons	147
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Trouble	149
Trip	150
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Trap	152
Up	153
Under	154
Very	155
Verey	156
West	157
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Withdraw-drew	159
Weather	160
What	161
When	162
Water	163
You-rs	164
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Post 3	172
AYAM	173
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RV (1)	176
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Mouth KASTEEL R.	178
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ARIMEUGAH R. "	180
TORPEDOBOAT R.	181
LDH	182
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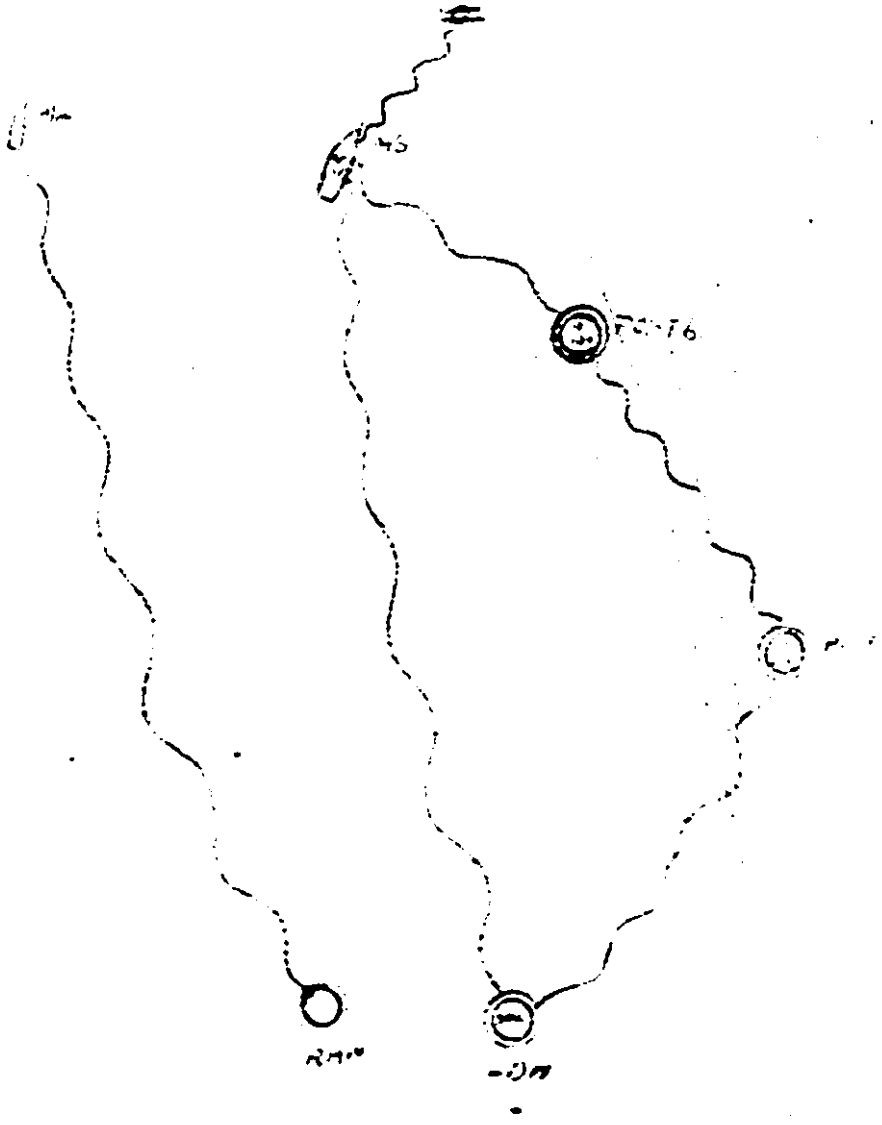
"C"

WIRELESS DIAGRAM
PARADISE GARDEN AREA



APP C

CODESIGNS AND FREQUENCIES

All stations 4315 and 3680 K/cs

LDH (Control)	OB55
Post 6	SW18
Minesweeper	1JC
Post 3	10W4

Subject: LIVE AMN PRACTICES

HQ Merauke Force
GS 21/2134

List C
Plus Serial 61,65.

(Ref Map 2075 MERAUKE 1:25,000)

LAA PRACTICE

1. 40 mm Bofors will be firing between 1000 and 1200 hrs on the date, and in the area, indicated below:-

Map Ref of gun posns & gun or tp No.	Grid bearings between which firing will take place	Range in yds from gun posn to limit of danger area	Highest pt on traject if project-ile fails to burst	Map Ref area over which bursts should occur	Number of rounds req for each gun
On 10 Nov 44				Square	
L7 42543600	25° - 35°	11000 yds	5000 ft	4438	20 rds
L9 42753527	263° - 273°	11000 "	5000 "	4035	"
L10 41913444	265° - 275°	11000 "	8000 "	3834	"
On 13 Nov 44					
L12 43623291	70° - 80°	11000 "	5000 "	4633	"
L6 44883162	85° - 95°	11000 "	5000 "	4731	"
On 14 Nov 44					
L5 45583110	75° - 85°	11000 "	5000 "	4831	"
L4 45523013	215° - 225°	11000 "	5000 "	4327	"
On 16 Nov 44					
L3 45982928	215° - 225°	11000 "	7000 "	4426	"
L1 45962876	215° - 225°	11000 "	7000 "	4426	"
On 17 Nov 44					
L16 44923056	215° - 225°	11000 "	5000 "	4228	"
L15 45502970	215° - 225°	11000 "	7000 "	4327	"
L13 43693097	215° - 225°	11000 "	8000 "	4128	"

ASSAULT COURSE EXERCISE

2. 2 in Mortars (HE and smoke), grenades and small arms, will be fired during an assault course exercise vicinity map ref 452275 on 9 Nov 44.
Direction of fire will be seaward and picquets will indicate danger area.

GRENADE THROWING

3. A grenade throwing practice will be held vicinity map ref 434290 on 13 and 14 Nov 44.
Danger area will be indicated by picquets.

Maj
GS Merauke Force

8 Nov 44

WAN Diary AFR H

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

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. D937

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
			SECRET CIPHER

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: MEAT

Date—Time of Origin: 15 0700K

Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO HQ MERAUKE FORCE

(w) For Information (INFO.)

PART I

Message Instructions GR

ORIGINATOR'S No. 080 ⊙ SECRET ⊙

SMEROE and HDML arrived POST 6 2345K 14 NOV ⊙ infm ⊙ JAPERO patrol consisting 4 natives only despatched from RV 2 1330 K 11 NOV ⊙ native refused do this patrol if accompanied by white pers. ⊙ OTAKWA patrol consisting SJT DUNNE SJT KNEEBONE L/CPL SMITH GUN JONES SIG WILLIAMS and natives MIN and JAOOB despatched POST motor launch equipped W/T and carrying PRAOE from RV 1 0640K 12 NOV ⊙ at 1000 K 13 NOV MIN returned alone and reported patrol attacked at OTAKWA 1130K 12 NOV by 10 JAPS and approx 40 native troops ⊙

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

Signed

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

Signed

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

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

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 1437

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	SECRET CIPHER	Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator | Date—Time of Origin | Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions | GR

ORIGINATOR'S No. SJT DUNNE TOR JONES killed remainder wounded and surrounded and launch sunk

group rescued corrupt have asked for check

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

Signed

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

Signed [signature]

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority IMPORTANT

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR 1215		
Time Cleared 1400		

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

MESSAGE FORM

SECRET
CIPHER

Register No.

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: MEAT.

Date—Time of Origin: 150700 K

Office Date Stamp: D941

For Action

TO HQ MERAUKE FORCE.

(B) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions — GR

PART 2

ORIGINATOR'S No. 080.

SECRET ⊙ W/T code list no 4 and battle code NOT TRENCODE new appx B MERAUKE FORCE GS* INT 64* lost with launch ⊙ unable effect rescue owing limitation ship and pers ⊙ at 1245 K B Nov due loss security and as JAPERO patrol over due ship commenced return POST 6 ⊙ hear 1500 K OC patrol sighted man believed Jap at EILANDEN RIVER Sheet 1 250000 409507 ⊙ considered unwise investigate ⊙ ship arrived west KASTEEL 1932 K. and anchored.

* portion rec'd corrupt will check if desired.

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

Signed

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

Time: TRI or TRR 1130

Time Cleared 1620

IMPORTANT

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

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. D945

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: MENT

Date—Time of Origin: 150700

Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO MERAUKE FORCE

(w) For Information (INFO.)

PART 3

Message Instructions — GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

080 ⊙ SECRET ⊙
army communication jammed
by JAPS ⊙ MIN watched very
afraid and told conflicting
stories of attack on patrol
⊙ at 0400K 14 NOV MIN jumped
over board and could NOT
be located ⊙ at approx
0955 K and 1600K 14 NOV
sighted own recce's ⊙ comm
failed with 2 recce ⊙
commenced return voyage
1600K ⊙ unless air recce
successful consider further air
recce's useless ⊙ air strike
OTAKWA may possibly enable
any survivors escape in
confusion

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except ____ Wireless

Signed

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

Signed [signature] Cpl

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority: IMPORTANT

Time	System	Op
TIE or TOR 1515		
Time Cleared 1630		

Wa Diary

Att J

SUBJECT:- MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT - MERAUKE AREA.

HQ Merauke Force
15 Nov 44

A10/15858

All A.M.F. Units
72 Wing
N.O.I.C.
N.E.I.
US Forces

Commensurate with conditions of dry weather prevailing and the lack of suitable roadbuilding material, great difficulty is being experienced in road maintenance.

The situation is intensely aggravated by vehicles driven over the maximum speed limit laid down in Merauke Area R/Os serial 4 27 Sep 44 para A.52, viz:

"MAXIMUM SPEED FOR ALL VEHICLES 20 M.P.H."

It is necessary for all services to co-operate in this matter and it is therefore requested that the terms of this scroll receive the widest pro[illegible].

E. Barden Lt
(E. BARDEN)
A/SC'A' MERAUKE FORCE

Attx K

Subject: RELIEF OF AASL S10

HQ Merauke Force
GS 82

Ref Map: 2075 MERAUKE 1:25,000 series

1. Approval has been given to the withdrawal of S.L.C and detachment of 52 Aust AA Regt (Comp) from site S10 363355 and the replacement thereof by an outpost detachment to be provided by 20 Aust Mot Regt consisting of a section of one Sgt and approximately 10 Ors with such arms and equipment as may be considered necessary by 20 Aust Mot Regt.

2. The detachment of 20 Aust Mot Regt will take over the site prior to or simultaneously with the withdrawal of the SLC and detachment of 52 Aust AA Regt (Comp).

3. Role
The role of the detachment of 20 Aust Mot Regt will be
(1) To maintain a 24 hour watch over the mouth of the Merauke River.

(2) To maintain telephone communication between the outpost and this HQ.

4. Administration
(1) All technical stores equipment and transport at present at site on charge to 52 Aust AA Regt will be withdrawn.

(2) Camp and accomodation stores as listed in Appx A will be handed over to 20 Aust Mot Regt and certificate of handing over forwarded to this HQ.

(3) Movement of personnel stores equipment and transport will be arranged by units concerned with Movement Control and Water Transport.

(4) Engineer assistance, if required, will be arranged by units concerned with 27 Aust Fd Coy.

(5) Withdrawal of stores and equipment and the taking over of site by 20 Aust Mot Regt detachement will be completed not later than 30 Nov 44 and this HQ advised in writing when action completed. Actual date of hand-over to be mutually arranged between 52 Aust AA Regt and 20 Aust Mot Regt.

(6) 20 Aust Mot Regt will be responsible for maintenance of outpost detachment and will carry out periodical inspections of outposts.

5. Intercommunication
(1) Existing telephone line from submarine cable to site to be left in position, and to be handed over to 20 Aust Mot Regt.

(2) 20 Aust Mot Regt will be responsible for supply of telephones and maintenance of line EAST of MERAUKE RIVER.

(3) 52 Aust AA Regt by liaison with 20 Aust Mot Regt will re-route cable EAST of MERAUKE RIVER so as to put outpost in direct communication with 20 Aust Mot Regt without going through S/L Dty system.

Distribution

52 Aust AA Regt	1,2	Signals Officer	7
20 Aust Mot Regt	3	72 Wing RAAF	8
27 Aust Fd Coy	4	War Diary	9-10
Movement Control	5	File	11
Water Transport	6		

[signature] Maj
(G.M.F. [illegible])
GS Merauke Force
17 Nov 44.

1 Ships' Tank. 400 gals.
1 Motor - Water Pump at Well.

2 Axes.
2 Picks.
1 Shovel G.S.
3 Tents, 12 x 14.
3 Flys.
3 Tables F.S.
5 Forms, Dining.
5 Containers, Cook 3 gal.
6 " Water 2 gal.
1 Hot Box.
2 Stands Cooking.
1 Fowler Stove.
2 Showers.
6 Poles, Upright.
3 " Ridge.
1 Soyers.
1 Brooms Bass.
2 Brushes, Scrub.
4 Lamps Hurricane.
1 Shovel R.E.
2 Bowls, Sand.
1 Forks, Cooks.
1 Pin, Rolling.
2 Knives, Butcher.
2 Ladles.
1 Steel.
2 Knives, Open, Tin.
2 Spoons
3 Buckets, 13".
3 Dishes, Sd. 3½ gal.
1 Dipper.

Subject: RANGE PRACTICE

HQ Merauke Force
GS 81

Dist List C
For Info
Civil Admnstr Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police

Ref Map 2075 MERAUKE 1:25,000

1. 20 Aust Mot Regt (AIF) will be using 30 yd miniature range (434290) on 20 and 21 Nov 44 for live grenade practice between the hours of 0800 and 1800 on 20 Nov and 0800 and 1200 on 21 Nov.

Danger area will be marked by picquets.

[redacted] Maj
(G. [redacted] FERGUSON)
GS Merauke Force
17 Nov 44

Wa: Dec

N/L M

Subject: LIVE AMMUNITION PRACTICE

HQ Merauke Force
GS 75.

Dist List C
For Infm
Civil Admnstr Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police

1. Ref Map 2075 MERAUKE 1:25,000 Series

GRENADE THROWING

A grenade throwing practice using live grenades will take place as indicated below:-

Date	Map Ref	Hours
17 Nov 44	42063446	0900 - 1500
21 Nov 44	45282962	0900 - 1500

Danger areas will be defined by picquets.

2. Ref Map 2170 NASSAU 1 inch to 1 mile

2 pdr SUB-CALIBRE PRACTICE

2 pdr sub-calibre practice will be carried out as indicated below:-

Date	Map Ref Gun posn	Map Ref Target area	Grid Bearing between which firing will take place
18 Nov 44	47332588	48552504	Segment of circle between 120° and 150° measured from gun posn

G. [illegible] Maj
(G. [illegible] FERGUSON)
GS Merauke Force

13 Nov 44.

CONFIDENTIAL. MPK AI TS 13.

REPORT No. 42.

DNG Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy, H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE.

Report for week ending 18 Nov 44.

1. UNIT CENSORSHIP.

(a) Analysis.

Nature of Communication.	No. Examined.	No. Stopped.	No. Treated.
Franked letters from SP.	383	-	4
" telegrams " "	151	-	-
" parcels " "	4	-	-
Total.	538	-	4
Unfranked letters from SP.	-	-	-
" telegrams " "	-	-	-
" parcels " "	-	-	-
Green Envelopes	526	1	8
Fd Service Postcards	-	-	-
Total.	526	1	8
Letters from SP.	7	-	-
Telegrams " "	-	-	-
Parcels " "	-	-	-
Total	7	-	-
TOTAL ALL COMMUNICATIONS.	1071	1	12

(b) Evasion of Censorship. Nil.

(c) Franking. Franking in this Area remains good. The few deletions made from franked letters were all of a minor nature.

(d) Criticism of Censorship. No outstanding criticism noted and one writer, a junior NCO from RHQ 20 Motor Regt, showed a very confident and clear understanding of the personal side of censorship, he wrote " I would not worry about the Base Censor opening that letter, " they see thousands of them just like mine and personal matters " don't concern them, all they are looking for are breaches of " censorship and after they have scanned them they could probably " not tell you a word that was written in them. You can be " assured that everything in those letters is absolutely confident- " ial and none of it is ever repeated even to the rest of the " censor staff, so do not worry about that Darling."

(e) Use of Green Envelopes. This mail is good and calls for no special comment.

(f) Classification of Breaches of ANCI No.4 observed. Breaches of a minor nature only observed. The only serious breach during the week was of a local instruction and will be more fully reported under para 2 (b).

2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "G" BRANCH.

(a) Morale. The standard of morale remains good, the only exceptions being a few writers who complain about the bordom and monotony of camp life and a few who complain about being left in this Area to long without leave.

/ (b) Security.

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2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "G" BRANCH. (Contin)

(b) Security. The standard of security in the Area remains good with the exception of a writer from 105 Aust Lt Fd Amb who was guilty of a breach of Merauke Force Admin Instn No. 20 relating to security of information about a recent occurrence. This letter was referred to Formation.

(c) Training. Very little reference noted, some troops complain about having to work and train under such hot conditions.

(d) Opinions of Interest. Some rather interesting remarks about the rushing of the Melbourne Cup film to operational areas were noticed. The majority of writers said they were very pleased to be able to see the film the day after the race, but some were of the opinion that the necessary air craft and organization could be better used to speed up the air mail. It is considered that this attitude was caused chiefly because this Area had been without an inward mail for some days and no mail arrived with the film. One such remark, from a member of 20 Motor Regt, was as follows:-

" Another thing also makes me rather testy is that to-night the
" Melbourne Cup is showing at the pictures - being a very kind
" thought, but why do they want to send five minutes of pleasure
" up, when they haven't brought mail for five days."

Another writer, a Cpl of a Det attached to HQ MERAUKE FORCE, wrote about the same subject and went on to say:-

" I gather that it was to be rushed to all areas as a special for
" the troops. Snappy work and I suppose it will make good advert-
" ising about how the Army is looked after. I would rather get
" my mail more regularly and think the money would be better spent
" in rushing us our letters."

3. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "A" BRANCH.

(a) Leave. A much discussed topic in letters from all ranks. Many writers refer to expecting leave within a few months.

(b) Amenities. Always well appreciated. The motion pictures shown receive a lot of favourable comment. During the week many reference to the local race meeting have been noticed. It is evident that the races were much enjoyed by the troops.

4. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "Q" BRANCH.

(a) Rations. No outstanding comments noted but personnel of most units appear to be satisfied with the rations received.

(b) Postal Service. Several unfavourable remarks about the mail service were noticed. Several writers complained of delays in air mail

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

On 13 Nov 44, [illegible] S/Sjt NOORE R.E. marched in ex TORRES STRAIT Det, and took over control of this Det from Sjt BRADBURY W.

On 18 Nov 44, [illegible] L/Cpl BRITTON G. marched in ex CAIRNS Det.

Casualty Returns have been submitted.

[signature] S/Sjt [illegible] I/c.
DNC Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy.

Distribution.

O.C. 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy (2)
GS(Int) First Aust Army.
H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE
Det 1 Aust Fd C'ship Coy TORRES STRAIT
File.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ATTACHED TO REPORT No. 62

RETURN OF ARTICLES RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED FOR WEEK ENDING 18 Nov 44.

Date.	Time of Receipt.	No. and Class Received.	No. and Class Despatched.	Time Desp.	No. ref to Formation.	Held. Overnight
1944.						
Nov. 13	0800	61 1st.	54 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	37 1st.	44 1st.	1630	-	-
Nov. 14	0800	95 1st.	89 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	53 1st.	59 1st.	1630	-	-
	1400	1 3rd.	1 3rd.	1630	-	-
Nov. 15	0800	86 1st.	81 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	78 1st.	83 1st.	1630	-	-
Nov. 16	0800	106 1st.	91 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	75 1st.	90 1st.	1630	-	-
	1400	2 3rd.	2 3rd.	1630	-	-
Nov. 17	0800	98 1st.	98 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	70 1st.	70 1st.	1630	-	-
	1400	1 3rd.	1 3rd.	1630	-	-
Nov. 18	0800	85 1st.	85 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	72 1st.	72 1st.	1630	1	-
		920	920		1	-

[signature] S/Sgt NCO I/c.
Dmg Det 1 Ant Fd Censorship Coy.

W.D, Aff O

EB

Fg (1) RKd

SUBJECT:- SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ALLOWANCE.

HQ Merauke Force
24 Nov 44

Q14/15814

All A.M.F. Units

HQ Merauke Force Q14/15769 of 25 Nov 44 on above subject is cancelled.

2. The expenditure of ONE shilling per man for Xmas messing 1944 has been approved and the following procedure will be observed:

(a) All purchases to be made by Units from A.A.C.S. will be by cash withdrawn from Unit Regimental Trust Funds. Where insufficient funds are available in the Regimental Trust Fund, the Trust Account may be overdrawn to the extent of the estimated allowance of 1/- per man of Unit strength.

(b) On or before 7 Jan.,1945, C.O's and O.C's Units will lodge the following certificate with the Depot or Formation Pay-master servicing the Unit:-

" I certify that (i).....members of the A.M.F. were rationed with.....(Unit) on 25 Dec.,1944, and that £.....was spent on Extra Christmas Rations (ii) that the above-mentioned members were not entitled to supplementary ration allowance in respect of that day. Please credit the allowance due to this Unit to the following Unit Trust Account:

Trust Account No..... Unit.....

Fund.....

.....

C.O. or O.C. Unit. "

3. Units will then be reinbursed by issue of a credit note through D.F.O., to the extent of the amount expended.

4. BEER ISSUE.

Owing to unforseen breakages, the beer issue next week will be reduced to ONE bottle per man. On receipt of further stocks it is probable that this reduction will be made up by the issue of an extra bottle per man.

5. Approval has been requested for a special issue of two (2) bottles per man for Xmas Day.

LT
(A.V. FYFE)
SC "Q" MERAUKE FORCE

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document is NOT to be communicated either directly or indirectly to the Press or anyone NOT authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES,

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1.

by

LT-COL D.A.CAMERON
Commanding Merauke Force

SERIAL 7
Nos 76-
24 NOVEMBER 44

BRANCH OF THE ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

A 76 WATER CONSERVATION The importance of this matter will be brought to the notice of all troops. Existing supply is very low and to offset the danger of a complete shortage, a new ration scale will come into operation 29 Nov 44,

(a) CHLORINATED WATER FOR COOKING AND DRINKING PURPOSES ONLY, DRAWN FROM AUTHORISED WELLPOINTS OF THE AREA — 2 GALLONS PER DAY PER MAN, except as in sub para (f)

(b) SULPHUR SPRING WATER FOR WASHING, ABLUTION AND GENERAL PURPOSES — 3 GALLONS PER DAY PER MAN.

(c) Facilities are being provided for units to draw Sulphur Spring water at Ref Map 2075 MERAUKE 1:25000., map ref 42173431. Units may arrange to draw their own supply, by means of 44 gal Drums but on application to 157 AUST GEN TPT., cartage will be arranged to unit areas. The suggested system is for units to procure a supply of 44 gal drums and to work on the principle of exchanging an empty drum for a full one on delivery.

(d) Showers are being built near the Sulphur water point and units will take every opportunity of using them.

(e) Units will now be required to sign for Chlorinated water issued at the various points, to enable a check to be kept on drawing rates in relation to unit strengths.

(f) PATIENTS at MDS or MRS will be allowed a scale of 5 Gals per day Chlorinated water and COs of respective hospitals will ensure that the ration is used for PATIENTS only.

(g) SULPHUR SPRING water produces a good lather and the odour is simply a nuisance.

A 77 RAT CONTROL A quantity of Barium Carbonate is now available at Dispensary MDS and the measures set out in the recently distributed screed "RAT CONTROL — POISONING AS A CONTROL METHOD", can be implemented.
Suggestions contained in the screed, cover two phases. The first being pre-baiting with unpoisoned foods to determine the best type of bait base. The second phase is laying of poisoned baits. Units will commence at once with the laying of unpoisoned baits and will experiment until 28 Nov 44.. During late afternoon 28 Nov 44, all units will lay poisoned baits and will continue to do so daily for a period of one week.
Reports as to results will be forwarded to these Hqs not later than 6 Dec 44.

A 78 DUMPING OF REFUSE Two authorised dumps are now in operation at Ref Map 2075 MERAUKE 1:25000, map references 44103190 and 46902790 respectively.
The following regulations will apply forthwith.

(a) All rubbish will be incinerated in unit lines

(b) Disposal will be made ONLY at authorised dumps.

(c) Military Provost will inspect each load and authorise dumping or order driver to return to unit lines for rubbish to be incinerated. MP will also instruct that the load incinerated will be brought to the dump at a specified time.

Breaches of these regulations WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. An inspection made recently disclosed appalling conditions and the filthy habits of some units not only reflects the administration of those units but also endangers the health of the troops in the area.

A 79 SPEED LIMITS 10 MPH signs have been authorised to cover a stretch of road bypassing 19 gunsite on New Wharf Road to Independent Knoll. 52 AUST COMP AIR REGT. AIF are authorised to police this area and breaches of the speed limit specified, will be reported to these Hqs for necessary action.

A 79 Attention is also drawn to Merauke Area RO A52/44.
It is the duty of all Officers,WOs and NCOs to endorse the G2 of any driver who has been found exceeding the speed limits laid down and to report the matter immediately to these Hqs.

A 80 DRESS,SPORTS ETC. All personnel will wear some covering,either shorts,trunks or underpants whilst engaged in sport,swimming or sunbelding. Instances of complete nudity have been noticed and the practice will cease forthwith.

A 81 INJURIES [illegible] WITH EXPLOSIVES AND LIVE AMMUNITION.

GRO A 382/44 states;-

1. Members of the public have been killed or seriously injured recently as the result of handling explosives and live ammunition which either-
   (a) have been taken or sent home by members of the Forces as souvenirs;or
   (b) have been negligently left in places to which the public has access.
2. To prevent a reccurrence of such accidents,the following instructions will be observed strictly.
3. (a) Unless acting in the course of his military duties or unless so authorised by or under the National Security Regulations(Firearms and Explosives) a member of the A.I.F will not have in his possession or deliver or transit to or attempt to deliver or transmit to any other person any bomb,shell or other explosive of any kind.
   (b)All units will take vigorous action to ensure that members comply with the terms of this paragraph.
4. (a) When any member serving outside Australia and Tasmania is to return to Australia or Tasmania,his kit and baggage will be inspected thoroughly, prior to his embarkation or enplaning,to ensure that he is not in possession of any explosives or live ammunition of any kind other than such as may be necessary in the course of his military duties.
   (b) His kit will again be inspected thoroughly at any LTD from which he is to be released on leave,prior to his being released.
5. (a) Units will ensure that all prescribed safety precautions for handling and storing of explosives and live ammunition are carefully observed.
   (b) Explosives and live ammunition used for training purposes will be carefully safeguarded
   (c) Under no circumstances will explosives or live ammunition of any kind be left unguarded in any place to which members of the public have access.
   (d) In areas where training with explosives is carried out,the utmost care will be exercised to ensure that all blinds are searched for and destroyed in accordance with the prescribed safety regulations.
6. If a member is charged with an offence against this order,a summary of evidence will be taken and an application submitted to superior authority for trial by court-martial.

(To be republished in unit routine orders) 102/4272

A 82 LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES TAKEN OUT BY MEMBERS OF THE FORCES

GRO F 412 states;-

1. Life assurance policies taken out by members of the forces on their lives after September ,1939,usually contain a war clause which imposes upon the member assured,if he wishes to remain covered under his policy for the full sum assured while serving outside the Commonwealth,the obligation of-
   (a) informing the life assurance office concerned of his departure from Australia and of the date thereof; and
   (b) payment to that office of an extra war loading premium.
2. Certain life assurance offices regard the Territories of Papua and New Guinea as being,for this purpose,outside the Commonwealth,and there are variations in the rates of war loading premiums charged by different offices,while,in some cases,an offiecmay not be prepared to cover the additional risk and may,therefore,refuse to quote any extra premium. A member who desires to remain coverdwhile outside the Commonwealth should ascertain from the office concerned to what areas the existing cover extends and what rates of war loading premiums are required should he serve outside those areas.
3. If the member subsequently for service outside the Commonwealth,he may arrange through any channels-
   (a) for payment of the amount of extra war loading premium (as previously ascertained by him)to the office concerned, by means of a remittance of postal pay;and

A 82 (b) for notice of the date ofembarkation to be given by the DFO when paying the remittance.

The member willattach to the remittance form a letter requesting the giving of the notice mentioned in sub-para (b) of this paragraph.

4. For security reasons, direct notification by members to life assurance offices is strictly prohibited.

(To be republished in unit routine orders) 167/1/70.

A 83 ATTENTION TO CROs

Attention is directed to the following CROs.

A 383/44 MOSQUITO SPRAY - SCALE OF ISSUE.

A 384/44 AAF MDB 3 (NOMINAL ROLL OF DRAFT) and AAF A232 (NOMINAL ROLL OF REINFORCEMENT DRAFT.

Lt.
A/SC (A) NAVAL FORCES.

Q 84 SERVICE DRESS UNIFORMS

Subtended hereunder is IHQ 866308 of 6 Oct 44 for information and necessary action. Reference CRO O 196/44

A serious shortage exists in Ordnance Depots of Service Dress uniforms in certain sizes and although these deficiencies are covered by contracts with the Department of Supply, the clothing trade is so overburdened that no substantial deliveries of the sizes required can be expected for some months.

To relieve this position it has been decided to issue substitute sizes for those that are not at present available. The substitute sizes issued to units will not necessarily ensure that personnel receive perfectly fitting uniforms but the variation in measurements is so small that it is considered the appearance of the troops will not unduly suffer.

Ordnance depots have been directed to make the following substitute issues when stocks of the required sizes are not available;

(a) JACKETS, SERVICE DRESS.

Size	may be substituted for size
58	56
60	55
63	61
68	69
71	72
74	65
77	78 & 81
79	85
87	93
92	86

(b) TROUSERS, SERVICE DRESS

Size	may be substituted for size
52	51
58	55 & 56
60	59 & 61
63	72
68	67 & 69
71	65 - 72
74	70
77	81 & 84
82	70
87	85
89	73 & 80
92	93

As it is essential that the Ordnance Service continues to maintain a correct record of Service Dress requirements, it is requested that units be directed to indent for Service Dress uniforms in the sizes they actually require regardless of the fact it may be known that such sizes are not available and substitute sizes will be received in lieu. Should units fail to observe this instruction, it will eventually result in the sizes at present not available, showing a nil requirement because units have not indented for them.

Ordnance Depots in making substitute issues will clearly indicate on the voucher (Army Form G.962D) the nature of such substitution but the size tag on the garment will not be altered by the depots.

It would be appreciated if these instructions be given the widest circulation and that copies of the substitute size ranges are prominently displayed in Quartermasters Stores.

A/Q (Maintenance) 21st Army Gp
First Cdn Army.

Q 85. CIGARETTES. Units are advised to check stocks of Fine cut Tobacco on hand or at time of receipt and return any defective stocks to NAAFI immediately. Faulty seals have been noticed, particularly in CARRERAS Fine cut.

Q 86 ENGINEER STORES ON LOAN TO UNITS Units will return to 27 Aust Fd, Coy RAE any surplus Eng. stores and equipment, particularly wheelbarrows and hand tools. Equipment on loan from 27 Aust Fd, Coy RAE is covered by s18 and packing slip.

Q 87 ATTENTION TO GROs.

Attention is directed to the following GROs
O 385/44 CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF TENTAGE.
O 386/44 ACCOUNTING FOR VEHICLE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT.
O 387/44 Inspection and sentencing of ANTI-GAS EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING. *** Units will submit to this Hqs, names Officers and NCOs appointed. *****

[signature] LT.
[illegible] FORCE.

NOTICES

GIFT PARCELS FOR UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSEES — DUTY FREE CONCESSION. (GROs 20 Oct 44)

1. The conditions of the concession announced in the Notice appearing in GROs dated 3 Sep 43, pages 18 and 19, under which members of the AIF and of the British Army serving in Australia and in other places within the SPA are permitted to send to their relatives and friends in the United Kingdom a maximum of four gift parcels per year, duty free, have been amended. The Notice is therefore cancelled.
2. The following are the conditions applicable as from 20 Oct 44
   (i) The usual postage rates are payable
   (ii) The parcels must not weigh more than 5 lbs each and must not include-
      (a) any drinkable spirits
      (b) more than ½lb total weight of tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes (200 Cigarettes or 50 cigars) or any tobacco marked "HIGHSHIPS ONLY"
      (c) more than ½ pint of scent
      (d) more than 2 lbs of any foodstuff.
   (iii) The maximum value of the contents of parcels which can now be sent by one individual sender in one year is Eight Pounds and this value may be made up as follows :-
      (a) one parcel of Eight pounds value, or
      (b) two or more parcels up to a maximum of four parcels aggregating Eight pounds value.
   (iv) Special customs declarations (AFs 5192) must be affixed to all parcels in order to secure the duty free concession. These declarations where not already in possession of units, are obtainable through normal stationery channels.
   (v) Issues to personnel will be under unit arrangements, on the basis of a maximum of four AFs 5192 per year to any one sender. A comparatively few forms should therefore, suffice for the needs of any unit/
   (vi) Each AF 5192 issued will have entered upon it the senders name and number and be signed by the issuing officer in the space provided.
   (vii) Each Customs declaration represents a permissable value of Two Pounds within the parcel to which it is attached.
   (viii) Where the value of the contents in any one parcel exceeds Two Pounds a further declaration for each additional Two pounds (or fraction Thereof) up to the maximum of Eight pounds must be attached e.g. a parcel containing goods to the declared value of Six pounds would require three labels attached.
3. It is stressed that full duty will be levied in the United Kingdom (for collection from the addressees) in respect of any contents of parcels which infringe the restrictions contained in para2(ii) above. In addition to have these duty charges, the contents of any parcel not bearing a Customs declaration, received into the United Kingdom, are subject to purchase tax money amounting in many cases to 100 per cent of the value of such contents. This tax is chargeable on most manufactured articles but tobacco and foodstuffs are excluded.
   (To be repeated in unit routine orders) 103/1/15.

LOST PAYBOOKS. paybook No 6250170 belonging [illegible] 122[illegible] Tpr. [illegible]
" " VX 82400 Cnr. [illegible]
FINDERS, PLEASE RETURN TO [illegible] FORCE.
STOLEN from [illegible] Glove box — one Vest Pocket Kodak folding 127. Units will make a search and report this camera held unregistered or otherwise.
FOUND [illegible] Khaki fur
Size 6 5/8. Owner call [illegible] FORCE.

WD

MH 0

SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT

HQ Post 6
Merauke Area
20 Nov 44.

HQ Merauke Area

1. SOERCH kapallas ONISEAU and FAITKP visited Post 6 today and told the following story:-

"JACOB (DJOEMI native who accompanied OTAKWA patrol) visited SOERCH two days ago. He said there were many Japs at OTAKWA. The Australian patrol was reported by a Jap soldier in a prahoe. The Japs accompanied by Kaja Kaja soldiers went to where the Australian launch was and opened fire with LMG's and grenades. All the Australian soldiers were killed. During the fighting six Japanese soldiers were killed. MIN and JACOB escaped into the bush and neither was wounded. The Kaja Kaja soldiers cut off the heads of the Australians after they were dead. MIN was on his way back to AYAM and JACOB was going to AYAM and then Post 6."

2. KNAKOB jnr acted as interpreter and owing to PI lack of knowledge of MALAY the proceedings were slow and unsatisfactory. I have not much doubt that MIN betrayed the presence of the patrol to the Japs under pressure as previously reported.

3. Urgent to get MIN and JACOB from AYAM to get real truth of matter.

Sgd. M. G. Bailey Capt
CC Post 6 Merauke Area.

SECRET

Subject: OTAKWA - JAPERO PATROL 9-14 NOV 44

HQ Merauke Force
GS 93.

Rear Hqh First Aust Army

1. Ref our O1192 of 161100K, attached is copy of patrol report and summary of events of patrol OTAKWA - JAPERO area 9-14 Nov.

2. The disappearance of the native MIN has prevented his stories being checked, but it is felt that that first detailed by him on his return is most likely to be correct. He has been particularly helpful and loyal to Australians and was friendly to Sgt SMITH almost to a point of devotion. When he returned to the vessels he was mentally and physically distressed and it is considered that he was in no condition to concoct stories. Nor would he have returned if he had been guilty of treachery.

3. His subsequent altered accounts are considered to have been inspired by a delayed realisation that he might be blamed for the whole affair and this fear was strengthened in his own mind by the belief that the OC Patrol was angry with him.

4. It is possible he may eventually return to his native village of AJAM in which case efforts will be made to have him brought to Post 6 for further interrogation.

D A Cameron Lt Col
(D. A. CAMERON)
Comd Merauke Force
25. Nov 44.

SECRET

POST 6

PATROL REPORT NO. 19

Ref Map: AMENDED EILANDEN RIVER AREA 1:250,000

Strength:
1 Offr) 20 Aust Mot Regt
5 OR'S)
3 OR'S 154 Aust L.A.A. Bty
2 Sigs
3 FS NCO'S
1 Offr) RAAF
1 Cpl)
6 natives

Object: To recce JAPERO and OTAKWA

Duration: 091035K to 142400K

Transport: Minesweeper "SMEROE", HDML 1322 with 20 ft launch in tow.

Communications: Two 109 Sets, 3 B Set. - Army
H.F.522 set - RAAF

TIME	PLACE	REMARKS
091035K	Post 6	Departed for AJAM to pick up natives. Travelled via DJET and OETOEMBOE Rivers. Minesweeper leading.
091545K	AJAM	Native SEMON taken on board "SMEROE" plus 2 native praces. Natives MIN, DOM, SIMON & BOEBI taken on board ML 1322.
091755K	AJAM	Departed for village SOEROH.
092010K	SOEROH	Arrived at this village. 20 ft tow launch which was to proceed from Post 6 to SOEROH alone had,not arrived. Patrol anchored for night in river off SOEROH. No infm gained from natives.
100600K	SOEROH	"SMEROE" proceeded alone to DJOENI village to pick up native FOERMI. ML 1322 instructed to return to Post 6 and pick up launch.
100648K	SOEROH	ML 1322 proceeded to Post 6 and located launc in DJET River. ML returned to SOEROH with launch in tow.
101245K	FLAMINGO BAY	ML 1322 contacted "SMEROE" on the latter ship's return from DJOENI and both ships proceeded up coast to West KASTEEL River.
101730K	WEST KASTEEL R.	Entered this river and sailed inland followin course of river.
101900K	WEST KASTEEL R.	Anchored for night at approx. map ref (z)K 705209
110623K	WEST KASTEEL R.	Up anchor and proceeded NW crossing rivers TORPEDOBOAT, GREAT MOERAS & ATIMET.
111315K	AMBOEKERAH R.	Arrived at RV2 map ref (z)K309502. SEMON, DOM,BOEBI & SIMIN proceeded from here by prace to recce JAPERO with instructions to return in 2 (Two) days. Both ships remained at RV2 for approx ½ hour and then proceeded backstream to RV1 and anchored in small creek map ref. (z)K404409.
111500K		
120630K	RV1	OTAKWA patrol consisting of 1 Sgt 20 Mot Regt 2 FS NCO'S, 1 Sig, launch driver and 2 native left in 20 ft launch with prace in tow.
121400K	RV1	OP and listening post established at mouth of creek. Strength 4 men.
121430K	RV1	Aircraft seen flying SW.
130840K	RV1	Aircraft heard.
131030K	RV1	Native MIN returned from OTAKWA by prace with news of illfated patrol.
131200K	RV1	OP and listening post discontinued and both ships moved from hiding for return journey to Post 6.

TIME	PLACE	REMARKS
131615K	GREAT MOBRAS R.	Entered this river.
131725K	WEST KASTEEL R.	Entered this river.
131905K	do do	Anchored at approx Map ref (z)K705303.
140415K	do do	MIN escaped from "SMERGE"
140615K	do do	Up anchor and under way.
140730K	do do	Entered small creek at map ref (z)K702207
140745K	Map Ref (z)K702207	Aircraft heard flying NW.
140832K	do do	Aircraft sighted and identified as two "KITTYHAWKS". Communication between "SMERGE" and aircraft established by RAAF. Results satisfactory.
141530K	do do	Aircraft sighted and identified as two "KITTYHAWKS". Communication established between "SMERGE" and aircraft by RAAF. Results unsatisfactory.
141600K	do do	Up anchor and under way.
141710K	-	Cleared mouth of WEST KASTEEL RIVER.
142200K	-	Entered mouth of EILANDEN RIVER.
142400K	-	Anchored Post 6.

.....

GENERAL REMARKS.

Prior to 111315K SEMON on being questioned by FS on his proposed trip to JAPERO stated that he and his three native friends would go to JAPERO alone. He wouldn't go if any Australian soldiers wanted to go with him. His plan was to get in behind JAPERO and observe from there. He was asked to ascertain the following points:-

1. How many Japanese at JAPERO.
2. How many and where were the Jap occupied huts.
3. Where OC Post lived.
4. How many big guns and where were they situated.
5. If any boats were there and if so how many and what kind.
6. What guards were kept by the Japs.
7. Any other info to be gained.

SEMON was given sufficient food for the journey and return. He was told that if the Japs saw him to throw the food (which was in a bag) into the river and it would sink. If unable to do that he was to tell the Japs that he had stolen the food from the Australians and was coming to JAPERO to work for the Japanese. SEMON stated that he would return on the afternoon of the third day but MIN stated (prior to SEMON'S departure) that this patrol could get back the following day before nightfall. SEMON thought that he could get back the following evening. SEMON was told that if the two ships were not at RVZ when he returned he was to proceed back along the river and find us. SEMON and party did NOT know of the patrol for OTAKWA.

MIN on returning to RVZ at 131030K was questioned and gave the following replies.

Patrol proceeded to OTAKWA and on approaching this village MIN told Sgt SMITH that the OTAKWA natives were running away and that was a sign of Japanese at OTAKWA.

He said that the patrol did NOT slow down when he told them this but kept going.

When they reached OTAKWA village MIN said "STOP STOP JAPANESE" but Sgt DUNNE said "AH NO" and kept on going.

Ten Japanese and forty armed natives opened fire on the launch from the bank with 2 LMG'S, grenades and rifles.

The Japanese were only 10-15 yards from the launch and the river was very narrow.

Sgt DUNNE was badly wounded and fell into the water and sank.

Gnr JONES was killed straight away.

The grenades and LMG fire sank the launch.

Sgt KNEEBONE and Sig WILLIAMS reached the bank but Sgt KNEEBONE was wounded. He didn't know if Sig WILLIAMS was wounded or not.

The native FOERMI (Alian name JACOB) was also wounded but reached the bank.

nded and MIN dragged him to the bank.
rub and hid.
troops were all around the Australians.
any weapons as they went down with the

MIN stole out at night and stole a prao. He went to where the Australians landed and called out to them but they didn't answer so he set off for RVL.

On being questioned further MIN said that when the Japanese opened fire the Australians opened fire also, from the launch killing 3 (three) Japanese.

He also said he shot a native soldier in the cheek with a rifle.

He showed a wound in his leg which he said was done by a rifle. On examination there was a small puncture on the outside of the R leg about 3 ins above the ankle. No trace of bullet coming out and he was able to walk without limping. The wound was dressed but later he took the bandage off it.

He seemed upset and frightened. VEGTER

When the ships began to move he came to the bridge and said to Lt [redacted] "where are we going?" Lt [redacted] didn't answer him and he then began to say "I ask forgiveness - I am a friend of the Australians and NOT the Japanese". VEGTER

He then said to OC patrol "Toean besar is angry with me".

Later on he moved from the bridge.

At approx [redacted] MIN was further questioned by FS NCO and the following is his story.

Patrol arrived at OTAKWA at 11 a.m.

There were no native fisherman near OTAKWA and that was a sign of Japanese at OTAKWA.

He told Sgt SMITH this but patrol kept going.

When the launch was close to OTAKWA the Japanese opened fire with 2 LMG'S.

The native FOKEKI was killed also Gnr JONES. Later, however, he said that all the Australians were alive also the native FOKEKI although all were wounded.

The launch was damaged but Gnr JONES said that it could be repaired.

MIN said that he wanted OC patrol to take him to Post 8 and then to DJOKEKI where he would get a prao and some native friends and go to OTAKWA and get the Australians.

MIN said that Capt BAILEY was angry with him and would make trouble for him. (He repeated this several times)

MIN asked to be sent to MERAUKE to tell "Toean paling besar" everything that had happened and that he would stay in MERAUKE or return to Post 8 whichever "Toean paling besar" ordered.

Asked what happened to his leg he said that the Japanese had shot him. VEGTER

No further questions were asked.

FS NCO informed OC Patrol, Capt BAILEY what MIN had told him. Capt BAILEY asked Lt [redacted] to have another talk with MIN.

MIN was sent for but would not come. FS NCO went to see MIN and the latter said that he would come later as he was frightened. Asked why he was frightened he said that "Toean besar was angry with him and would make trouble for him."

After repeated requests MIN refused to come to the bridge and Capt BAILEY came to the rear of the ship to talk with him. MIN was told that Capt BAILEY was NOT angry with him but was very pleased he was able to come back and tell us what had happened. It was explained to MIN that if he had not returned Capt BAILEY would be very worried about the patrol but instead he now knew what had happened and could do something to help the Australians at OTAKWA.

At this stage it was considered unwise to question MIN further and he was given food and smokes and left alone.

During the afternoon MIN came to FS NCO and told him he would tell him the correct details that evening. He promised to be truthful after it having been explained that he must tell the truth if we were to be able to help the Australians at OTAKWA. MIN said that FS NCO was to write down everything that he said.

[redacted]

Patrol arrived at OTAKWA at 11 a.m.

MIN told Sgt SMITH that there were Japanese in OTAKWA. He wanted them to stop but the patrol carried on.

Patrol was fired on by the Japanese while they were still in the launch.

MIN was told by Sgt SMITH to go back to RV1 and tell Capt BAILEY what had happened. (They were still on board the launch.)

Sgt SMITH said Capt BAILEY may go back to Post 6 or stay at RV1 and tell MERAUKE by radio. MIN to go back to OTAKWA by foot if he couldn't get a prace.

Australians killed 4 (four) Japanese. The Australians were wounded.

FOERMI was wounded but still with the Australians in the jungle.

When the Japanese opened fire the Australians opened fire also and ran the launch into the bank and made for the jungle. The launch was left on the bank.

When in the jungle Sgt SMITH told FOERMI to get a parang and make a shelter.

Sgt SMITH told MIN to go to Capt BAILEY and tell him what had happened.

Launch had 5 holes in it and the engine was damaged.

Sgt SMITH wanted the 2 ships to go to OTAKWA and help him but first to go to Post 6 and get Pedrovittj (AJAM native). Then the ships were to come to an island near to OTAKWA and hide and Pedrovittj and MIN to go by prace at night and get the Australians.

The Australians have biscuits and tinned meat.

MIN says that he knows where the Australians are hiding in the jungle.

MIN was to get a prace from AJAM and also PEDROVITTJ.

The wounds of the Australians were attended to by themselves.

Sgt SMITH told MIN to tell Capt BAILEY that the 5 (five) Australians were still alive and that he had sent MIN to give Capt BAILEY this news.

The Japanese were near the Geerce's house when they opened fire.

There were ten Japanese and twenty Kaja2 soldiers. MIN killed a Kaja2 soldier who had his rifle pointing at Sgt SMITH.

The Kaja2 soldiers helped the Japanese to fire on the Australians.

Japanese had rifles and two LMG's.

MIN said that he would draw a sketch showing where the Australians were when we got back to Post 6.

MIN stated that Sgt SMITH had an OWEN and Pistol.

Sgt KNEEBONE	"	BREN
Sgt DUNNE	"	OWEN
Sig WILLIAMS	"	PISTOL
Gnr JONES	"	Rifle and Owen.

Asked if he had any further news and he said NO.

That night MIN slept on starboard deck of "SMEROE" and had a restless night.

At 140400K guard on duty came to wake next shift and MIN was standing alongside starboard rail.

At 140415K the alarm that MIN had slipped overboard was given. Everyone searched for him but no trace was found. A groan was heard alongside the ship and investigation was made but to no avail. MIN was called but there was no answer. The ships were anchored together approx mid-stream and MIN would have 500 yards to swim ashore. Kaja2 natives are known to be good underwater swimmers and apparently this was the method of escape employed.

SECRET

PATROL REPORT NO. 20

Map Ref: Amended sheet EILANDEN RIVER AREA 1:250,000

Strength: 1 Offr 20 Aust Mot Regt
1 Offr RAAF
1 FS NCO

Object: 1. Pay for praoes borrowed for Patrol No. 19.
2. Collect SARA, SUSIE and PEDROVITTJ for O/M to Merauke.

Duration: 170930K to 171915K

Transport: HDML 1322

Communication: HDML 1322 set

TIME	PLACE	REMARKS
171055K	WARSE	Arrived at this village via EILANDEN and POWER Rivers travelling NW from Post 6. A little trading done.
171345K	AJAK	Arrived at this village. Party went ashore and were met by SEMON, BOEBI, DON and SIMIN. These natives formed the JAPERO patrol and had arrived the previous day. SEMON on being questioned re the Patrol gave the following information. 1. Patrol was fired at in the AMBOKKERAH R. by a Jap post after leaving HV2 (see Patrol Report No.19). The shots were fired high and from a long distance. 2. SEMON threw his rations overboard as instructed and escaped. 3. Patrol continued and reached JAPERO without further detection. They approached JAPERO from the rear and split into 2 parties of 2 men each and took positions at each end of the village. 4. Patrol reported that there were "Banyak" Japs and Kaja2 soldiers. 5. Japs occupied 6 huts. 6. There was 1 large gun similar to a Bofors which was situated at seaward end of camp. It was stated that a large log ran into the river opposite this gun. 7. There were no ships or watercraft. 8. They were unable to ascertain in which hut OC Post lived. 9. Many SOERON natives at JAPERO working for Japs and one AJAK native who was recognised as BOSMANDEM. 10. 2 Jap aircraft were sighted flying out to sea together. 11. A Jap guard took position alongside the big gun during the hours of darkness. During daylight the Kaja2 soldiers took over guard duties and patrolled the water front. 12. SEMON and party said they were coming to Post 6 the following day to see "Toean besar". They were given presents of Tobacco and were told that when they came to Post 6 they would be given gifts in payment for their good work. 13. The praoe borrowed from AJAK and used by OTAKWA patrol was paid for. MIN had not returned to AJAK. Kapella besar was told to tell MIN on his return to come to Post 6 as Capt BAILEY was not angry with him and wouldn't make trouble for him. It was explained to Kapella besar in confidence that MIN had run away from the Australians.
171535K	AJAK	Patrol left with SARA and SUSIE. PEDROVITTJ was absent getting food and SEMON was instructed to bring him to Post 6 on 18 inst.
171915K	Post 6	Patrol arrived Post 6.

17 Nov 44

Signed G.PHILLIPS L/CPL
"T" AUST FS SEC

SECRET

SUMMARY OF EVENTS - OTAKWA PATROL

030930K 3 Nov	Conference in Comd's office to discuss proposed patrol to IPOKEKWA RIVER area. Attended by Comd (Lt Col CAMERON), NOIC (Lt Comd LEVY), G11 (Maj FERGUSON), Naval IO (Lt BUCHAN), Dutch Harbourmaster (Lt CONINCKS ENTJSTING), Master of "SMERCK" (Lt VEGTER), and G3 (Int) (Lt STOCK). CO 72 Wing RAAF (Gp Capt HELY) unable to attend; would contact Comd later. Availability of ships, their route and RV's discussed. ETD fixed at 0600 hrs 7 Nov 44.
4 Nov	Operation Instn No. 3 prepared.
5 Nov	Notified by RAN that HDML would not be available to depart on the date previously agreed upon as it was desired to make further arrangements re wireless sets etc.
5 Nov	Owing to doubts re HDML, departure of patrol at 070600K cancelled. New ETD of 080600K fixed.
5 Nov	Operation Instn re-written.
6 Nov 1450K	New Operation Instn issued. Copies as per distribution list.
7 Nov 0530K	"SMERCK" departed MERAUKE for Post 6.
0740K	ML departed MERAUKE for Post 6.
8 Nov 2000K	SMERCK and ML arrived Post 6. (Notification from Navy 090800K
9 Nov 0800K	RAN received message from ML as follows:- "Army altered itinerary. Proceeding first AJAM SOEROH possibly DJOMI at 0000Z/9th for pmus native intelligence" -- 0822000Z. (Received from RAN 142230K) Appx A.
13 Nov 2215K	NOIC phoned Comd and stated that he had received a message from ML indicating that the patrol was in difficulties and required air support.
2230K	Conference in Comd's quarters to discuss above message. (Appx I Attended by Comd, NOIC, CO 72 Wing, G11 and G3(Int). Decided that air cover, EASTERN RIVER to Post 6, not possible, but recce between RV and OTAKWA would be carried out. In the meantime NOIC would endeavour to contact ML at 0400 hrs and request further info. Reply expected approx 0600 hrs and the additional info would be passed to RAAF, if obtained in time, to pass to recce pilots.
2333K	Signal to Post 6 from Force HQ stating patrol had been sighted. (Appx C
2350K	Signal sent to Rear First Army notifying them of developments. (Appx D
14 Nov 0615K	2 P40's departed on recce of OTAKWA area.
1000K	P40's returned. Pilots interrogated and reported having searched the area between RV and OTAKWA with nil sightings of either personnel or vessels. SMERCK and ML were observed heavily camouflaged and hiding near the mouth of the WEST EASTERN RIVER. Radio contact was made and vessels said they would remain in position until nightfall and then proceed to Post 6. No further info obtained. (Appx E
1030K	Phone message from RAN that request for further info passed to ML at 0400 hrs and again at 0800 hrs. No reply as yet.

[illegible]0K Report discussed at conference in Comd's office. Comd, G11, ALO (Capt GEE) and G3(Int) present. Decided to request a further recce to
(a) Contact ships and ask certain questions (Appx F)
(b) If possible continue on to OTAKWA area and search according to additional infm to be obtained from vessels.

1220K Request for recce passed to CO 72 Wing who agreed to (a) but considered (b) inadvisable.

1300K Signal from Rear First Army requesting further infm. (Appx G)

1407K P40 took off on second recce.

1630k Sitrep signal to Rear First Army advising result of first recce and that second recce in progress. (Appx H)

1730K P40 returned from second recce. Reported having contacted vessels. R/T comn was good both before and after passing the listed questions, but no answers were received. (Appx J)

1745K Sigs given message (incl questions) to pass immediately contact made.

2035K Rear First Army notified of result of second recce and ETA of vessels at Post 6. (Appx K)

2045K Post 6 notified of ETA of vessels and directed to signal full report immediately on arrival. Ships to remain at Post pending further orders. (Appx L)

2130K NOIC notified of signal sent to Post 6 and asked for concurrence in holding of ML. (Concurrence given) (Appx M)

2345K SMEROE and ML returned to Post 6. (Received from RAN 150635K)

15 Nov 1130K Phone message from RAN stating a request had been received from ML for confirmation of instn to remain at Post pending orders. Confirmation had been given and questions passed. LDH would be notified of reply.

1425K Report received from Post 6 (Part 1 only) (Appx N)

1635K Part 2 of report received from Post 6. (Appx O)

1645K Part 3 of report received from Post 6. (Appx P)

1758K Signal received by RAN from ML substantially the same as that received from Post 6. (Appx R)

1855K Summary of infm signalled to Rear First Army. (Appx Q)

1915K RAAF requested to carry out air recce and strikes against OTAKWA/INOEGA. Request referred by RAAF to NEA.

16 Nov 0612K 4 P40s took off on air recce and strafing mission.

1050K Post 6 asked to supply immediately, personal details of casualties and best infm available as to whether killed, captured or missing. (Appx S)

1100K Signal to Rear First Army for Lt Col PITT stating that full report will be sent by mail and that, in the meantime CO 72 Wing, at present in TOWNSVILLE could be contacted if further infm required. (Appx T)

1120K P40s returned. Mission only partly successful due to -

(a) Time lost when circuituous route taken
(b) Shortage of time over the target area owing to (a)
(c) Lack of time to visit INUEGA
(d) Failure of bombs dropped at OTAKWA to explode
(e) Lack of time to check the ~~[illegible]~~ sighting of a supposed sunken launch approx 12 mls SSE of OTAKWA.
(Appx U)

1610K Post advised of result of air recce and strike. (Appx V)

1750K Sitrep No.550 to Rear First Army giving results of air strike and recce. (Appx W)

1755K Message from Post 6 giveing personal details of casualties. (Appx X)

17 Nov 1108K Units and Records Office notified that members missing as a result of operations 12 Nov 44.

18 Nov Capt S.W.ROSS, 20 Aust Mot Regt (AIF) appointed investigating offr vide GRO 64/44.

21 Nov 0425K NDML 1322 returned MERAUKE

0655K SMERCE returned MERAUKE.

App A

TO: NOIC MERAUKE

FROM:HDML 1323

Army altered itinteraxy. Proceeding first AYAM SOEROE possibly DJOMI at 0005z/9th for pmus native intelligence.

082200z

App B

TO: NOIC (M)

FROM: ML 1323

Require aircraft protection KASTEEL RIVER to Post 6 from dawn to 1500K/14. Enemy sighted ships today. Patrol was attacked at OTAKWA. Require air recce from OTAKWA rendezvous 1 and between for survivors. Advise at 0400K

131005Z

App D

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE TOO: 132350K

TO: REAR FIRST ARMY

G1174 (.) SECRET (.) Ref KENNEL patrol (.) following signal received by NOIC at 2215K (.) begins (.) require AC protection KASTEEL RIVER to Post 6 from dawn to 14150CK (.) enemy sighted ships today (.) patrol was attacked at OTAKWA (.) require air recce OTAKWA RV 1 and between for survivors (.) ends (.) have arranged air recce first light 14 Nov

G. FERGUSON Maj IMMEDIATE

App C

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE TOO: 132335K

TO: REAR

G1172 (.) SECRET (.) patrol sighted by enemy today

G. FERGUSON Maj IMPORTANT

APP. E

SECRET

LO/8/3

REPORT ON AIR OPERATION

FROM: 49 Aust Sqn AL Sec Date: 15 Nov 44

TO: HQ Merauke Force
3 Aust Comd AL Sec AOR Op. No: MER 92 - 14/11/44

Squadron	No. of AC	Date	A.T.D.	TOT	ATA
120 (NEI) Sqn	2	14/11/44	140616K	140800K-140830K	141000K

Ref Map: CARSTENZ-TOPPEN and BLOEMEN RIVER 1:250000.

ORDERS: (1) Armed recce for army patrol from RV vicinity (z)K400503 to OTAKWA along waterways.
(2) Contact HDML 1322 and SMEROE for further infm.

RESULT: Area searched as ordered. Nil sightings of personnel or vessels.
OTAKWA - Village consisted of from 15 to 16 native huts in two rows and 3 large huts. Village in good condition and appeared occupied. No movement seen. Recce carried out at 4000 ft.
At conclusion of recce Flight Leader made two strafing runs from approximately N-S direction and observed hits on a number of native huts. A small column of white smoke was observed in area.
(2) HDML 1322 and SMEROE located at (z)K 703207 near mouth of WEST KASTEEL RIVER and lying close to bank. Vessels were heavily camouflaged. Comm established but only fair. Vessels informed AC that they would remain in area until after dark then proceed to Post 6. No further infm obtained.

SIGHTINGS:	HEIGHT	VISIBILITY
Between RV and OTAKWA: No movement seen.	4000'	Good - 10 Mls
At OTAKWA: 15 to 16 native huts in two rows. Village in good condition and appeared occupied. No movement seen. One small column of white smoke in area.	3000' Min.	Good - 10 Mls
At WEST KASTEEL RIVER: HDML 1322 and SMEROE at (z)K703207 lying close to bank and heavily camouflaged.	3000'	Good - 10 Mls

BOMBS DROPPED: Nil

ROUNDS FIRED: 500 x .50 inch.

INTERCEPTION: Nil

AA: Nil

WEATHER: Over area - good, visibility 10 mls. 8/10 strato-cumulus - base 5000'

APP F

Questions to be asked by pilot:

(1) Where were you sighted by enemy?
(2) When?
(3) What type enemy?
(4) Is JAPERO party on board?
(5) When was OTAKWA patrol attacked?
(6) Where?
(7) By what?
(8) How many Australian personnel missing?
(9) Why are you leaving area?

App G

FROM: REAR FIRST ARMY TOO: 141023K

TO: MERAUKE FORCE

0 483 SECRET (.) your 1174 of 13 Nov advise enemy strength and any further infn

IMPORTANT

APP H

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE TOO: 141630K

TO: REAR FIRST ARMY

0 1313 CONFIDENTIAL (.) sitrep 548 to 141800K (.) ref KENNEL patrol (.) air recce today failed locate OTAKWA prace (.) SMERGE and HDML 1322 sighted near mouth WEST KASTEEL RIVER (.) camouflaged flaged and awaiting nightfall (.) contacted by plane radio but no further infn obtained (.) P40 departed on further recce 141407K (.)

IMPORTANT

App √

49 Aust Sqn AL Sec

14 Nov 44

GENERAL: AS no further infn was obtained on first mission, it was decided to send two more AC to contact ships and ask the following questions:

(1) Where were you sighted by enemy?
(2) When?
(3) What type enemy?
(4) Is JAGERO party on board?
(5) When was OTAKWA patrol attacked?
(6) Where?
(7) By what?
(8) How many Australian personnel missing?
(9) Why are you leaving area?

AC established contact with vessels at 1535 hrs. R/T comm was good both before and after the aforesaid questions, but answers to questions were NOT received.

P.D. [illegible] Capt
OC 49 Aust Sqn AL Sec

APP K

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE

TOO: 142035K

TO: REAR FIRST ARMY

0 1182 (.) Confidential (.) further to our 0 1313 (.) air recce departed 141407K contacted ships (.) no further info given or any requests made by ships (.) ships expected arrive Post 6 early 15 Nov

IMMEDIATE

APP L

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE TOO: 142045K

TO: MEAT

0 1184 (.) Secret (.) ML and minesweeper ETA Post 6 night 14/15 or early hours 15 Nov (.) immediately on arrival full report to be signalled this HQ with answers to following questions (.) first (.) when were ships sighted by enemy (.) second (.) where (.) third (.) what type enemy (.) fourth (.) is JAPERO party on board (.) fifth (.) when was OTAKWA party attacked (.) sixth (.) where (.) seventh (.) by what (.) eighth (.) how many Australian personnel missing (.) ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ air recce badly handicapped by almost complete lack of infm from patrol (.) ships remain Post 6 pending further orders (.) Post will stand to during arrival of ships.

G. FERGUSON Maj IMMEDIATE

APP M

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE

TO: NDIC TOO: 142130K

0 1186 (.) Confidential (.) For your infm we have signalled Post 6 through Army channels advising them of projected arrival of ships (.) have also called for full report (.) have instructed ships remain Post 6 pending further orders (.) do you concur as far as ML is concerned.

G. FERGUSON Maj

APP N

FROM: MEAT

TOO: 150700K

TO: MERAUKE FORCE (Part 1)

0 80 (.) SECRET (.) SMERCE and HDML arrived Post 6 2345K 14 Nov (.) infm (.) JAPERO patrol consisting four natives only dispatched from RV 2 1330K 11 Nov (.) native refused do this patrol if accompanied by white pers (.) OTAKWA patrol consisting SGT DUNNE SGT KNEEBONE L/CPL SMITH GNR JONES SIG WILLIAMS AND natives MIN and JACOB dispatched POST motor launch equipped W/T and carrying prace from RV 1 0640K 12 Nov (.) at 1000K 13 Nov MIN returned alone and reported patrol attacked at OTAKWA 1130K 12 Nov by 10 Japs and approximately 40 native tps (.) SGT DUNNE TPR JONES killed remainder wounded and surrounded and launch sunk.

IMPORTANT

APP O

FROM: MEAT

TO: MERAUKE FORCE (Part 2) TOO: 150700K

0 80 SECRET (.) W/T code list No.4 and battle code NOT TRENCODE new appx B MERAUKE FORCE GS INT 64 lost with launch (.) unable effect recue owing limitation ship and pers (.) at 1215K 13 Nov due loss security and as JAPERO patrol overdue ship commenced return Post 6 (.) hear 1500K OC patrol sighted man believed Jap at EILANDEN RIVER sheet 1:250000 409507 (.) considered unwise investigate (.) ship arrived WEST KASTEEL 1932K and anchored (.)

TOR: 151635K IMPORTANT

APP P

FROM: MEAT

TO: MERAUKE FORCE (Part 3) TOO: 150700K

0 80 (.) SECRET (.) army comn jammed by Japs (.) MIN watched very afraid and told conflicting stories of attack on patrol (.) at 0400K 14 Nov MIN jumped overboard and could NOT be located.(.) at approximately 0955K and 1600K 14 Nov sighted own recces (.) comn failed with 2 recce (.) commenced return voyage 1600K (.) unless air recce successful consider further recces useless (.) air strike OTAKWA may possibly enable any survivors escape in confusion

TOR:151645K IMPORTANT

APP Q

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE

TO: REAR FIRST ARMY TOO: 151855K

0 1188 (.) SECRET (.) summary of infm received from patrol as follows (.) begins (.) JAPERO patrol consisting four natives only left NV 111130K (.) OTAKWA patrol 5 AMF plus natives MIN and JACOB left NV 120640K per motor launch carrying prace (.) at 131000K MIN returned alone and stated patrol attacked at OTAKWA 121130K by 10 JAPS and approx 40 native troops (.) two AMF pers alleged killed remainder wounded and surrounded and launch sunk (.)

[illegible]

APP

at 131215K due loss security and as JAPERO patrol now overdue Ships began return Post 6 (.) OO patrol states he sighted one man believed Jap at KILANDEN RIVER AREA Sheet one in 250000 409507 at 131500K (.) Ships anchored WEST KASTEEL RIVER 131932K (.) native MIN said to have been very afraid and told conflicting stories of attack (.) at 140400K MIN jumped overboard and could NOT be found (.) Ships arrived Post 6 142359K (.) ends (.) air Search by two P40S during morning 14 Nov NIL sightings (.) OTAKWA strafed in hope of aiding escape (.) further air recce and strike OTAKWA-INOEGA have been requested (.) 82 WING referring this NRA (.) if KILANDEN RIVER AREA Sheet NOT in your possession Same reference on CARSTENZ-TOPPEN one in 250000 applies.

G. FERGUSON Maj IMMEDIATE

APP R

FROM: ML 1522 TOO: 142330Z

TO: NOIC

your 141300Z (1) map ref 409/507 KILANDEN RIVER 1/250000 (.) (2) 150CK/13 (3) Jap OP (a) paragraphs 1 2 and 3 sighted by BAILEY alone our grading B3 (.) (4) JAPERO party was four KAIS believed captured (.) (5) 110CK/12 (.) (6) OTAKWA village (.) (7) 10 JAP 40 armed KIAS machine-gun 2 rifle operated hand grenades (.) paragraphs 5 6 and 7 reported by MIN who escaped but deserted minesweeper 041SK/14 (.) (8) 5 O/RS 1 KAI (.) (9) (a) improbable successful rescue (b) probable enemy informed general position of ship (c) probably copy Special code in enemy hands (.) (10) in ML (.) full report Sent Army channels 070CK/15 (.)

TOR by Navy: 07302 1423302

APP S

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE

TO: MEAT TOO: 161050K

O 1194 (.) Confidential (.) signal immediately number rank name unit all casualties and best infm available as to whether killed captured or missing (.) full patrol report required by first ship.

G. FERGUSON Maj IMMEDIATE

APP T

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE

TO: REAR FIRST ARMY TOO: 161100K

O 1192 (.) Confidential (.) for Lt Col PITT (.) ref OTAKWA patrol full report will be sent you by mail (.) Gp Capt HELY 72 WING at present in TOWNSVILLE could give fuller details meanwhile if contacted by you (.) four P40S over OTAKWA area today not due back yet (.) will signal result later.

G. FERGUSON Maj IMMEDIATE

APP V

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE

TO: MEAT TOO: 161600K

O 1194 (.) SECRET (.) Search by four P40S today showed NIL sightings OTAKWA area (.) OTAKWA straffed (.) on return approx 0945 AC sighted vessel similar Chinese junk vicinity TORPEDOBOAT ISLAND moving towards coast (.) ML and SMERCE to return MERAUKE (.) incl in your patrol report copy orders given to OTAKWA party (.) in view results patrol consider possibility of enemy activity your area increased (.) two additional MMG plus six personnel being sent you first opportunity.

G. FERGUSON Maj IMMEDIATE

SECRET LO/6/4

REPORT ON AIR OPERATIONS

Date: 16 Nov 44

From: 49 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec

To: HQ Merauke Force
HQ 72 Wing RAAF
7 Aust Comd AL Sec

ACR Operation No. MER.93 -16/11/44.

Squadron	No of A/c	Date	ATD	T O T	ATA
120 (NEI) Sqn	4	16/11/44	160610K	160845K to 160900K	161050K

Ref Map - CAPE STEENBOOM 1:500000.

ORDERS: Bomb strafe OTAKWA and INOEGA, and recce of waterways between OTAKWA and WEST KASTEEL RIVER.

RESULT: OTAKWA: 8 x 250 lb 11 Sec delay bombs were seen to fall among huts in the village, but bombs did NOT explode. Nine strafing runs from NORTH-SOUTH direction were made on huts. Tracers were seen to enter huts,,and many hits scored. A small white smoke fire was started at NORTH-WEST end of village.
3 small huts on bend of river just NORTH of village were strafed by one aircraft and hits observed. Hits also observed on area on SOUTH bank of bend in river SOUTH of village, containing enemy defences.
No movement seen in village or surrounding area.
Attack carried out from 300-500'.

INOEGA: NOT attacked. Insufficient fuel owing to circuitous route taken to reach primary target.

SIGHTINGS	HEIGHT	VISIBILITY
OTAKWA - NO movement seen	300'	Good
One pilot only reported seeing the stern of a sunken launch protruding from water at (z)K 2858. No propeller was visible. Time 0915K		
Same pilot also observed Chinese-type junk with sail, heading towards shore at (z)K4727. Vessel contained three or four personnel who waved palm fronds. Pilot does not consider they were signalling aircraft. Unable to state whether personnel were natives,enemy,or own troops. Time 0930K	700'	Good

No other movement or sightings on waterways.

BOMBS DROPPED: 8 x 250 lb bombs - tail fused 11 sec delay

ROUNDS FIRED: 1500 x .50 inch

INTERCEPTION: Nil

A/A: Nil

WEATHER: 3/10 scattered cu.base 700'. Visibility 3-5 miles.

GENERAL: Sightings of stern of sunken launch and junk unable to be investigated owing to lack of fuel.

????????? Capt
(P.D.GEE)
OC 49 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec

APP W

FROM: MERAUKE FORCE

TO: REAR FIRST ARMY TOO: 161750K

O 1519 SECRET(.) sitrep 550 to 16160K (.) ref KERNEL patrol (.) air recce today failed locate launch survivors (.) object launch sighted partly submerged approx 12 mls SE of OTAKWA (.) OTAKWA strafed by four P40s (.) vessel similar to Chinese junk reported seen between TORPEDOBOAT ISLAND and coast heading for coast (.) occupants NOT identified(.)

Boy K stock 14 IMPORTANT

App X

FROM: MEAT

TO: HQ MERAUKE FORCE 161345K

082 (.) CONFIDENTIAL (.) your 1194 (.) VX 81616 L/Sgt DUNNE A L 20 AUST MOTOR REGT missing believed killed WX 30998 SGT KNEEBONE J K "K" SEC FD SECURITY wounded believed prisoner QX 39511 L/Cpl SMITH F E same unit seriously wounded believed prisoner NX163748 Gnr JONES S 52 COMP AA REGT believed killed N 164087 Sig WILLIAMS H M 82 AUST W/T SEC missing believed launch prisoner (.) request further advice ref move SMERGE and HDML 1322

161612K

AHS

Subject: BOMBING PRACTICE

HQ Merauke Force
G3 94

Dist List C
For info
Civil Admstr Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police

Ref Map: 3120 KAISAR 1 inch to 2 mile

1. Bombing practice using live bombs will be carried out on the Bombing Range at Anne Field on the 26 Nov to 30 Nov inclusive between 0730 hrs and 0830 hrs each day.

2. Danger area - Squares 4924, 4925, 4926, 5024, 5025 and 5026.

[illegible] Maj
(G.A. FERGUSON)
G3 Merauke Force

25 Nov 44.

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. 43.

DNG Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy. H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE.

Report for week ending 25 Nov 44.

1. UNIT CENSORSHIP.

(a) Analysis.

Nature of Communication.	No. Examined.	No. Stopped.	No. Treated.
Franked letters from SP.	688	3	9
" telegrams " "	173	-	1
" parcels " "	5	-	-
Total.	866	3	10
Unfranked letters from SP.	-	-	-
" telegrams " "	-	-	-
" parcels " "	-	-	-
Green Envelopes.	830	5	14
Fd Service Postcards	-	-	-
Total.	830	5	14
Letters from GP.	4	-	-
Telegrams " "	-	-	-
Parcels. " "	-	-	-
Total.	4	-	-
TOTAL ALL COMMUNICATIONS.	1700	8	24

(b) Evasion of Censorship. Nil.

(c) Franking. Franking in this Area remains good. The only outstanding breach of franking regulations noticed was in mail from Post 6 where some franking officers had "blacked out" with ordinary INK instead of excising. The passages treated in this fashion were deleted by this Det.

(d) Criticism of Censorship. The most common form of criticism is that franking officers take to personal an interest in the letters they read. A member of 'C' Sqd 20 Aust Motor Regt wrote:-

" I thought it only right that I should favour with a Green Envelope
" which has become a necessity here, when as I was telling you, the
" Officer who censors our letters is inclined to be a little personal
" which I don't like at any time. "

(e) Use of Green Envelopes. These are much appreciated by the troops. A slight shortage of issue is mentioned by an WCO of A Trp of 76 Aust Mob Sch Lt Bty, who wrote:-

" At long last darling I have obtained a green envelope. The last
" one I had was on the 8th of last month.....and then you will
" know exactly how much I miss you. Shortage of G.E's squashed
" the idea, as I should not like that to go through my Trp Cmdr."

2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "G" BRANCH.

(a) Morale. The fighting morale of units in this Area hard to ascertain owing to the conditions here. The personal morale of the troops remains fairly good with a few exceptions. One such has the opinion that OKs in his Unit were unfairly treated in a recent matter. He is a member of "D" Sqd 20 Motor Regt:-

" So much I didn't do any good in the big sweep, as it appeared
" to be drawn in favour of the officers and NCOs, of course we are
" about that, but it looked rather funny when no troopers drew
" a horse out of about 400. Most of the lads will have nothing
" to do with their sweeps anymore."

3. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "G" BRANCH.

(a) Morale (Continued)
The attitude of quite a few writers may be summed up in the following extract which was taken from an NCO of 76 Aust Mob S/Lt Bty:-
" We're not too badly off here really. There are plenty who have " gone through terrible trials in this war, and we havn't seen the " war hardly, so we can't winge. But its the uselessness and the " futility of it all that gets a fellow down when he has a lot of " time to think, as in this hole of monotony and boredom. It is " wrong - It's avoidable, whereas others have suffered for a good " cause, we are just wasting time, money and everything."

(b) Security. The standard of security in the Area remains good. This Det read 100% of mail from Post 6 during the week and the only outstanding breach of security was in a letter from a member of 154 Aust Lt A/A Bty, in which he referred to the recent casualties. This letter was referred to formation. Other minor breaches consisted of too much detail in descriptions of locations. An officer at Post 6 referred to films being processed there, the writer was an officer of 154 Aust Lt A/A Bty, and he wrote:-
" Darling I had my photo taken to-day and it will be developed " to-night, so if it comes out I will send it home to you."
Another writer, a junior NCO of 82 Aust Lt W/T Sec, suggests that an enemy agent may have originally been responsible for a certain rumour, he wrote:-
" Remember that story I told you about the Atebrin? Well it's a " lot of B - S. I think it was started by some "NIP" with the " idea of restraining soldiers on leave from taking their Atebrin " thereby bringing on bouts of malaria and delaying their return " to their Units."

(c) Opinions of Interest. A writer from 139 Aust Fwy A/A Bty expresses rather definite opinions about Australian women. He wrote:-
" The trouble is that to-day one of the chaps received a page from " one of the Sydney papers, and it was a summary of what the Sydney " girls are thinking now that the Yanks are being moved on. Believe " me, it makes me sick to think that decent chaps have to give their " lives and health for such absolute trollops as the Sydney girls " - e of the AIF have a pretty awful name no doubt, we are all supposed " to be like a herd of wild animals, with out principals, hearts or " anything else, but low as we are I think the average Australian " girl can give us a point or two and still be in the lead."

4. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "A" BRANCH.

(a) Leave. This question, as usual was much discussed in letters. One writer, from 2 Trp 154 Aust Lt A/A Bty is evidently of the opinion that members of his unit are not being fairly treated as regards leave, he wrote:- " I can pretty well say for certain that I won't be " home for Xmas. I thought they may have made an effort, but they " must have different ideas. Anyway I have made up my mind to " spend another Xmas in D.H.Q. and that's that. Anyway all of our " officers and sergeants have been home since we came up here, and " those that haven't are reinforcements. It makes you very happy when " you think over it, but that's only a trifle. Or is it? "

(b) Amenities. Good. It is evident that the troops appreciate any entertainment provided. The recent local race meeting is also being discussed, also other types of sports. The motion pictures seen are often described in great detail.

(c) Women's services. Very little comment noted. One writer strongly advised his wife against joining any of the services.

/ 4. MATTERS OF

4. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "Q" BRANCH.

(a) Rations. More unfavourable comments than usual were noticed about the rations during the week. From the remarks in the letters it appears that the standard of rations has fallen off a little. This applies to Units in the immediate vicinity as well as Units at out posts. A member of D Sqd 20 Motor Regt wrote:-
" You asked me how the food was here; well to tell the truth it
" is getting worse every day and the breakfast is not worth talking to"

Another member of the same Unit wrote:-
" I don't know how much longer I can stand up to HAV and Bully."

(b) Postal Services. Many unfavourable comments about the mail service were noticed during the week. Many writers referred to delays in air mail to this Area and to not getting any mail for a certain number of days. It is evident that the troops attach a lot of importance to their mail.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

The Dot worked with three readers throughout the week. Slightly longer hours than usual were worked on two days owing to the necessity of reading 100% of mail from certain outposts.

Wm L Moore S/Sjt MD I/c
DMG Dot 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy.

Distribution.

O.C. 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy (2)
GS (Int) First Aust Army.
HQ MERAUKE FORCE.
Dot 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy TORRES STRAIT.
File.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ATTACHED TO REPORT No.43

RETURN OF ARTICLES RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED FOR WEEK ENDING 25 Nov 44.

Date.	Time of Receipt.	No.& Class Received.	No. & Class Despatched.	Time Desp.	Ref. to Formation.	Held Overnight.
1944.						
Nov. 20	0800	150 1st.	150 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	118 1st.	118 1st.	1630	2	-
	1400	2 3rd.	2 3rd.	1630	-	-
Nov. 21	0800	121 1st.	112 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	60 1st.	69 1st.	1630	-	-
Nov. 22	0800	174 1st.	154 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	40 1st.	60 1st.	1630	2	-
	1400	2 3rd.	2 3rd.	1630	-	-
Nov. 23	0800	185 1st.	178 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	118 1st.	125 1st.	1630	2	-
Nov. 24	0800	160 1st.	160 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	136 1st.	136 1st.	1630	1	-
	1400	1 3rd.	1 3rd.	1630	-	-
Nov. 25	0800	141 1st.	141 1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	119 1st.	119 1st.	1630	-	-
		1527	1527		7	-

Don M. Moore 2/Sjt NCO I/c.
DES Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy.

GSI

Rkd. War Appl
Hearing

SUBJECT:- LIEUT GOVERNOR GENERAL OF NETHERLANDS
EAST INDIES - VISIT TO MERAUKE.

HQ Merauke Force
27 Nov 44

A12/15794

All AMF Units

COs, OCs of AMF Units and detachments will attend a conference in reference to above at HQ MERAUKE FORCE, 280900K.

Lt.
(E. HARDEN)
SC 'A' MERAUKE FORCE

Subject: FIRING PRACTICES

HQ Mercuke Force
GS 91

Dist List C
For Info
Civil Admnstr Mercuke
NEI Inspector of Police

Ref Map 2075 MERAUKE 1:25,000

GRENADE THROWING

1. Grenade throwing practice using live grenades will be carried out at map ref 403321 on 25 Nov 28 Nov and 30 Nov between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs each day.
Danger area will be defined by picquets.

2 IN MORTAR PRACTICE

2. 2 in Mortars will be firing at map ref 403321 on 27 Nov 28Nov and 30 Nov between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs each day.
Direction of fire 240° Grid from mortar position.
Highest point of trajectory 2000 ft.
Danger area on land will be defined by picquets.

[redacted] Maj
(G[redacted])
GS Mercuke Force
26 Nov 44

W.D.

THURSDAY , 30th November 1944

1/ Arrival Airstrip: 1500 hrs
Reception Committee : AR + TRC + Force Comd + CO.USSC + ACtr + Dr.Mamoen + Harbourmaster.
Guards of Honour : Aust and RNEIA Detachments.

2/ Departure from strip:
Formation: Outriders
Jeep No.1: GG + Gov + AR + ADC
2: Gen + TRC + ADC
3: Mr.HLOM + Force Comd
4: Mr.Kerstens + CO-USSC
5: Actr + Dr.Mamoen
6: Harbourmaster

Route: DAT across strip along portion of dispersal road to Main St and on to AR's residence.
Speed: 20 - 25 mph throughout
Garrison-guards will turn out and present arms.
Military personnel in the street will come to attention and salute at all times.
NEI-Army and Police personnel in vehicles are required to dismount beforehand.
Jeep will be recognised by Standard and Pennant, both red-white-and-blue.

3/ Arrival at AR's residence.
Outriders will turn into AR-Office Entrance.
No.1 Jeep will halt 10 yds before Guard of Honour.
When His Exc. enters the premises a Gamelan-Orchestra will play.
Refreshments (approx 15 min)
Reception Committee will be excused.

4/ 1930 hrs - 2200 hrs.
Cocktails and Dinner at AR's residence.
Invitations to: Force Comd.- CO 72 Wing - NOIC - CO USSC - TRC - HarbM - Dr.Mamoen - ACtr - NIGIEC - NI BANK.

--- 0 ---

Subject: [redacted]

HQ Meranke Force
G3 97

Dist List C
For info
Civil Admstr Meranke
[redacted] Inspector of Police

1. Ref Map 2120 NA38AM 1 inch to 1 mile.

2. LMG. Rifle and Grenade practice using live ammunition will be carried out at map ref 503262 between 1400 hrs and 1700 hrs on 30 Nov 44.

3. Danger area will be within segment of circle bounded by grid bearings 90° and 157° for a distance of 2000 yards from Map Ref 503262.

(G.A. FERGUSON)
G3 Meranke Force

15 Nov 44.

Dai Diary

Subject: SECURITY

CONFIDENTIAL

HQ Merauke Force
G3 101

All AMF units

The subjoined extracts from Security Bulletins are passed on for promulgation to all personnel under command.

G. Ferguson Maj
(G. A. FERGUSON)
G3 Merauke Force
30 Nov 44.

The following are extracts from Security Bulletins which should assist USC's in lectures to their personnel.

TRADE IN JAPANESE INVASION MONEY

Further evidence has been received of trading in Japanese "Invasion Money." There is no objection to this traffic as long as it is confined to our own troops. However, when the notes are bought from natives, because of their souvenir value, with food and clothing, the natives are liable to form a wrong impression of the power of the enemy and the value of his "Invasion Money".

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

Two clippings from JAPANESE newspapers were submitted by a soldier for approval as War Souvenirs. On translation they were found to be items giving JAPANESE claims of Allied Naval losses in the Pacific, and other material which suggested possible lines of Allied Counter-propaganda.

A request that the newspaper from which cuttings were excised be procured if possible. The unit was contacted and the required sheets obtained. These contained further information of potential value.

JAPANESE BOOBY TRAPS

A new form of JAPANESE booby trap is reported. It consists of a block of explosive or incendiary substance moulded to represent a bar of soap. The name "PROCTOR and GAMBLE" is embossed on one side, and the brand "IVORY" on the other side.

A primer, apparently of similar substance to the main charge, is situated in a recess at the side of the tablet. It seems possible that it would have a pull-type igniter. Other primers could be incorporated, e.g. a glass phial activated by breaking, cutting or crushing, or a soluble gelatine capsule which, immersed in water, would initiate the charge.

By using commonplace articles, numerous varieties of booby traps of similar, and even more dangerous, types could be readily manufactured. Realisation of this makes it even more imperative that all objects of even commonplace appearance should be treated with utmost care. Such articles should not be moved until such time as they have been certified safe by Bomb Disposal or Technical Engineer personnel.

JAPANESE NOTEBOOK - AIRCRAFT TYPES

A professional notebook, which had been carefully kept by a JAPANESE officer, provided unofficial preliminary information on the characteristics etc of "TAIZAN", the JAPANESE 16 Experimental Land Attack plane. The same notebook also has yielded additional material on several other enemy aircraft which are expected to be in service soon.

One of the most important of these is [illegible], known to the JAPANESE as [illegible], 17 Experimental Carrier-based fighter. Data extracted from the notebook includes measurements, characteristics, engine, armament, and bomb load.

More or less similar information was included concerning 4 other JAPANESE aircraft types.

This further illustrates the value of captured diaries and notebooks.

- over -

SECURITY OF HQ and CAMPS

During a recent voluntary evacuation of some forward villages, ten bullock carts and their drivers were surrounded and captured by a small party of ZP and BURMA Traitor Army troops.

The drivers were taken to the enemy lines and there tied to trees and questioned as to the disposition of BRITISH forces. On receiving no satisfactory reply, the ZP officer i/c party pulled out his pistol and fired a shot very close to one of the cartmen. The man afterwards admitted that he was scared stiff.

After two days all the cartmen, less one man who is believed to have been shot, were released and in due course arrived back in our lines.

Asked why, when they were in danger of losing their lives, they had not given the ZP officer the information demanded, one of the cartmen replied "How could we? You never allow us to go near any of your military HQs. We were telling the truth to the ZPs, as we quite honestly did not know the dispositions of any of your troops."

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit HQ Merauke Force *Date and Time.—From* 1 Dec 44 *To* 31 Dec 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE	1 Dec		Latest water restrictions have reduced the consumption from main wells from 21000 to 6000 gals per day.	
			Arrangements made to take a party of one offr and 19 O/Rs on a recreational cruise up the MERAUKE RIVER each day, units to supply the parties on a roster system. (App A)	App A
			C instn "Prevention of Fire - Fire Extinguishers" issued.	App V
	2 Dec	0700	Departure of Lt.Gov.Gen of NEI (Van MOOK) and party.	
			In continuation of the policy of training NEI personnel to take over this area, Javanese learners are to be attached to 103 Switchboard Cpl Sec to learn the operation of the main switchboard. (app B)	App B
	3 Dec			
	4 Dec		Arr by air - Capt DEVESON, to be SC"A" Merauke Force.	
			Monthly medical report by SMO (Lt.Col E.P. CHERRY) reveals that dermatitis is still the most prevalent complaint in this area. Medical wards at present contain sixteen dermatitis patients with URTI (10 cases) next most prevalent. No cases of malaria occurred during the month.	
	5 Dec	1700	Arr by air - Maj. D.P. KENNEDY, to be GII Merauke Force	
	6 Dec		Dep by air - Maj. G.A. FERGUSON, who has been acting as GII Merauke Force.	
			Warning Order received for movement of 52 Aust CompAA Regt.	
			12 AMCU weekly report states that continued dry weather has reduced the breeding of malarial mosquitoes to a minimum. Screying of all surface water is being carried out, drains dug, and all natives houses sprayed once by day and once by night.	
			Routine Orders No. 98 - 103 issued	App C

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE Date and Time.—From 1 Dec 44 To 31 Dec 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	7 Dec	0800	Firing practice being carried out by 139 Hy AA Bty. Practice will be continued for three days.	App D
			During the recent small pox outbreak, 14 suspect cases were confined in the outer compound at the quarantine station but all have since been discharged. The four original cases (all Javanese) are continuing to receive treatment and it is expected that they will be discharged by Xmas.	RRL
	8 Dec		Arr by air - Lt.Col E. WOOD, Maj. K. HAIGH, and Maj. G. ORMISTON, LHQ COB Investigation Committee. Their task is to review the requirements of this area and make recommendations for economy.	
			The value of roads in this area is set down in a report received today from 27 Fd Coy (RAE) as £6071. The value of the 24 in guage railway together with rolling stock is estimated at £5841.	App E
			Instn controlling "Transportation of Cargo From Wharf area to Destination" issued.	App F RKL
	9 Dec	0630	In consequence of AA Warning order to move, Hy AA guns have ceased to function leaving the defence of the area to 12x40mm Bofors and 5x.5 Brownings.	
		1600	As an indication of signal activity, group totals for 9 Nov-8 Dec were as follows:- In - 53,322; Out - 45,123.	
			~~OC "F" Aust Fd Sec (Lt. J. LYON) and new HQIO~~ (Lt.Comd FARRELL) arrived by air. The latter is to replace Lt.Comd LEVY, transferred to THURSDAY ISLAND.	RKL
	10 Dec	1045	Maj. C.L. BUNTY, who will resume as CC 20 Aust Mot Regt (AIF), returned ex school on S.S. TRIBELA.	RKL

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ MERAUKE FORCE *Date and Time.—From* 1 Dec 44 *To* 31 Dec 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	10 Dec		Comforts Fund Hampers - each of an intrinsic value of 10/- - have been distributed for XMAS for all ranks.	RKd
	11 Dec		Despite rationing of water, well depths have now fallen to the following levels:- No.2 well 3in, No.3 well 9in, No.4 well 9in, No.6 well 1ft 3in, and No.7 well 1ft 7in.	
			ADMS Rear First Aust Army (Lt.Col BRETHERTON) departed by air.	
			1 Aust Fd Censorship Det weekly report received.	App G
		1550	Signal from Rear First Army instructs that upon withdrawl of RAAF radar stations, all Merauke Force outposts are to be withdrawn and patrols limited to environs Merauke.	App H RKd
	12 Dec		During the past three weeks troops have been entertained by a mobile broadcasting studio brought into the area by Amenities Service.	
		2005	Signal dispatched to Rear First Army stating that while present HQ is responsible for defence of Merauke, it is considered essential to occupy the present outposts.	App H RKd.
	13 Dec	0100	Capt SW. ROSS departed on MELBIDIR to take over Comd of Post 6.	
		1100	Maj. ORMISTON departed by air.	RKd
	14 Dec	1140	Departure of Lt.Col WOODS and Maj. HAIGH.	
		1845	Notification from Rear First Aust Army that move of 52 Aust Comp AA Regt (AIF) is to be suspended until further notification.	
			Instn issued outlining new proceedure for use of Mob 3 and AAF A232.	App J
			Routine Orders No. 106-116 issued	App K RKd
	15 Dec		CC 12 AMCU (Lt. V. BRANCH) arr by air ex school.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ MERAUKE FORCE Date and Time.—From 1 Dec 44 To 31 Dec 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE	15 Dec		OC 139 Hy AA Bty (Maj. J.A. BARTON) and Comforts Fund representative (Capt. PARKER) departed by air.	
			NEI representatives are continuing their inspection of AMF equipment in this area with a view to taking much of it over on departure of AMF.	
			Instn issued criticising the standard of hygiene in unit lines and ordering a detailed inspection by Hygiene Offr.	App L RKS
	16 Dec	1140	First heavy rain for four months commencing to fall.	
	17 Dec	1430	"ISLANDER" arrived ex BRISBANE with cargo of POL.	RKS
	18 Dec	2300	HDML 1326 departed for Post 6 to take part in a patrol to AJAM and DJOENI areas in search of the natives who accompanied the CTARWA patrol.	RKS RKS
	19 Dec		Negotiations are in progress to transfer the HQ of 14 Aust ~~33~~ Coy from THURSDAY ISLAND to MERAUKE	RKS.
	20 Dec	1100	HDML 1326 departed from Post 6 on above patrol.	App M
			RAAF Radio No.2 organised by 72 Wing HQ, is expected to open in this area soon.	
			Routine orders No. 117-125 issued.	App N
			Special report dealing with the night alarm of Nov.20 issued to Post 6.	App O RKS
	21 Dec			RKS
	22 Dec			RKS
	23 Dec	1200	RAAF Radio No.2 officially opened.	
			HDML 1326 returned to MERAUKE from patrol during which the natives sought were contacted but no further reliable info ght incl concerning the patrol to CTARWA.	RKS

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ MERAUKE FORCE Date and Time.—From 1 Dec 44 To 31 Dec 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE	25 Dec		Xmas! Special dinner has been provided in all units and the menu included turkey, ham and an additional bottle of beer per man.	
	26 Dec	1900	"MINYAK TAMAN" arrived ex BRISBANE with cargo of POL. Arrangements have been made to have all amn in the area inspected by a representative from 15 AOD.	
	27 Dec	1130	Capt. M. EWING (Acting Legal Offr Merauke Force) arrived by air.	
			Comd departed on operational flight to Rear First Aust Army.	
			"Amenities Return" instn issued.	App P
	28 Dec	0530	8 Aust Docks Op Coy, of which only a small detachment remains in Merauke, may be withdrawn south and their work taken over by Torres Strait Lt Inf Bn.	
		1230	"C.S. GARDINER" arrived to load 800 tons of American bombs.	
		1500	Report from Post 6 states that natives report Jap watercraft of all type are concentrated at PAK PAK, KAIKANA and KOKERAU. In addition, one warship is at TIUKEKA to evacuate casualties caused in the last raid by 120 Sqn P40s.	App 3
		1630	Further report from Post 6 states that Japanese trained natives armed with SMGs are at SOERON and EREB endeavouring to recruit other natives.	
		1800	Arrangements made to carry out an air strike with 12C Sqn P40s at first light tomorrow, and for the dispatch of HDML 1326 to Post 6 to carry a patrol to SOERON and EREB in an endeavour to intercept the natives referred to in the report received at 1630 hrs.	

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ MERAUKE FORCE *Date and Time.—From* 1 Dec 44 *To* 31 Dec 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERAUKE	29 Dec	1100	Strike by P40s on TIMOEKA resulted in 6 bombs being dropped in KEAUKWA village where the Japanese are believed to be quartered, 2 on the beach and 4 unobserved. No shipping or personnel were sighted and all aircraft returned safely.	
			Instn issued authorising an additional rest day on Jan 1.	App T RRS
	30 Dec		Signal from LANDFORCES instructs that 154 Lt Bty, from 32 Aust Comp AA Regt (AIF), is to prepare to go on leave together with 50 per cent of the remainder of the regt.	App U
		0700	P40s took off for further strike on TIMOEKA but were turned back by weather and engine trouble.	RRS
	31 Dec	0800	3in mortar, MG and rifle are being used in a training practice by 2C Aust Mot Regt (AIF).	App D RRS
			D.A. Cameron Lt.Col (D.A. Cameron) C'md Merauke Force	

4-43—Govt. Printer, Brisbane.

APP A

SECRET.

Subject:- WATERCRAFT FOR UNIT PARTIES.

HQ Merauke Force,
1 Dec 44
Q13/15820

ALL AMF UNITS.

11 Aust Inf Bde AQ14727 of July 44 is cancelled.

2. As from Monday 4 Dec 44, until further notice, Det 14 Aust Small Ships Coy will make one vessel available daily for the purpose of recreation, leaving Pontoon Jetty at 0900 and returning at 1700 hrs.

3. Units will make own transport and messing arrangements and will notify this HQ strength of party and officer in charge, by 1500 hrs on the day preceding that of departure.

4. The following schedule will be observed:-

DAY	OFFRS	ORS	UNIT	
MONDAY	1	19	52 Aust Comp AA Regt (AIF)	
TUESDAY	1	19	20 Aust Motor Regt (AIF).	
WEDNESDAY	1	19	HQ Merauke Force 49 Aust Sound A/L Sec 20 Aust Line Maint Sec [illegible] Aust F S Sec Det 1 Aust Fd Cship Coy Det Qld Ech & Rec 14 Aust AOD 75 Aust Depot Cash Office	Amenities Sgt to Co-ord
THURSDAY	1	19	27 Aust Fd Coy RAE 105 Aust Lt Fd Amb (AIF) 79 Aust Dental Unit 12 AAMCU	27 Aust Fd Coy to Co-ordinate
FRIDAY	1	19	Det 157 AGT Coy 238 Aust Supply Dep Pl 45 Aust Fd Baking Pl Det 7 Aust MC Gp Det AACS Merauke	To be co-ordinated by s/rup Officer or rep. nominated by him.
SATURDAY	1	19	52 Aust Comp AA Regt (AIF) Det 4 Aust Div Prov Coy Det 4 Aust Div Post 1 Unit	[illegible] Aust Comp AA Regt to co-ordinate
SUNDAY	1	19	20 Aust Mot Regt (AIF) [illegible] Pl 15 Aust Works Coy HQ Merauke Force	20 Aust Mot Regt to co-ordinate

5. Officer i/c party will be responsible for discipline of party in general, and in particular will ensure that -
(a) NO personnel go ashore at KOEPERICK
(b) NO firing takes place in the vicinity of any villages or settlements.

[signature] Lt
SC 'Q' Merauke Force

Comd. ... ND. 1 ... NIC B

RESTRICTED.

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINSTRATION INSTRUCTION.21.

All SERVICES.

Ref FORCE SWITCH operatered by 103 Aust Switchboard Section:

As from Monday 4th Dec 44, N.E.I personnel will be assisting in the manning of Force Switch. Object being, to teach NEI personnel the system in operation.

Units are asked to co-operate by exercising patience, should a call be delayed while Aust sig personnel explain the channels to the NEI learners.

A telephone directory is being compiled and will probably be in operation as from Friday 8th Dec 44.

Units will adopt the procedure of asking for numbers or extension numbers to facilitate calls being connected.

Copies of the proposed directory will be issued on basis of one, per telephone set in the area, and care will be taken to ensure that the directory is NOT lost or destroyed, as further copies will NOT be available.

NOTE.

Units who intend leaving their phones unattended for any period will notify Force Switch before doing so.

Frequently, linesman are sent out to repair what is thought to be a breakdown in the lines, and it has been found that the trouble lies in phones being unattended.

[signature] Lt
(E. BARDEN)
A/SC 'A' MERAUKE FORCE

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document is NOT to be communicated either directly or indirectly to the Press or anyone NOT authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1.
by
LT-COL D.A. CAMERON
Commanding Merauke Force

Serial 8
Nos 83 - 105
6 December, 44

GENERAL STAFF.

G.83 EFFECTS OF DECEASED JAPANESE SOLDIERS

1. Attention is drawn to para 13 (a) and (b) of GRO A 299-/44 reproduced below for convenience -

"13. (a) Any member finding the body of a deceased member of the enemy forces will -
(i) remove the identity disc (if any);
(ii) search the body and remove all documents and personal effects
(iii) note any details which may assist identification, such as unit badges, badges of rank, markings on clothing and equipment, the exact spot where the body was found and the probable date of death; and
(iv) arrange immediately for the transmission of such identity disc, notes and all documents and personal effects to the nearest Representative of the Field Security Service or the nearest Intelligence officer.

(b) After necessary examination, the identity disc and personal effects will be made up into a package (securely fastened, sealed and labelled with an AF 12 (Deceased Enemy Effects)) and forwarded to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, LHQ, Melbourne."

2. As the Japanese propose to return the personal effects of deceased British personnel, on the basis of the return of the effects of an equal number of Japanese, it is requested, please, that the terms of GRO A 229/44 be promptly and strictly complied with.

GS Maj

BRANCH OF THE ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

A.89 1944 ACF XMAS PARCELS Stocks are now available and AIF units are advised that they may be collected from ACF Merauke as from 4 Dec 44. Units will submit a requisition to ACF showing numbers of Hampers required for distribution to troops actually in Merauke, including as a seperate item any requirements for personnel anticipated to arrive before Xmas ex leave, reinforcements etc.

Outposts are being treated seperately by H. Merauke Force and there will be no need for units to take any action in this regard.

A.90 ABLUTIONS AND SHOWERS It is now permissable to shower until 1030 daily.

/2.

A.91 DISPOSAL OF GLASS CONTAINERS, BOTTLES ETC Attention is drawn to MFRO 471/44. In view of the continued indiscriminate disposal of bottles at the beach and other areas, COs and OCs units will ensure that beer is consumed within unit lines.

A.92 DRESS Units will conduct picture parades each evening before troops proceed to either of the two theatres and will ensure that personnel are correctly dressed. Gaitors will be worn, sleeves will be turned down at the wrist and hats will be worn.

A.93 PREVENTION OF BUSH FIRES

1. Every precaution will be taken to prevent the outbreak of bushfires which are very prevalent in Merauke Area.

2. It is the responsibility of the Commanding Officer to ensure that fire orders are properly promulgated to all ranks and that disciplinary action is taken against offenders.

A.94 LEAVE - XMAS 1944 1. Subject to operational requirements and such parades as may be deemed necessary for administrative purposes, Xmas Day 1944 will be observed as an additional rest day.

2. Sufficient personnel will remain on duty to enable all headquarters to function.

3. Personnel retained for duty on Xmas Day 1944 may be permitted to take Tuesday 26 Dec 1944, as a rest day in lieu.

A.95 ANGAU - APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE DISTRICT SERVICES

1. Attention is drawn to GRO Adm 417/44.

2. The notice appearing on pages 20-21 in General Routine Orders dated 15th September 1944 will be republished in all unit Routine Orders.

3. Applications will be forwarded to reach this HQ NOT later than 10 Dec 44.

A.96 RELEASE OF OFFICERS FROM AIF FOR SERVICE WITH BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA.

Reference GRO A419/44.

1. Applications will be forwarded to reach this HQ by 7 Dec 44.

A.97 LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES TAKEN OUT BY MEMBERS OF THE FORCES:

1. Life assurance policies taken out by members of the forces on their own lives after September, 1939, usually contain a war clause which imposes upon the member, if he wishes to remain covered under his policy for the full sum assured while serving outside the Commonwealth, the obligation of -
(a) informing the life assurance office concerned of his departure from Australia and of the date thereof; and
(b) payment to that office of an extra war loading premium.

2. Certain life assurance offices regard the Territories of Papua and New Guinea as being, for this purpose, outside the Commonwealth, and there are variations in the rate of war loading premiums charged by different offices, while, in some circumstances, and office may not be prepared to cover the additional risk and may, therefore, refuse to quote an extra premium. A member who desires to remain covered whilst serving outside the Commonwealth should ascertain from the office concerned to what areas the existing cover extends and what rates of war

/3

A.97 cont. loading premiums are required should he serve outside those areas.

3. If a member subsequently embarks for service outside the Commonwealth, he may arrange through Army channels -
(a) for payment of the amount of extra war loading premium (as previously ascertained by him) to the office concerned, by means of a remittance of undrawn pay; and
(b) for notice of the date of embarkation to be given to that office by the DFO when paying the remittance.

The member will attach to the remittance form a letter requesting the giving of the notice mentioned in sub-para (b) of this paragraph.

4. For security reasons, direct notification by members to life assurance offices of their impending or actual embarkation is strictly prohibited.

A.98 INCOME TAX - MEMBERS WITH DEPENDANTS RESIDENT OVERSEAS

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

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

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

4. GRO F.377/44 is cancelled.

A.99 ATTENTION TO GROs Attention is drawn to GRO 395/44 - Cancellation of GROs.

[redacted] Lt
ASC [redacted] Kiwi Force

A.100 SPECIAL CANTEEN ISSUES

1. Units are advised that approval has been given for the issue of ONE extra bottle of beer per man for XMAS DAY. ACCS will advise when this is available.

2. A quantity of cordial will be distributed free of charge by ACCS on the approximate basis of 1 bottle per 2 men. Any surplus will be issue to IOS Asst Lt Fd Amb for patients.

A.101 XMAS GREETING TELEGRAMS

1. Members of the Forces are advised to lodge their Xmas and New Year greeting telegrams, both overseas and within the Commonwealth, as early as practicable, to ensure delivery of these messages before Xmas, or the New Year, as the case may be.

2. In the case of overseas messages, it is desirable that lodgment be effected not later than 6 Dec and in respect of Internal telegrams, not later than 13 Dec 44.

A.102 XMAS MAIL POSTINGS FOR ERO D

1. Postings in the categories and for the destinations listed hereunder should be made immediately,

/4

2.102 cont. or where a date is shown on or before that date -

Class of Article	Destinations concerned and related date for Postings: United Kingdom	Middle East	U.S.A.	Canada
Surface mails	Immediately	Immediately	Immediately	Immediately
Air mails	18 Nov	24 Nov	-	-
Airgraphs	29 Nov	5 Dec	5 Dec x	5 Dec x
Air letters	2 Dec	9 Dec	9 Dec x	9 Dec x

x - to members of the forces only

2.103 UNIT STORES ACCOUNTANCY

Attention is drawn to -

GRO 0733/43
0100/44
0232/44
0293/44
0347/44
0301/44
0306/44
0369/44
0293/44

2.104 PERIODICAL INSPECTION AND TESTING OF PRESSURE VESSELS

1. Ref GROs 0657/43 and 0365/44.

2. Returns will be submitted to this HQ immediately by all units holding pressure vessels, giving the following information -

(a) Type and quantity held of steam boilers of any of the types mentioned in para 10 GRO 0657/43 including bakery ovens steam field double deck.
(b) Type and quantity held of pressure vessels in category (a) GRO 0365/44.

2.105 Ref FA Order 223 - ISSUES OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT TO PERSONNEL - RECORDS OF

Ref GRO 0369/44 a report by 8 Dec 44 is required from units under command giving information as follows -

(a) Whether the provisions of GRO 0365/44 have been implemented.
(b) Any suggestions for improvement of the procedure or other relevant comments.

[redacted] Lt
A/SC [redacted] Force

NOTICES

Attention is drawn to -

NOTICE page 5 of GROs dated 24 Nov 44 - United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Applications by Members of the AF for Staff Appointments.

A/K D

Subject : [redacted] PRACTICES.

HQ Merauke Force
G3 106

List List G
For info
Civil Admnstr Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police

Ref Map 2075 MERAUKE 1:25,000

SMALL ARMS FIRING AND GRENADE THROWING PRACTICE

1. The thirty yard minature range at Map Ref 457274 and log bays adjacent thereto will be used on 4 Dec 5 Dec 7 Dec and 8 Dec 44 between 0800 hrs and 1700 hrs each day, for Rifle, Sub-Machine Gun and Grenade throwing practice using live ammn.
Danger area will be defined by picquets.

MACHINE GUN AND 3 INCH MORTAR PRACTICE

2. Machine Gun and 3 inch Mortar firing practices using live ammn will be carried out at Map Ref 40332[illegible] on 4 Dec and 8 Dec between 0800 hrs and 1700 hrs each day.
Direction of fire will be 240 degrees grid bearing from gun positions.
Danger Area - segment of circle bounded by grid bearings 220 degrees and 260 degrees for a distance of 2000 yds measured from gun positions.
Highest point of trajectory 1100 ft.
Danger Area on land will be defined by pic uets.

3.7 INCH AA FIRING PRACTICE.

3. 3.7 inch AA guns will be firing on 7 Dec 8 Dec and 9 Dec 44 between 0800 hrs and 1600 hrs each day.
Gun positions will be at approx Map Refs 42063446 and 45282962.
Danger Areas - [illegible] segment of a circle bounded by grid bearings 170 degrees and 280 degrees for a distance of 22000 yds measured from each of the above map references.
Approx maximum height of trajectory if projectile fails to burst is 16000 ft.
Bursts should occur at a height of 7000 ft approx 1000 yds to the seaward of high water mark.

[illegible] Maj
(G.A. FERGUSON)
G3 Merauke Force)

1 Dec 44

Subject : FIRING PRACTICES ([illegible])

H[illegible] Merauke Force
G3 119
12 Dec 44

Dist List C
For infm
Civil Admstr Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police.

Ref Map 2075 Merauke 1 : 25000

The 30 yard miniature range situated at Map Ref 434291 will be used on 14 Dec between 0900hrs and 1600hrs for small arms practices using live amunition.

[illegible] for Maj
(D.P.[illegible])
G11 Merauke Force

Subject : MACHINE GUN AND 3 INCH MORTAR PRACTICE.

H[illegible] Merauke Force
G3 123

Dist List "C"
For infm
Civil Administrator Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police

Ref Map 2075 Merauke 1 : 25000

1. Machine Gun and 3 inch Mortar firing practices using live amn will be carried out at Map Ref 434291 between 0800 hrs and 1800 hrs on 23 Dec 44.

2. Direction of fire between 220 degrees and 230 degrees grid bearing from Map Ref 434291.

3. Danger Area + segment of circle bounded by grid bearings 220 degrees and 230 degrees for a distance of 3000 yards from Map Ref 434291.

4. Highest point of trajectory 1100 feet.

5. Danger Area on land will be defined by picquets.

[illegible] for Maj
([illegible])
G11 Merauke Force.

20 Dec 44

Subject: FIRING PRACTICE - SMALL ARMS

H. Merauke Force
[illegible]

List List C
For Info
Civil Administrator
[illegible] Inspector of Police

Ref Map 2073 MERAUKE 1:25000

The 30 yd miniature range situated at map ref 434290 will be used on 22 Dec between the hours of 0800 and 1600 for small arms practice using live ammo.

[illegible]
for Maj.
(T.P. Kennedy)
Gdi Merauke Force
21 Dec 44

Subject : MACHINE GUN PRACTICE.

HQ Merauke Force.
GS 134

Dist List "C".
For info
Civil Admstr Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police.

Ref Map 2075 Merauke 1 : 25000.

1. Machine Gun practices using live amunition will be carried out at Map Ref 404320 between 0900 hrs and 1200 hrs on 23 Dec 44.

2. Direction of fire : 240 degrees grid bearing from Map Ref 404 320.

3. Danger Area on land will be defined by piquets.

for Maj
(D.P.KENNEDY)
GII Merauke Force

22 Dec 44

NND

Subject : FIRING PRACTICES.

HQ Merauke Force.
GS 139

Dist List "C"
For Infm
Civil Admstr Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police

Ref Map 2075 Merauke 1 : 25000.

SUB-MACHINE GUN AND PISTOL PRACTICE.

1. The thirty yard minature range at Map Ref 434291 will be used on 28 Dec 44 between 0800 hrs and 1330 hrs for sub-machine gun and pistol practices using live amunition.

MACHINE GUN PRACTICE.

2. Machine gun practice using live amunition will be carried out at Map Ref 434291 on 30 Dec 44 between 0800 hrs and 1300 hrs.

Direction of fire between grid bearings 220 degrees and 230 degrees from gun positions.

Danger Area - Segment of circle bounded by grid bearings 220 degrees and 230 degrees for a distance of 3000 yds measured from gun positions.

Highest Point of Trajectory - 1100 ft

Danger area on land will be defined by pickets.

MORTAR PRACTICE.

3. 3 inch Mortars practice using live amunition will be carried out at Map Ref 460270 on 30 Dec 44 between 0800hrs and 1400 hrs.

Direction of fire between grid bearings 127 Degrees and 129 degrees from gun positions.

Danger Area - Segment of circle bounded by grid bearings 125 degrees and 130 degrees for a distance of 1400 yards measured from gun positions.

Highest point of trajectory - 1100 ft.

Maj
(D.P.KENNEDY)
G11 Merauke Force

23 Dec 44.

Subject : FIRING PRACTICE.

HQ Merauke Force
GS 148

Dist List "C"
For Info
Civil Admstr Merauke
NEI Inspector of Police

Ref Map 2075 Merauke 1 : 25000.

1. Exercises involving the firing of machine guns and rifles will be carried out on 2, 3, 4, and 5 Jan 45 between 0830 hrs and 2130 hrs each day.

2. The exercise area will be along the beach and inland to a depth of 400 yds from Map Ref 456272 to Map ref 468262.

3. Direction of fire will be seaward between grid bearings of 128 degrees to 240 degrees from any point in the exercise area . Maximum Range 2000 yards.

4. Danger Area on land will be defined by pisquets.

(D.P.KENNEDY) Maj
GII Merauke Force
28 Dec 44

War Diary. File Dlet

Mp E

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

SECRET

DIRECT BAG - AIRMAIL.

(Chief of the General Staff)

SM 11830

HQ QLD L OF C AREA
ADV LHQ
REAR ECH FIRST AUST ARMY
HQ SECOND AUST ARMY

Headquarters
Victoria Barracks
MELBOURNE.

Copies to:- CGS (6) : AG (8) : QMG (8) : MGO (4) :

REVIEW OF O.O.B. - MERAUKE-TORRES STRAITS, TOWNSVILLE, CHARTERS TOWERS, BARONTA AREAS

1. It is advised that the LHQ O.O.B. Investigation Committee will visit Northern areas, arriving in Brisbane by air on 14 Nov 44.

2. The Committee will consist of the following:-

Chairman	..	Col A H CHEETHAM ✗
Members	..	Lt-Col E D WOOD ✓
	..	Lt-Col B CORNELIUS ✗
	..	Maj K HAIGH ✓
Clerk	..	WO 1 MOODY J B. ✗

3. The Committee will, after consultation with Commanders concerned, review the requirements of Merauke-Torres Straits, Townsville, Charters Towers, Baronta Areas and submit a report to LHQ covering recommendations to effect economy by :-

(a) Disbandment of surplus units

(b) Restriction of units

(c) Reorganisation of units

(d) Reorganised quartering where appropriate

(e) Amalgamation or re-location of installations where applicable

(f) Any other appropriate means.

4. The Committee is authorised to enquire into and examine LHQ units and installations as well as local units and facilities under command of formations, other than 1 Aust Corps and overseas Base units.

5. On arrival, the Committee will report to HQ Qld L of C Area and it is requested that this HQ provide facilities required by the Committee for air movement, M.T., quartering, staff, etc.

G II Dn 11
G III
SC A [illegible] 12/12
SC Q [illegible]
SO [illegible]
War Diary

[signature]

Lieutenant General
Chief of the General Staff
11 Nov 44

Wa Diary Appx F

Subject: TRANSPORTATION OF CARGO FROM WHARF AREA TO DESTINATION

H.Q. 11 AUST [illegible]
-9 DEC 1944
No.....

HQ Merauke Force
8 Dec 44
Quote: 210/15895

Dist.
ALL AMF UNITS
HQ 72 WING RAAF
RAN
NEI

Recent prevalence of pillaging from trucks between wharf and destination, has made it necessary for more rigid control and detailing of responsibility for security of cargo in transit.

The following regulations will apply forthwith:-

1. AMF will control all transportation of cargo from ship to unit destination, under direct supervision of Movement Control.

2. When working parties are demanded, extra personnel on the basis of one per truck in operation, will be detailed to act as escorts.

3. One escort will be detailed to each vehicle and will remain with that vehicle until relieved.

4. It will be the responsibility of driver AND escort to check the loading of their vehicle against tally of Docks checker, and satisfy themselves that the delivery docket is correct and both will sign.

5. The escort will travel in the tray of the vehicle with the load. On no account will he ride in front with the driver whilst vehicle is loaded.

6. Driver and escort are equally responsible for safe delivery of load as per delivery note.

7. In view of the fact that all broached cargo will be held by Movement Control in transit shed, any broached cargo delivered to units will immediately throw suspicion on driver and escort. Any discrepancies or broached cargo in loads delivered to units, will be immediately reported IN WRITING to Movement Control officer, giving full particulars of vehicle, driver, escort, time etc.

8. Delivery note will be receipted by units on delivery and the responsibility for the load then passes to unit representative signing for same.

9. The driver is responsible that NO personnel other than himself and his escort travel on his vehicle

10. Provost will detail drivers as to route to be followed to destination, and any deviation from such route will constitute an offence.

11. A copy of this instruction will be in the possession of every driver and escort while engaged on unloading of ships and will be produced on demand.

12. Prompt and severe disciplinary action will be taken on receipt of any report of contravention or failure to observe of this instruction.

13. A certificate will be forwarded to reach this HQ by [illegible] 11 Dec 44 that this instruction has been promulgated to ALL [illegible].

[signature]
[illegible] Merauke Force

RHR 12 Dec 44

CONFIDENTIAL.

TS 13

REPORT No. 45.

DNG Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy, H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE.

Report for week ending 9 Dec 44.

Comd ✓
G II Ops
G III [illegible]

SC(A) 14/12
SC(Q) 14/12

1. UNIT CENSORSHIP.

(a) Analysis.

Nature of Communication.	No. Examined.	No. Stopped.	No. Treated.
Franked letters from SP.	674	5	21
" telegrams " "	154	-	-
" parcels " "	4	-	-
Total.	832	5	21
Unfranked letters from SP.	-	-	-
" telegrams " "	-	-	-
" parcels " "	-	-	-
Green Envelopes.	697	4	12
Fd Service Postcards.	-	-	-
Total.	697	4	12
Letters from GP.	-	-	-
Telegrams " "	-	-	-
Parcels " "	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL COMMUNICATIONS.	1529	9	33

(b) Evasion of Censorship. Nil.

(c) Franking. Fair. Franked mail examined during the week required more than the usual amount of treatment by this Det. Most of these treatments were cases were the franking officer had failed to delete minor references to movement or to packing equipment. A large percentage of Unit mail showed evidence of excisions by franking officers indicating that some franking offers had suitably dealt with the marked increase of references to moves. This was particularly evident in mail from 76 Aust Mob Sch Lt Bty.

(d) Criticism of Censorship. A few minor complaints about Unit Censors were noticed, and one more outstanding from an NCO of 76 Aust Mob S/Lt Bty. He wrote:-

" Things are only middleing up this way at the moment, I had a bit
" of an argument with my boss over mail censorship, I posted a
" letter to you last Sunday night, and it was still in the box
" uncensored at eight o'clock Monday night. I immediately asked
" why, and one thing let to another, with the result I made a
" pretty plain statement that if the service did not improve I
" would like to be paraded to the Major, and if I could not get
" satisfaction I would go to the Colonel. I told him it was bad
" enough having him reading my letters in the course of his duty
" without him leaving them laying around for a day or so. Result
" of it all is I'm not very popular at the moment, and he is on
" his back from morning until night, I think he is of the opinion
" that he is going to get me down, but what a shock he is in for,
" as far as I'm concerned he can ride me from now until doomsday
" and it still wont effect me, I just do my Job as army requires
" it, and no more....."

(e) Use of Green Envelopes. These are much appreciated by the troops. Two cases of breaches of the signed certificate on face of the envelope were reported and three others were reported for other security breaches. A few others required minor treatment. Of the last 5,000 Green Envelopes examined by this Det it was found that 1.4% required treatment and .25% were reported.

CONFIDENTIAL.

2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "G" BRANCH.

(a) Morale. Personal morale of troops in this area remains good. The fighting morale of Units is hard to ascertain owing to the conditions here.

(b) Security. Fair. More security breaches than usual have been noticed in the mail this week, most of these were minor references to expected moves or to preparation for movement. Five of these were reported to formation and others treated by deletion.

3. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "A" BRANCH.

(c) Leave. Many writers refer to being due for leave and make guesses about when they will get it, some complain about long terms without any leave. A member of HQ 52 Aust Comp A/A Regt, wrote:-
" They wonder why a bloke gets down in the dumps, how can we help
" it, when they won't give a guy any leave. It's twenty months,
" at the end of this month since I left Aussie and it seems like
" what many years."

(b) Amenities. Many letters contain favourable references to amenities. An officer from 27 Aust Fd Coy, wrote:-
" Last night we had quite a change in the way of entertainment.
" A Mobile broadcasting studio fitted up in a 3 ton truck came in
" to our camp and broadcast musical records, various messages from
" artists of Sydney and invited the chaps to enter a "Quiz session"
" and yes and no Jack Pot. Prizes were donated and it was really
" good show."

Many writers showed appreciation of the A.C.F. Christmas Hampers recently distributed. A member of HQ 2nd 20 Motor Regt, wrote:-
" You know mud you've really got to get away from Aussie in order
" to find out just how good the A.C.F. is. Since being up here
" they've issued us with endless supplies of stuff and topped it
" off this week with an issue of Xmas hampers. They contained a
" wonderful assortment of goods and its surprising how much they
" pack into a small box."

(c) Discipline. The following extract was taken from a letter from 184 Aust Lt A/A Bty. 52 Aust Comp A/A Regt.
" There is still no talk of leave but they'll only be able to keep
" us here a little while longer. We have all decided that if we
" aren't relieved by the end of January then we are going to put
" on a mass troppo act. It should be good too there is an awful
" lot (------) in a (--------) if that fails to get us relieved
" then we are going to change sides or do something equally drastic"
(Blanks in brackets are deletions by Unit Franking Officer)

4. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO "Q" BRANCH.

(a) Quarters. An officer from 45 Aust Fd Baking Plt made some favourable comments about quarters and working conditions, he wrote:-
" The set up here is quite good in the way of good Equipment and
" the bakery is constructed to allow the few and far between cool
" breezes to pass right through. The lads quarters are as well
" ventilated as the climate will permit...."

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

The Detachment is operating with a total strength of three. A considerable part of one reader's time is taken up doing clerical and administration work.

Wm. H. Moore Capt I/c.
OIC Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy.

DISTRIBUTION.
O.C. 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy (2)
GS(Int) First Aust Army.
HQ Lerwick Force.
File.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ATTACHED TO REPORT No 45.

RETURN OF ARTICLES RECEIVED AND RETURNED FOR WEEK ENDING 9 Dec 44.

Date.	Time Recd.	No.& Class Received.		No.& Class Despatched.		Time Desp.	Ref to Form.	Held Overnight.
1944.								
Dec. 4.	0800	114	1st.	103	Lst.	1400	-	-
	1400	49	1st.	60	1st.	1630	1	-
Dec. 5.	0800	161	1st.	161	1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	115	1st.	115	1st.	1630	1	-
Dec. 6.	0800	121	1st.	121	1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	81	1st.	81	1st.	1630	-	-
	1400	2	3rd.	2	3rd.	1630	-	-
Dec. 7.	0800	114	1st.	114	1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	74	1st.	74	1st.	1630	3	-
Dec. 8.	0800	161	1st.	155	1st.	1400	-	-
	1400	150	1st.	156	1st.	1630	2	-
	1400	2	3rd.	2	3rd.	1630	-	-
Dec. 9.	0800	120	1st.	120	1st.	1400	1	-
	1400	111	1st.	111	1st.	1630	-	-
		1375		1375			8	-

[signature] AS 011. I/c.
DMG Dt 1 Ast Fd Censorship Coy.

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

MESSAGE FORM

M/H Register No. I1130

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
			SECRET CIPHER D864

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS [illegible]

FROM (A) Originator: RFAA

Date—Time of Origin: 111550K

Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO (Not included in Signal)

(B) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions — GR

ORIGINATOR'S No. 0711 SECRET Ref Role Merauke Force. Patrols will be limited to environs of Merauke. Upon withdrawal RDF stations Ant will be withdrawn. Full advantage to be taken of civil facilities available communication etc

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

Signed

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

Signed [signature]

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
TRI or TOR 0820		
Time Cleared 0910		

Army Form C2136 (Small)
(Pads of 100) (Adapted Sept. 1942)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. N/A H

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: Merauke Force

Date—Time of Origin: 12 20 05 K

Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO: rear first and army

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions — GR

ORIGINATOR'S No. 0 1284 0 SECRET 0 ref your 0711 of 11 1550 K 0 address NOT included in message assume for this HQ please confirm 0 your reference to civil facilities available communication NOT understood 0 no civil facilities available for communications to outports or for patrols in environs of MERAUKE

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

Signed

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

Dr Kuneller may

Signed

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

Army Form C2136 (Small)
(Pads of 100) (Adapted Sept. 1942)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions — GR

ORIGINATOR'S No. 0 it is respectfully submitted that while this HQ is responsible for the defence of MERAUKE it is considered essential to occupy outports 0 suggest also consider likely natives who have assisted us be persecuted by Japs

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

Signed

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

Dr Kuneller may

Signed

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

Subject : AAF MOB 3 (NOMINAL ROLL OF DRAFT)
AAF A232 (NOMINAL ROLL OF REINFORCEMENT DRAFT)

HQ Merauke Force
Quote : Q3/15960

All AAF Units

Copies to "G"
"A"

1. Attention is directed to GRO A334 of 20 Oct 44 to be read in conjunction with this instn.

2. AAF A19's (MOVEMENT ORDERS) will NOT be used except in the case of personnel travelling on special duty, the nature of which will NOT require them to be taken upon the posted, attached or holding strength of any unit during the tour of such duty.

3. The following procedure will be adopted forthwith for movt of personnel from this area:-

(a) When movt has been directed or authorized the unit concerned will type the necessary copies of AAF MOB 3 (Revised) and submit same to this HQ.

(b) Air travel will then be authorized where applicable and the copies distributed.

(c) In the case of movt by air, NOT more than 6 (six) personnel will be included on the one AAF MOB 3.

(d) Minimum number of copies to be prepared will be in accordance with Appendix "B" to GRO A334/44, with the addition of the following:-

1 copy to this HQ
2 copies for Movt Control

(e) The Adjutant of the unit concerned will sign as Officer Despatching Draft and space will be left in the [illegible]-hand column for approval by this HQ vide para (b) above.

(f) SCHOOLS. "G" Branch will notify units of personnel selected to attend schools, and on receipt of such advice, the unit concerned will arrange movt as set out above.

[signature] Lt
([illegible])
SC "G" MERAUKE FORCE
14 Dec 44

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document is NOT to be communicated either directly or indirectly to the Press or anyone NOT authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I
by
LT-COL D.A. CAMERON
Commanding Moratai Force

Serial 9
Nos 106 - 117
14 December, 44

GENERAL STAFF

NIL

BRANCH OF THE ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

A.106 RANK OF ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

The war establishments of certain units contain provision for "Orderly Room Sergeants" without further specification of the appropriate rank except that the appointments are listed under the sub-total "Staff-Sergeants and Sergeants."

Owing to the provisions of AMR & O 79, confusion has arisen as to whether such appointments should carry the rank of staff-sergeant or sergeant.

The correct rank for the appointment of orderly room sergeant is sergeant.

A member holding a higher rank will not, in future, be posted to such an appointment nor will a member holding such an appointment be promoted to a rank higher than sergeant.

Nothing in this order will be taken as authorizing the reduction of any member already holding a higher rank.

A.107 PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING CASUALTIES

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

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

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

A.108 SUPERANNUATION ACT 1922-43 & MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MEMBERS OF AIF

Attention is drawn to GRO 1438/44.

A.109 SERVICE CHEVRONS

Attention is drawn to GRO 1441/44.

A.110 USE OF GREEN ENVELOPES

Instances are frequently occurring where the use of Green Envelopes is being abused. Recent cases have disclosed members are including matters of a military nature and breaking an oath by signing the envelope stating the matters are purely private.

The continued abuse of this privilege will leave no other alternative than for this HQ to recommend to LHQ that the use of these envelopes be withdrawn from this force. This will NOT only penalise offenders but also other members who are using the envelope in the correct manner, which is for the communication of private and confidential matters to their families without the matters being subject to censorship.

A.111 MOVEMENT OF OFFICERS - NOTIFICATION OF DESTINATION

Many instances are occurring where officers are moving from their units without leaving infm at the unit as to their destination or movements.

The practice will cease forthwith and all units will take immediate action to institute a system whereby an officers whereabouts can always be obtained.

A.112 MOVEMENT OF UNITS TO SECOND AUST ARMY AREA FOR REORGANISATION AND/OR REFITTING

Subjoined hereunder for infm is a copy of LHQ SM12297 of 24 Nov 44:

"Personnel of units moving to Second Aust Army area for reorganisation and/or fitting, are frequently granted leave en route.

In order to overcome certain administrative difficulties resulting from that procedure formations will ensure, when a unit is ordered to Second Aust Army area for the purposes outlined in para 1 and leave is to be taken en route, that, on commencement of unit movement, an administrative cadre is detailed to proceed direct to that area for the purpose of undertaking all administrative functions prior to and upon arrival of the unit.

The actual composition of the unit cadres will be left to the discretion of the Formation commanding the unit when movment commences.

In all cases, the cadre will be composed of sufficient personnel to permit efficient handling of any administrative matters which may be encountered and will, in all cases, be in possession of necessary unit documents.

It is recommended that the cadres include:-

CO or 2 i/c
Adjt or [illegible]
necessary "A" and "B" Clerks

Second Aust Army will arrange for the personnel of the unit cadres to proceed on leave as soon as practicable after the return of other unit personnel from leave.

Second Aust Army memo A1079 of 12 Oct 44 to LH refers."

A.113 SPEED LIMITS

The speed limit for a distance 100 yards each side of 45 Aust Fd Bakery has been reduced to 10 mph.

Units will ensure that this infm is brought to the notice of all drivers.

A.114 SUBMISSION OF RETURNS

Some units are failing to submit returns on or before the date due. This in most cases causes serious holdup of infm to be forwarded to higher authority. Units are therefore directed to submit all returns in sufficient time to ensure that they reach this HQ by due date.

A.115 FIELD RETURNS W3008's - W3009's

Commencing from Saturday 16 Dec two copies each of Army Form W3008 (Field Return of Offrs) and Army Form W3009 (Field Return of Other Ranks) will be forwarded to reach this Headquarters not later than 1300 hrs on each Saturday.

E. J. Lucas Capt
SCOTT MERCURY FORCE

Q.216 INDENTS FOR ORDNANCE STORES

As from Mon 18 Dec 44 all indents for Ordnance stores will be submitted to 14 Aust OD for approval and NOT to DADOS this HQ.

[signature] Lt
SCOTT MERCURY FORCE

NOTICES

LOST.

Units will make a check of all cameras held and report to th this HQ NOT later than Monday 18 Dec 44 if a CONTAX Camera Lens No 1562819 is in their possession.

Two seat cushions were removed from a 3 ton vehicle outside RAAF picture show on 6 Dec 44.
The person or persons responsible will return same to 52 Aust Comp Rept (RAF) immediately.

FOUND.

Found in Main St.

The undermentioned articles branded "S.D.-SOM"

Haversack
Pack
Pair Gaiters -ab

These articles are now held at 75 Aust Depot Cash Office.

File

SUBJECT:- AREA HYGIENE.

HQ Merauke Force

~~415/15992~~

12 A.A.M.C.U.
Copy to:
All A.M.F. Units.

During a recent inspection of unit areas, hygiene and general cleanliness of unit lines was NOT of a very high standard, and with few exceptions the situation is not all that may be desired.

The Comd has directed that units be inspected and advise given to have these matters adjusted.

On completion, a report will be submitted to this HQ stating action taken to have these matters rectified.

[signature] Capt
([illegible] NEVESON)
SC "A" MERAUKE FORCE
15 Dec 44

ABWD M

SECRET

Copy No. 6

18 Dec 44

GS. 122

POST 6 PATROL INSTRUCTION No.4

Ref Maps: Eilanden River Area 1:250,000

1. INFORMATION

ML 1326 will be patrolling NW calling at Post 6 en route. Anticipated time of arrival at Post 6 is on or about 20 Dec 44. Any later infn ref ETA will be notified by signal.

2. INTENTION

A patrol will endeavour to find MIN and JACOB if not already at Post 6 and bring them to the post.

3. Patrol will endeavor to obtain further infn regarding the lost OTAKWA patrol.

4. METHOD

A detachment consisting of 1 Fs NCO
1 Interpreter
1 member of AMF
will proceed on the ML and will conform to the movements of the ML.

5. On return of ML to FLAMINGO BAY Commander of ML has agreed, if possible, to transport the detachment to BJCKHI, AYAM and/or other villages where information may be obtained.

6. In particular the natives at such villages will be encouraged to obtain further information regarding the lost patrol.

7. ROUTE

Route will be at the discretion of the ML Commander.

8. COMD

Commander of detachment will be stipulated by Post Commander. While on ML detachment will be under comd of ML Commander.

9. INTERCOMM

Intercomm will be through ML signal facilities.

10. GENERAL

In the event of ML remaining at Post 6 for a longer period, and further local patrols being required, Post Comd will signal this HQ necessary details. Such Patrols will NOT be carried out by ML without further authority of this HQ.

11. REPORTS

Patrol reports will be sent to this HQ by safe hand at first available opportunity.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Method of Issue. By Safe Hand for ML 1326 [signature] Maj.
D.P. Kennedy
Gil Maraoko Parao

Time of Signature 1750 hrs

OC Post 6	Copy No. 1	Wt Wing HQ	Copy No 4
Dr X ~~Pot Comd~~	" 2	File	" 5
EOIC	" 3	War Diary	6

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document is NOT to be communicated either directly or indirectly to the Press or anyone NOT authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I
by
LT-COL D.A.CAMERON
Commanding Merauke Force

Serial 10
Nos 117 - 125
20 December, 44

GENERAL STAFF

G.117 TRG EXPLOSIVES

Units will submit requisitions for trg explosives in accordance with GRO G254/44.

Necessary trg will be carried out as soon as possible.

Should instructors be required units will advise requirements to this HQ.

Maj
Gen Staff Merauke Force

BRANCH OF THE ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

A.118 DISCHARGE OF PERSONNEL FOR UNIVERSITY STUDY - YEAR 1945 (Auth LHQ 155958 of 29 Nov 44)

Attention is drawn to the above.

All applications will be submitted to reach this HQ on or before 20 Jan 45 for on forwarding.

A.119 CENSORSHIP - METHODS OF DEALING WITH COMMUNICATIONS

Attention is drawn to the correct method of dealing with private communications returned to units by Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy.

If disciplinary action is taken against the sender the letter will subsequently be destroyed.

If disciplinary action is NOT taken, the letter will be forwarded to addressee. As such letters have been cut open, this latter will be done by placing the letter in an envelope addressed to "Det 1 Aust Fd Censorship Coy", which will place an "Opened By Censor" seal on the letter before forwarding on.

A.120 AMENITIES RETURN

Unit Amenities Officers will render a monthly return to this HQ setting out sporting activities for the month, condition of sports areas and adequacy of same, amount of sporting gear held by unit and requirements. Entertainments provided within the unit will also be shown on this return together with attendances at same.

This return will be submitted to Force HQ by 25 day of each calendar month.

A.120 RAAF WELFARE RADIO

RAAF Welfare Radio will be testing next few days commencing 1530 Dec 20 on 1470 KCS or 217.6 meters. Reception reports will be appreciated. Please phone Flying Officer LITTLER 72 Wing or write care Group 942 RAAF Pacific signal 72 Wing.

RAAF anticipate opening station 23 Dec at 1200 hrs.

A.121 FIELD RETURNS W3008's - W3009's

Amend Merauke Force RO A115 two copies to read one copy.

Addendum to RO A115 - insert after Saturday for forwarding to Rear Ech First Aust Army.

A.122 PROHIBITED AREA

Merauke Force Routine Order A236/43 is repeated for the attention of all units.

"A236/43. As from 16 Nov 43 the area described below and shown on attached map is declared a prohibited area. No vehicle other than air force, engineer and AA vehicles on duty will be permitted into this area at any time unless provided with a pass from RAAF or AADC.

No personnel on foot will be permitted into the area during the hours between 1830 and 0700 unless provided with a RAAF or AADC pass.

That portion of the area immediately to the North of the DAT hut enclosed by the wire fence along the Strip, the strip itself and MRS road to a point 100 yards from the DAT hut is totally out of bounds to all ranks and is under control of OC 44 OBU.

In detail the prohibited area as shown on the attached map, reference MERAUKE Special 1 in 25000 is as follows:

From Junction HIGHWAY ONE and RAILWAY 447319 along WEST SIDE of HIGHWAY ONE SE to ROAD JUNCTION 447314, thence along SOUTHERN SIDE of HIGHWAY ONE to EAGLE JUNCTION 456307, thence a direct line to HIGHWAY ONE at 457291, thence to MAIN ST and along EASTERN SIDE of MAIN ST to 433295, thence a line 200 feet WEST of WESTERN TAXIWAY to BEND in RAILWAY at 442318, thence along RAILWAY (exclusive) to JUNCTION HIGHWAY ONE 447319."

The requirements of this Routine Order are NOT being observed and the prevalence of unauthorised personnel and vehicles on the airstrip is increasing to such an extent that in a recent air accident many lives both RAAF and Army were endangered by personnel and vehicles crowding on the strip. This is a matter of very serious concern and disciplinary action will be taken by units against any member who proceeds into this area without obtaining the necessary authority.

The results of any breaches of this order will be notified to this HQ without delay.

A.123 AUSTRALIAN TROOPS MIXING WITH NATIVES

All native dwellings occupied by other than Army personnel are out of bounds to all ranks, unless engaged on duties authorised by this HQ.

Troops may patronise shops and restaurants on Main St.

It has become evident that troops are fraternising too freely with the native population and although it is salutory to observe the goodwill existing, fraternization and cohabitation with natives is NOT desired and will cease forthwith.

This matter will be brought to the notice of all ranks.

Routine Order A7/44 will be read in conjunction with this order.

RO A14/44 of 30 Aug is cancelled.

Capt
SC"A" MERAUKE FORCE

Q.124 POSTAL SERVICE - RETURN OF PRO FORMA "A"

Many instances have been brought under notice where Unit Postal Orderlies have either failed to correctly address the cover containing the pro forma "A" or have NOT returned ALL pro forma "A's" received by them.

It frequently happens that as a draft or body of men pass through the various stages of their journey, several pro forma "A's" are made out for the same draft; the return of all these pro forma "A's" are essential to units preparing the pro forma's.

They are NOT Duplicate copies of pro forma A but individual and original pro forma "A's", on the return of which the mail held at the point of issue of the pro forma will be re-directed.

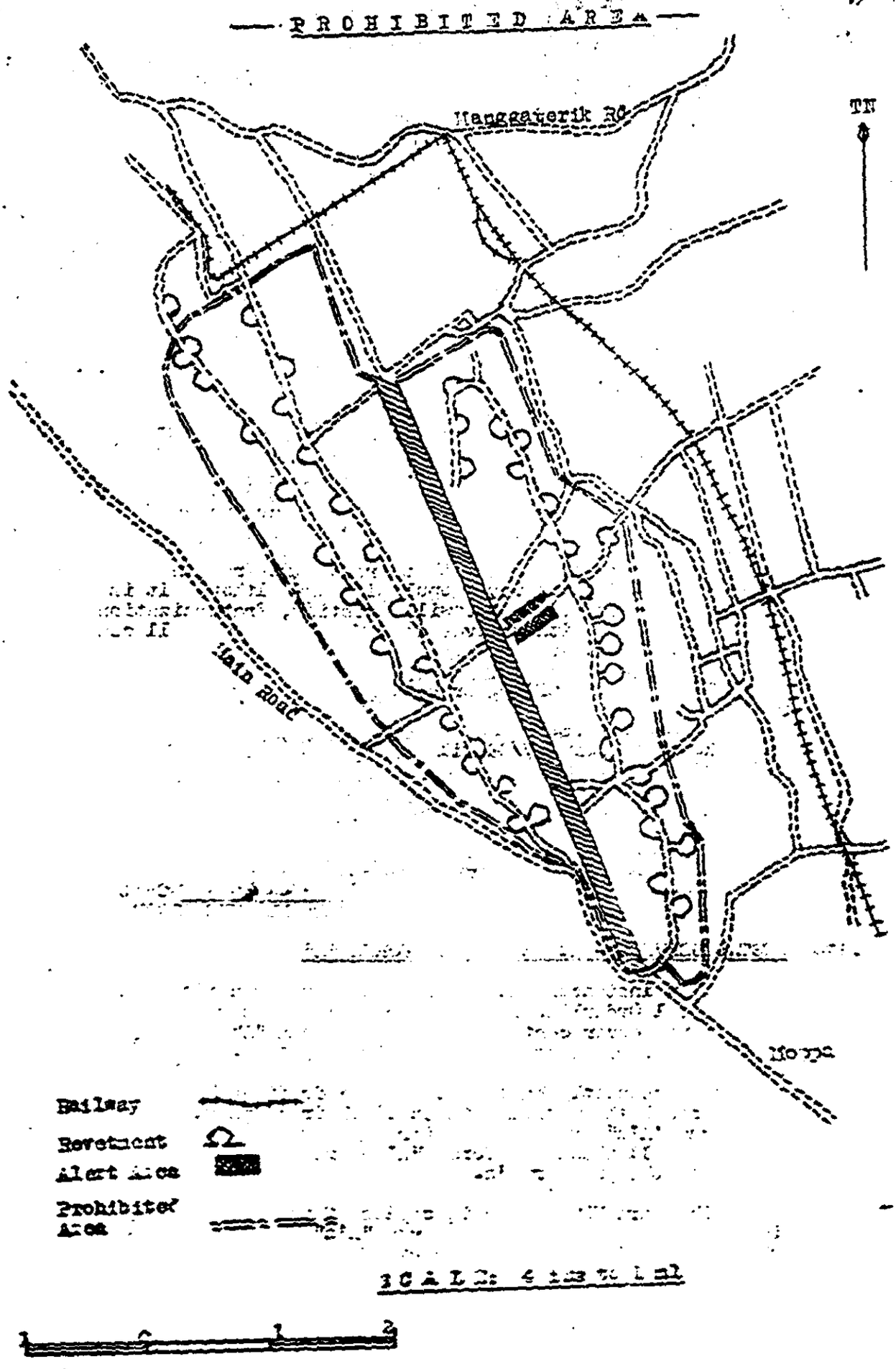
This instruction MUST in future be fully observed, also pro forma "A's" are to be returned by the quickest possible route to the unit or units concerned.

Q.125 RETURN OF STORES TO ORDNANCE

Units will crate all stores before returning same to Ordnance.

14 Aust AOD may refuse to accept stores NOT crated in a manner satisfactory to them.

Lt
SC"Q" MERAUKE FORCE


PROHIBITED AREA
Manggaterik Rd
TN
Main Road
Railway
Revetment
Alert Area
Prohibited Area
SCALE: 4 ins to 1 mi
1
0
1
2

CONFIDENTIAL

14 Subject : SPECIAL REPORT ALARM NIGHT 20/21 NOV 44.

HQ Meranke Force.
GS 126

OC
POST 6.

1. A report has been received by this HQ with regard to an alarm by night on 20/21 Nov 44.

2. It appears that all the guns of the Post opened fire on fixed lines and that shots were fired by Bofors without any attack being made on the Post.

3. The following comments are for your future guidance.

4. TARAKAN was very strongly held, posts were wired and many machine guns were available for the defence of the Post. So strong were the defences that the Post was considered impregnable.

5. During the night a few Japanese soldiers snaked their way as near to each gun position as possible. At a given time noises were then made near the wire by the enemy. Although the soldiers had orders not to fire unless ordered to by the Post Comd one gun crew became nervous and opened fire. The panic spread and all guns of the Post opened on their fixed lines.

6. This was precisely what the Japanese desired as the individual soldiers who had previously crept forward were able to pin point the posts and by grenade and automatic fire from close range, most of the gun crews were quickly put out of action and the Post, which had been considered impregnable, was captured at very little cost to the enemy.

7. The actions at Post 6 on the night of 20/21 Nov were exactly the same as the actions of the garrison at TARAKAN. Fortunately for the garrison at Post 6 the Japanese were not making an attack on the Post.

8. In Malaya, in the closing stages of the campaign, the lesson of the futilit and danger of firing by night had been learned to the extent that in many all ammunition was withdrawn from the personnel at dark and reissued before first light. In the event of anyone moving above ground he was considered an enemy and was bayoneted or killed by grenade ~~it~~.

9. It is not suggested that you should withdraw ammunition at night but it is obvious that there is need for strict training in fire discipline. Strong action must be taken against anyone who opens fire at night without orders or without being directly attacked.

10. The value of fire on fixed lines is to stop a massed attack. It is obvious that such fire cannot be long sustained and considerable depletion of ammunition supplies must result.

11. If a demonstation or weak attack causes a post to open on fixed lines, the enemy will soon exhaust the ammunition supply and will then put in his massed attack and overrun the position.

12. All ranks must be strongly impressed with the ineffetivness of small fire by night unless the target is at close range and clearly visible. In any other circumstances fire only serves to give away the position on the defence.

13. The only justification for fire by night is when it means a sure kill, even then other means which will not pin point the position are preferable - either bayonet or grenade. The Jap is prepared to sacrifice himself so that another Jap may kill you.

14. In conclusion, the following points are again stressed :-

(a) The enemy wants to pin point your automatic gun positions

(b) He is prepared to give his life if necessary, so that another may silence the post.

(c) Fire on fixed lines deplete your ammunition reserve and cannot be sustained indefinitely.

(d) Small arms fire by night is usually harmless to the enemy but discloses your position to him.

(e) Fire only for a sure kill even then use other methods if possible.

(f) Strict training in fire discipline is of paramount importance and the above points must be impressed on all ranks.

D.P. Kennedy Maj
(D.P.KENNEDY)
G11 Merauke Force

20 Dec 44.

War Diary

Subject: AMENITIES RETURN

HQ Merauke Force
A7/15035

ALL AMF UNITS

Cancel Routine Order Part 1 A120 of 20 Dec 44 and substitute

"Return will be submitted in accordance with Rear FAA A27 of 4 Dec 44 and to reach this HQ no later than 1200 hrs on the 2nd day of each calendar month."

Capt
SC 'A' Merauke Force

RESTRICTED

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I
by
LT-COL D.A.CAMERON
Commanding Merauke Force

Serial 11
Nos 126 - 134
28 December, 44

GENERAL STAFF

NIL

BRANCH OF THE ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

A.126 PARKING OF VEHICLES

Cases are frequently being reported of articles being removed from vehicles.

First Aust Army Order A211/44 is repeated for notification to all drivers of MT vehicles.

"MILITARY VEHICLES - SECURITY OF

1. Drivers of military vehicles will not leave same unattended except when properly relieved. The parking of a vehicle in a military parking area does not relieve the driver of this responsibility.

2. When vehicles are proceeding in convoy, OC convoy may permit drivers to leave their vehicles during halts, provided the OC makes adequate provisions for the piquetting of the vehicles.

3. Commanding Officers will ensure that all drivers under command :-

(a) Are informed of the terms of this order, and
(b) Are made aware that drivers are primarily responsible for any loss or damage to vehicles and accessories left unattended.

4. First Aust Army Order 66 of 1942 is hereby cancelled. "

A.127 TRANSMISSION OF REPORTS OF INVESTIGATING OFFICERS TO SUPERIOR AUTHORITY

Attention is drawn to First Aust Army Order A34.

A.128 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR AMENITIES GOODS

Attention is drawn to First Aust Army Order A37.

A.129 RE-EXAMINATION "B" CLASS PERSONNEL

Attention is drawn to GRO 205/44 para 3 (d) and (e).

All units holding "B" Class personnel will arrange with MDS for re-examination to be carried out.

A.130 SPARE COPIES OF GRO's

LHQ memo 169436 of 6 Dec 44 is repeated for information.

"Requests for back numbers of GROs are constantly being received at LHQ. In order to supplement the reserve stock which is held at LHQ to meet such requests - which stock has of necessity to be limited owing to the supply of paper being severly restricted - it is requested that spare copies of GROs held by formations and units and copies of GROs that were issued to units that have been disbanded be returned to LHQ."

A.131 PERSONNEL RENDERED SURPLUS BY DISBANDMENT OR REORGANIZATION OF UNITS - LEAVE FOR

Rear Ech First Aust Army A/144/2/4 of 8 Dec 44 is repeated for information :

"Authority LHQ SM12563 of 2 Dec 44.

Although it is most desirable that personnel with large leave credits should not proceed to areas outside of Australia, the overriding consideration is the necessity for providing immediately reinforcements for Operational Units.

All Commanders will therefore ensure that the maximum amount of leave authorised by present instruction is granted wherever practicable in order that personnel who may be required as reinforcements are available immediately and do not possess large leave credits.

The following instruction will apply in respect to personnel rendered surplus by the disbandment or reorganization of units, and formations concerned in despatching such personnel on leave will be responsible for ensuring that the authorised periods of leave are not exceeded :-

(a) For personnel who have not enjoyed 7 days or more leave in the past six (6) months - all accumulated leave up to but not exceeding 24 days, with a minimum of 12 days leave credit which may be anticipated if necessary.

(b) For personnel who have enjoyed 7 days leave in the past six (6) months - all accumulated leave up to a maximum of 12 days.

This instruction will not apply to units returning from New Guinea for disbandment or reorganisation. Separate instructions will be issued for each such unit."

A.132 ARMY MECHANICAL TRANSPORT FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

Attention is drawn to First Aust Army Order 39.

A.133 DISPOSAL OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT OF SICK OR WOUNDED MEMBERS

Attention is drawn to First Aust Army Order 40.

A.134 AACS - TRADING HOURS

As from 2 Jan 45 trading hours at Aust Army Canteen [illegible] will be 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs.

Units will adhere to their day of purchase and observe the hours stated above.

SECRET. Air R

Copy No_____
28 Dec 44.

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTUCTION NO 26.

Ref Map : DUTCH SERIES - Eilanden River Sheet 1 : 250,000.

To OC POST 6.

MERAUKE AREA Operation Instruction No 2 is cancelled.

1. INFORMATION.

You are in possession of all available information.

2. INTENTION.

Commander POST 6 will occupy a defended locality vicinity map ref VL400740 as already established and will obtain and transmit to HQ MERAUKE FORCE all available information ref enemy dispositions and intentions.

3. TASKS.

(a) To maintain a 24 hour watch for aircraft and shipping movements and report them immediately to FORCE HQ.

(b) To patrol an area within twenty (20) miles of post according to availability of watercraft.

(c) To submit to FORCE HQ weekly reports as at 1200 hours each Saturday covering general operations and administation for previous week.

(d) To control natives, including payment in trade goods. You will also ensure that natives are Not allowed within service buildings except such as may be specifically set aside by you. Natives will not be employed in the handling or preparation of food or the washing of clothes or any domestic duties.

(e) In the event of attack by superior forces, the decision whether to remain in the defended locality or withdraw, will be entirely at the discretion of the Post Commander. In the event of a withdrawal, all documents, equipment and supplies of value to the enemy must be destroyed. FORCE HQ will be advised of the intention at the earliest possible moment.

4. ADMINISTRATION.

A reserve of 30 days supplies will be maintained by HQ MERAUKE FORCE. Ammition, Canteen goods etc will be a Unit responsibility but FORCE HQ will arrange delivery.

5. WATERCRAFT.

Present holdings are two folding boats and one dinghy plus one Outboard motor. One additional folding boat will be delivered at first available opportunity.

6. SIGNALS.

Wireless to FORCE HQ. Cypher frequencies will be allotted through Sig channels.
Identification Signals will be notified from time to time by safe hand.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Signed at 2100 hrs on 28 Dec 1944

Method of issue Safe hand

D.C. Kennedy Maj
(D.P. KENNEDY)
Cdt Merauke Force.

A/L T

SUBJECT:- REST DAYS.

H. Merauke Force

A20/16077

All A.M.F. Units.

1 Jan 45 will be an additional REST DAY so far as operational requirements permit.

2. Skeleton staffs will maintain nominal routine in all HQs.

3. Personnel on duty on 1 Jan 45 may be given 2 Jan 45 in lieu.

John W Schiltmore Maj
[illegible] & JIG MERAUKE FORCE

29 Dec 44

CEB/BB

SUBJECT:- PREVENTION OF FIRE - FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.

HQ Merauke Force
1 Dec 44
Q7/15826

All A.M.F. Units
Plus Serials: 33, 34, (Navy only)
" " 35

1. EXTINGUISHERS FIRE HAND 1 QUART.

(a) All units will make immediate physical check of above types extinguishers held on charge. This check is to ensure that the extinguishers are in working order and filled and refill reserve maintained.
All U/S extinguishers are to be delivered to Ordnance and new issues will be made.

(b) This instruction particularly applies to M.T, all vehicles are to be equipped with above type extinguishers. Demands will be made on ordnance for V.O.L entitlement (one spare refill per extinguisher).

(c) N.E.I. will ensure that vehicles on loan from this HQ are maintained as above, and will submit their requirement direct to this HQ.

2. EXTINGUISHER FIRE 2 GAL FOAM TYPE.

Unit will check on entitlement and where applicable, submit indents to Ordnance. For information, normal entitlement is as follows :-

" One extinguisher for each 125 square yards floor area of inflammable liquid store and similar hazard."

Lt
SC 'Q' MERAUKE FORCE