

AWM52
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Commonwealth Military Forces unit war
diaries, 1939-45 War

Item number: 8/3/36

2/48 Infantry Battalion

October 1942

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

16 INMI 1942

WAR DIARY

UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Army Form C 18.

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

17 MAY 1943

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer... A.H. Hammer

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EG YPT	16 Oct		<p><u>PREPARATIONS FOR EIGHTH ARMY OFFENSIVE PERIOD 16 - 23 OCT 42</u></p> <p>A draft of 14 ORs (X List) arrives at the unit. Coy Comds conference is held at which the trg policy is discussed. Emphasis is to be laid on attack by night and the subsequent reorganisation period. Special attention is to be paid to (a) Supporting arms, (b) Maintenance of direction and distance (c) Battle drill (d) Practice in carrying man loads (e) Use of carriers as pl packs (f) Use of illuminated centre line to guide the advance and guiding lights for vehs (g) Rapid reorganisation against tk and inf counter attack.</p> <p>The CO informs Coy Comds there is to be a large scale offensive in which the Division is to take part. The attack is to be launched by the whole of the Eighth Army and is designed to destroy the enemy in his present position. Future trg will be as far as possible designed to resemble the actual type of attack which the Bn will make.</p> <p>The whole of the EIGHTH ARMY will be employed plus FREE FRENCH.</p> <p>We are to have 1600 tks plus many 105 and 25 pdr SP guns. A new tk the SHERMAN not seen before in the desert will be used. We will also have a superiority in guns and the opening barrage is to be fired by over 800 fd guns plus many mediums. The air co-operation is to be on a scale never before undertaken by the British Army.</p> <p>9 Aust Div is to be the right flank of the attack with the 26 Bde on the right. The Bde is to attack on a 800 yds front. This is the first intimation given to Coy Comds of the approaching operation although it has been fairly obvious that the strenuous preparations which have been made during the past few weeks could be for only one purpose - a large scale offensive. Now the significance of the hard trg, exercises, practice in manhandling and numerous other new methods to be used in attack is realised. The secrecy of the operations has been well guarded and the tps will not be informed of the plans until after the 21 OCTOBER. The date on which the operations are to commence has not been given. All coys carry out "Coy in attack" exercises, using bn supporting arms, by day and night. The Bn policy was to decentralize supporting weapons to coys to facilitate co-ordination at night and frequent handling by Coy Comds made them familiar with weapons and comds. A severe dust storm and rain hampered this trg.</p> <p>CO, Adjt And IO make recce for the Bn night exercise night 17/18 OCTOBER. This exercise will be mainly concerned with moving on a centre line lit by lights, with vehs follow-</p>	

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Commanding Officer

A. H. Hammer

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EGYPT	16 Oct		<p>ing up after the bn has attacked. All supporting arms will be represented and tps will carry full scale of man-loads in amn etc. All this trg is not new to the Bn except for one phase which is to be introduced. This involves the forming of two coys to a flank during the reorganisation period so that the Bn will face two fronts. Minefields will be prepared and the attack will be made over a distance of 7,000 yds. Reserve coys will leap frog through fwd coys on capture of second minefield line.</p>	
EGYPT	17 Oct		<p>Coy Comds conference at which the CO explains details of the Bn exercise tonight. After the CO, 2 i/c, Adjt, IO and Sig Offr make a final recce of the area for the exercise. In the afternoon the CO attends a conference at Bde to discuss the arty fire plan for the forth-coming operations.</p> <p>The exercise went very smoothly. It became clear that special attention would have to be given to the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Adequate guiding and lighting for A Ech tpt. planned.(b) Coy guiding and pacing parties to be triplicated.(c) Maintaining contact.(d) Mopping up.(e) Accurate pacing to ensure that coys have reached their objectives.(f) Rapid reorganisation.<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) intervals between sub units by pacing method to obviate huddling.(ii) sub allotment of supporting weapons to coys.(iii) selection of defensive localities in the dark.(iv) fields of fire for all weapons.(v) laying of mines, digging and wiring.	
EGYPT	18 Oct		<p>REF MAP EL HAMMAM 1/100,000 SEE TRACE APPENDIX</p> <p>Coy Comds conference at which the CO discusses the plan for the Bde exercise which is to commence this afternoon. The exercise will be as nearly as possible a replica of the actual attack which the Bn will stage in the forthcoming operations.</p> <p>The object of the exercise is to practice the Bde with allotted supporting arms in night attack against prepared wired and mined and booby trapped enemy posns.</p> <p>The enemy disposns have been drawn up to resemble as closely as possible those actually existing in the enemy area south of the ry line at TEL EL EISA. These defences consist of</p>	

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Army Form C. 2128.

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Officer Commanding.....

A. H. Hammer Hol.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	18 Oct		<p>two lines each protected by extensive minefields and wire, with a depth of 3000 to 4000 yds between each line. Infm concerning the enemy's front line is fairly comprehensive but little is known of the enemy's second line. Apart from the lay-out obtained from aerial photographs.</p> <p>The Bde is to attack with 2 bns and is to be the right bde of the Divisional attack and infact to be the right flank of the EIGHTH ARMY. The 2/24 Bn is to attack the first line of defended localities and exploit to a distance of 1500 yds. The 2/48 Bn will then move through the 2/24 Bn and attack the second line and exploit to a total distance of 3900 yds from the Bn's start line. The bn will then reorganise facing West and North.</p> <p>The Bn will move to a 'lying up area' approx 6 miles from the 2/24 Bn start line this afternoon and after dark move on vehs and debus approx 1500 yds from the 2/24 Bn SL which will be laid approx 1500 yds from the enemy's first line of FDLs. For the exercise the Bn will have the following arms in support.</p> <p>M & N tps 12 AUST A Tk BTY 3 Pl A Coy 2/2 MMG Bn 6 Sec 2/7 AUST FD COY</p> <p>One arty FOO (2/7 Fd Regt) will move with the bn. A divisional fire plan has been laid down for the arty.</p> <p>The plan for the bn will be as follows:- The bn will attack in two phases. Phase 1. B Coy left, D Coy right. A Coy Res Left, C Coy Right res.</p> <p>The fwd coys will attack the enemy's second line of defences and exploit to a distance of 1700 yds from the bn start line. The two res coys will mop up in rear of the fwd coys, pass through them, and exploit to a distance of 3900 yds from the bn start line. The bn will then reorganise:- A Coy to face West and NW, C Coy NW and North, D Coy North (to link up with 2/24 Bn on the right). B Coy in res in rear of A Coy facing West and NW.</p> <p>The exercise went exceedingly smoothly and the difficult phase of reorganising to a flank was successfully accomplished. By first light posns had been dug and a double row Hawkins minefield put down outside our FDLs. (Mines were NOT armed).</p>	

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Army Form C. 116.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

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Commanding Officer: *J. H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	19 Oct		<p>The bn returned to the leaguer area and after breakfast the exercise was repeated in daylight to give all ranks a clearer picture of what had been done at night and to show the necessity for accurate pacing and the difficulty of maintaining direction in the dark. This second exercise was very strenuous because of the fact that very little sleep had been had during the night and because of the hy man loads which all ranks carried.</p> <p>The GOC 9 Aust Div (Lt Gen Sir Leslie Morshead KBE, CMG, DSO, ED) witnessed both the day and night exercises.</p> <p>CO attends a conference of all offr's above the rank of Maj at 30 CORPS where an address was given by the GOC EIGHTH ARMY (Lt Gen B L MONTGOMERY) on the forthcoming offensive at 2200 hrs on 23 Oct 42. Lt Gen B L MONTGOMERY emphasised the great responsibility of the unit allotted the task of attacking and holding the objective on the right flank of the EIGHTH ARMY. It was the only unit mentioned in the address and this task was allotted to the 2/48 Bn.</p> <p>Bn return to camp and all ranks rest.</p> <p>Bn receives warning order to move to area (sq 882296) at EL ALAMEIN (Ref map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000) on night 20/21 Oct 42.</p>	
EGYPT	20 Oct		<p>Coy Comds conference at which preparations for tonight's move are made.</p> <p>The day is spent in packing, checking eqpt and getting rid of all unessential stores. Capt D P HILL and Lieut R E ALEXANDER return to unit, the latter from OCTU.</p> <p>The bn moves off in convoy at 1930 hrs and by 2330 hrs all coys had arrived in the new area. As a security measure the bn vehs have taken the place of vehs which were moved out of the area tonight. This is to avoid any suggestion of massing of tps in the fwd areas. The veh change was part of a big deception plan carried out for several weeks - dummy vehs being moved into the final lying up areas for the attacks and later replaced by the actual vehs as units moved fwd.</p>	
EGYPT	21 Oct		<p>Conference of all offr's in the bn was held this morning when the CO explained the forthcoming operations.</p> <p>The task and responsibility of the 9 Aust Div and all units as set out by the Div Comd (Lt Gen Sir Leslie Morshead) at his earlier conference was passed to all offr's. It was explained that the offensive was the biggest yet planned in the Western Desert and with determination and the will to win there was no reason why the offensive should not be an</p>	

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Army Form C. 2118.

Commanding Officer *H. H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT		21 Oct	<p>outstanding success. The enemy was holding strongly in well prepared, mined and wired posns. His tank strength was much smaller than ours although he is more experienced in tk warfare. The enemy was short of petrol, oil and water but had plenty of food and amm. Our arty strength is superior.</p> <p>The attack would be in three stages:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The battle for posn.(b) The dogfight (improving posns - beating off immediate counter attacks)(c) The methodical destruction of the enemy. <p>All offr's were told of the necessity for team work - to remember the lessons learned in our intensive trg - to fight the battle wisely and not to do foolish things. Every man was to be put completely in the picture so that the whole Bn could work as a team.</p> <p>CO, Coy Comds, Adj't, IO, Sig Off'r, QM, TO attend conference in the sand table room at Divisional HQ. The whole area over which the bn will move during the operations was set up in relief. The Bde Comd (Brig D A WHITEHEAD DSO, MC) explained the plan. This sand tray model will prove invaluable as a much clearer picture of the ground is now visualised by all offr's.</p>	
EGYPT		22 Oct	<p>Today the ORs of the bn are told of the offensive and the part which the bn will play. Great stress is laid on every man in the bn knowing exactly what is going to take place. The value of the hard specialised trg, man loads, battle drill, reorganisation methods etc now are quite clear to every man in the unit and the knowledge that they are well prepared for battle gives everyone the utmost confidence.</p> <p>The Bn chaplain (B C ARCHBOLD) conducts a service for all coys.</p> <p>Coy Comds and supporting arms comds conference was held this afternoon when further details of the actual bn plan were discussed. In this attack the plan has rather evolved over a period than from a direct conference. The general picture has been clear for some time and then final details are all that is required to complete the plans.</p> <p>The operation order will be, therefore, mainly confirmation of orders already given.</p> <p>Lt Gen Sir Leslie Morshead attended at the close of the conference to wish the bn good luck and spoke of additional plans made to foil and to harass the enemy. The main point of interest to the bn is that in order to keep the enemy on the coastal sector occupied and to disperse his arty DF over a wider front on D day a mock attack will be carried out by the 24 Bde. On the morning of D plus one our bombers will bomb trig 29 a feature which may cause us some trouble during daylight after we have captured our final objective.</p>	

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Commanding Officer..... *H. H. Hammer*

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EGYPT	22 Oct		<p>The postings of offr's within the bn for this offensive are:-</p> <table> <tr><td>CO</td><td>Lt Col</td><td>H H</td><td>HAMMER</td></tr> <tr><td>Adj't</td><td>Capt</td><td>W R</td><td>REID</td></tr> <tr><td>QM</td><td>Capt</td><td>J D</td><td>POTTER</td></tr> <tr><td>IO</td><td>Capt</td><td>B R</td><td>KING</td></tr> <tr><td>Sig Offr</td><td>Lieut</td><td>V N</td><td>NELSON</td></tr> <tr><td>TO</td><td>Lieut</td><td>D N</td><td>WALLIS</td></tr> <tr><td>OC HQ Coy</td><td>Maj</td><td>F A G</td><td>TUCKER</td></tr> <tr><td>OC A Coy</td><td>Capt</td><td>R S</td><td>SHILLAKER</td></tr> <tr><td>OC B Coy</td><td>Maj</td><td>G S</td><td>EDMUNDS</td></tr> <tr><td>OC C Coy</td><td>Capt</td><td>D</td><td>BRYANT MC.</td></tr> <tr><td>OC D Coy</td><td>Capt</td><td>P</td><td>ROBBINS</td></tr> </table> <p>The following supporting arms will be attached to the bn:-</p> <table> <tr><td>M & N tps</td><td>12 Aust A Tk Bty</td></tr> <tr><td>3 pl A Coy</td><td>2/2 Aust MMG Bn</td></tr> <tr><td>6 Sec 2/7 Aust Fd Coy</td><td>(Lieut MURRAY)</td></tr> </table>	CO	Lt Col	H H	HAMMER	Adj't	Capt	W R	REID	QM	Capt	J D	POTTER	IO	Capt	B R	KING	Sig Offr	Lieut	V N	NELSON	TO	Lieut	D N	WALLIS	OC HQ Coy	Maj	F A G	TUCKER	OC A Coy	Capt	R S	SHILLAKER	OC B Coy	Maj	G S	EDMUNDS	OC C Coy	Capt	D	BRYANT MC.	OC D Coy	Capt	P	ROBBINS	M & N tps	12 Aust A Tk Bty	3 pl A Coy	2/2 Aust MMG Bn	6 Sec 2/7 Aust Fd Coy	(Lieut MURRAY)	
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Commanding Officer: H.H. Hammer

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EGYPT	23 Oct		<p>enemy's FDLs for the opening arty plan for the attack - a series of timed concentrations on known enemy localities. The bn debussed and under light shell fire formed up and moved fwd to the 2/24 Bn start line which was to be used as the Bn FUP. Here it was learnt that the 2/24 bn had successfully taken the enemy's first line and were moving fwd to the second objective. At 2323 hrs the bn left the FUP and under light shell fire moved fwd 3000 yds to the bn start line. This had been laid by the bn ID just in rear of the Western limit of the 2/24 Bn objective. Just before reaching the start line the 2/24 Bn success signal went up. The Bn formed up with B Coy left fwd, D Coy right fwd, A Coy left res, C Coy right res and crossed the start line at 0038 hrs. As the bn moved fwd through the first mine fd Lt Col WEIR 2/24 Bn contacted Lt Col HAMMER to inform him that 2/2 4 Bn was on its objective and wished the 2/48 Bn good hunting in the second assault to the final objective. All RT sets were working well and the CO was in close touch with the coys. This did much to help in the success of the attack as a very close liason was possible. Once or twice the bn R/T set failed and the CO moved to A Coy to maintain contact with all coys. Contact was retained with Bn A Ech vehs under Maj F A G TUCKER in the rear and through him to 26 Aust Inf Bde HQ. Following the timed arty concentrations at the rate of 100 yds in 3 mins the 2 fwd coys assaulted the enemy's second line of defences. These defences were heavily wired mined and booby trapped but they presented no real difficulty - chiefly because of the high state of trg the bn had reached and the excellent work done by the eng sappers who were att to coys. At first stiff enemy resistance was encountered but ^{at} short sharp fights the enemy retreated or was killed or captured. At 2550 yds from the start line the two fwd coys (D and B) halted and the res coys (C and A) which had been mopping up in rear, moved through and cleaned up to the limit of exploitation, a distance of 3900 yds from the start line. Enemy arty, mortar and MG fire had been moderately hy with short spasms of hy concentrations but they did little damage. Several 81mm mortars, brechas and A Tk guns were captured. During D Coy advance fwd on the right Lieut LEWIN was hit and Sgt W H KIBBY took charge. He was immediately ordered by Capt P ROBBINS to clear up an enemy post holding up the coy. KIBBY'S pl was slightly disorganised at the time and he, leaving an order for his pl to follow him, dashed into the enemy post with his tommy gun blazing killing several enemy and capturing 4 more. By the time his pl reached him the enemy post was cleared and the coy advance continued. During the later stages of the attack maintaining direction was extremely difficult as there was so much smoke and dust that using a compass was most difficult. However a Bofors gun had been established on the centre line and fired 4 rounds of tracer every 5 minutes on the bearing of the axis of advance. This proved of great assistance in maintaining direction. The Bn success signal went up at 0345 hrs and coys were immediately reorganised. D Coy faced North with its right boundary on the edge of the enemy's second minefield and although a patrol was sent out to contact the 2/24 Bn left coy no contact could be made. C Coy reorganised facing North and NW. A Coy faced West. The Bn was here on its objective at 0250 hrs and all coys were on at this time but Bn was unable to report success</p>	

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Commanding Officer..... *A. H. Hammer Col.*

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EGYPT	23 Oct		<p>to Bde for some little time afterwards as B Coy R/T set had temporarily failed and comm was by runner.</p> <p>All fwd coys immediately sent out patrols to cover the reorganisation period but no opposition was encountered.</p> <p>B Coy moved fwd slightly and dug in in in a reserve posn 500 yds East of A Coy. Bn HQ was established in some Italian mortar pits in which there were still 4 81mm mortars. 70 PWs were captured during the attack they were from the 62 TRENTO DIV but many more ITALIANS retreated as the advance continued.</p> <p>B Coy was responsible for liaison with the 2/13 Bn (20 bde) on our left. Contact was established on the intermediate objective but no contact could be made at the arranged RV with 2/13 Bn on the final objective and infm was received that the 2/13 Bn were unable to get on to their objective - being some 1200 yds short.</p> <p>Lieut S S CAPLE with Pte SWINGER of B Coy finally established contact after cleaning up a German MG post during which Pte SWINGER was wounded. Lieut CAPLE finally finishing off the post with a hand grenade. They were able to verify early in the morning that the 2/13 Bn was unable to get fwd onto their final objective.</p> <p>Meanwhile the IO (Lieut B R KING) and a party of engr were clearing and lighting the centre line from the start line through the second minefield to the final objective. 400 yds South of, and parallel to the centre Lieut D MURRAY from 2/7 Fd Coy with another party of engr were clearing and lighting the route to the second minefield which the A Ech vehs were to use. The A Ech vehs commanded by Maj F A G TUCKER moved up along the veh route and although heavily shelled only one veh was damaged. The vehs in the following order - protective carriers (loaded with pl packs of amm etc) 8 Bn A Tk guns, M and N tps 12 Aust A Tk Bty, carriers loaded with amm as pl packs with amm food and water, Bn mortars, Bn MMG Pl, 3 pl A Coy 2/2 MMG Bn, A Coy A Ech vehs - moved through the minefield where they were met by coy guides and with the additional guide of flashing Lucas lamps at each coy HQ were soon at their coys. Because of the excellent lighting and marking system which had been adopted, no difficulty was experienced by the veh coln throughout the 10000 yd advance, the leading veh reaching Bn HQ at 0430 hrs after negotiating at least 1500 yds of minefields.</p> <p>Reorganisation went ahead full swing now and by first light all coys were dug in, had head cover (1/2 sheet galvanised iron) and had made a protective Hawkins double row minefield of 2400 mines around the FILs. (One mine to the yd of front) and all supporting weapons in posn.</p> <p>Vehs and carriers after off loading continued in a shuttle service bringing up further supplies of amm and food until first light with the object of making the bn self supporting and able to hold the ground and won for several days even if cut off.</p> <p>Wireless comm had been used most successfully during the attack and line was quickly laid so that soon after 0400 hrs the bn was in touch with Bde with L/T.</p> <p>At first light all vehs were cleared off the area and the whole bn completely balanced ready to fight against all comers. At this stage the bn was 1200 to 1500 yds further fwd of the 2/13 Bn on the South. Our casualties were extremely light during the attack and the following day. They were:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KIA 1 offr 3 ORs WIA 1 Offr 24 ORs</p>	

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Officer

..... *H. H. Hammer* / *Hol*

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EGYPT	23 Oct		<p>C Lieut LEWIN of D Coy was hit in the knee while assaulting the enemy minefield and Lieut KENNEALLY was killed after reaching the objective by a shell. Lieut KENNEALLY had been an outstanding offr in action leading his pl wisely and with great gallantry.</p>	
EGYPT	24 Oct		<p>No counter attacks materialised at first light or during the day but the bn was subjected to very hy MG, mortar and arty fire. At first light an ITALIAN offr wearing white underpants came in and asked whether the coy would take PWs. On obtaining the consent of the coy comd he went back with 2 escorts and bought in 4 more PWs.</p> <p>Most of the arty fire was directed from Trig 29 - a ridge approx 2000 yds North of our FDLs. This ridge completely overlooks the Bn area and the area to the South. Today has been a very unsettled day. The enemy has been trying to locate our posns and reorganise his own forces. There has been considerable tk movement to the West and North but this attention was mainly drawn to our armour which was disposed South of the bn. Some tks did attempt to draw our fire by sending a decoy fwd. No fire was returned however until one 6 pdr gun was knocked out. One Mk IV tk was set on fire, and the remainder withdrew. As the crew of the tk attempted to get away they were engaged by our MMGs and all hit. Some difficulty was experienced in locating posns on the map owing to lack of known land marks but more particularly because movement above ground was almost impossible. After last light 2 flares were sent up at Bn HQ and from these flash spotters will give us an accurate map reference of Bn HQ. Late in the afternoon the CO received infm that the Bn would probably be required to attack Trig 29 the following night. A hot meal was provided and this was much appreciated. Work continued most of the night to improve the defences. Coy patrols were sent out but no encounters were made</p>	
EGYPT	25 Oct		<p><u>ATTACK ON TRIG 29 (sq 868200) 25/26 Oct</u></p> <p>Much movement of tks and vehs West and North of our posns could be heard during the night 24/25 Oct but our patrol made no contact. And again at first light no dawn counter attack developed this morning.</p> <p>The CO has been advised of a probable attack on Trig 29 on night 25/26 Oct. He ordered Coy Comds to a conference at Bn HQ by first light on 25 Oct as movement over the ground by day was most difficult and explained the task although details from Bde were not yet available. A warning order to all coys was sent out "Prepare for attack night 25/26 Oct. Adm normal". The "Admin Normal" really spoke volumes. It meant the preparation for battle in detail - man loads, carrier packs, arrangements for mines, wire, amm, food, water, over head cover, sand bags, tools, arrangements for withdrawing A Tk guns, MMGs, Mortars, lifting the mines on our Northern flank, and the holding of the present posn xxxxxx while preparing to do battle in another attack. It said much for the battle drill and discipline of the unit and supporting arms that these arrangements prior to the attack worked smoothly and without a hitch.</p>	

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Commanding Officer..... *A. H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	25 Oct		<p>The Q arrangements by Capt J D POTTER, TO Lieut D N WALLIS, and HQ Coy Maj F A G TUCKER were great factors in the preliminary preparations for this next attack. XXXX Every member of the unit knew his task.</p> <p>The enemy is obviously still uncertain of our intentions and disposes and is hastily attempting to re-organise his defence. There are 3 arty FOOs operating in the bn area today and the constant movement of enemy inf to the North and tks to the West and NW has afforded some splendid targets. Our 3 inch mortars and MMGs were also able to engage targets effectively. The bn area was again subjected to hy shell, MG, and Mortar fire and several casualties were sustained. Stretcher bearers did a spix magnificent job and gallant job. On most occasions they were the only people above the surface of the ground which was continuously swept with enemy fire. During the afternoon the enemy attempted to counter attack with 200 to 300 tps from the North onto D Coy posns but they were dispersed by our arty and Mortar fire. The mortars considered they were obtaining excellent observation of fire when they saw enemy bodies being flung into the air. Most effective shooting.</p> <p>CO attends conference at Bde to discuss the plan for the attack tonight. The plan is that under timed arty concentrations 2/48 Bn will move North from its present posn and capture spur 25 to Trig 29 (sq 868300) and reorganise facing North and West and a s far South as the 300 grid line. The bn will act as a box to protect the attack of the 2/24 Bn and D Coy will cover the start line of the 2/24 Bn who will move through the right of the bn and attack in NE direction towards THOMPSON'S POST reorganising facing West. On return to the unit after the Bde conference the O Gp was already assembled and orders were then issued. Coy Comds had been called in before first light and given the general plan and all possible arrangements made up to the stage of receiving Bde orders. During the conference Bn HQ was heavily shelled but no damage done. Arrangements were also being made for the Bn posns to be taken over by the 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. A relief and attack was the role of the 2/48 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn will be as follows:</p> <p>The start line will be established 1600 yds from the objective and parallel to it and astride a track which runs past the objective. The start line will be fixed from the pt surveyed from the by the flashspotters. The attack will be launched in 2 phases, for phase 1 A Coy left, D Coy right will advance for 900 yds and halt. Here then will be a pause of 5 minutes in the arty programme. D Coy will remain in this posn and cover the forming up of the 2/24 Bn. C Coy mounted on carriers and portees with 4 bn A Tk guns and 1 tp 6 pdrs for immediate protection will advance astride the track to within 300 yds of the objective, debus and assault Trig 29. Th A Tk guns will be manned immediately on arrival against a possible tk counter attack in the moonlight. A Coy will then move fwd and exploit to the West and NW of the objective. After the limit of exploitation has been reached C Coy will reorganise facing North and NW linking up with the 2/24 Bn on the right, A Coy to face West and NW, B Coy to move fwd and reorganise facing West between A Coy and the right Coy of 2/17 Bn. The engrs under Lieut D MURRAY will move just behind the fwd coys this time and along the track to give a quick mine clearance for the carriers.</p>	

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

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WAR DIARY

or

UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer: *A. H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	25 Oct		<p>Zero is to be 2400 hrs. The Comds conference was somewhat interrupted by shell fire and MG fire but the enemy pits provided sufficient cover to continue the issue of orders. At last light a strong enemy patrol was seen between A and C Coy and fired upon. Several were killed and 3 PWs were taken, two of whom were offr. One, who was badly wounded was CO of 125 Inf Regt (German) and the other the CO of 11 Bn 125 Inf Regt. these offr were both out on a recce as the first bn had just occupied the area which the bn was to attack. Both offr carried traces made that day on the same scale as the map we were using showing the enemy disposns and minefields in that area. This and other infm obtained from interrogating the PW proved extremely valuable in the attack - particularly was this so in reference to the minefields as it confirmed the fact that no mines were laid on the track to Trig 29 to be taken by C Coy on carriers. Shortly afterwards a deserter in full dress complete with pack etc from 115 Inf Regt walked into B Coy lines. All head cover and sandbags had to be taken from the area. Further Hawkins mines were however made available. The same arrangements for A Ech vehs as for the first attack will apply. By 2200 hrs the relief of the Bn by 2/17 Bn had been completed and the Bn moved fwd onto the start line. At zero our arty barrage opened up and the enemy replied with light arty and mortar fire on the area. D and A Coys moved fwd and gained the first objective but not until some hy fighting had been done. Particularly was this so in the case of D Coy who encountered by opposition. D Coy fought well killing many enemy and capturing 38 German prisoners. They held the posn until the 2/24 Bn passed through. The fight took its toll of D Coy offr, Lieut T H BOWMAN was badly hit and died in a few minutes, Lieut W A BYRNE was hit in the leg and Lieut B SHEPARD, Bn MGK offr att to D Coy was badly hit and died next day in hospital. The OC Coy Capt P ROBBINS being the only remaining offr.</p> <p>The second phase - the attack of C Coy mounted on carriers - proved completely successful. It was proceeded by an intensive arty concentration on Trig 29 and the coy charged the trig pt inflicting by casualties on the enemy who still seem dazed after the arty fire. The carriers went in four abreast at 15 mph charging fwd right on to the TRIG. The men leaped out - leading pl to the left, second pl to the right and the third pl swept right over the TRIG. The ene my was greatly surprised. Our men killed with great determination. Capt D BRYANT MC was magnificent in this attack coolly directing operations of his coy in the face of the enemy. Capt O H ISAKSSON and his carriers did a fine job and the determination of the crews was a great factor in the success of the operation. A Coy following in the wake and to the West of C Coy encountered a great dea lof opposition to the West of the trig pt and only after some very batter fighting with hy casualties on both sides were they able to reorganise and dig in. C Coy also in exploiting fwd to the North of Trig 29 met with some oppesition. This was mainly in the nature of isolated posts which not knowing the situation continued to fire all night. One tk wa s encountered. This had been dug in and used as an OP but when charged by Cpl ALBRECHT (C Coy) the crew who were Italian were killed and the M 13 tk was captured intact. One hundred PWs from 125 Inf Regt were captured and nearly as many killed. Early during the attack when A Ech vehs were marshal-ling at the previous Bn HQ, a shell fell a mongst the vehs and set one of the vehs loaded with mines on</p>	

1623/PME/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

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WAR DIARY

UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer: *J.H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	25 ⁰ ct		<p>fire. The enemy then brought a heavy arty concentration down on that area and a further 6 bn vehs and one Div Sig veh carrying stores and amm were set on fire. These vehs contained stores for D and B Coys. Under heavy shell fire the remainder of the vehs moved fwd to their coys and fresh stores were quickly brought up to replace those lost. The carriers ran a special ferry service to replace the lost stores doing splendid work right up to first light. Reorganisation was made difficult by virtue of the fact that enemy MG and mortar fire was almost incessant. A Coy had struck rock when digging that by first light the depth reached in most of that coy was only two feet. However by first light all the tps were below ground with some head cover erected. 2400 Hawkins mines had been laid but the field was not quite completed. Bn HQ was established just East of the track and 400 yds South of Trig 29. A Coy had fought hard maintaining a relentless pressure against a strong and determined enemy. Lieut C E TAGGART and four others were killed when assaulting a series of enemy posts which was preventing the coy from obtaining its final objective. Pte Percy GRATWICK 7 pl with Cpl B LINDSEY assaulted the posts. GRATWICK charged a mortar post and destroyed it with grenades he then went onto two successive posts using his bayonet with deadly effect. He was killed at the last enemy post but his gallant action and that of his comrades enabled the coy to get on to its objective. The orderly room Cpl - Cpl "Ripper" KING and Sig Dick RAMSDALE MM were seen feverishly bringing up amm reserves from the carrier packs to the fwd pls of A Coy. Their grim determination to do all they could to assist in the fight was inspiring. The team work, co-operation and offensive eagerness of the whole bn in this attack was most marked and the enemy strong as he was in this position did not stand a chance against such determination and the will to win.</p>	
EGYPT	26 Oct		<p>At first light the enemy turned all his fury on the posn - particularly Trig 29. Till 0900 hrs the whole area was subjected to an intense arty concentration. Conditions were very difficult as no great depth had been reached in digging and all ranks were extremely tired. The situation was again unsettled and enemy tp movement was constantly reported. In the afternoon 300 inf moved into posns 1500 yds North of Trig 29 but these were engaged and dispersed by our arty. The value of Trig 29 as an OP is more than ever realised by us now as it has a range of vision of 4000 to 5000 yds in all directions. The enemy too realises this and it is receiving considerable attention from the enemy arty. The bn at this stage had call on 3 fd and 1 med Regt of arty if necessary. After last light another hot meal was brought up to the tps. It was greatly appreciated. Patrols were sent out during the night mainly to cover the improving of the defences and finishing the laying of the minefield. Spasmodic fire continued during the night but it did not hinder the defensive works. Bn casualties since the attack commenced</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> KIA 1 Offr 15 ORs WIA 1 Offr 26 ORs </p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISSING 1 offr (believed KIA)</p>	

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
 Month and Year: **OCTOBER 42**
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
 (Erase heading not required).

UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Commanding Officer: *H. Hammerhol*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	27 Oct		<p>At first light 30 enemy tks were seen 1500 to 2000 yds West of B Coy. These tks stayed in posn until last light but did not open fire - the enemy main object being to watch our armour which was on the bn Southern flank.</p> <p>The CO attends a preliminary conference at Bde HQ near TEL EL EISA STA at which it was learned that the bn would be relieved night 27/28 Oct to prepare again for a probable attack night 28/29 Oct. The 2/17 bn will again relieve the bn.</p> <p>During the morning the bn was subjected to some arty and mortar fire which restricted movement above ground. We now have 4 arty FOCs on Trig 29 and many good targets have been engaged. 7 Italians walked into A Coy area under cover of a white flag. They were fired on by their own tps before being taken PWs. At 1400 hrs 4 enemy tks approached Trig 29 from the NW and attempted to draw the fire of the A Tk guns in A Coy area. The same tactics of sending one 'decoy' fwd were employed but our guns did not fire. However the tks were engaged by our arty and soon withdrew. Soon after considerable MF movement could be seen near SIDI RAHMAN Mosque suggesting a marshalling of vehs. A close watch was kept on these vehs and we were pleased to see our bombers bomb them. At 1600 hrs 12 tpt carriers were observed moving South East from the area towards Trig 29. Our arty engaged them and when they were about 1500 yds from our FDLs they disappeared into dead ground. At 1630 hrs enemy inf estimated at one bn strength were seen to form up just South of where the vehs had disappeared and moved towards our FDLs. As soon as the enemy came within range of our arty DF task which ran in that area East and West for 1200 yds, 500 yds North of our FDLs, all 3 fd regts opened fire. Trig 29 and the area surrounding it was also under intense arty fire but little damage was being done. Our fwd coys with MMG and mortar opened fire and the area became so clouded with smoke and dust that just before last light the order to cease fire was given in order that the enemy progress could be observed and MG fire bought to bear on the enemy. It was then seen that the enemy counter attack had been beaten off and that they had withdrawn to 800 yds from our FDLs and were digging in. Very heavy casualties had been inflicted on the enemy and many were the cries of wounded men shouting "Kamerad". Enemy stretcher bearers were observed making repeated trips fwd bringing in wounded. A PW later stated that in one of their attacks the enemy lost 80 killed and 200 wounded. Patrols were sent out to give identification of enemy and many enemy dead were seen. No PWs were captured but the necessary identification was gained from bodies. They were from the 125 Inf Regt.</p> <p>At 1900 hrs a British Jeep approached A Coy area and was successfully engaged by A Coy. The enemy surrendered and the jeep was captured. One PW was an ITALIAN and the other a GERMAN OFFER who was LO to the ARIETE DIV (ITALIAN). He had been out on a recce and had been wounded. He stated that the ARIETE DIV was now at DABA and had between 60 and 80 ITALIAN Tks. And B Coy patrol was sent out to salvage enemy eqpt to the West of their posns and 6 LMGs were recovered. At 2200 hrs the relief of the bn commenced but just as the first tps were arriving the enemy made another attempt to regain the vital ground which the bn</p>	

1623/PME/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer: *A. H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	27 Oct		<p>held. This counter attack was launched from the North and proved much more serious. D Coy was ordered to move up in rear of C Coy to alternative posn to counter attack if necessary. Our arty DF fire came down again but the enemy succeeded in getting right on to our FDLs. After some hard fighting at close range however he was driven back again. The relief was then continued and by 0330 hrs had been completed and the bn withdraw to a lying up area South of TEL EL EISA STA just East of the enemy's first minefield (area sq 873298). Here the bn dug shallow trenches and all ranks enjoyed the first real sleep since 23 Oct. The action had been hard fighting with the enemy counter attacks very severe but not very well planned lacking co-ordination of fire support to their inf attacks. Arty fire was by but was completely uncoordinated with the inf attacks. Never at any time was it felt that the enemy no matter what his strength, could retake the posn. We were holding strongly, were well balanced, well supported by arty, sufficient weapons and amm reserves, and were well supplied with the other main ingredient in battle - the will to hang on to what the bn had taken. Casualties during the day were extremely light. This was chiefly because the bn was so well dug in. This was particularly so in regard to casualties from air-burst and the value of bringing up head cover for every man has been more than fully justified. Capt D MAXWELL-WRIGHT was hit by a MG bullet through the jaw. Casualties KIA 1 OR WIA 1 Offr 13 ORs</p>	
EGYPT	28 Oct		<p><u>ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ATTACK ON THE ENEMY FROM THE REAR AND SOUTH OF SIDI RAHMAN (Area 870304) to RING CONTOUR 25 (873302)</u></p> <p>Plans were made for the next attack which was to take place that night according to the following plan. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn is to attack area sq 868303 North of Trig 29 while 2/13 Bn attack from 86853000 NE to a pprox 875301 - just West of THOMSONS POST. On success 2/23 Aust Inf Bn mounted on 40 RTR this is to move North from Trig 29 (sq 868300) to the ry line and hold a stride the ry line to the road in area sq 870304. On success 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will move through 2/23 Bn and attack a stride the main road to RING CONTOUR 25 (sq 873302) while 2/24 Bn moves through 2/13 Bn and attacks THOMSONS POST (sq 871302). The bn plan for this attack was as follows. The start line to be from the ry line at 87043045 through B 11 (87093046) to the main road. The attack was divided into three phases. Phase 1: B Coy right C Coy left to attack along the road to a distance of 2200 yds. Phase 2: A Coy right D Coy left to attack and capture final objective a distance of 3800 yds from the start line. Phase 3: The bn to reorganise facing West. Admin arrangements and supporting arms were to be the same as for previous attacks except that A Ech was to be split in A1 and A2 Ech. A1 Ech will only include carriers loaded with pl pack and towing 4 of the bn A Tk guns. The remaining supporting arms and A Ech vehicles will form A2 and will move from East to West along the main road from Trig 33 (sq 875301) to the Bn when the objective</p>	

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

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WAR DIARY
or
UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 18.

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer... *A.H. Hammer Lt Col*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																					
EGYPT	28 Oct		<p>has been gained. For the attack the bn fighting strength is now much depleted and will be as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Bn HQ</td><td>3 offr</td><td>16 ORs</td></tr> <tr><td>HQ Coy</td><td>5 offr</td><td>165 ORs</td></tr> <tr><td>A Coy</td><td>3 offr</td><td>43 ORs</td></tr> <tr><td>B Coy</td><td>4 offr</td><td>58 ORs</td></tr> <tr><td>C Coy</td><td>3 Offrs</td><td>66 ORs</td></tr> <tr><td>D Coy</td><td>2 offr</td><td>47 ORs</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"></td><td style="border-top: 1px solid black;">20 offr 395 ORs</td></tr> </table> <p>As there is little adm to be done after the tps were able to get some rest - despite bombing attacks on arty posns, and a few odd shells. Late in the afternoon GOC 9 Aust Div (Lt Gen Sir Leslie MORSHEAD KBE, CMG, DSO, ED) visits the bn and offers congratulations on the fine work done and wishes all ranks the best of luck tonight.</p> <p>At 1930 hrs the bn moves fwd on vehs and by 2200 hrs was in posn West of Trig 29 waiting for the 2/23 Bn success signal. At this time the convoy was under considerable shell fire and this continued until the attack was postponed at 0400 hrs. and the bn moved back to the lying up area. The bn had 7 casualties while waiting to attack but no vehs were lost.</p> <p>The move in by 2/23 Bn on the tks of the 40 RTR had met with no success the tks running on to our own minefields causing tank casualties. The noise drew the enemy fire and the tks apparently allowed themselves to be drawn from their main task and a shooting match developed with the 2/23 Bn in the unfortunate posn of being well in the target area. The attack progressed only about 600 yds the 2/23 Bn reorganising well and capturing several hundred prisoners. The time factor then dominated the situation and it was realised that the main attack could not go in and the attack of the 2/48 Bn and 2/24 Bn was postponed.</p>	Bn HQ	3 offr	16 ORs	HQ Coy	5 offr	165 ORs	A Coy	3 offr	43 ORs	B Coy	4 offr	58 ORs	C Coy	3 Offrs	66 ORs	D Coy	2 offr	47 ORs			20 offr 395 ORs	
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EGYPT	29 - 30 Oct		<p>The next two days were spent in preparation for the next attack and rest. Once again there was little adm to be done and all ranks were able to have a good clean up and a good sleep. The bn canteen veh was again to the fore and the added comforts made available to the tps were greatly appreciated. In the afternoon the CO attended a conference at Bde to discuss the attack which was postponed from last night. This attack will now take place night 30/31 OCTOBER. The IO also visits bde and the latest infm re enemy minefields and disposns gained from captured documents and PWs was obtained. The plan for the attack has now been changed and will generally be as follows:-</p>																						

1623/PME/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

WAR DIARY

UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Army Form C. 118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Commanding Officer

H.H. Hammer / Col

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																														
EGYPT	29 - 30 Oct		<p>2/32 Aust Inf Bn is to move North from TRIG 29 to hold the area astride the road and ry line at the BLOCK HOUSE (87083039). 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will follow in rear of 2/32 Bn and 2/24 Bn in rear of 2/48 Bn. Both these bns will form up on the 2/48 Bn's original start line and attack astride the main rd to RING CONTOUR 25. 2/48 Bn will move astride the main rd and 800 yds North and 2/24 Bn exclusive main rd to the ry line. On capture of RING CONTOUR 25 2/48 Bn will form up again parallel to the rd and attack in a NE direction towards CLOVERLEAF (874304) and then attack on to the coast reorganising facing West. 2/24 Bn is to move South and attack THOMPSON'S POST (871302). Meanwhile 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn is to move through 2/32 Bn and attack to the coast at approx 87053075, reorganise facing West. Before first light (30 Oct) 2 i/c, IO, TO and Pro Sgt visit 2/15 Bn North of TRIG 29 to recce route over which the bn will move tonight. Soon after coy comds conference is held at which the CO explains details of the plan for the attack. Little preparation is actually necessary as the bn plan is similar to that for the previous plan. The main thing required is timings. These will not be available until this afternoon.</p> <p>The plan for the bn will be in 4 phases phases as follows:-</p> <p>Phase 1: B and C Coys take the first objective 2250 yds from the start line.</p> <p>Phase 2: A and D Coys move through the first fwd coys and capture RING CONTOUR 25 approx 1600 yds.</p> <p>Phase 3: B and C Coys move fwd and swing left at 2750 yds to the second start line which will be laid 800 yds North of the main rd and attack CLOVERLEAF and then continue on to the coast. A Coy will follow B and C Coys as pls.</p> <p>Phase 4: Reorganise facing West with A Coy left B centre, C right and D Coy in reserve.</p> <p>Other details of adm, eng plan and plan for A Ech vehs will be the same as for the proposed attack night 28/29 OCT. The attack will again be supported by hy timed arty concentrations on to known enemy posns. The task is a tremendous one. The bn has been fighting strenuously for 6 days during which it has launched two major attacks and withstood several strong counter attacks. The natural result has been that the bn has suffered casualties and these men cannot be replaced so that tonight the bn will be engaged in its most difficult task since the offensive was launched with the total strength of four rifle coys only 213. The various fighting strength for the bn are as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A Coy</td> <td>3 offr</td> <td>46 ORs</td> <td>Bn HQ</td> <td>3 offr</td> <td>16 ORs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B Coy</td> <td>4 offr</td> <td>56 ORs</td> <td>HQ Coy</td> <td>5 offr</td> <td>161 ORs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Coy</td> <td>3 offr</td> <td>65 ORs</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>D Coy</td> <td>3 offr</td> <td>46 ORs</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"></td> <td>Bn total</td> <td>21 Offrs</td> <td>344 ORs</td> </tr> </table>	A Coy	3 offr	46 ORs	Bn HQ	3 offr	16 ORs	B Coy	4 offr	56 ORs	HQ Coy	5 offr	161 ORs	C Coy	3 offr	65 ORs				D Coy	3 offr	46 ORs							Bn total	21 Offrs	344 ORs	
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1623/PME/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Commanding Officer: *A.H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	30 - 31 Oct		<p><u>THE ATTACK ON RING CONTOUR 25 NIGHT 30/31 OCT</u></p> <p>Immediately after last light the bn moved off in convoy past the first Bn HQ, TRIG 29 to 1500 yds North of the TRIG. The move was accomplished without much incident except for a few annoying factors that could have eliminated if the orders issued by higher authority had been obeyed by the people concerned. These difficulties were overcome largely because the unit doubled up on the existing lighting, and guiding system by providing its own lights and guides as well. It is a sound principle never to rely on arrangements made by the other fellow. At the debussing area the bn lay up until the 2/32 Bn moved through at 2200 hrs. During this wait a GERMAN (900 Pnr Bn) wandering around in the dark was captured by B Coy. At 2230 the bn moved fwd across the 2/32 Bn start line. Some fighting had to be done before the ry line was reached, C Coy and 1 pl of B Coy being being employed to silence opposition. At the ry line the situation was far from stabilised and enemy resistance was encountered at almost every step. Under the cover of the patrol from B Coy the start line was laid and while mopping up was still proceeding in the area, the bn moved fwd onto the start line. The necessity to fight to get onto the start line caused some delay until the two coys so employed returned.</p> <p>At Zero (0100 hrs) our arty barrage began and many shells fell on and near the start line, causing slight disorganisation and some casualties. Our arty fire seemed to lack the accuracy which characterised its previous support for the bn in the earlier attack - this was due to the difficult task of firing receding barrage with guns at all angles to the task. The bn moved off with C Coy on the left and B on the right on a 400 yds front which was extended to an 800 yd front when they had crossed the main rd. The cover of the arty barrage was practically lost owing to the bn having to wait while it lifted from the start line and the large safety margin of 600 yds because of the difficult arty gun task. Soon after crossing the rd very strong opposition was met and every inch of the way had to be fought for. The fwd coys owing to their strength were not able to clean up all the enemy posts as they advanced and the reserve coys had also to do a considerable amount of fighting as they moved fwd. The fighting was particularly bitter most of the enemy fire being 40 <i>mm. TK guns</i> and 80mm mortar and MMG fire. After very hy fighting in which we suffered by casualties but inflicted heavier casualties and took some PWs the fwd coys reached the first objective and halted. D Coy to avoid the minefield encountered running parallel to and North of the road swung out and A Coy moving fwd through B Coy encountered serious opposition and were forced to ground. Bn HQ moved through a gap between B and C Coys and it was soon found</p>	

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

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Commanding Officer..... *A H Hammer HQ*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	30 - 31 Oct		<p>that Bn HQ was 400 yds ahead of the fwd coys and was meeting with hy enemy resistance. A and C Coys now commanded by Capt BRYANT MC seeing A Coys posn decided to continue the advance and the two coys amalgamated and continued. The total strength of the 2 coys was now no more than 45 men. When in close contact with the enemy localities on the second objective, after losing more men, they were unable to pregress any further. D Coy had reaced a similar posn 100 yds from the enemy's fwd localities and were unable to advance. Bn HQ was out of comm with D Coy and it was later learnt that all the coys HQ had either been killed or wounded. 16 men being killed in their final assault, and only 4 or 6 men left who were with the coy in the final assault. The battle had taken terrific toll of offr and NCOs and the further fwd we pushed the more intense became the opposition. <u>A Coy</u> lost Capt R S SHILLAKER badly wounded at about the intermediate objective. Lieut B Y HAMILTON was killed.</p> <p><u>B Coy</u> Lieut S S CAPLE in a gallant assault on a post just South of the road was killed. Lieut G J BUTLER wounded and evacuated, Lieut K F ALLEN wounded and continuing and on the final objective Maj G S EDMUNDS who was gallantly leading a 6 man coy was badly hit as he charged fwd into the enemy posts. Lieut ALLEN was evacuated in the early morning after first light.</p> <p><u>C Coy</u> Capt D BRYANT MC and Lieut J T GREGORY carried on right through the night, Capt BRYANT being badly wounded later in the day. Lieut R E ALEXANDER was wounded and evacuated.</p> <p><u>D Coy</u> Capt P ROBBINS, a courageous leader was killed in the assault bnt he final objective. Sgt W H KIBBY who commanded a pl killed and Lieuts H F TRELOAR and T W FARRELL wounded and evacuated.</p> <p><u>Bn HQ</u> Capt W R REID, the Adjt, was sent to comd A Coy when Capt SHILLAKER was hit but Capt REID was wounded in three places and continued on duty. He was killed later in the day. The CO Lt Col H H HAMMER received a bullet through the face but was able to continue on duty. Lieut S A B MAZZUCHELLI was hit and evacuated.</p> <p>Cpl J HINSON DCM (C Coy) was killed as he charged fwd into the enemy posts on the final objective. Sgt L R GOODE MM (Sig Sgt) was killed on the final objective.</p> <p>The men fought with great determination always endeavoring to get fwd taking their toll of the enemy all the time. As the numbers were gradually reduced and the little band of 41 men (including some lightly wounded) was concentrated and dug in the same offensive spirit was still displayed as when they first went into action eager and fresh on the 23 Oct 42.</p>	

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

WAR DIARY

UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Commanding Officer..... *A. H. Hamer*

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	30 - 31 Oct		<p>The situation was serious and the Sig Offr was sent to contact 2/24 Bn and they reported similar opposition and hy casualties. The CO decided to dig in, the bn in the present posn and to hold the ground if the 2/24 Bn could hold South of the rd. The CO then went down to contact the 2/24 Bn to discuss their plans but found that they had already withdrawn. By now it was almost 0500 hrs and Maj F A G TUCKER reported that the A Ech vehs had had some difficulty in getting on to the main rd and had advanced to approx 87203035. As the situation then was obscure obscure he had sent the vehs back to the 2/32 Bn at the ry line. After careful consideration at 0530 hrs the CO decided to move the Bn which now consisted of 41 men, back to a firm base to an area just East of the 2/32 Bn (87103042).</p> <p>Sgt W H KIBBY, D Coy again distinguished himself in the assault by D Coy on the final objective. The whole coy was sprayed by withering fire killing and wounding many but KIBBY gallant man that he was, continued to advance crawling fwd throwing grenades and firing his Tommy Gun until he was killed in the enemy posts. He is being recommended for the VICTORIA CROSS. The stretcher bearers Ptes W C DUNN, MITCHELL J, R I AGARS, F J WOOLDRIDGE, C WARE, E WOODROFFE, J C MERRITT, J SOMMERVILLE, M H QUINN, J WATMORE, Cpls A E HERON, C W DUFFIELD MM and L/Cpls E LEHMANN, V DEVLIN, E J NICHOLLS, A M. LAWES, H WHIMPRESS C HOLMAN, E W S MOORE had done an outstanding job. They carried out their tasks unselfishly and with great bravery working until they were exhausted to evacuate the wounded and it says much for them that not one man was missed by them in their search and attention to the wounded over the 4000 yds approach to BLOCKHOUSE from TRIG 29 and the attack of 3600 yds to RING CONTOUR 25.</p> <p>When the CO decided with his remaining four offrns decided to move the bn back to the firm base at the BLOCKHOUSE area the wounded were collected and carried out, the bn moving back with coys in diamond formation ready to deal with any enemy. The move was carried out without incident and just before first light the bn less the wounded all evacuated (with the exception of several lightly wounded offrns and men) plus the A1 Ech dug in ready to deal with the enemy at first light. Hy casualties had been inflicted on the enemy and 200 PWs (GERMAN) captured one 88mm gun was destroyed. The withdrawal was completed with little fighting and all wounded men who could be located were carried back. Many German PWs were used to carry our wounded back. By first light posn had been allotted and shallow slit trenches dug. During the day (31 Oct) the whole area was under very hy shell fire and the situation very unstable. Early in the morning 20 mk iii and 1 mk IV enemy tks approach ed the 2/32 Bn FDLs from the West between the rd and ry. Soon after 40 RTR moved up and occupied hull down posns where the bn was dug in. The actual inf (and there ^{were} many) counter attacks.</p>	

6237 P.M.E./s 150000 - 9/41.

Month and year: OCTOBER 42

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

WAR DIARY UNIT: 2/48 AustbInf Bn
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
 (Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

A.A. Hammer

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Commanding Officer.....	Remarks and references to Appendices
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EGYPT
 30 -
 31 Oct

launched by the enemy were beaten off by arty and mortar fire and the fire from the tks, and the depleted bn was not involved in any actual close fighting. The situation remained serious all day and a terrific tk battle raged for 7 hours but although our tks were out-gunned and suffered by casualties they were able to beat off the enemy tk attacks. 40 RTR fought their tks ~~in~~ magnificently. The BLOCKHOUSE was being used as an RAP and 3 of our MOs with 3 GERMAN MOs continued all day to look after and evacuate both our own and GERMAN wounded. Darkness at last brought some relief and the CO set about to reorganise the Bn's defences. Before this could be put into operation it was learned that the Bn would be relieved by the 2/43 Aust Inf Bn that night.

Activity then consisted of patrolling the area until the 2/43 Bn arrived. By 0100 hrs the relief was complete and without any incident the bn returned to the old posn at TEL EL EISA STA when a hot meal was provided before the tps were allotted their defences. The casualties for this attack were extremely by particularly when it is realised that the strength of the bn was only the already depleted rifle coys plus a few of the supporting arms. The actual numbers of tps who took part in the attack were:

Bn HQ	3 offr	16 ORs
HQ Coy	2 offr	45 ORs
A Coy	3 offr	46 ORs
B Coy	4 offr	56 ORs
C Coy	3 offr	65 ORs
D Coy	3 offr	46 ORs
	<u>18 offr</u>	<u>274 ORs</u>

CASUALTIES

	KIA	WIA	MISSING
Bn HQ	1 offr 2 ORs	1 offr 9 ORs	
HQ Coy	7 ORs	1 offr 22 ORs	1 OR
A Coy	1 offr 7 ORs	1 offr 22 ORs	
B Coy	1 offr 11 ORs	3 offr 36 ORs	1 OR
C Coy	7 ORs	2 offr 30 ORs	
D Coy	1 offr 9 ORs	2 offr 19 ORs	2 ORs
TOTALS	4 offr 43 ORs	10 offr 138 ORs	4 ORs

Total casualties 14 Offrs 185 ORs

WD

2/48 AUST INF BN

ROUTINE

ORDERS

by

Lt-col H H HAMMER COMD

For Official Use Only
AMR & O 1587

In the Field
Friday 2 Oct 42

567. SALUTING:- Saluting dates from the time of armour, the salute representing the motion of a knight raising the visor of his helmet with the open hand to the front showing that, though raised, it contained no missile.

The practice of combining "eyes right" or "eyes left" with the salute originated from the olden days, when it was the privilege of men-at-arms to look their superiors in the face, while others must pass with downcast eyes.

The salute is, therefore, a recognition of comradeship and mutual trust between men-at-arms; it is, at the same time, an acknowledgement of discipline and has become a visible indication of common allegiance which all ranks owe to the Crown and its service.

The standard of saluting is, therefore, an indication of the esprit-de-corps of units and formations. History, including the present war, has proved that high esprit-de-corps and good discipline increase the fighting efficiency of units and formations.

The recognition of comradeship and mutual trust inherent in the salute must be mutual and not one-sided, e.g., both parties must look each other in the eyes, and officers receiving the salute must return it in a smart, soldierly and orthodox manner. The slovenly return of a salute cannot but breed slovenliness. The officer will, therefore, return the salute in a proper manner and will invariably look the giver of it in the eyes.

Officers and soldiers, when on leave or detachment, will show by the standard of their saluting, their determination to maintain with pride the reputation of their Unit, Corps, and Formation.

When officers visit Pl areas, posts etc, the sec comd or senior soldier present will immediately come fwd and men in the vicinity will recognise by briefly standing to attention and then carrying on with their duties. Such recognition by a soldier will be acknowledged by a salute from the officer.

568. PERSONNEL RETURNING TO UNIT - REINFETS:- All "X" personnel and reinfets marching into the unit MUST report to the RMO before proceeding to coys.

H. H. Hammer
for Capt
Adjt 2/48. Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES

LEAVE IN ALEXANDRIA:- Tps going on leave in ALEXANDRIA are recommended to call at the British Service Information Bureau, where they can ascertain what has been arranged for the entertainment of leave personnel.

Holy Communion will be held in D Coy area Sunday at 1400 hrs. Chaplain B C ARCHBOLD will officiate. All personnel welcome.

ROUTINEORDERS

by

Lt Col H E HAMMER ComdFor Official Use Only
AMR&O 1587In the Fd
12 Oct 42

576. ALEXANDRIA - LEAVE ACCOMMODATION: All ORs prior to proceeding on ALEXANDRIA leave are to be advised that accommodation up to a total of 100 beds has been reserved for Australian tps at UNITED FORCES Hostel MOHAMED ALI Sq. Those desiring to avail themselves of this accommodation must book in prior to 1400 hrs on the day of arrival. UNITED FORCES Hostel is highly recommended and as other accommodation is scarce those desiring to stay in ALEXANDRIA are strongly advised to take advantage of this accommodation. Tariff - Bed and breakfast 15 piastres; complete board 25 piastre per day.
577. BULK ISSUES OF PET TO ARMY VEHs EX SHELL AGENCY PUMP, BEERSHEBA. As from date of this order, pet will NOT be drawn by Army vehs from the above pump. POL is available at PSP ASIJJ.
578. CANTEEN PROFIT DISTRIBUTION: Canteen profits amounting to £25138/13/6 have been distributed for the month of July 1942. Total amount distributed to 31 Jul 42 is £A251381/13/-.
579. FAIR WEATHER TRACKS: Excessive traffic and fair weather tracks on the coastal strip where water is lying may make them impassable in patches for some days at least, and lead to serious difficulties. Until they dry out after each storm, maximum use will be made of Main Rd, even though this entails extra mileage. Where main rd is not available, tpt Offrs and NCOs will ensure that traffic is reduced to a minimum by postponing non urgent trips until tracks dry, or as long as possible. This order will be brought to the notice of all drs.
580. EMPTY AMM BOXES: 25 pr and other types of gun amm boxes are urgently required at Base. A number of these are being used for revetting, stationery boxes etc. This practice will cease. All serviceable amm boxes now being used for such purposes will be collected by units and returned to Salvage. Since the future sups of amm depend on the return of boxes, HQ EIGHTH ARMY has directed that COs and OC be informed that they will be held responsible for failure to comply with this order.
581. PROHIBITED ROADS ALEXANDRIA: For operational reasons CORNICHE (Sea front rd running whole length of ALEXANDRIA approx 11 miles) is out of bounds to all vehicle traffic between the hrs of 2000 and dawn. COs are responsible for the promulgation of this to all offrs and ORs in their units.
582. SPEEDING ALEXANDRIA: There is a speed limit of 20 miles per hr throughout ALEXANDRIA.
583. SECURITY - CARRYING ON CORRESPONDENCE BY HAND: Attention is directed to Field Censorship Regulations MEF, 1942 Part I para 8 sub para 2 which reads:
"It is forbidden to despatch or carry correspondence by the hand of any offr, soldier, airman, or civilian, FROM any place TO any place either within or outside the comd. A personal search may be conducted at any point in transit and correspondence being carried by hand will be confiscated and destroyed. Disciplinary action will follow against the carrier and the writer."

W. Reid Capt
Adjt 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES

MAILS - DELIVERY IN AUSTRALIA:

Advice has been received that mails posted in the ME between 9 Aug 42 and 21 Aug 42 were received in MELBOURNE by 19 Sep 42.

LOST

One Officers Valise marked E J WYLD RA. Lost on Main Rd between EL ALAMEIN and BURG EL ARAB on 16 May. Finder return to this HQ.

In SHAMMAMA area on night 22/23 Sep, binoculars No 81315. Finder return to this HQ.

COMFORTS FUND:

The following were received from the ACF for distribution during Sep.

- 5 Sep: 1 oz Tobacco, handkerchief, 1 piece laundry soap, 1 shaving stick, 1 tube toothpaste, per man.
- 26 Sep: 1 oz tobacco, 1 pkt papers, 1 razor blade, 2 pkts PKs, 1 tin boot polish per man.

2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Date of last A.F. W.3012 rendered

(Unit to which personnel are attached)

.....19.... Numbr of sheets attached to this return.....

CASUALTY RETURN FOR OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM ANOTHER UNIT OR CORPS.

The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive.) Attachments, etc. Courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, and any other items affecting an officer's or soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit to which posted (i.e., unit to which belong and from which detached.)	Nature and date of casualty.	Date.	Whether replacement is required. (Insert "Yes" or "No.")	Remarks. (In case of battle casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
OFFICERS.							
OTHER RANKS.							
<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>							
SX 2805	Sgt	HAWKINS H R	2/6 Aust Pd Amb	Evacuated	20 Sep	No	14 Brit CCS - X List

Note.—When replacements are required the responsibility for demanding such reinforcements from the base on A.F. W.3008 or A.F. W.3009 will rest with officers commanding units to which the attached personnel belong (i.e., the units to which they are posted and from which they are detached).

(Date) 1 OCT. 1942 19....

(Signature and appointment of Officer.)

Melvin [Signature]
Lt. Col.

..... 2/48 BN. A.I.F.
..... 26 Aust Inf Bde (Unit).

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

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

62/42

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100).

2/48 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 25 Sep 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Corps	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date	Remarks.
SA 13198	Pte	BLANTYRE T P	2/48 Bn	FIELD GENERAL COURT MARSHAL HELD AT SYDNEY on 21 and 17 SEP 42		
				While being a soldier of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia on active service, committed the following offences:-		
				First Charge: In lawful custody escaping in that he at SYDNEY, at 0800 hrs 22 Jun 42 did escape from close arrest. AA 22.		
				Findings of the Court: GUILTY		
				Second Charge: Deserting His Majesty's Service in that he at TELL. EL NISA, absented himself without leave from 1400 hrs 14 Jul 42 until apprehended by Cpl MARCHISON of 2 Aust L. of C. Tro Coy at 1245 hrs 27 Jul 42 in ALEXANDRIA with intent to avoid such service in the face of the enemy." AA 12 (1) (a).		
				Findings of the Court: GUILTY except that he was apprehended at 2359 hrs 24 Jul 42		
				Third Charge: Drunkenness, in that he at CAIRO at 0240 hrs 7 Aug 42 was drunk. AA 19		
				Findings of the Court: GUILTY		
				Fourth Charge: Deserting His Majesty's Service in that he at TELL. EL NISA absented himself without leave from 0500 hrs 29 Jul 42 until apprehended at CAIRO at 0240 hrs 7 Aug 42 with intent to avoid such service in the face of the enemy. AA 12 (1) (a).		
				Findings of the Court: GUILTY.		
				Sentence of the Court: To be imprisoned with hard labour for two years.		
				Confirmed by Lt Gen I J MONTGOMERY, Comd 2 Aust Div on 21 Sep 42.		

(Date) 1 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander)

Lt. Col.

(Unit).

2/48 BN. A.I.F.

[Margin for Filing Purposes]

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

attached to this return

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
SX 10462	Pte	MORLEY E A W	2/48 Bn	Missing	27 Sep	During night patrol at
SX 7945	"	ARGLASTER C E	do	do	27 Sep	From X List
SX 8492	Pte	PITF L G	do	Marched in	22 Sep	do
SX 7228	"	Jamieson M L	do	do	20 Sep	do
SX 7830	Cpl	ALBRECHT K G	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 7876	Pte	STEVENS F	do	do	23 Sep	do
SX 10390	L/Cpl	ROBINSON L R	do	do	23 Sep	do
SX 8054	Pte	SALTER M V J	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 7744	"	GILBERT L F G	do	do	23 Sep	do
SX 7260	S/serg	FRASER C	do	do	25 Sep	do
SX 11198	Pte	HALE F T	do	do	30 Sep	do
SX 7508	A/Cpl	REVERSION C W STEWART	do	Reverted to L/Cpl	25 Sep	On transfer to X List

(Date) 1 OCT. 1942 19..... (Unit) 2/48 BN., A.I.F.
 26 Aust Inf Bde (Unit).
 (Signature of Commander.) Lt. Col. A.I.F.
 (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

62/42

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

19..... Number of sheets

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

attached to this return.....

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Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>							
SX 13769	Pte	FRASER L C	2/48 Bn	Evacuated	23	Sep	To 2/11 Aust Pd Amb - X List
SX 7260	S/Sgt	FRASER C	do	do		Sep	X List
WX 10475	Pte	BUCKLAND E V	do	do	23	Sep	To 2/11 Aust Pd Amb - X List
WX 10328	"	ALLEN E H	do	do	25	Sep	To 2/8 Aust Pd Amb - X List
SX 11153	"	WHITT R D	do	do	25	Sep	do
SX 7508	A/Cpl	STEWART C W	do	do	25	Sep	do
SX 8618	Pte	SARGEANT E W	do	do	25	Sep	do
SX 10401	"	HOWE R J	do	do	26	Sep	do
SX 10489	"	WOOD A E	do	do (? SIW)	26	Sep	do
SX 6891	"	STARK D K	do	do	26	Sep	do
SX 10194	Sgt	CARROD P J	do	do	27	Sep	do
SX 13584	Pte	KEON V H J	do	do	26	Sep	do
SX 7125	"	GORDON C G	do	do	30	Sep	do
SX 11198	"	HALE F T	do	do	25	Sep	do
<u>BATTLE CASUALTIES - Killed in Action</u>							
SX 13720	Pte	GROTH R E	do	Killed in Action	28	Sep	During enemy shelling at TEL, EL MISA
<u>BATTLE CASUALTIES - Wounded in Action</u>							
WX 12073	Pte	SMITH W S	do	Wounded in action	30	Sep	To 2/8 Aust Pd Amb - X List

(Date) 1 OCT. 1942 19

Nelson
(Signature of Commander.)

2/48 BN, A.I.F. (Unit.)

Lt. Col.
A.I.F.

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

[Margin for Filing Purposes]

ARMY FORM W.3011 (Books of 100)

62/42

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

19..... Number of sheets
25 Sep 42 attached to this return

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Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
<u>PROMOTIONS AND CONFIRMATION OF RANK</u>							
SX 7964	A/Sgt	BERRICK T C	2/48 Bn	Rank of Sgt confirmed	30 Sep		
SX 7147	A/Cpl	GASS H W	do	" " Cpl	30 Sep		In lieu SX 6947 Cpl closed
SX 6662	L/Cpl	CLAVE P J	do	Promoted to A/Cpl	30 Sep		V H reverted to Pte In lieu SX 7933 Cpl
<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>							
SX 10464	Pte	COCKSHILL H D	do	Evacuated	20 Sep		STEVEN - X List
SX 10172	"	PINNINGTON L A	do	do	21 Sep		To 2/41 Aust Pd Amb - X List
SX 7840	"	HAY C F	do	do	21 Sep		do
SX 6832	"	FRIEMAN H A	do	do	21 Sep		do
SX 12842	"	SEARLE W J	do	do	21 Sep		do
SX 10390	L/Cpl	Robinson L R	do	do	21 Sep		do
SX 8054	Pte	SALTER H W J	do	do	21 Sep		do
SX 7744	"	GILBERT L F G	do	do	22 Sep		do
VX 29881	Sgt	SNOWMAN H A	do	do	22 Sep		do
SX 8281	Pte	CURTIS J C	do	do Acc injured	22 Sep		do
SX 2813	Pte	XXXXXX	do	do Acc injured	22 Sep		do
SX 6165	Pte	WILSON C S	do	do	23 Sep		do
SX 6916	"	AISTROPE C G	do	do	23 Sep		do
SX 8850	"	WINDEBANK C H	do	do	23 Sep		do
SX 6907	"	WILLIS P J	do	do	23 Sep		do
SX 10570	Cpl	ASHBY H H	do	do	23 Sep		do

(Date) 1 OCT. 1942 19

Melton
 (Signature of Commander)
 Lt. Col.
 I.F.

(Unit).

Forms W.3011/1.

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

[Margin for Filing Purposes]

ARMY FORM W.3011 (Books of 100)

62/42

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

25 Sep 42

19..... Number of sheets

attached to this return.....

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

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Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
<u>DIED OF INJURIES</u>						
SX 8281	Pte	CURTIS J	2/48 Bn	Died of Injuries	23 Sep	Result of accident
<u>PROMOTIONS</u>						
SX 8172	Cpl	KING L M	do	Promoted to A/Sgt	28 Sep	
SX 7671	Cpl	FERRY F	do	do	28 Sep	
<u>TRANSFER</u>						
SX 7191	Pte	SMITH D S	do	Marched out	27 Sep	To 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops
<u>DETENTION - committed to</u>						
SX 13198	Pte	SLATTERY T P	do	Marched out	25 Sep	To MUSTAKA BARRACKS to serve sentence - X List
<u>PUNISHMENTS</u>						
SX 10539	Pte	MITCHELL J	do	WOAS Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline	18 Sep 42	- AA 40. Award - Fined \$3 by CO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn on 26 Sep 42.
<u>SCHOOLS AND COURSES</u>						
SX 9323	L/Cpl	ABBOTT J	do	Classified "Q1" (Above average) at ME Int Trg School	31 Aug/19 Sep 42.	MOO's Int Course No 4
<u>DETACHED FOR DUTY</u>						
SX 8172	A/Sgt	KING L M	do	Detached	28 Sep	9 Aust Inf Trg Bn
SX 7641	A/Sgt	FERRY F	do	do	28 Sep	do
SX 8874	A/Sgt	KENNEDY R S	do	do	28 Sep	do
SX 1167	Sgt	LINKE V J	do	do	28 Sep	do

(Date) 1 OCT. 1942 19

Wilson
(Signature of Commander.)

2/48 BN., A.I.F. (Unit).

Forms W.3011/1.

26
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

(Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

attached to this return

2/48 Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
<u>STRENGTH TAKEN ON</u>						
WX 10332	Pte	HOODGATE E	2/48 Bn	marched in	27 Sep	From AIF(WE) Staging Camp
SX 7329	Pte	LEVERETT F S	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 7266	Sgt	GILCHRIST N	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 7830	Cpl	ALBRECHT K	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 12924	Pte	SMOCK R	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 7053	"	PHILLIPS E D	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 7755	"	KERGAN J	do	do	24 Sep	do
WX 10203	"	PAYNE H F	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 7890	"	TRENGOVE H J	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 13141	"	MATTHEWS R A	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 7808	Sgt	WESTON J K	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 7985	Sgt	BUCKLEY J A R	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 8046	Sgt	BUCKTON J L	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 7375	Sgt	PLIMMER C E	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 13206	Pte	HEATH F H	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 3871	"	LUSCOMBE H E	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 7602	"	SCHILLING L	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 13011	"	EDWARDS V J	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 4091	"	THOMSON D W	do	do	24 Sep	do
NX 9484	"	HARDY L J	do	do	24 Sep	do

(Date) 1 OCT. 1942 19

Molson
(Signature of Commander.)

Lt. Col.

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

(Unit.)

2/48 BN A.I.F.

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

62/42
25 Sep 42
attached to this return

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
<u>SCHOOLS AND COURSES</u>						
SX 8810	Pte	GRABBE H R	2/48 Bn	Marched out	29 Sep	Attending 9 Aust Div Sig School
SX 9814	"	GOLDSPIK R S	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 12016	"	TRESIDDER J A	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 2139	"	FRANCE H	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 7695	"	SCHUBERT E S J	do	do	29 Sep	do
SX 7924	Sgt	HAYWARD T P	do	Classified "Above Average"		AIP(MB)Reinfet Gas School From 7 - 18 Sep 42
SX 9323	L/Cpl	ABBOTT J	do	Rejoined unit	24 Sep	From 4th Intell Trg Centre
SX 13569	Pte	CRINDELL K J	do	Classified "B" (Average)		Tank Destruction School From 7 - 15 Sep 42
<u>DETACHED FOR DUTY</u>						
SX 8390	Pte	JOHNS V L	do	Marched out (Det)	28 Sep	To 9 Aust Inf Trg Bn
SX 13607	"	KEYWOOD K J	do	Detached for duty	29 Sep	To 26 Aust Inf Bde Hq
SX 8390	"	JOHNS V L	do	Detached	23 Sep	For Special Duties 30 Corps
SX 6856	"	JONES H A	do	do	23 Sep	do
SX 7644	L/Cpl	HARTMAN E C	do	do	23 Sep	do
<u>REJOINED UNIT</u>						
SX 8390	Pte	JOHNS V L	do	Marched in	28 Sep	From Special duties 30 Corps
SX 6856	"	JONES H A	do	do	28 Sep	do
SX 7644	L/Cpl	HARTMAN E C	do	do	28 Sep	do

(Date) 1 OCT 1942 19

Muirson Kent
(Signature of Commander.)
Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

2/48 BN. A.I.F. (Unit).

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3010 (BOOKS OF 100)

CASUALTY RETURN - OFFICERS AND NURSES

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)

Date of last A.F. W. 3010 rendered 25 Sep 1942

No. of sheet attached to this return

Detail of casualties to officers and nurses which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotions (acting, temporary, local or substantive), transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next-of-kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items connected with an officer's or nurse's service.

Rank	Name and Initials	Corps.	Nature and date of casualty	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
	<u>DETACHED FOR DUTY</u>				
Maj	SCOTT T H	2/48 Bn	Marched out	23 Sep	To 30 Corps for special duties
Lieut	MURPHY B A	do	do	27 Sep	To AIF(US) Reinf't Depot
	<u>SECONDED</u>				
Lieut	CHAMBERLAIN L	2/48 Bn	Marched out	23 Sep	Seconded to 4 Aust Con Depot 13 Sep 42
	<u>REMOVED UNIT</u>				
Maj	SCOTT T H	do	Marched in	28 Sep	From Spec duties 30 Corps
	<u>DETACHED FOR DUTY</u>				
Maj	SCOTT T H	do	Marched out	28 Sep	To 9 Aust Inf Trg Bn
	<u>SURGICAL TAKEN ON</u>				
Lieut	FAGGOT C H	do	Marched in	30 Sep	From AIF(US) Staging Camp
	<u>BATTLE CASUALTIES - wounded in action</u>				
Lieut	LUCY J B	do	Evacuated	25 Sep	To 2/8 Aust Fd Amb - X List
	<u>BATTLE CASUALTIES - Missing</u>				
Lieut	LARK V L	do	Missing	27 Sep	
	<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>				
Lieut	HILL D C	do	Evacuated	30 Sep	To 2/8 Aust Fd Amb - X List

(Date) 1 OCT 1942 194

John Scott
Lt. Col.
A.I.F.

(Signature of Commander).

2/48 BN, A.I.F.

(Unit)

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

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.									REMARKS.	
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	R.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers...																				
Butchers ...																				
Carpenters and Joiners																				
Clerks ...																				
Cooks ...																				
Despatch Riders ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ...																				
" " (Wheeled) ...																				
Driver-Mechanics ..																				
Driver-Operators...																				
Electricians..																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers ...																				
Fitters ...																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons ...																				
Motor Mechanics...																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																				
Range Takers ...																				
Saddlers&HarnessMakers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors ...																				
Wheelers ...																				
Portarmen																				3
A B Personnel																				33
MG Personnel																				32
General duty personnel..																				57
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																				

H. H. Hammer

Signature of Commander.

2/48 Aust Inf Bn Unit.
Date of Despatch

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

26 Aust Inf Bde

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/48 AUST INF BN

(Unit.) For Week Ending

3 Oct 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
	Majors... ..	3		
	Captains	8		
	Lieutenants	22	1	3
	2nd Lieutenants			
	Quartermasters			
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	34	1	3

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Maj	SCOTT T H	2/45 bn	28 Sep	From 30 Corps
Lieut	FRASER C E	00	30 Sep	From X List

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Maj	SCOTT T H	2/45 bn	28 Sep	Det 9 Aust Inf Trg Bn
Lieut	MURPHY B A	00	27 Sep	Det 9 Aust Inf Trg Bn
Lieut	LAIRO V L	00	27 Sep	Missing
Lieut	HILL D C	00	30 Sep	Sick - X List

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
Capt	BRACKSOP A B	2/45 bn	AIF (ME) STAGING CAMP
Lieut	STAN B A	00	

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1								
2		LT-col		SMITH H H	CO	Yes		
3		MAJ		SMITH T H	2 1/c	No		Det
4				SMITH F A C	Coy Comd	Yes		10 Coy
5		Capt		SMITH G S	do	"		B Coy
6				WILLIAMS R S	do	"		A Coy
7				WILLIAMS D	do	"		C Coy
8				WILLIAMS R B	CO PI	"		A TR PI
9				WILLIAMS R B	Coy 21/c	"		B Coy
10				WILLIAMS R B	do	"		D Coy
11				WILLIAMS R B	Coy Comd	No		School
12		Lieut	1/capt	WILLIAMS J D	PI	Yes		4 PI
13				WILLIAMS B R	PI	"		
14				WILLIAMS H	PI Comd	"		A TR PI
15				WILLIAMS P	Coy 21/c	"		A Coy
16				WILLIAMS D N	PI Comd	Yes		13 PI
17				WILLIAMS W A	PI Comd	No		Det
18				WILLIAMS H F	do	No		School
19				WILLIAMS E A	do	No		Det
20				WILLIAMS S A B	do	Yes		5 PI
21				WILLIAMS R W	do	"		17 PI
22				WILLIAMS C E	do	"		7 PI
23				WILLIAMS V H	do	"		1 PI
24				WILLIAMS K F	do	No		School
25				WILLIAMS G J	do	Yes		12 PI
26				WILLIAMS B	do	No		School
27				WILLIAMS J T	do	Yes		15 PI
28				WILLIAMS J T	do	"		2 PI
29				WILLIAMS R R	do	"		14 PI
30				WILLIAMS T H	do	"		18 PI
31				WILLIAMS H K	do	"		8 PI
32				WILLIAMS S S	do	"		11 PI
33								
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		WILLIAMS B C	A Ch Dept	13 Oct 40	Chaplain
Capt		WILLIAMS J C	WAC	26 Aug 42	NO

A. H. Hammer

(Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)

2/43 AUSTRALIAN INF BN

Comd 2/43 Aust Inf Bn

(Date of Despatch.)

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

3 Oct 42

63/42

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

1 Oct 42 Number of sheets

attached to this return

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
		ILLEGAL ABSENCE		Court of Inquiry		
SX 7950	Pte	THOMAS J T	2/48 Bn	Court of Inquiry held at COPT on 17 Sep 42 report that: SX 7950 Pte THOMAS J T did illegally absent himself from 1900hrs 20 Aug 42 and at the time of the closing of the Court he was still illegally absent. 2. In the opinion of the Court SX 7950 Pte THOMAS J T is deficient in the articles as listed in Exhibit "B". 3. In the opinion of the Court some of the articles listed as deficient may be in the soldier's Universal Kit Bag or Sea Kit Bag which are in the AIF Kit Store. 4. In the opinion of the Court the CO is not held responsible or liable for any items of eqpt, clothing, etc lost by SX 7950 Pte THOMAS J T. CO Concurs 3 Oct 42		
SX 12790	Pte	DEGENARO J J	2/48 Bn	Marched out	5 Oct	To Depot Bn for medical boarding. Authority 9 Aust Div A 74/1/1275.
SX 7478	Pte	UZZELL M R	2/48 Bn	Relinquished Ep II	3 Oct	On return of Pte DWYER H T from X List

(Date) 6 OCT. 1942 19

(Signature of Commander.)

2/48 BN., A.I.F. (Unit.)

Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

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

63/42

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

2 Oct 42 19..... Number of sheets

attached to this return.....

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
<u>ILLEGAL ABSENCE - Court of Inquiry</u>						
WX 9836	Pte	COATES W R S	2/48 Bn	Court of Inquiry held at BWT on 17 Sep 42 report that: WX 9836 Pte COATES W R S did illegally absent himself from 1800 hrs on 20 Aug 42 and at the time of the closing of the Court he was still illegally absent. 2. In the opinion of the Court WX 9836 Pte COATES W R S is deficient in the articles as listed in Exhibit "B". 3. In the opinion of the Court some of the articles listed as deficient may be in the soldier's Universal Kit Bag or Sea Kit Bag which is in the AIF Kit Store. 4. In the opinion of the Court the CO is not held responsible or liable for any items of eqpt, clothing etc lost by WX 9836 Pte COATES W R S.		
CO Concurs 3 Oct 42						
<u>SCHOOLS AND COURSES</u>						
SX 11161	A/Sgt	WILLING A TD	2/48 Bn	Rejoined unit	3 Oct	From 9 Aust Div MG School
SX 12353	A/Cpl	RICHARDSON D O	do	do	3 Oct	do
SX 7242	L/Cpl	WRIFFEN P A	do	do	3 Oct	do
SX 4129	Pte	CLARKE A J	do	do	1 Oct	do

(Date) 6 OCT. 1942 19

[Handwritten Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)

2/48 BN., A.I.F. (Unit.)

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

63/42

1 Oct 42 19..... Number of sheets

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

attached to this return.....

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
ILLEGAL ABSENCE - Court of Inquiry						
SX 10561	Pte	CRACKNELL R H	2/48 Bn	Court of Inquiry held at WFFI on 17 Sep 42 report that SX 10561 Pte CRACKNELL R H did illegally absent himself from 1500 hrs 20 Aug 42 and at the time of the closing of the Court was still illegally absent.		
				2. In the opinion of the Court SX 10561 Pte CRACKNELL R H is deficient in the articles listed in Exhibit "B".		
				3. In the opinion of the Court some of the articles listed as deficient may be in the soldier's Universal Kit Bag or Sea Kit Bag which are in the AIF Kit Store.		
				4. In the opinion of the Court the CO is not held responsible or liable for any items of eqpt, clothing etc lost by SX 10561 Pte CRACKNELL R H.		
						CO Concurs 3 Oct 42.
SCHOOLS AND COURSES						
SX 3532	Pte	DADLIFF R	2/48 Bn	Result "Average" Bn Sig School No 2, 10 to 24 Sep 42.		
SX 8510	Pte	CRABBE H R	do	" Excellent"		do
SX 8485	Pte	EDWARDS P J	do	" Excellent"		do
SX 7695	Pte	SCHUBERT E S J	do	" Excellent"		do
WX 12016	Pte	TRESIDDER J A	do	" Good"		do

(Date) 6 OCT 1942 19.....

[Handwritten Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)

2/48 BN. A.I.F. (Unit.)

Lt. Col.
Comd 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

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

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

19..... Number of sheets

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

1 Oct 42 attached to this return

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
<u>Next of Kin - Change of Address</u>						
SX 8347	Pte	CAMERON D D	2/48 Bn	Next of Kin - wife, New Address - CURRAMULKA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	2 Oct 42	
<u>BURIAL</u>						
SX 13720	Pte	GROTH R E	do	Buried at EL ALAMEIN Map Ref 1:50000 (83602946) EL ALAMEIN BOX CEMETERY. Plot 1 Row B.	29 Sep 42.	Grave No 31
<u>STRENGTH TAKEN ON - From AIF (HQ) Staging Camp on 3 Oct 42.</u>						
SX 13012	Pte	RALLA J	2/48 Bn			
SX 7416	"	DWYER H T	do			
SX 6937	"	DARKE A H	do			
SX 8115	"	SMITH W T J	do			
SX 8846	"	BROWN P H	do			
SX 12741	"	HOBY J	do			
SX 8507	"	WILLIS P J	do			
SX 10401	"	ROWE R J	do			
SX 310	Sgt	MILLER A V G	do			
SX 13570	Pte	HOLMAN C	do			
SX 7075	Cpl	MANLEY W R	do			
SX 7666	Pte	CHUCK B J	do			
SX 9637	"	BANKS P H	do			

(Date) 6 OCT. 1942 19

W. Ford Bell
(Signature of Commander.)

Lt. Col.

Comd. 2/48 Bn, A.I.F.

2/48 Bn, A.I.F.

(Unit.)

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

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

1 Oct 42 19..... Number of sheets

attached to this return.....

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)	
					Date.		
SX 8281	Pvt	CURTIS J	2/48 Bn	Court of Inquiry held at SCPT on 29 Sep 42 report that:			
		<p>1. SX 8281 Sig CURTIS J, 2/48 Aust Inf Bn was accidentally injured at about 0320 hrs on 22 Sep 42 about 7 miles WEST of SHAMMAMA HALT Ry Sta EGYPT when he was run over by a "HORCH" car No 678682 driven by VX 32654 Lieut CATHERALL J MOP, 2/48 Aust Inf Bn during a mobile night exercise being carried out by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.</p> <p>2. That Sig Curtis' injuries consisted of a fractured spine as a result of which he died on 23 Sep 42.</p> <p>3. That both Sig CURTIS and Lieut CATHERALL were on duty and in performance of military duty at the time of the occurrence.</p> <p>4. That neither Sig CURTIS nor Lieut CATHERALL were negligent or blameworthy and Sig CURTIS did NOT contribute to his injury in any way.</p> <p>5. That all proper steps were taken to have Sig CURTIS treated for his injuries. A period of about two and a half hrs elapsed between the time of the occurrence and the removal of Sig CURTIS to a MBS (where he was seen by a MC for the first time) but in the opinion of the Court this was excusable because of the belief of the personnel responsible that removal before qualified examination would have aggravated Sig CURTIS' injury. The medical evidence justifies this belief and according to such evidence the delay is NOT likely to have prejudiced Sig CURTIS' chances of recovery which were very slight. The IWO of Sig CURTIS' Unit could NOT be found owing to the exigencies of the exercise on which the unit was engaged and the fact that the exercise was a mobile one being carried out that night.</p>					
		<p>6. That the "HORCH" car was not damaged.</p>					

(Date)

6 OCT. 1942

19

(Signature of Commander.)

Bde Comd Concur 30 Sep 42
2/48 BN., A.I.F.

(Unit.)

Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

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

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

1 Oct 42 19 Number of sheets

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

attached to this return

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
<u>TRADE GROUPING</u>						
SX 13725	Pte	O'DONOGHUE A J	2/48 Bn	Graded Group II Signaller	4 Oct	Vice SX 3281 Pte CURTIS J Died of Injuries.
SX 7955	Pte	REED C H	do	Graded Group III	3 Oct	Dr Mechanic.
WX 9862	Pte	FORBES A R	do	do	3 Oct	do
SX 7705	Pte	HUMPHREYS D C	do	do	3 Oct	do
SX 12681	Pte	SMELL G G	do	do	3 Oct	do
SX 8214	Pte	KELLY A	do	Confirmed Group II Carpenter	2 Sep	Vice SX 7268 Pte WATTS A D Killed in Action.
SX 8536	Pte	JONES R R	do	Graded A/Group II Carpenter	2 Sep	Vice SX 6887 Pte BURGE H C X List
SX 6934	Pte	LOXTON V F	do	Graded A/Group II Mason	7 Sep	Vice SX 7756 Pte LOECHEL C B X List
<u>STRENGTH TAKEN ON</u>						
SX 10401	Pte	ROWE R J	do	Marched in	3 Oct	From X List
WX 10326	Pte	ALLEN R H	do	do	4 Oct	do
SX 6907	Pte	WILLIS P J	do	do	3 Oct	do
<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>						
SX 11198	Pte	HALLS P T	do	Evacuated	25 Sep	To 2/8 Aust Fd Amb - X List
SX 10522	Pte	NICHOLSON M T	do	do	1 Oct	do
WX 10188	Pte	WATT A	do	do	1 Oct	do
SX 13535	Pte	THRESSINGER A L	do	do	3 Oct	do

(Date) 6 OCT. 1942 19

(Signature of Commander.)

2/48 BN., A.I.F.

(Unit.)

Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

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

CR 63/42

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

1 Oct 42 19..... Number of sheets

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

attached to this return.....

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
		<u>ILLAWAL ABSENCE -</u>		Court of Inquiry		
SX 7766	Pte	SPECK L K	2/48 Bn	Court of Inquiry held at EGYP on 9 Sep 42 report that:- 1. SX 7766 Pte SPECK L K was AWOL from 3 Aug 42 and up to the time of the closing of the Court still remains so. 2. In the opinion of the Court the deficiencies in arms, eqpt and clothing of SX 7766 Pte SPECK L K are as per exhibit "A". 3. In the opinion of the Court some of these articles may be in the soldier's Universal Kit Bag and Sea Bag in the AIF Kit Store. 4. The Court has made a search of the RQMS Store for Pte SPECK'S eqpt of which no trace was found. 5. In the opinion of the Court the CO is in no way responsible or held liable for any loss of eqpt of SX 7766 Pte SPECK L K. (AMMO 673). CO Concurs 3 Oct 42		
		<u>DETACHED FOR DUTY</u>				
SX 7570	A/Sgt	CARROLL C T	2/48 Bn	Marched out	5 Oct	To 9 Aust Div Spec Gp as Instr.
		<u>PROMOTION</u>				
SX 7570	A/Cpl	CARROLL C T	do	Rank of Cpl confirmed	5 Oct	
SX 7570	Cpl	CARROLL C T	do	Promoted to A/Sgt	5 Oct	2/48 BN. A.I.F.

(Date) 6 OCT. 1942 19.....

[Handwritten Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

(Unit.)

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

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

1 attached to this return

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Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
					Date.	
<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>						
SX 8212	Pte	JOHNS R J	2/48 Bn	Evacuated	3 Oct	To 2/8 Aust Inf Bn - X List
SX 7476	Pte	SMITH R J	do	do	4 Oct	do
SX 8138	1/Cpl	McKENZIE A V	do	do	4 Oct	do
SX 13233	Pte	BURNS C	do	do	4 Oct	do
<u>DISCHARGED ONLY</u>						
SX 8497	Pte	SMITH C H	do	Marched in	4 Oct	From Special Duties - Batman
<u>PROMOTIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS</u>						
SX 7940	1/Sgt	HASKARD P R	do	Promoted to A/Sgt	4 Oct	Vice SX 7191 Sgt SMITH B S Reverted to Pte
SX 8026	A/Cpl	SMITH B K	do	Rank of Cpl confirmed	4 "	
SX 8178	Pte	SMITH W E G	do	Promoted to Cpl	4 "	
SX 6964	A/Cpl	FITZGERALD S J	do	Rank of Cpl confirmed	4 "	
SX 7736	Pte	MOUNTFORD S J	do	Promoted to A/Cpl	4 "	Vice SX 7570 Promoted to A/Sgt

(Date) 6 OCT. 1942 19

(Signature of Commander.)

(Unit.)

2/48 BN., A.I.F.
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

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

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.								REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	R.Q.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers...																				
Butchers ...																				
Carpenters and Joiners																				
Clerks ...																				
Cooks ...																				
Despatch Riders ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ...																				
" " (Wheeled) ...																				
Driver-Mechanics ..																				
Driver-Operators ...																				
Electricians ..																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers ...																				
Fitters ...																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons ...																				
Motor Mechanics...																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																				
Range Takers ...																				
Saddlers&HarnessMakers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors ...																				
Wheelers ...																				
Porters																				
Personal																				
Personal																				
Carrier																				
General duty personnel..																				
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																				118

Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch

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

H. H. Hammer

Comd 2/43, Aust. Inf. Div.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

(Unit.) For Week Ending 20 Oct 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	2		
	Majors... ..	3		
	Captains	18		3
	Lieutenants	22		
	2nd Lieutenants	1		
	Quartermasters			
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	33		3

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	WELLS	2/45 Bn	6 Oct	From secondment
Lieut	ALLEN	88	4 Oct	From School
Lieut	SHEPARD	88	3 Oct	From School

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	NICHOLAS	2/45 Bn	4 Oct	Sick - X List

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
Lieut	ALEXANDER R S	2/45 Bn	11D
Lieut	MURPHY P S	88	11D

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		1st Lt		...	...	...
2		2nd Lt		...	...	...		Det
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13		1st Lt	1/Capt	...	...	...		...
14		1st Lt		...	...	...		...
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	
34	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	
Chaplain	

H. H. Hammer

(Signature of Commander.)

2/48 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

Comd 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

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

10 Oct 42

(Date of Despatch.)

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

6 OCT 1942 19 Number 5 sheets

attached to this return

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)	
					Date.	
SX 7559	Pte	MURPHY H C	2/48 Bn	Marched in	21 Aug	From X List
SX 10464	"	COCKSHILL V D C	do	do	6 Oct	From AIF(AM) staging Camp
SX 11264	L/Sgt	MURPHY P L	do	Marched out	8 Oct	Attending MG School of Arty
				2 pr A Tr Course No 35	from 12 to 24 Oct 42.	
SX 11754	Pte	FINNICH H P	do	Marched in	7 Oct	From special duties 9 Aust Div MG School
SX 8810	"	CHAPPE H R	do	do	24 Sep	From 9 Aust Div Sig School
SX 12016	"	TRISIDDER J A	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 8485	"	EDWARDS P J	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 7693	"	SCHEIDT B S J	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 3532	"	DADLETT R	do	do	24 Sep	do
SX 7014	Cpl	HANSON R J	do	do	24 Sep	do
					6 Oct	From Course-Camfig 23 Sep - 1 Oct 42
SX 12517	L/Sgt	GUPPER G L	do	do	6 Oct	From MG Weapon Trg Centre 14 Sep - 3 Oct 42
SX 7134	V/Cpl	MURPHY B P	do	Rank Cpl Confirmed	5 Oct	
SX 7134	Cpl	MURPHY B P	do	Promoted L/Sgt	5 Oct	Vice SX7445 L/Sgt PICKERING W H - X List 2/48 BN. A.I.F.

(Date) 12 OCT. 1942 19

(Signature of Commander.) Lt. Col. Conid. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

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

64
8/42

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

6 OCT 1942

19..... Number of sheets

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

attached to this return..... 5

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
<p>INQUIRY - COURT OF INQUIRY held at SYRIA and In the Field on 15 Jun 42 and 3 Oct 42 report that (i) That the following personnel: WX 9890 Pte JEFFREY, VX 38622 Pte SKHILL, SX 7348 Dr JOHNS C A and SX 7965 Pte DELANEY V H, all of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn, were injured at about 2130 hrs on 25 May 42 when Car DS No 43524, on charge to 2/48 Aust Inf Bn, in which they were travelling from unit Laundry TRIPOLI to unit lines, TOURBOL, and which was being driven by Dr JOHNS, ran over the side of a bridge at MIRIATA, SYRIA.</p> <p>(ii) That the following injuries were sustained by the above personnel:- Pte JEFFREY - Concussion, lacerated scalp, bruises to head. Pte SKHILL - Fractured right femur, possible rupture of bladder. Dr JOHNS - Mild concussion, bruised neck muscles. Pte DELANEY - multiple laceration of left ear, concussion. As a result of his injuries, Pte SKHILL later died.</p> <p>(iii) That all the above personnel were on duty and in performance of military duty at the time of the occurrence.</p> <p>(iv) That Ptes JEFFREY, SKHILL and DELANEY were NOT negligent or blameworthy and did NOT contribute to their injuries.</p> <p>(v) That all proper steps were taken to have all the above personnel treated for their injuries.</p> <p>(vi) That Dr JOHNS was negligent and blameworthy and contributed to his and Ptes JEFFREY's SKHILL's and DELANEY's injuries and the damage to the car (hereinafter mentioned) by driving the car at a speed which was excessive in the circumstances. Dr JOHNS stated that he was travelling at 30-35 mph when approaching the curve and at about 25 mph when rounding it. He stated that he thought the corner could be taken at 20 mph. Proper speeds would be 25 mph when approaching the curve, and 15 mph when rounding it.</p>						

(Date) 12 OCT 1942 19

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

2/48 BN. A.I.F.
26 Aust Inf Bde
(Unit.)
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

64
63/42

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered
6 OCT. 1942 19..... Number of sheets

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

attached to this return.....

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Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
<u>COURT OF INQUIRY (Contd)</u>						
<p>(vii) That the following damage was caused to the car:- Body smashed beyond repair; Differential bent; Left hand front stub axle torn off; Front axle bent; Chassis twisted; Four wheels buckled; Battery cracked. Also much other minor damage. It will be necessary to strip down the veh for complete over-haul and re-building. The Court caused a letter to be sent to 3 AOW on 24 Jun 42 requesting to be supplied with schedule of damage and value, and a further letter on 29 Aug 42 requesting early compliance, but has NOT received such schedule. It is therefore unable to report precise damage and value.</p>						
<p>(viii) That in the opinion of the Court the evidence is sufficient to relieve the CO of his personal liability under AMR&O 697. The reasons for this opinion are as stated in para 6 hereof and the fact that the loss was caused through an occurrence or fact over which the CO had no control. Dated in the Field this 3rd day of Oct 1942.</p>						
<p>The Comd concurs except as regards para 6. "From the evidence produced it would appear that Dr JOHNS showed an error of judgement, both when approaching the curve and rounding it, rather than negligence".</p>						

(Date) 12 OCT. 1942 19.....

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.) Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

2/48 BN. A.I.F. (Unit.)

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

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

6 OCT. 1942

Number of sheets

5

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2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

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Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)	
					Date.	
REPLACEMENT AND PROMOTION						
SX 10399	L/Cpl	BRUCE I H	2/48 Bn	Promoted A/Cpl	6 Oct	Vice SX 7641 A/Sgt PERRY F detached ITR
SX 7923	Sgt	HAYWARD R F	do	Promoted A/NO II	1 Oct	Vice SX 10298 NO II WING J A - X List. Authority 26 Aust Inf Bde letter 3 Oct 42
CONTINUATION OF RANK						
SX 9652	A/NO I	LYON F H	do	Rank of NO I confirmed	1 Oct	Authority 26 Aust Inf Bde letter dated 8 Oct 42
RECALL AND LEAVES						
SX 8870	A/Cpl	KEENE T D	do	Marched out	20 Oct	Attending 48 Irg Centre Gas School
SX 7985	Sgt	BUCKLEY J A R	do	Classified:- Application "B"; General Military Knowledge "C"; Tactical Ability "C" at MR TRG CENTRE - First Junior Comd's Course, British Inf Wing from 15 to 30 Jun 42. ("A" above average, "B" average, "C" below average)		
SX 12817	L/Sgt	GAPPER G L	do	"Qualified with distinction" at Inf School (IID) No 13 3" Mortar Course - Fire Controllers' and Instructors Course from 14 Sep - 3 Oct 42.		
SX 7410	Sgt	BARFORD R F G	do	Qualified at MR Physical & Recreational Irg School No 21 NCOs Course 18 May - 11 Jun 42.		

(Date) 12 OCT. 1942 19

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)

Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

2/48 BN. A.I.F. (Unit.)

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

[Margin for Filing Purposes]

64
63/42

ARMY FORM W.3011 (BOOKS OF 100)

Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered

6 Oct 1942

Number of sheets

3

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2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OTHER RANKS.

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Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)	
					Date.	
<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>						
SX 6723	Cpl	HERON A E	2/48 Bn	Evacuated	5 Oct	To 2/8 Aust Fd Amb - X list
SX 11302	Pte	SHARP W	do	do	6 Oct	do
SX 13722	"	HAWKINS F J	do	do	6 Oct	do
SX 13881	"	BRUCE F A	do	do	6 Oct	do
SX 7053	"	PHILLIPS E D	do	do	7 Oct	do
SX 6906	"	PATERSON R B	do	do	7 Oct	do
VX 53126	"	PATON W E	do	do	7 Oct	do
SX 13310	"	JONES E F J	do	do	7 Oct	do
SX 14117	"	BAKER E F	do	do	8 Oct	do
SX 7292	"	McMAHON A J	do	do	8 Oct	do
SX 7196	Cpl	LAMPS W J L	do	do	8 Oct	do
VX 9850	Pte	TRISLER W J	do	do	8 Oct	do
SX 11265	L/Cpl	JOHNSON H V	do	do	9 Oct	do
VX 10401	Pte	ROWE R J	do	do	9 Oct	do
SX 7257	Cpl	SMITH S J B	do	do	9 Oct	do
<u>STRENGTH TAKEN ON</u>						
SX 12842	Pte	PEARSON W J	do	Marched in	30 Sep	From X list
SX 8850	"	WINDSBANK C H	do	do	8 Oct	do
SX 6723	Cpl	HERON A E	do	do	6 Oct	do
SX 5322	Pte	DRAN F J	do	do	3 Oct	do

(Date) 12 OCT. 1942 19

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.) Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

2/48 BN., A.I.F.
26 Aust Inf Bde
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

64
63/42

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100).

2/48 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 6 OCT 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return 5

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
BATTLE CASUALTIES - wounded in Action						
SX 7795	Pte	HILL	H A 2/48 Bn	Evacuated	7 Oct	To 2/8 Aust Pd Amb - X List Result of enemy shelling TEL EL KISA area.
SX 6662	L/Cpl	CLAVES	P J do	Reverted to L/Cpl	10 Oct	On return of Cpl [unclear] from X List
SX 13570	Pte	HOLMAN	C do	Appointed L/Cpl	10 Oct	
SX 8258	Pte	HALL	J C C do	Rejoined unit	10 Oct	From 9 Aust Div IG School
SX 8446	L/Cpl	MATHIAS	R R do	do	10	do
SX 11752	Pte	HAYDEN	J do	do	10	do
SX 11155	Pte	HAYDEN	J R do	do	10	do
SX 11122	Pte	HAYDEN	J do	do	10	do
SX 19501	Pte	HAYDEN	H do	do	10	do
SX 10423	Pte	GUYTON	A do	do	10	do
SX 13447	Pte	HAYDEN	C V do	do	10	do
SX 10450	Pte	HAYDEN	C C do	do	10	do
SX 9014	Pte	HAYDEN	H do	Evacuated	7	while on leave
SX 8466	L/Cpl	HAYDEN	R M do	do	7	while at IG School

(Date) 12 OCT 1942 # 191

(Signature of Commander)

Col.

2/48 BN, A.I.F.

(Unit).

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS			
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers.																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks... ..																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics																				
Driver-Operators.																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers..																				
Fitters... ..																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons..																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneer, Infantry																		6		
(other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																		6		
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors.																				
Wheelers																				
Mortarmen																			3	
A Tk Personnel																			33	
MG Personnel																			22	
Carrier Drs																			6	
General duty personnel .																			62	
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																			138	

2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Comd 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 17 Oct 42

26 Aust Inf Bde

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/43 AUSTRALIAN INF BN (Unit.) For Week Ending 27 Oct 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	2		
	Majors... ..	3		
	Captains	7		
	Lieutenants	20		4
	2nd Lieutenants			1
	Quartermasters			
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	31		5

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Maj	Scott T H	2/43 BN		Attendance school

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
Lieut.	BRANDER R B	2/43 BN	113
Lieut.	WILLIAMS T H	do	113

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1						Yes		
2		Lt-Col			2 1/c	No		School
3					Coy Comd	Yes		H Coy
4					do			B Coy
5					do			A Coy
6		Capt			do			C Coy
7					do			A Tr Pl
8					Coy 21/c			C Coy
9					do			
10					Coy Comd			D Coy
11					do			
12					do			
13		Lieut	1/Capt		do			A Pl
14		Lieut	1/Capt		do			
15		Lieut			do			A Tr Pl
16					Coy 21/c			A Coy
17					do			
18					do			16 Pl
19					do			School
20					do	Yes		5 Pl
21					do			17 Pl
22					do			7 Pl
23					do			1 Pl
24					do			10 Pl
25					do			10 Pl
26					do			10 Pl
27					do			15 Pl
28					do			9 Pl
29					do			14 Pl
30					do			10 Pl
31					do			8 Pl
32					do			11 Pl
33								
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		VERBOND	B C	13 Oct 42	Padre
Capt		YEAMAN	J C	25 Oct 42	do

2/43 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

17 Oct 42 (Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)

Cond 2/43 Aust Inf Bn
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

[Margin for Filing Purposes]

65
63/42

ARMY FORM W. 3012 (BOOKS OF 100)

Date of last A.F. W.3012 rendered

1 Oct 42 19.... Number of sheets
attached to this return.....

(Unit to which personnel are attached) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

CASUALTY RETURN FOR OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM ANOTHER UNIT OR CORPS.

The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive.) Attachments, etc. Courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, and any other items affecting an officer's or soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit to which posted (i.e., unit to which belong and from which detached.)	Nature and date of casualty.	Date.	Whether replacement is required. (Insert "Yes" or "No.")	Remarks. (In case of battle casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
OFFICERS.							
OTHER RANKS.							
VX 33747	Cpl	HAUSER	O R	Evacuated	10 Oct		To 2/8 Aust Md Amb
BR 8119	Pte	RODD	F M	do	16 Oct		do X List

Note.—When replacements are required the responsibility for demanding such reinforcements from the base on A.F. W.3008 or A.F. W.3009 will rest with officers commanding units to which the attached personnel belong (i.e., the units to which they are posted and from which they are detached).

(Date) 23 OCT. 1942 19....

Forms W3012/3

(Signature and appointment of Officer.)

2/48 AUST INF BN (Unit)

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

Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W.3010 (BOOKS OF 100)

Date of last A.F. W.3010 rendered

12 Oct 1942 Number of sheets

attached to this return.....

2/48 Aust. Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN—OFFICERS AND NURSES

Detail of casualties to officers and nurses which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotions (acting, temporary, local or substantive), transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next-of-kin with postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items connected with an officer's or nurse's service.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and date of casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
	<u>SCHOOLS AND COURSES</u>				
Lieut.	TAGGART C E	2/48 Bn	Classification D, MB School of Military Engineering No 20 PI Works (All Arms Course 29 May - 14 Jun 42.		
	<u>STRENGTH TAKEN ON</u>				
Lieut.	BYRNE W A	do	Marched in	6 Oct	From AIF (MB) Stg Camp
	<u>SECONDMENTS</u>				
Maj	SCOTT T H	do	Seconded	29 Sep	AIF List 100
Capt.	BROCKHOFF A E	do	do	29 "	do
Lieut.	MURPHY E A	do	do	29 "	do
	<u>SCHOOLS AND COURSES</u>				
Maj Capt	BRUCKSOPP A E	do	Classification: Application "B"; Technical knowledge "A"; Instructional ability "B" - MB Trg Centre Weapon Trg Sch 4th series PI Weapons Course, Sub-wing 'B' Grenade. From 31 Aug 42 to 19 Sep 42. ("A" Above average; "B" Average)		

(Date) 23 OCT 1942 19.....

(Signature of Commander)

(Unit.)

Forms/W.3010/2

Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

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

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100),

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 23 Oct 194

No. of sheets attached to this return 6

(Unit.)

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
754	Pvt	[Faint Name]	2/48 In	appointed in	23 Oct	from X List
6835	Pvt	[Faint Name]	do	vacated	30 Oct	to 2/3 Aust Fd Amb - X List
7773	Pvt	[Faint Name]	do	do	30 Oct	do
7502	Pvt	[Faint Name]	do	do	31 Oct	do
7109	Pvt	[Faint Name]	do	do	31 Oct	do
7057	Pvt	[Faint Name]	do	do	31 Oct	do
7035	Pvt	[Faint Name]	do	do	31 Oct	do
7077	Cpl	[Faint Name]	do	appointed to Pte	22 Oct	a transfer to X List
7025	Pte	[Faint Name]	do	appointed Cpl	22 Oct	
7072	Pvt	[Faint Name]	do	next of kin, father, Joseph [Faint Name]		at address 1/3 [Faint Name], [Faint Name] Street, [Faint Name] [Faint Name]
7034	Cpl	[Faint Name]	do	Rank of Sgt confirmed	22 Oct	

(Date) 31 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) Col.

(Unit)

Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

2/48 Bn., A.I.F.

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100).

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 23 Oct 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return 6

2/48 BN, A.I.F. (Unit.)

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary; local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
310	Sgt	WILLIAMS A T G	2/48 Bn	Killed in action	24 Oct	During attack on enemy positions.
310	Sgt	WILLIAMS A T G	do	Wounded	24 Oct	In ALANBY MOUNTAIN 7 COMPANY Grave No 3 B 27
2466	/Sgt	WILLIAMS R H	do	Wounded in	24 Oct	From IIF (1st) Staging Camp
2110	Pvt	FRANCIS H H	do	do	22 Oct	do
1737	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	22 Oct	do
15554	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	22 Oct	do
23773	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	21 Oct	do
31000	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	21 Oct	From X List
8642	Pvt	STALLING H A	do	do	21 Oct	do
10537	/Sgt	LITTLE H J	do	do	20 Oct	do
12975	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	20 Oct	do
15554	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	21 Oct	do
2460	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	22 Oct	do
12031	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	22 Oct	do
7635	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	20 Oct	do
7389	Pvt	WILLIAMS H H	do	do	24 Oct	do

(Date) 31 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) L.F.

2/48 BN, A.I.F.

(Unit)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100),

66/42

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 23 Oct 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return 6

(Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
11762	Pvt	SMITH J B	2/48 Bn	killed in action	24 Oct	during offensive against enemy posns.
11131	L/Cpl	SMITH H F S	do	do	do	do
7771	L/Cpl	LEWIS H O	do	do	25 Oct	do
8463	Pvt	SMITH F R	do	do	25 Oct	do
13235	Pvt	SMITH A L	do	do	25 Oct	do
2137	Pvt	SMITH R	do	do	26 Oct	do
2291	Pvt	SMITH H L	do	do	26 Oct	do
6343	Pvt	SMITH A P B	do	do	26 Oct	do
13570	L/Cpl	SMITH C	do	do	26 Oct	do
13756	Pvt	SMITH R V	do	do	26 Oct	do
3149	Cpl	SMITH A H	do	do	26 Oct	do
2427	Pvt	SMITH R	2/48 Bn	wounded in action	24 Oct	during offensive against enemy posns. evacuated to hospital.
7643	Pvt	SMITH D J	do	do	24 Oct	do
8202	Pvt	SMITH J R L	do	do	24 Oct	do
9571	Pvt	SMITH A T	do	do	24 Oct	do
13772	Pvt	SMITH F A	do	do	24 Oct	do
7743	Pvt	SMITH L J	do	do	24 Oct	do
2023	L/Cpl	SMITH H L	do	do	24 Oct	do
21423	Pvt	SMITH A V	do	do	24 Oct	do

(Date) 31 OCT 1942

(Signature of Commander)

2/48 BN, A.I.F. (Unit)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100).

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 194 2

No. of sheets attached to this return

2/40 Bn A.I.F. (Unit.)

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N ^o .	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
7755	Pte	KIRKMAN	2/40 Bn	Wounded in action	24 Oct	During offensive against enemy positions. Evacuated to 1st Amb and transferred to 1st Dist.
7312	Pte	SMITH	do	do	24 Oct	do
7147	Cpl	CASS	do	do	24 Oct	do
7575	Cpl	WILLIAMS	do	do	24 Oct	do
9224	Pte	RYAN	do	do	24 Oct	do
13731	Pte	FALL	do	do	24 Oct	do
13203	Pte	BUTCHER	do	do	24 Oct	do
7130	L/Cpl	WILSON	do	do	24 Oct	do
7200	Pte	WILLIAMS	do	do	24 Oct	do
9480	Pte	ADAMS	do	do	24 Oct	do
10447	Pte	MAGUIRE	do	do	25 Oct	do
7025	Cpl	BRAND	do	do	25 Oct	do
9551	Pte	SMITH	do	do	25 Oct	do
13602	Pte	WILLIAMS	do	do	25 Oct	do
9241	Pte	WILLIAMS	do	do	25 Oct	do
7100	Pte	SMITH	do	do	25 Oct	do
6672	Pte	SMITH	do	do	25 Oct	do
11753	Pte	SMITH	do	do	25 Oct	do

(Date) 31 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) [Signature]

2/40 Bn A.I.F. (Unit.)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100),

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 194

No. of sheets attached to this return 23 Oct 6

(Unit.)

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
7212	L/Cpl	WEDALL	2/48 Bn	Dismissed in action	25 Oct	
7335	Cpl	DUFFIELD	do	do	25 Oct	
3917	V/Cpl	KISSING	do	do	26 Oct	
10188	Pte	WATT	do	do	26 Oct	
9594	Cpl	LINDSAY	do	do	26 Oct	
23622	Pte	BALD	do	do	26 Oct	
11263	Pte	FRANCE	do	do	25 Oct	
8268	Cpl	MURRAY	do	do	26 Oct	
9354	Pte	BRIDLE	do	do	26 Oct	
12854	Pte	OSBORN	do	do	26 Oct	
6550	Pte	WATSON	do	do	26 Oct	
7080	Pte	LINDSAY	do	do	26 Oct	
11135	Pte	JARVIS	do	do	26 Oct	
10379	V/Cpl	BROWN	do	do	26 Oct	
10412	Pte	O'NEILL	do	do	26 Oct	
7332	L/Cpl	WATSON	do	do	26 Oct	
7333	Pte	WATSON	do	do	26 Oct	
3917	V/Cpl	KISSING	do	Reverted to Sgt	26 Oct	on transfer to X list
10379	V/Cpl	BROWN	do	Reverted to L/Cpl	26 Oct	do

(Date) 31 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander)

(Unit)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100),

66/42

2/43 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 23 Oct 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return 6

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
		<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>				
6934	Pte	LORTON V P	2/43 Inf	Evacuated	24 Oct	To M List
7727	Pte	WELSH A B	do	do	24 Oct	do
524	Pte	WELSH A B	do	do	25 Oct	do
		<u>REMOVED FROM LIST</u>				
11000	Sgt	WELSH J O	do	arched in	27 Oct	From Navigation Course
11004	W/Cpl	WELSH J O	do	do	27 Oct	From 1st Coy
837	M/Cpl	WELSH J O	do	do	27 Oct	From 1st Coy
		<u>REMOVED FROM LIST</u>				
8269	Cpl	HOCKAY V P	do	arched in	31 Sep	From X List
6934	Pte	LORTON V P	do	do	27 Oct	From 9 Div Rest Camp
7727	Pte	WELSH A B	do	do	27 Oct	do
12854	Pte	WELSH A B	do	do	27 Oct	do
11302	Pte	SHARP V P	do	do	27 Oct	From 1st Coy
10210	Pte	BULLOCK G I	do	do	27 Oct	From 1st Coy
10147	Pte	SCOTTAN A B	do	do	27 Oct	do
7022	Pte	WELSH A B	do	do	27 Oct	do
7025	W/Cpl	WELSH A B	do	do	27 Oct	do
9276	Pte	WELSH A B	do	do	27 Oct	do
7366	W/Cpl	WELSH A B	do	do	27 Oct	do
8366	W/Cpl	WELSH A B	do	do	27 Oct	do

(Date) 31 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) F.

2/43 BN. A.I.F.

(Unit).

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100).

66/42

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 23 Oct 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return 6

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
13390	to	ST CLAIR D C	2/48 Inf	Marched in	27 Oct	From 1st (Inf) Starling Coy
7394	Cpl	SMITH R F	do	do	27 Oct	do
11773	Pvt	SMITH R D	do	do	27 Oct	do
8423	L/Cpl	SMITH J	do	do	27 Oct	do
8323	Cpl	DAVIS R	do	do	27 Oct	do
7373	Cpl	WILLIAMS A J	do	promoted to Sgt	27 Oct	Vice as 7456 Sgt DUFFY L A
6323	V/Cpl	WILLIAMS C A J	do	rank of Cpl on 27 Oct	27 Oct	do
11225	V/Cpl	WILLIAMS J	do	do	27 Oct	do
7433	Pte	WILLIAMS R L	do	promoted to V/Cpl	27 Oct	Vice as 7373 promotion
6672	Pte	WILLIAMS G P	do	now reported dead of wounds	25 Oct 42	
3917	V/Cpl	WILLIAMS P D	do	do	26 Oct 42	
11263	Pte	WILLIAMS P J	do	do	25 Oct 42	
6893	to	WILLIAMS D C	do	do	25 Oct 42	
6893	Pte	WILLIAMS L G	do	wounded in action	25 Oct	During offensive against

(Date) 31 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander)

(Unit)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3010 (BOOKS OF 100)

CASUALTY RETURN - OFFICERS AND NURSES

Date of last A.F. W. 3010 rendered 23 Oct 42 94
No. of sheet attached to this return 1

2/48 BN, A.I.F. (Unit)

Detail of casualties to officers and nurses which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotions (acting, temporary, local or substantive), transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next-of-kin with postal address, transfers to <X> List and any other items connected with an officer's or nurse's service.

Rank	Name and Initials	Corps.	Nature and date of casualty	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
Lieut	WALTER W. WILSON	2/48 BN	killed in action	24 Oct	during offensive against enemy positions.
Lieut	WALTER W. WILSON	2/48 BN	killed in action	24 Oct	during offensive against enemy positions.
Lieut	WALTER W. WILSON	2/48 BN	killed in action	26 Oct	during offensive against enemy positions. Evacuated to 78 Amb Col transferred to X List.
Lieut	WALTER W. WILSON	2/48 BN	killed in action	26 Oct	during offensive against enemy positions. Evacuated to 78 Amb Col transferred to X List.
Lieut	WALTER W. WILSON	2/48 BN	killed in action	27 Oct	during offensive against enemy positions. Evacuated to 78 Amb Col transferred to X List.
Lieut	WALTER W. WILSON	2/48 BN	killed in action	27 Oct	during offensive against enemy positions. Evacuated to 78 Amb Col transferred to X List.
Lieut	WALTER W. WILSON	2/48 BN	killed in action	27 Oct	during offensive against enemy positions. Evacuated to 78 Amb Col transferred to X List.
Capt	WALTER W. WILSON	2/48 BN	killed in action	27 Oct	during offensive against enemy positions. Evacuated to 78 Amb Col transferred to X List.

{Date} 31 OCT 1942 194

I. F.
(Signature of Commander)

2/48 BN, A.I.F.
(Unit)

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

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

65/42

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100)

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 194

12 Oct

No. of sheets attached to this return

(Unit.)

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
<u>HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS</u>						
SX 13222	Pte	SKINNER A J	2/43 Bn	Evacuated	11 Oct	To 2/3 Aust Inf Bn - X List
SX 8847	"	CUMMINS D D	do	do	15 Oct	To 2/3 Aust Inf Bn - X List
SX 4418	"	BARTON P	do	do	15 Oct	do
SX 7460	"	FINDALL P W	do	do	15 Oct	do
SX 13031	"	FALL H C	do	do	15 Oct	do
SX 9048	"	LITTLE P J	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 7436	"	COX J D	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 10240	"	LOUIS H G	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 7260	S/sgt	FRANKS C	do	do	3 Oct	do
SX 7695	Pte	SCHUBERT H W J	do	do	17 Oct	do
SX 7329	"	LEVERETT F S	do	do	17 Oct	do
SX 8328	Cpl	DAVIS H	do	do	17 Oct	do
SX 8937	Pte	DAVIS A H	do	do	17 Oct	do
SX 13239	"	HIGHFIELD W	do	do	19 Oct	do
SX 12803	"	PARSONS H C	do	do	19 Oct	do
SX 9421	"	BARNES H G	do	do	19 Oct	do
SX 6895	"	SAUNDERS F J	do	do	19 Oct	do
SX 9914	"	BALL H	do	do	?	Delete all reference on #3011 64/42 of 12 Oct 42 while on leave - X List

(Date) 23 OCT 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) Lt. Col. Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

2/43 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100)

(Unit)

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 194

No. of Sheets attached to this return 2

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty		Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
					Date	
SX 7335	/Cpl	WILLIAMS G W	2/48 Bn	Rank of Cpl confirmed	11 Oct	
SX 10090	Sgt	GLANBY J G	do	Marched out	14 Oct	Equally efficient
SX 7935	Sgt	BUCHANAN J A R	do	Navigation Course 18	24 Oct 42	
SX 5079	Lt/Sgt	WATSON R W	do	Marched out	13 Oct	Attending on Oct 10th
SX 7744	Pvt	WILLIAMS L R J	do	do		Intake
SX 10353	Pvt	WILLIAMS L R J	do	do		
SX 10241	/Cpl	LEAHY J	do	do	10 Oct	to 2/5 unit 78 and
SX 12500	Pvt	WATSON A J	do	do	10 Oct	do
SX 7406	Pvt	WATSON R R	do	do	10 Oct	do
SX 7317	Pvt	WATSON C S	do	do	10 Oct	do
SX 5642	Pvt	WATSON H A	do	do	11 Oct	do
SX 1537	/Cpl	LITTLE H J	do	do	11 Oct	do
SX 12975	Pvt	WATSON A G	do	do	11 Oct	do
SX 7552	Pvt	WATSON A R	do	do	11 Oct	do

(Date) 23 OCT 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) Lt. Col.

2/48 BN A.I.F. (Unit)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100),

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 12 Oct 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return 1

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
		<u>ORIGINAL UNIT</u>				
SX 12607	Pte	WYKOD X J	2/48 Bn	Marched in	14 Oct	From No 26 Aust Inf Bde
VX 38650	Pte	TUCKERT R F	do	do	13 Oct	From 2100 School
		<u>SCHOOLS AND COURSES</u>				
SX 9835	Sgt	HAMBOUR M	do	Classified "Average" MTC Junior Comds British Inf Wing Series No 2 from 27 Jul 42 to 15 Aug 42.		
		<u>ORIGINAL UNIT</u>				
WX 10188	Pte	LATT A	do	Marched in from AIF (M) staging Camp	10 Oct 42	
SX 9341	Pte	BERG R C A	do		do	
WX 9871	Pte	SWINER A T	do		do	
SX 7581	1/sgt	ROBLE L C	do		do	
SX 7933	Col	STEVEN V H	do		do	
SX 7188	Pte	SPRARS K	do		do	
SX 13709	Pte	WALKER L C	do		do	
SX 6969	Pte	HAIKEN R M	do		do	
SX 13589	Pte	BRINDALL R J	do	Marched in from AIF (M) staging Camp	13 Oct 42	
SX 13691	Pte	AND P B	do		do	
SX 6803	Pte	STARK B K	do		do	
SX 5048	Pte	LITTLE P J	do		do	
SX 8002	Sgt	DAVE R P	do		do	
SX 10104	Sgt	WATSON L J	do		do	

(Date) 23 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) T. Col.

2/48 BN, A.I.F.

(Unit)

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

65/42

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100),

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 12 Oct 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return 1

2/48 Aust. Inf. (Unit.)

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
<u>STRENGTH TAKEN ON</u>						
SX 10613	Pte	BRECKEN A F	2/48 Bn	Marched in	16 Oct	From X List
SX 8539	"	YOUNG E J	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 6828	"	BAKER H R L	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 8878	"	BELLINGER G V	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 7497	"	CHINNEN R	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 9034	Cpl	FESTER H A	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 8017	"	HARRIS C G	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 5275	Pte	O'SULLIVAN H F	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 7195	"	SUTHERLAND D	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 6165	"	WILSON C S	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 6892	"	FRISMAN K A	do	do	12 Oct	do
SX 13534	"	XXXXXXXXXXXX	do	do	do	do
SX 7222	Lt Cpl	HIMPING H	do	do	14 Oct	do
SX 10522	Pte	NICHOLSON H T	do	do	15 Oct	do
SX 13535	"	THISSINGER A L	do	do	10 Oct	do
SX 8212	"	JOHNS R J	do	do	11 Oct	do
SX 7476	"	SMITH R J	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 13233	"	BURNS G	do	do	15 Oct	do
SX 6906	"	RAYMOND B B	do	do	15 Oct	do

(Date) 23 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) Lt. Col.

Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

2/48 BN. A.I.F.

(Unit).

(Margin for Filing Purposes)

65/42

ARMY FORM W. 3011 (BOOKS OF 100)

CASUALTY RETURN - OTHER RANKS

Date of last A.F. W. 3011 rendered 12 Oct. 1942

No. of sheets attached to this return

2/48 Inf Bn (Unit.)

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive). Transfers, postings, attachments, etc. courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, transfers to «X» List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army N°.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Nature and Date of Casualty.	Date.	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated).
<u>STRENGTH TABLE ON</u>						
SX 13310	Pte	JONES W F J	2/48 Bn	Marched in	15 Oct	From X List
SX 7292	"	MOHAMED A J	do	do	15 Oct	do
SX 9850	"	TRASSIDOR W J	do	do	15 Oct	do
SX 7260	S/Sgt	FRASER C	do	do	16 Oct	do
SX 7640	Pte	ELLIOT R J	do	do	20 Oct	From AIF(US) Staging Camp
SX 9335	S/Sgt	ROBERTS E	do	do	20 Oct	do
SX 9406	Pte	BUTCH W B	do	do	22 Oct	do
<u>PUNISHMENT</u>						
SX 13134	Pte	DOHRT R	do	Offence: Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline - fined 11/- by C.O. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn on 13 Oct 42	11 Oct 42	AA 40. Award -
<u>STRENGTH TABLE ON</u>						
SX 9129	Pte	CURTIS H R	do	Marched in	13 Aug	From AIF(US) Staging Camp
<u>STRENGTH TABLE ON</u>						
SX 8390	Pte	JONES W L	do	Delete all reference to "Detached for Duty 9 Aust Inf Bn" on CR 62/42 - now detached for special duties (Batman) as from 26 Sep 42.		
<u>PROMOTION</u>						
SX 7014	Cpl	HANSON R J	do	Promoted to A/Sgt	21 Oct	Vice SX 6500 Sgt A B

(Date) 23 OCT. 1942 194

(Signature of Commander) Lt. Col. [Signature] Bn. A.I.F.

(Unit) STONEYFIELD - X List 2/48 BN. A.I.F.

[Margin for Filing Purposes]

ARMY FORM W. 3012 (BOOKS OF 100)

(Unit to which personnel are attached) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

66/42

Date of last A.F. W.3012 rendered

23 Oct 42 19... Number of sheets

attached to this return.....

CASUALTY RETURN FOR OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM ANOTHER UNIT OR CORPS.

The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (acting, temporary, local or substantive.) Attachments, etc. Courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin with postal address, and any other items affecting an officer's or soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit to which posted (i.e., unit to which belong and from which detached.)	Nature and date of casualty.	Date.	Whether replacement is required. (Insert "Yes" or "No.")	Remarks. (In case of battle casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
OFFICERS.							
OTHER RANKS.							
<u>OX 340</u>	<u>Pte</u>	<u>WATMORE L C</u>	<u>AASC (2/3 Pd Amb)</u>	<u>Killed in action</u>	<u>24 Oct</u>		<u>During attack on enemy posns.</u>
<u>MX 216-1</u>	<u>Pte</u>	<u>WATMORE L C</u>	<u>AASC (78 LAD)</u>	<u>Marched in</u>	<u>24 Oct</u>	<u>From 78 LAD</u>	
<u>OX 340</u>	<u>Pte</u>	<u>WATMORE L C</u>	<u>AASC</u>	<u>Buried</u>	<u>25 Oct</u>		<u>In ALAMSHIN MILITARY CEMETERY</u> <u>Grave No 3 A 28</u>

Note.—When replacements are required the responsibility for demanding such reinforcements from the base on A.F. W.3008 or A.F. W.3009 will rest with officers commanding units to which the attached personnel belong (i.e., the units to which they are posted and from which they are detached).

(Date) 31 OCT. 1942 19....

[Signature]
(Signature and appointment of Officer.) F.

2/48 Aust Inf Bn

26 Aust Inf Bde

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

SECRET

Copy No 11
2/48 Aust Inf Bn
9 Oct 42

NOTES ON COMDS CONFERENCE

The following notes are issued to confirm points discussed at Comds' conference held 1100 hrs 9 Oct 42.

PATROLS

1. POLICY:-

- (a) Patrolling must be active.
- (b) If necessary, patrols will fight to obtain infm.
- (c) It is essential that during the next few days all possible infm is obtained and handed over when relieved.

2. ENGINEERS:- In future Engrs will NOT be in charge of patrols - att for engineer advice.

3. INFORMATION:- The following infm of the enemy is urgently required:-

- (a) Exact locations of FDLs
- (b) Are FDLs mined?
- (c) Are minefields booby trapped?
- (d) Are minefields wired?
- (e) What is type of wire?
- (f) Is wiring booby-trapped?
- (g) What is type of booby trap
- (h) What is density if booby-trapped?

4. ORDERS AND INFORMATION

- (a) Bn to produce summary consolidating infm to hand.
- (b) Briefing of patrols
- (c) Patrol leader to be forewarned - based on summary and other infm received - things he will see en route etc.
- (d) Patrol leader must clearly know the "object" and carry it out - he will be greatly assisted if he is given all possible infm prior to setting out.

5. CONDUCT:-

- (a) Enemy protective patrolling active fwd of his wire - patrol strengths fairly large. Possibly his object is to "shoot up" our patrols or take prisoners - therefore our patrols must be prepared to fight, and fighting patrols necessary to protect recce.
- (b) Positive and Negative infm required.
 - (i) If distance laid down for patrol to cover, patrol leaders will ensure that they "search" by moving fwd some 200 yds further and to the flanks for a similar distance; then they can make a definite statement that the area is clear or otherwise. Remarks to this effect will be included in patrol reports.
 - (ii) 10% error in pacing.
 - (iii) If object of patrol is to contact enemy wire and on reaching the end of the route laid down it has not been contacted, then the patrol will continue and carry out the object.
- (c) Bearing and pacing is only accurate means of plotting posn.

- (d) "Drill" to be introduced into patrols - formations - where Brens and TSMGs are to go - careful planning, and these points laid down by comds.
- (e) If 36M Grenades used, men must be well down - watch indiscriminate throwing.

6. SPs FOR PATROLS:-

- (a) Use of known points fwd of FDLs as SPs (Pt 17 - Pt 24 WEST)
- (b) Shortens length of 'patrol legs' thus giving greater accuracy in direction and distance.

7. STRENGTHS:-

- (a) Depend on object - prepared to fight for infm.
- (b) Suggested 15 (3 to 5 recce, 10 to 12 fighting for protection)

8. REFERENCES:- Attention of all comds is drawn to:-

- (a) General Instn No 3 - "PATROLS".
- (b) "Direction from the C-in-C" of 1 Sep 42

W. Reid Capt
Adj't 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

HQ Coy
A Coy
B Coy
C Coy
D Coy
CO
Adj't
QM
IO
War Diary (2)
File
Spares (2)

Copy No 18
8 Oct 422/48 AUST INF BN OO No 44

(Issued for confirmation of verbal orders)

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50000INFORMATION

1. ENEMY:- Enemy disposns and methods as per current 'I' Summaries and Sitreps.
2. OWN TPS:- 2/48 Aust Inf Bn in occupation of defensive posns TEL EL EISA area.

INFORMATION

3. No 3 Pl 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will carry out HF shoot on enemy posns WEST Pt 23 (87252969) on night 8/9 Oct 42.

METHOD4. TPS TAKING PART:-

- (a) Recce Party - Comd No 3 Pl
3 Mortarmen
1 Signaller

move to posn approx 400 yds SW SANDY KNOLL before light on morning 8 Oct, observe target and area by day, prepare mortar posns at last light.

- (b) Covering Party - Comd No 4 Pl
15 ORs No 4 Pl

- (c) Carrying Party:- Comd - Lieut McLELLAN . The following personnel will be provided as under and come under comd of Lieut McLELLAN:-

A Coy	- 1 Sgt	14 ORs
C Coy	- 1 Sgt	14 ORs
D Coy	- 1 Sgt	14 ORs

- (d) Main Body:- Comd - Sgt R J HOOD
No 3 Pl (less recce party)

5. ASSEMBLY AREA:- SOUTH of Ry line area (87602992). Carrying Party and Main Body in this area as per "Sequence of Events" att.
6. MORTAR POSNS:- Approx area 87412976.
7. ROUTES:-

- (a) Recce Party:- From C Coy area to SANDY KNOLL thence to MORTAR Posns.

- (b) Covering Party:- Through D Coy Minefd gap via SANDY KNOLL to 200 yds SW of Mortar Posns.

- (c) Carrying Party and Main Body:- From Assembly Area through D Coy Minefd gap to Veh Unloading posn at 87472981 (just NORTH of telegraph line) thence via SANDY KNOLL to MORTAR Posn.

8. RATE OF ADV:- 100 yds in 2 minutes.

9. BEARING OF ADV:- D Coy Minefd gap - SANDY KNOLL - 218 deg.

10. LIGHTS AND GUIDES:-

- (a) IO and TO responsible for lighted Centre Line from D Coy Minefd gap to Veh Unloading area and guiding parties to SANDY KNOLL.
- (b) Return route will be indicated by Blue lights on Centre Line.
- (c) Recce Party guides from SANDY KNOLL to MORTAR Posns.

11. ZERO:- NOT before 2145 hrs.

ADM

12. DRESS:- Battle Order

13. WEAPONS:- Mortars 3" - 6 (On vehs and manhandled)
Normal personal weapons

14. AMM:-
50 rounds per Mortar (on vehs and manhandled)
50 rounds per rifleman - SAA

15. TPT:- (a) 1 x 3 ton veh report to No 3 Pl HQ 1900 hrs.
(b) 2 x 3 ton vehs report Mortar Det with D Coy at 1900 hrs

16. LOADING:-
(a) No 3 Pl will arrange to have all stores and amm loaded on vehs in Assembly Area by 1930 hrs - Carrying Party will assist loading of vehs.

17. MEDICAL:-
(a) RAP - present location (Amb to move area TCP after last light)
(b) WWCP - D Coy HQ.
(c) Two SBs to report to D Coy HQ by 1900 hrs (take one stretcher)

INTERCOMM

18. L/T will be maintained - MORTAR Posns via D Coy to Bn HQ until completion of shoot. Line from MORTAR Posn to SANDY KNOLL to be reeled in on completion of shoot.

ACK.

Time of Signature *1500* hrs

Method of issue - sigs.

W Rend Capt
Adj 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No 1	CO	Copy No 12	C Coy
2	2 i/c	13	D Coy
3	Adj	14	1 Pl
4	QM	15	3 Pl
5	IO	16	4 Pl
6	RMO	17	TO
7	RSM	18-19	War Diary
8	Pro Sgt	20	File
9	HQ Coy	21-22	Spares
10	A Coy		
11	B Coy		

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

TIME	EVENT
0345 hrs	Recce party move to posn SW of SANDY KNOLL
1900 hrs	(a) Vehs report to Mortar Pl as ordered. (b) Coy Carrying Parties RV at Mortar Det with D Coy and assist loading of vehs.
1930 hrs	(a) Covering Party and "I" Sec personnel move through minefd gap and mark Centre Line (b) No 3 Pl (less Recce Party) and Carrying Party move to assembly area
1945 hrs	Main Body and Carrying Party advance through minefd gap with loaded vehs.
2015 hrs	Main Body and Carrying Party arrive Veh Unloading area. Vehs unloaded and remain - stores and amm manhandled to MORTAR Posns.
2055 hrs	Main body and Carrying Party arrive Mortar Posn area
2110 hrs	(a) Main Body and Carrying Party arrive Det posns and set up Mortars for firing. (b) Carrying Parties return to Coys after delivering stores - C Coy direct - A and D Coys via route of adv.
2145 hrs	Zero (if practicable)
2200 hrs	No 3 Pl return immediately on completion of shoot if favourable - covering party will cover withdrawal.

NB:- Covering Party will ensure that all Mortar Personnel and Stores are clear of area before withdrawing.

SECRET

Copy No. 70
13 Oct 42

2/48 AUST INF BN OO NO 45

Ref Maps: EL ALAMEIN and QASABA Sheets 1:50,000

INFORMATION:

1. Current infm is contained in sitreps and In t Summaries.
2. On relief 26 Aust Inf Bde will have the following units under comd:-
 - 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn
 - A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bnand in sp:-
 - 12 Coy AASC
 - 1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops
 - H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk.

INTENTION:

3. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will hand over present disposns to 2/43 Aust Inf Bn and will move to area 43809020 on night 14/15 Oct 42.

METHOD:

4. Incoming 2/43 Aust Inf Bn Coys will be same as outgoing 2/48 Aust Inf Bn Coys.
5. ADV PARTIES:
 - (a) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn Coy adv parties to consist of 1 Offr per Coy and one man per sec.
 - (b) 2/43 Aust Inf Bn adv parties will report to 2/48 Aust Inf Bn Coys with ration vehs night 13/14 Oct 42. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn adv parties move to B Ech same vehs for on-ward movement to new area.
6. EMBUSSING AND DEBUSSING: Areas to be decided mutually between Coys.
7. Changeover to be completed by 0300 hrs 15 Oct 42.
8. ROUTES, TIMINGS, SPEED and DENSITY: See Appx A.
9. GUIDES:
 - (a) One 2/43 Aust Inf Bn guide per Coy and Bn HQ will report to TO at Bn TCP 1900 hrs 14 Oct 42. These guides will pick up incoming sub units and be responsible to guide to Coy and Bn HQ areas.
 - (b) Further Pl guides as arranged mutually between Coys.
10. PATROLLING:
 - (a) Responsibility for patrolling up to and incl nights of relief will remain with 2/48 Aust Inf Bn; personnel of 2/43 Aust Inf Bn accompanying patrols.
 - (b) TO responsible for tpt of personnel on patrols to new area morning 15 Oct 42.
11. REAR PARTIES: Rear parties as requested by 2/43 Aust Inf Bn will be left by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.
12. SP ARMS: Details of reliefs of sp arms are being ordered by parent units.
13. SP WEAPONS:
 - (a) Those att to Coys will move with Coy convoy.
 - (b) OC HQ Coy responsible to arrange tpt.
 - (c) Personnel will report to HQ Coy new area after breakfast 15 Oct 42.

14. HANDOVER OF INEM: All documents, maps etc relevant to this area will be handed to 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.

ADM

15. TPT:

- (a) Tp carrying vehs of 2/43 Aust Inf Bn will back load 2/48 Aust Inf Bn personnel - Attention of TO is drawn to Appx A.
- (b) A Ech vehs will move with Coys.

16. WEAPONS AND AMM:

- (a) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will hand over to 2/43 Aust Inf Bn the following captured weapons and corresponding amm.
 - i. All lt Bredas
 - ii. Two Spigot mortars
- (b) Special res amm taken over from 2/15 Aust Inf Bn will be handed to 2/43 Aust Inf Bn. Receipts in duplicate will be obtained and fwded to this HQ by 1200 hrs 15 Oct 42.
- (c) First line amm holdings will be taken to new area.

17. RATIONS AND WATER:

- (a) Res rations and water as taken over from 2/15 Aust Inf Bn will be handed to 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
- (b) Receipts in duplicate will be obtained and fwded to this HQ by 1200 hrs 15 Oct 42.
- (c) Veh ration will be taken to new area.

18. FUEL: 100 miles pet res and 3% lubricant res will also be taken to new area.

19. MEDICAL:

- (a) RAP on relief moves to 43789024.
- (b) Det 2/3 Aust Fd Amb in sp of 26 Aust Inf Bde remains at 43749022.
- (c) MDS - HAMMAM area.

20. HYG:

- (a) Latrines will be handed over.
- (b) Hyg Cpl with 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will remain for relief and for three days thereafter.

20a. B Ech moves afternoon 14 Oct 42

INTERCOMM:

21. Bn HQ closes present location on completion of relief. Adv Bn HQ opens new area 2100 hrs 14 Oct 42, at 43789024.

22. SIGS:

- (a) Comm must be maintained throughout the relief.
- (b) Eqpt, lines etc as arranged between Sig Offrs.

22. CODEWORDS:

- (a) "PALS" - relieving sub unit arrived, relief commenced.
- (b) "NUTS" - relief completed.
- (c) "BOLES" - in posn new area.

ACK

W. Reid Capt
Adjt 2/43 Aust Inf Bn

Time of signature hrs.

Method of despatch - Sigs.

DISTRIBN:

Copy No

Copy No

1 A Coy
2 B Coy
3 C Coy
4 D Coy
5 HQ Coy
6 CO
7 Adjt
8 QM
9 TO
10 Sig Offr
11 IO

13 EMO
14 Pro Sgt
15 2/43 Aust Inf Bn
16 26 Aust Inf Bde
17 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
18 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
19, 20 War Diary
21 File
22 Spare
23 Spare

12 RSM

SECRET

APPX A

13 Oct 42

2/48 AUST INF BN MOVEMENT TABLE (ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION
WITH OO 45)

1. Tpt requirements of Bn HQ and Coys are as under:
TO will liaise with 2/43 Aust Inf Bn and adjust tpt to ensure that
2/48 Aust Inf Bn Coys receive the required vehs.

<u>Serial</u>	<u>Sub Unit</u>	<u>Vehs</u>
1	Bn HQ	1 x 3 ton
2	HQ Coy	As arranged by OC HQ Coy
3	A Coy	6 x 3 ton - 1 x 30 cwt
4	B Coy	6 x 3 ton - 1 x 30 cwt
5	C Coy	7 x 3 ton - 2 x 30 cwt
6	D Coy	7 x 3 ton - 1 x 30 cwt

2. ROUTE: Main rd to new area - carriers to move off main rd.

3. TIMINGS: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn on relief moves independently by Coys.
(Head of 2/43 Aust Inf Bn convoy will pass 882 Easting grid
at 1930 hrs, moving in order A, B, C, D, HQ Coys - $\frac{1}{2}$ hr between
gps.).

4. SPEED AND DENSITY: $12\frac{1}{2}$ mih 30 vtm

2/48 AUST INF BN CO NO 46

Ref Maps: EL ALAMEIN 1:50000
EL HIQEIF 1:50000
EL WISKA 1:25000
EL MAHK KHAD 1:25000

INFORMATION

1. Latest enemy infm is contained in:-
 - (a) Defences overprints 1:25000 and 1:50000
 - (b) Aerial photograph interpretation traces.
 - (c) Patrol and OP infm traces.
 - (d) Latest sitreps and 9 Aust Div Summaries.
2. (a) 9 Aust Div is to attack with the object of destroying the enemy forces in their present locations.
(b) 20 Aust Inf Bde is to attack on the left and 26 Aust Inf Bde on the right. 24 Aust Inf Bde is holding present FDLs as a firm base.
(c) 2/24 Aust Inf Bn is to attack first line of enemy FDLs to RED LINE and reorganise from their objective to first enemy FDLs - facing North.
(d) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn is to move through the 2/24 Aust Inf Bn, attack second enemy line and reorganise facing North and West in the area bounded by 867 and 299 grid lines.
(e) 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will remain as a mob Divisional res.
(f) A composite force is to hold the line facing North from our present FDLs to first enemy line.
3. Tps in support of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn:-
 - M and N Tps 12 Aust A Tk Bty
 - 3 Pl A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn2/7 Aust Fd Coy is responsible for mine clearance and mine-field gaps.
4. Arty support divided on all known enemy localities, mine-fields and wire and on the right flank of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn line of adv.

INTENTION

5. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will attack and capture enemy localities and hold the area between 867 and 869 grids.

METHOD

6. The attack will be carried out in three phases:-
7. PHASE 1 - INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVE: The capture of the enemy second line of defences by the two fwd Coys - as per Appx A.
 - (a) Fwd Coys: D Coy right - B Coy left.
 - (b) Res Coys: C Coy right - A Coy left.
8. PHASE 2 - The passing through of C and A Coys to continue the adv to the final objective.
 - (a) Fwd Coys: C Coy right - A Coy left.
 - (b) Res Coys: D Coy right - B Coy left.

9. PHASE 3 - FINAL OBJECTIVE: Coys swing to the North and NW reorganising on the general line as per Appx A.

- (a) D Coy - Right fwd facing North.
- (b) C Coy - Centre fwd facing North.
- (c) A Coy - Left fwd facing NW.
- (d) B Coy - Bn res facing NW.

10. COY TASKS:

(a) D Coy right:

- TASKS:
- i. Capture enemy localities from Centre line (incl) to right flank - as per Appx A.
 - ii. Hold ground gained on line of Intermediate Objective until res Coys pass through.
 - iii. Swing to North and reorganise on general line of 299 grid facing North.
 - iv. Lay protective minefield to link up with enemy wire on East, to C Coy on the West.

(b) B Coy left:

- TASKS:
- i. Capture enemy localities from Centre line (excl) to inter Bde Boundary (incl) - as per Appx A.
 - ii. Hold ground gained on line of Intermediate Objective until res Coys pass through.
 - iii. Continue adv in rear A Coy and reorganise in Bn res facing NW in the general area of 25 Contour to 86802984.

(c) C Coy right:

- TASKS:
- i. Follow in rear of D Coy from FUP until capture of Intermediate Objective - distance in rear
 - ii. Pass through D Coy and adv to North South track on 8681 grid then swing North to general line of 299 grid reorganising facing North - as per Appx A.
 - iii. Lay protective minefield to link up with A Coy on the West.

(d) A Coy left:

- TASKS:
- i. Follow in rear of B Coy from FUP until capture of Intermediate Objective - distance in rear
 - ii. Pass through B Coy and adv to track just East of 868 grid then move NW to general line of 867 grid facing West to NW linking up with C Coy on the right - as per Appx A.
 - iii. Lay protective minefield from North to South to link up with C Coy on the right.

11. ASSEMBLY AREA: Area sq 873298 - See Appx A.

12. FUP: Covers complete frontage of attack (800 yds) - See Appx A.

13. BEARING OF ADV: 267 deg (grid).

14. RATE OF ADV:

- (a) Assembly area to FUP - 100 yds in two mins.
- (b) FUP to Objectives - 100 yds in three mins.

15. PAUSES: Various pauses as set out in table of timings, distances etc - See Appx B.

16. LIMIT OF EXPLOITATION: Limited to immediate fronts of Coys sufficient to clear pockets of enemy to assist reorganisation.
17. JUNGLES AND REPORT CENTRES:
 - (a) A Coy 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will contact B Coy 2/13 Aust Inf Bn at 86702982.
 - (b) B Coy 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will contact C Coy 2/13 Aust Inf Bn at 86832982.
 - (c) Report centres will be established as shown in Appx C and marked with two green lights one above the other.
18. TIMINGS: See Appx B.
19. MOPPING UP:
 - (a) To ensure mopping up and the covering of the frontage of the attack:
 - Left fwd Coys will echelon res pl to cover inter Bde Boundary.
 - Right fwd Coys will echelon res pl to cover Centre line.
 - (b) Careful Coy arrangements to eliminate any pockets of enemy resistance on line of adv.
20. LIGHTS AND GUIDES: All lights placed in posn by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will be attended by a guide.
 - (a) Present location to Assembly Area:
 - i. Bn TO will liaise with Bde TO and establish the required TCPs en route.
 - ii. Bn TO to light route to
 - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn debussing area.
 - Unit A Echelon Pk
 - Bn Assembly area.
 - iii. Adjt responsible to guide Bn from Debussing area to respective posns in Assembly area.
 - (b) Assembly area to FUP:
 - i. IO to mark Assembly area as follows:-
 - Two green lights centre
 - Green light 200 yds to each flank.
 - ii. Centre line to FUP - line of green lights laid by 2/24 Aust Inf Bn as axis of adv.
 - (c) FUP to Objective:
 - i. IO to mark FUP as follows:-
 - Centre - two green lights
 - Green light 200 yds to each flank (this indicates middle of Coy frontage).
 - Tape between flank lights.
 - ii. Centre line to Objectives will be marked under direction of IO with green lights every 200 yds on axis of adv.
 - (d) Guides - Supporting Arms and Weapons: Guides to move to Objectives with Coys - return down vehicle axis and guide vehs fwd.
 - (e) Engr Plan
 - i. Axis Marking - the marking and taping of Right Axis. the marking, taping and lighting of Left Axis (2/48 Aust Inf Bn veh axis)
 - ii. Gaps: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn veh gap 200 yds South of Right Axis.
Emergency gap 100 yds South of Right Axis.

21. MORTAR PL:

- (a) Two dets each A and C Coys.
- (b) One det each B and D Coys.

Tasks: Assist in reorganisation.

22. CARRIER PL:

- (a) One sec each A and C Coys.
- (b) Two carriers and one trailer B Coy.
- (c) Two carriers D Coy.
- (d) One carrier (with Coy pack) res to replace casualties.
- (e) If time permits before first light, two secs return to veh assembly area for refill.
- (f) Carriers with Tow Hooks available for towing. All carriers prepared to ferry weapons and amm from casualty vehs.
- (g) Carrier Comd est Route patrol to assist in towing, ferrying, clearing of vehs from gaps.
- (h) Move into Bn res in area 86902980 when above tasks complete.

23. PIONEER PL:

- (a) Three Pnrs with each B and D Coys for booby traps and laying mines.
- (b) Pnr PL (less 6 Pnrs) Bn HQ Gp.

Task: i. Protection of Bn HQ from enemy, booby traps and mines.
ii. Preparation of Bn HQ.

24. MMGs:

- (a) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn --
 - i. One Pl (4 guns) - A Coy.
 - ii. Two guns, unmanned, for res guns to be manned if personnel available after reorganisation.Tasks: DF across A Coy front during reorganisation. By observation at daylight.

- (b) 2/2 Aust MG Bn -- One Pl - C Coy
Task: DF across C Coy fronts during reorganisation. By observation at daylight.

25. A TK GUNS:

- (a) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn -- One sec each C and D Coys.
Task: A Tk defence to North linking up with A Coy on the left.
- (b) 12 Aust A Tk Bty --
 - i. One tp A Coy. Task: A Tk defence to the West and NW.
 - ii. One tp B Coy. Task: Defence in depth covering arc from SW to NW of A Coy.

(Note: One tp A Tk guns are held in Bde res probably in the area junc 869 - 298 grids.)

26. ARTY:

- (a) Arty representatives with Bn HQ.
- (b) At first light OPOs available to operate over Bn front.
- (c) Repeats on numbered concentrations as per arty task diagram may be called for during hrs of darkness.
- (d) Defensive fire plan to assist reorganisation is being arranged.

27. SEC 2/7 AUST FD COY:

- (a) Att parties to each coy for disarming booby traps.
- (b) Personnel to Coys to fire Bangalores to clear gaps in wire etc.
- (c) Move in rear of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn to sweep Bn veh routes clear of mines - est and maintain gaps in minefields encountered.
- (d) Mark and light route of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn A Ech Adv.
- (e) Personnel to move with A, C, D Coys A Ech vehs to lay Hawkins mines to protect fwd Coys on reorganisation.
- (f) Improve above minefield as situation permits.

28. AIR SP: Requests for air sp to Bn HQ giving type of target and area located.

29. VEH - SUPPORTING ARMS AND WEAPONS: RV present Bn area D day to come under comd Maj F A G TUCKER for move from lying up area - veh assembly area - objective.

30. ZERO:

ADM: See separate instns. *RAP*

INTERCOMM:

31. Bn HQ:

- (a) Present location till 1845 hrs.
- (b) Opens at Assembly Area on arrival.
- (c) During adv between res pls of res coys along axis of adv.
- (d) Objective, area 86862984 marked by two (all round) blue lights.

32. REPORT CENTRES:

- (a) Bn Assembly area. *double light*
- (b) Start line.
- (c) On centre line at 86862986 in vicinity of Bn HQ.

33. R/T:

- (a) Control set at Bn HQ, one set with each Coy, CO and rear HQ. Frequency and call signs issued separately. *6.8*
- (b) R/T to Bde Gp.
- (c) Wireless silence till Zero.

34. L/T:

- (a) From Bde to veh Assembly area.
- (b) Bde cable following adv to objective.
- (c) Bde cable from 2/24 Bn to 2/48 Bn.
- (d) To all Coys during reorganisation.

35. V/S: - Lucas lamp as alternative means - Lamps will flash back from Coys to indicate location - clipped dots for three secs every two mins (A Coy red, B Coy green, C Coy amber, D Coy white).

36. RUNNERS:

- (a) Pro forma messages used where applicable.
- (b) One runner from each coy remain with Bn HQ during adv.
- (c) One runner to report to Bn HQ on reaching final Objective.

- 37. GROUND TO AIR RECOGNITION: ALDIS lamp letter for the day will be G and ground sig blue smoke by A,C,D Coys. (Sigs fired at 0800 hrs D plus 1.
- 38. REPORTS: The capture of Objectives will be reported and repeated by every means available. Progress reports to be continually sent back.
- 39. CODE WORDS FOR OBJECTIVES:
 - (a) Capture of Intermediate Objective:-
 - D Coy "ROBBINS"
 - B Coy "EDMUNDS"
 - Codeword to 26 Bde "HAMMER"
 - (b) Final Objective:-
 - A Coy "SHILLAKER"
 - C Coy "BRYANT"
 - Codeword to 26 Bde "GRAPE"
- 40. In event of R/T failure:
 - (a) On capture of Intermediate Objective:
 - D Coy fires two white flares.
 - B Coy fires two green flares.
 - (b) On capture of Final Objective:
 - A Coy fires red green flares repeated two min interval.
 - C Coy fires white red white repeated two min interval.
 - D Coy fires green green green repeated two min interval.
- 41. SUCCESS SIGNALS: On capture of Final Objective one sig rocket yellow will be fired by Bn HQ. This sig will be repeated twice at intervals of one min to ensure recognition.
- 42. SOS:
 - (a) By all available means.
 - (b) SOS light sig will be SIGNAL ROCKET three star with trailer.
- 43. SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES: By sigs at 1700 hrs D Day.

W. Read Capt
Adjt 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Time of Signature: 1600 hrs.

Method of Issue: *Sigs*

<u>DISTRIBUTION:</u>	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
	1 A Coy	18 4 P1
	2 B Coy	19 5 P1
	3 C Coy	20,21 A Tk P1
	4 D Coy	22 MG P1
	5 HQ Coy	23 M Tp 12 Aust A Tk Bty
	6 CO	24 N Tp 12 Aust A Tk Bty
	7 2 I/c	25 3 P1 A Coy 2/2 MG Bn
	8 Adjt	26 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE
	9 QM	27 26 Aust Inf Bde
	10 IO	28 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
	11 TO	29 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
	12 RSM	30 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
	13 RMO	30,31 War Diary
	14 PRO SGT	32 File
	15 1 P1	33,34 Spares.
	16 2 P1	
	17 3 P1	

22 Oct 42

2/48 AUST INF BN ADM INSTNS NO 14.

(Issued in conjunction with 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
OO No 46)

Ref Maps: EL ALAMEIN 1:50000
EL HIQEIF 1:50000
EL WISKA 1:25000
EL MAHK KHAD 1:25000
EL QASABA 1:50000

1. DRESS: Battle Order (less respirators).

2. GAS CAPES: May be taken in lieu of waterproof capes.

3. TCPs:

(a) To be established as follows:-

TP1 Main rd and track junc 87782994.
TP2 Rail and Track crossing 87682986.
TP3 Exit from own FDLs at 87592986.
TP4 Main rd and track junc 87722999.
TP5 Exit from FDLs 87592989.

(b) TPs to be marked with one red light and numbered signs.

(c) Bn TO will est check pts at Rear Veh Assembly area and Fwd Veh Assembly Area.

4. MEDICAL:

(a) Four stretcher bearers per rifle coy - 2 stretcher bearer NCOs with Bn HQ.

(b) WWCP - walking wounded move East along right axis to Fd Amb Report Centre at 87342987.

(c) Non-walking wounded to be left with lights and guides on Right axis, to be picked up by RAP truck and other vehs.

(d) RAP moves rear A Ech vehs and establishes on Left axis at 86952984 - stretcher bearer NCOs establish wounded collecting post vicinity Bn HQ.

(e) Fd Amb Report Centre at 87342987 - vehs carrying wounded report to this centre - tactical vehs will NOT evacuate beyond this pt.

(f) ADS at 88022980 - CAR POST at crossrds 88052974.

(g) On completion of cable laying, sig veh will report to stretcher bearer NCOs at Bn HQ.

(h) Sub units will ensure that to enable our medical organisation to concentrate on own rather than enemy casualties:

i. A gd will be placed over any enemy medical building, camp, or unit and the medical personnel will be ordered to continue their normal work.

ii. Enemy medical eqpt is NOT touched except by medical personnel.

iii. Enemy medical vehs are NOT used for other than medical purposes.

(i) If wounded are left unattended on the ground, their rifle and bayonet will be stuck in the ground beside them. If dead place steel helmet over rifle butt and straighten the body.

5. RATIONS:

(a) Chocolate emergency and one (1) days hard ration to be carried on man.

- (b) One days hard ration carried on Coy A Ech vehs.
- (c) One days hard ration carried on Coy Pack Carrier.
- (d) A further days hard ration will be brought fwd to Coys during night 23/24 Oct 42.
- (e) The one days hard ration carried on the man will be consumed on 24 Oct 42.

6. WATER:

- (a) All water bottles filled.
- (b) 1½ galls water per man for two days in 2 gall containers divided and carried on Coy A Ech vehs and Coy Pack Carriers.
- (c) Res of one gall per man will be brought fwd to Coys on night 23/24 Oct 42.

7. AMM:

- (a) Carried on man - 150 rounds SAA, 1 36M Gren, 1 69 Gren - All LMG mags to be filled and carried throughout sec.
- (b) TSMG - Gns carry 250 rounds.
- (c) Coy res amm to be equally divided - carried on A Ech vehs and Coy Pack carriers.
- (d) Unit res amm vehs will on arrival at objective deposit their loads and return for replenishments from 87552988. Amm dumps will be dispersed in Coy areas.

8. POL:

- (a) All tanks filled and 100 miles res carried on each veh.
- (b) Res POL will be dumped at assembly area and on objective during night 23/24 Oct 42.

9. STORES:

- (a) A Ech vehs and carriers will carry stores, weapons, picks, and shovels in excess of WE. One coil dannert wire will be carried on front of veh.
- (b) Blankets: Delivery of at least one blanket per man on night 23/24 Oct 42 if practicable.
- (c) Greatcoats: A Ech vehs.

10. ORDNANCE: Sigs will be fwded stating casualties and losses of guns, weapons and vehs to this HQ as they occur.

11. PsV:

- (a) Bde Collecting Post est at 87652987.
- (b) Coys escort to Right Axis thence to Bn FUP
- (c) RPs and I Sgt est collecting post at FUP and escort to Bde Collecting Post.

12. GENERAL: Personnel riding in vehs will be protected by sandbags placed on front mudguards and floor boards. One incendiary bomb will be carried on each veh for destruction of same if required.

W. Reid Capt
Adjut 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

ACK

Time of signature 0745 hrs.

Method of despatch - Sigs.

Distribution as per OO No 46.

MESSAGE OUT *26*

TO: 2/24 2/48 aust inf bns 12 aust a tk bty L sec sigs
A coy 2/2 aust MG bn 4 pl 2/1 aust HQ gd bn bde CSM
bde TO 78 aust IAD rptd main HQ 9 aust div 24 aust
inf bde

FROM: 26 aust inf bde

A 660

22

ref 26 aust inf bde adm order number 10 para 37(a) (.) burials
(.) 26 bde cemetery to be established at 87872995 (east of track
leading past GARDEN) from 1900 hrs 23 oct (.) cemetery will be
marked by sign and surrounded by low wall of stones (.) units
will instruct all burial parties to place graves side by side
and work to the east of the first grave in cemetery (.) graves
to be five feet apart (.) each row to be of TWENTY rpt TWENTY

W. J. G. G. G. Capt

T00 2030

2/48 lw
AL60

repeat
congratulations
whitehead

3.30

[Blank rectangular area]

SECRET

Appx B
23 Oct 42SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

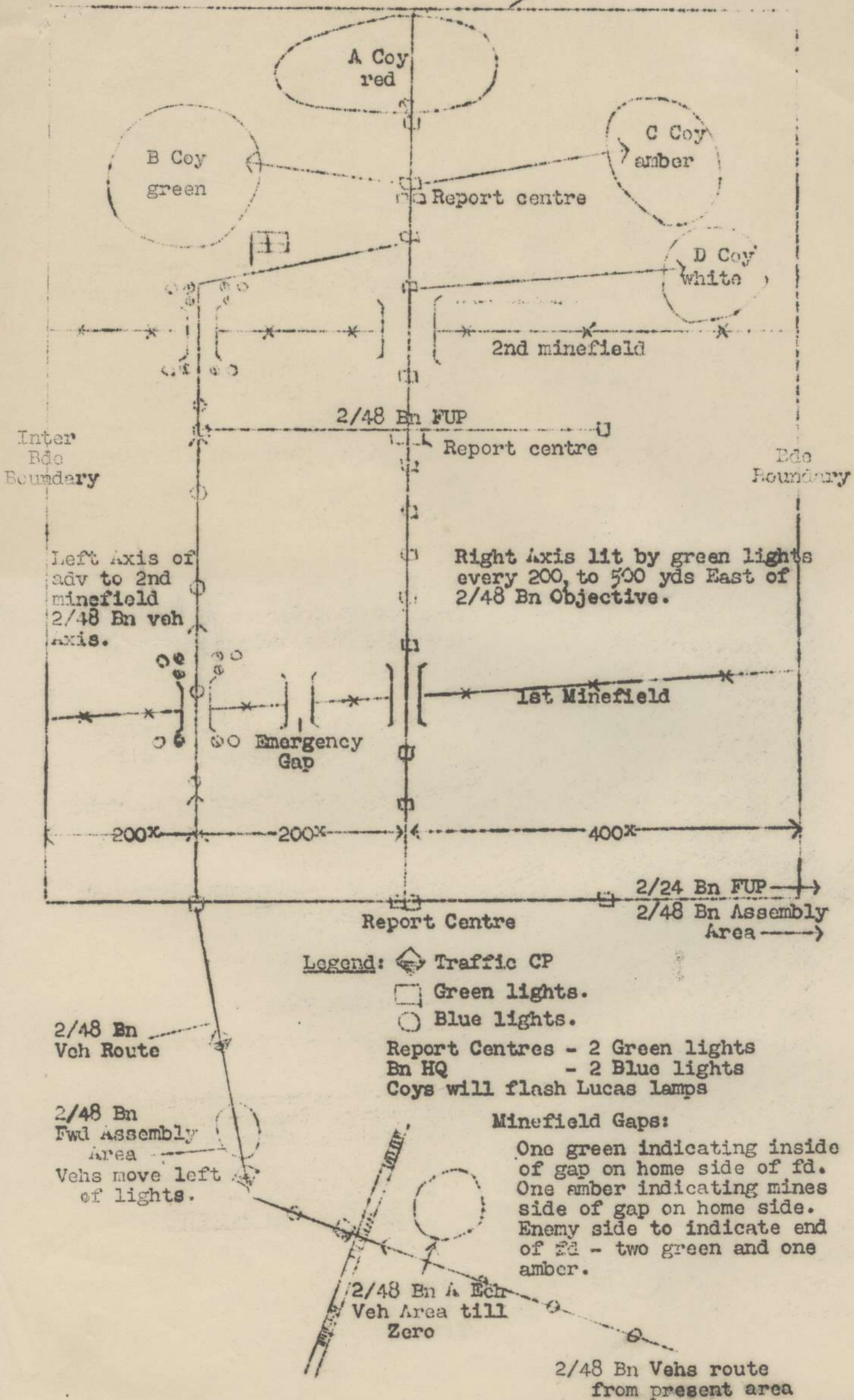
(issued in conjunction with 2/48 Aust Inf Bn OO No 46)

SERIAL	EVENT	DISTANCE IN YDS	CLOCK TIMINGS	ZERO TIMINGS Z - 2200 hrs	REMARKS
1	Bn and att tps leave present area	-	1910)
2	Bn and att tps arrive Debussing Pt	7500 (approx))
3	Rifle Coys move to Assembly Area	3700 (approx)	2135	Z minus 25	) Order of march
4	Arrive Assembly Area	-	2305	Z plus 65	) D,B,BnHQ,C,A Coys
5	Depart Assembly Area	-	2323	Z plus 83	) A Ech MT Gp
6	Arrive FUP	3000	0023	Z plus 143	
7	Depart FUP	-	0038	Z plus 158	
8	Fwd Coys arrive 2nd Minefield	1500 (approx)	-	-	
9	Fwd Coys stop on intermediate Objective	2550	0155	Z plus 235	) Arty pause 15 mins to
10	Res Coys pass through Fwd Coys	2550	0210	Z plus 250	) allow Coys to pass through
11	D Coy - swings NE	2550	0215	Z plus 255	Left flank on 2550 ^x line
12	C Coy - swings North	2775	0217	Z plus 257	Right flank pivots on track
13	A Coy - moves NW (at line of cairns and track)	-			
		2800	0217	Z plus 257	
14	B Coy - halts and reorganises	2900	0220	Z plus 260	Distance represents coy rear boundary
15	A Coy - halts and reorganises	3900	0250	Z plus 290	Distance represents coy fwd boundary

Note: Zero - 2200 hrs 23 Oct 42

DIAGRAMMATIC ONLY

2/48 Bn Objective



Left Axis of adv to 2nd minefield 2/48 Bn veh Axis.

Right Axis lit by green lights every 200, to 500 yds East of 2/48 Bn Objective.

- Legend:**
- ◀▶ Traffic CP
 - Green lights.
 - Blue lights.

Report Centres - 2 Green lights
 Bn HQ - 2 Blue lights
 Coys will flash Lucas lamps

Minefield Gaps:

One green indicating inside of gap on home side of fd.
 One amber indicating mines side of gap on home side.
 Enemy side to indicate end of fd - two green and one amber.

2/48 Bn Veh Route

2/48 Bn Fwd Assembly Area
 Vehs move left of lights.

2/48 Bn A Ech Veh Area till Zero

2/48 Bn Vehs route from present area

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 38

Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600
1 Oct 42

Ref Map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS Increased enemy movement reported fwd of WEST 24 when enemy inf were engaged by our arty and casualties inflicted. Shelling was normal with the CUTTING and EAST 24 receiving most attention. An increase in enemy air activity for the period under review was very noticeable.

Working parties 87343004 87233004

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) Shelling: Between 1030 and 1050 hrs 20 shells landed in open ground midway between EAST and WEST 24. All shelling was HF and fell between 0935 and 1200 hrs in the morning and between 1330 and 1810 hrs in the afternoon. We suffered two casualties - slightly wounded.

A Coy	0935 - 1055 hrs	15 shells	75 mm
D Coy	1230 - 1235 hrs	3 shells	75 mm
A Coy	1330 - 1335 hrs	6 shells	
B Coy	1630 - 1635 hrs	12 shells	
B Coy	1715 - 1730	6 shells	
D Coy	1815 hrs	1 shell	
C Coy	1719 - 1735 hrs	3 shells	

(b) Enemy movement: At 1215 hrs 20 men were reported to be approaching OP at WEST 24 from 87222991. These were engaged by our arty and casualties were inflicted. Our carriers circled 24 but could not observe enemy who had gone to ground. Enemy were seen to approach this party under cover of Red Cross flag and carrying one casualty away. Enemy withdrew.

At last light 12 men were seen approaching pt 24 from 87222991. A patrol was sent out to intercept them but no contact was made.

(c) Enemy Air activity: At 1240 hrs 2 ME 109 and twin engined recce plane circled over Bn area leaving trails of smoke on two separate occasions and then made off in a Westerly direction. Fwd tps later reported twin engined recce plane as having crashed in square 869299. At 1045 hrs 3 ME 109s flew from the EAST over our area and then turned SOUTH flying at HL.

SECTION "C" OWN TPS

Patrols: At 87343014 working party could be heard on NORTH of ry. Several of our shells appeared to land in amongst them. A man was heard to drop a steel object and run away. Patrol turned SOUTH to avoid contact. At 87333013 car was heard to start up and move Westward. At 87313015 a truck came from the WEST to posn of working party. Truck appeared to cross ry line and approach our posn. Patrol moved SOUTH and noise of truck could still be heard. Digging sounded as if one man was digging and patrol was under impression that mines were being laid. At this stage the patrol saw a party of enemy cross ry line and our patrol withdrew to 87343012 where minefd previously reported was encountered. At this point engr could find no shape or patten in minefd. Note: Patrol comd suggests that recce patrol cannot get past 87343004 along ry line owing to enemy movement NORTH of line.

At 87312999 party of 12/ ^{enemy} seen 100 yds EAST. Patrol went to ground to intercept enemy party but no sign could be found of the party. Patrol went to ground at pt 17 from 2315 until 0200 hrs. Enemy voices and sounds of digging could be heard coming from 87233004. Patrol returned without incident. One LMG heard firing to WEST of patrol otherwise NTR.

[Signature] Lieut
10/10/42

SECRET

Copy No..... 15

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY No 40

Based on Infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 3 Oct42

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

Section "A" Operations Int

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS:- Our patrols have continued to report enemy activity in the vicinity of the ry line at 87303020. Observations over a period during the daylight hours have confirmed these reports and much activity has been noticed in and around this area between 0700 hrs and 0830 hrs.

MGs - 2 MGs fired from 87112989
Mortars - One Mortar observed to fire from 87112989

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:-

(a) Shelling - Taken over a period of the last nine days the average daily shelling of the Bn area has been 48 shells. The average daily shelling of the EAST 24 area is 25 shells which is 52% of the Bn shelling. The specimens of shells fwded from A Coy have been identified as ITALIAN 75/27; 25 pr and GERMAN DOPP ZS/60 (double time and percussion fuze).

Shelling for the period under review:-

A Coy	EAST 24	20
	CUTTING	8
C Coy	PIMPLE	5
D Coy	STATION	10

(b) Enemy movement:- Between 0700 hrs and 0830 hrs 40 plus enemy inf were observed at diggings and shaking blankets in area 87303020 to 87323024 to 87183034 to 87203027 to 87303020. Two MT were observed in this area - one at 87193034 and the other in shallow veh pit at 87293025. At 0820 hrs three men were observed moving around veh at 87193034. At the same time several men were observed moving at BLOCKHOUSE where a Red Cross Flag could be seen att to a pole approx 20 ft high.

At 0850 hrs one MC was seen to approach BLOCKHOUSE from 87253028.

At 0920 hrs three men were observed shaking blankets at 87233030.

Note - Exact map ref of BLOCKHOUSE is being fixed.
Red Cross flag indicates RAP.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:- At 0920 hrs one ME 109 flying at high level from EAST to WEST passed over Bn area. Engaged by AA.

Section "C" Own Tps

4. PATROLS:- At 87312992 old slit trenches in one of which were 24 Mk IV and V mines (not recovered). At 87302993 two German burnt out vehs (tp carriers semi-tracked). At 87302987 carrier which had exploded on a mine; severe damage to track and bogies but otherwise seems alright. Otherwise NTR.

B. King Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY No 41Based on infm received for 24 hours ending 0600 hrs 4 Oct 42Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000Section "A" Operations Int

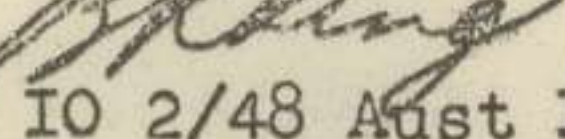
1. ENEMY DISPOSNS: Enemy movement continues to be observed in area 87303020. This target was engaged by our arty at 0645 hrs and shoot was seen to fall in this area.
Weapon pits - 87372973. Five weapon pits appear to have been freshly cleaned out.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:
 - (a) Shelling - A review of the shelling on the Bn area since occupation of this posn shows that 44% of the shells fall between 0900 and 1100 hrs with the shelling between 1300 and 1400 hrs and between 1700 and 1800 hrs each having 10% of the Bn shelling, with lightest shelling of the area in the early morning before 0700 hrs and between 1200-1300; 1500-1600 hrs; 1900-2100 hrs; and 2200-2300 hrs.
Shelling for the period under review was confined to the hours between 0900 hrs and 1100 hrs.

CUTTING area	17 shells
EAST 24	18 "
Sta area	10 "
PIMPLE	9 "
 - (b) Enemy movement - At 87303020 approx 30 enemy inf were observed moving in this area. Engaged by our arty at 0645 hrs. Area 87303020 - 87333024 - 87193034 - 87243025. 20 men reported moving in this area at 1800 hrs.
3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY: At 1230 hrs a JU recce plane flew over area from EAST to WEST at HL.

Section "C" Own ops

4. PATROLS: At 87372973 five weapon pits appeared to have been freshly cleaned out. At 87322974 ground opened out to bare open patch. Two members of patrol went fwd to 87312974. Here two enemy were observed through glasses to be moving towards patrol from SW. They disappeared and a party of 20 enemy in line moved towards patrol. Patrol comd decided to open fire when enemy came into range but further enemy patrols were observed coming in on the patrol's front from the South and North. Patrol comd decided to withdraw and enemy followed for 1400 yds. No fire was exchanged.

Patrol moved direct to 87272986 without incident. Search was made 300 yds radius but no mines or wire located. NMS.


 Lieut
 IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
 (B R KING)

GENERAL OPS

(Based on info received Div Summary 316)

1. GENERAL:-- Arty firing at CLOVER LEAF feature is believed to have scored a direct hit on a MG posn. Two sharp explosions were observed in the area of the MG and there was no further enemy fire. The shoot was a combined effort of our arty, MGs and Mortars.
2. AIR OPS:-- Night 29/30 Sep - Bostons attacked HANEISH LGs starting seven fires in dispersal areas. Hurricanes patrolled uneventually ALAMEIN/HANEISH. Halifax and Wellington a/c maintained attacks on TOBRUCH observing bursts Harbour area. One Wellington missing.
30 Sep - supporting ground attack MUMASSIB area escorted Baltimores bombed 250 well dispersed MT at 867257 scoring two probable direct hits. Answering call for close sp Kittybombers later attacked gun posns 863273 observing bombs target area. Fighters escorted early in afternoon Tac Rs southern sector and patrolled batt. area during the day engaging three formations enemy fighters, damaging one MELO9. One Kittyhawk burnt out (pilot safe) not due enemy action and one Kittyhawk missing. Harassing enemy L of C Beaufighters shot down into sea 2 He 111 and one JU88 North of RAS EL KANAYIS.
Enemy fighter patrols over front line on increased scale. Land forces report attacks by 8 and 11 Stukas midday and 1800 hrs central sector and 6 fighter-bomber raids during day in southern sector.

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY No 42Based on info received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 5 Oct 42Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000SECTION "A" OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY ACTIVITY:-- Good visibility on our front made observation of enemy activity for considerable distance possible. Movement of MT on the escarpment rd was normal. Shelling for the period under review showed a decrease.

87332990 single telegraph pole
 87102988 A Tk gun
 87102988 Two MG posns (SPANDAUS)
 87312990 Four derelict MT
 87182988 Working party

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:--

(a) Patrols - The report of our patrol night 3/4 Oct when our patrol sighted two enemy approaching patrol and disappeared to have their place taken by a party of 20 moving in line while two other enemy patrols could be seen coming in from the patrols front from the North and South. Our patrol withdrew and enemy followed for 1400 yds. This confirms earlier reports that the enemy's intention is not so much to observe as to stop observation by attempting to trap our patrols.

(b) Shelling - Shelling today was very much below normal with only seven shells falling on the area. The enemy was seen to fire on a 700 yds line from practically due North and South in sq 873299 (probably DF registration)

(c) Enemy movement - At 1245 hrs Op reported 40 vehs in area 86853039. These were engaged by our arty and one veh was seen to be burning.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:-- At 1020 hrs three ME 109s flew over Bn area from East to West flying at HL.
4. ENEMY FIREWORKS:-- At 0545 hrs 1 RED flare was seen at approx 900 yds fwd of trig 33. At 0550 hrs 1 RED 1 WHITE same area, and at 0555 hrs 1 GREEN also same area. Immediately on 1 RED being fired the enemy opened fire on trig 33 area with mortar fire.

SECTION "C" OWN TPS

Patrols (i) No mines were encountered by patrol. At 87332990 single telegraph pole. At 87312990 4 derelict MT. Thick cable crossed at 87222990, cable running North and South. At 87182990 patrol was forced to ground by 5 illuminating flares fired from 87152990. One enemy working party heard approx 87182988 and MT movement along way behind enemy lines. Patrol moved fwd another 150 yds where enemy patrol (strength 12) was heard at 150 yds North (87182992). Appeared to patrol that enemy was moving behind them. Patrol withdrew 500 yds and waited for 30 mins but no sign of enemy. Patrol returned without further incident.

(ii) NMS and NTR. Patrol comd remarks that this was amazingly quiet night for the sector. (i.e. West 2E sector).

(iii) At 87262996 several old slit trenches found unoccupied. At 87222996 a well marked track running on a bearing of 340 deg was crossed. A hy four strand cable ran along the track. This was cut and sample brought in for inspection.

At 87182996 movement of track vehs to immediate front was heard at 87132996 single danner was found. This wire ran on bearings of 315 degs and 180 degs from point of contact. Voices were heard coming from approx area 87122996.

Engrs searched 70 yds to West for mines and a similar distance to East without result.

Flares went up at 87112996 and in that area three vehs were seen, probable one tk and two trucks.

Patrol moved South 200 yds and a further unsuccessful search was made fwd to locate wire. At 100 yds South patrol comd moved West 100 yds and saw enemy working party at 87112994 apparently digging a gun posn. A further working party was seen at 87112993 with seven vehs in the vicinity.

On return journey on reaching 87202995 a small electric generator was seen but this proved to be too heavy to carry and had to be left.

6. SALVAGE:- Night 2/3 Oct - 2 hy ITALIAN trucks from CUTTING area.
Night 4/5 Oct - Area 87402985
(a) MMG Dial Sight
(b) Kittyhawk Propellor (damaged)
(c) Quantity MMG Belts (empty)
(d) Three boxes MMG Belts (filled)
(e) Quantity .5 MMG Amm

K. King Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

GENERAL OPS

(Based on infm from Div Summary No 317 dated 4 Oct 42)

1. GENERAL:- Patrols report a slight increase in enemy patrol activity. Several parties of enemy were seen fwd of their wire during the night of up to 20 strong but in no case were they far from their FDL. One patrol was fired on by the enemy and was forced to split up to get away.

Tac R today reports general area South of RUWEISAT Ridge to the Northern edge of QUATTARA Depression to have received heavy rain and that sheets of water are lying in many areas.

2. AIR OPS:-

Night 30 Sep/1 Oct Hurricanes patrolled uneventfully BURG EL ARAB/ ALA'EIN. Maintaining attack on TOBRUK, Wellingtons claim one hit, two near misses on ships in harbour two fires dock area.

1 Oct enemy air activity included in addition F patrols battle area 3 Fighter - Bomber attacks Southern sector and ineffective attack by 2 Fighter - Bombers ALEXANDRIA harbour area.

Kittyhawk reported missing from ops 1740-1855 30 Sep, now returned undamaged.

An unidentified aircraft was seen to crash at 1050 hrs today well behind the enemy lines on a bearing of 230 degs from 87642934.

3. ENEMY METHODS:- An OP tower was observed at 870291, this was reported as a mob tower mounted on a truck which moved frequently.

SECRET

Copy No
6 Oct 42

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 43
Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 6 Oct 42
Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS:- Our arty carried out a successful shoot on enemy MT in area 871300 and one veh was seen on fire. Poor visibility rendered observation of enemy movement practically impossible.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:-

(a) Shelling Shelling today was on a much decreased scale with 15 shells falling on the Bn area for the last 24 hrs. Of the 15 shells reported 3 were airburst and 2 were duds.

C Coy PIMPLE Area 9 shells
B Coy CUTTING Area 6 shells

(b) Enemy movement At 0725 hrs 26 men were observed at 87252975 enclosed in very hy wired area. This movement went on for a very short period indicating diggings. At the same time 2 men were seen moving on the WEST slope of WEST 23.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:- At 0915 hrs a twin engined recce plane flew over the Bn area flying from WEST to EAST.

SECTION "C" OWN TFS

4. Patrols:-

(i) At 87372987 old track running North and South with six unused slit trenches. 87352987 another track running North and South. At 87322987 struck a telegraph line and another track. At 87262987 a track in dead ground. Track appeared to have been used since the rain and before the patrol arrived. Working party heard in vicinity 87212979 from this pt. At 87182987, working party at 87212979 could still be heard and another at 87152987. Patrol could hear wire being dragged and pickets being driven in. Engrs in view of their instns decided not to further fwd. Patrol turned South and 87212983 another working party was heard at 87212982. Patrol returned to SP. At 87302983 patrol found reel of hy rubber covered cable running North and South.

W. Reid Capt 1st Lt
TO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B. KING)

GENERAL OPS

(Based on infm received from Div Int Sum No 318)

1. GROUND OPS:- Our arty carried out two successful shoots during the period, one on 40 MT seen in area 868303 and one on enemy posns on CLOVER LEAF. One veh was left burning from first mentioned shoot and a direct hit on a MG post was observed during the second. Arty also fired at enemy working parties observed on SE end MITERIYA ridge. The working parties were too well dispersed to be a good arty target and they continued the work when the rounds were not landing in their immediate vicinity. A further enemy veh was set on fire this morning in the Northern sector.

Flanking formation arty also had success with their shooting causing a fire thought to be in a pet dump and the engagement on a number of MT resulted in an explosion. Two ARBs were seen to be later operating in the area.

2. AIR OPS:- Night 1/2 Oct. The following attacks by Bostons on HANEIS LGs one large 4 small fires burning in aircraft dispersal area, enemy now known to be employing decoy fires in LG area. Hurricanes patrolled uneventfully ALAMEIN area and strafed MT dispersed off rd DABA area scoring hits.

2 Oct. During morning fighters engaged two formations enemy fighters battle area destroying 1 ME109, 1 MC202 without loss while 1 JU88 returning from recce DELTA area shot down into ARABS GULF. Late in central sector 1 ME109 destroyed and 1 probable following combat with 30 enemy fighters at expense of 1 Kittyhawk damaged. In course low level patrol EL AMGHRA area designed to counter enemy fighter bombers 4 ME109s attacked following bombing resulting 2 ME109s destroyed without loss. Early Strat R located 2 east bound trains on enemy L of C L R. Spitfires later made 6 attacks on one train inflicting considerable damage on engine east of BERSHEIBA. Blisleys of 201 Gp failed to locate second train but bombed locomotive and 2 tk cars near MISHHEIFA without observed results.

Enemy offensive air ops on increased scale mainly in morning when 9 Stukas and six sm all formations fighters-bombers operated battle area.

3. ENEMY METHODS:- Patrols have frequently reported enemy patrolling between CLOVER LEAF 874303 and HGG features 875303 sometimes fwd and sometimes behind his wire. This particular gap is known to be thinly held and he apparently depends on patrols to prevent infiltration.

2/48 Aust Inf Bn INT SUMMARY NO 44

Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 7 Oct 42

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS:- Poor visibility rendered observation of enemy movement practically impossible. Our arty engaged 6 plus men in area 87143010 at 0845 hrs. Men ran 100 yds WEST and disappeared.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:-
 - (a) Shelling Shelling today was normal with 51 shells falling in the Bn area for the last 24 hrs.

A Coy EAST 24 Area	12 shells
B Coy CUTTINF Area	35 shells
C Coy PIMPLE Area	4 shells

A total of 29 shells fell in CUTTING - EAST 24 area from 2115 hrs to 2215 hrs.

(b) Enemy movement:- 20 men were observed near what appeared to be a tent at 86843012 - probably an RAP. These were dispersed by gunfire.

12 men seen at first light at 87123006.
3 men at 87273027
6 plus men at 87143010 engaged by arty. They then ran West for 100 yds and disappeared
2 men at 87263015.
2 men at 87313024.
3 men at 87203013.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:- At 0715 hrs a twin engined recce plane flew over the Bn area from WEST to EAST.
4. ENEMY FIREWORKS:- One WHITE flare was observed to be fired from approx 87242973 at 2110 hrs. Patrol reports enemy put up GREEN-ORANGE flare. This signal was followed by Spandau fire from area North of ry line.

SECTION "B"

5. ENEMY WORKS:- 87112983: Strongpost surrounded by single dannert and trip wires also three weapon pits. 87102988 - weapon pits.

SECTION "C" OWN OPS.

6. PATROLS:- (i) No mines or wire encountered. At 87282993 a patrol of 10 men passed on patrol's right. At 87192993 sounds of digging heard on immediate front. Patrol turned South and proceeded for 400 yds. Sounds of digging could be heard all the time. Patrol Comd is of the opinion that there were two fairly large working parties operating in the area.
(ii) At 87373010 our arty at 2115 hrs (approx) opened up and fire fell opposite patrol on North side of ry. Patrol Comd considers arty was very short of enemy FDLs. At 87353013 our Mortars opened fire again level with patrol on North of ry and still short of enemy FDLs. At 87343013 hy ehemy gun was firing on bearing of 308 deg. Time between flash to report - 15 secs and to burst 29 secs. When patrol was at 87303011 enemy put up Green - Orange flare followed by Spandau fire North of ry line. At 87293006 sig wire running parallel to axis of adv. This line appeared to mark the Northern end of a minefd. Patrol could only locate three mines - two EP Mk II and one TELLER mine South of this sig wire.

(iii) Only one drum is now standing on Pt 17. At 87133003 by cable running North and South. At 87153001 long telegraph pole At 87152999 black cable running East and West. Ten yards further found two EP Mk II mines 20 ft apart. No other mines were located. Otherwise NMS.

(iv) Three German patrols were encountered at 2000-2250x out in areas 87292984, 87302986 and 87282985. Enemy patrols by whistling and rattling of tins? made an attempt to draw the fire of our patrol without success.

7. SALVAGE:-

Lee Enfield rifles	7	Italian rifles	1
Spare parts wallet, Bren	1	BSA Amm	1000 rds
BSA amm in belts	rds 500	German A Tk amm	50 rds
Lt Breda Gun parts			
Plus eqpt, bayonets, waterbottles, pouches, haversacks, steel helmets etc.			

BR King
Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

GENERAL OPS

(Based on infm received from 9 Aust Div Summary No 319)

1. GENERAL:- Further details are available on the recent activity in the MUNASSIB area:-

At last light 30 Sep the enemy counter attacked our forces holding the re-entrant (882263) on the Northern edge. The attack, made by about five coys, was beaten off by arty and small arms fire and enemy casualties are thought to have been numerous. Our arty continued to put down harassing fire during the night.

Our tps exerted no further pressure and have ensconced themselves on the line 88232637 - 88382601. On 2 Oct the enemy were found to have abandoned the 94-98 locality in sq 880264, though a German OP was reported at Pt 98.

To sum up, there have been no major reactions on the enemy's side to our attack on MUNASSIB.

2. AIR OPS:- Night 2/3 Oct. Hurricanes patrolled ALAMEIN area not sighting enemy aircraft but strafed MT southern sector.

3 Oct. Dust restricted ops to small number fighter sorties battle area, morning and late afternoon.

Spitfires damaged JU88 returning from recce DELTA area but EA escaped into clouds.

Very reduced enemy activity included small fighter patrols battle area and one reported attack by four lt bombers central sector.

A Stuka pilot commented on the number of casualties his unit suffered from AA fire. He stated that they have inadequate supply of new aircraft but insufficient pilots.

Recce of Div area has been carried out on each of the last three mornings by a Ju88 flying high out of range of Lt AA.

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY No 45

(Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 8 Oct 42)

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000Section "A" Operations Int

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS:- Limited visibility made observation difficult. Our arty engaged tps in the open at 86843012.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:-

(a) Shelling:- Shelling during the day was below normal with nine shells falling in the Bn area. At 0150 hrs the enemy brought down very heavy fire on our whole front. Most of the shells fell outside Pl areas and no damage was done.

A Coy - 3 shells
 B Coy - 150 shells in Coy area, 25% of which were du
 C Coy - 400 shells, majority of which fell outside B

(b) Enemy movement:-

2 men at 87162996
 6 men at 87283027
 4 men at 87193034
 Movement at 87083039. Arty engaged and tps ran for cover.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:- At 1330 hrs two Me109s approached our FDLs from the SW flying at 1,000 ft. These were engaged by small arms fire and EA veered off to the NW. Two unidentified enemy recce planes were observed at 1405 hrs to fly from Trig 33 to South, thence back to Trig 33 and South again. These aircraft then travelled in a westerly direction.

Section "C" Own Ops

4. PATROLS:- (i) Patrol moved to 87182995 without incident. Here patrol lay up for 70 mins, but nothing was seen or heard. Hy rubber cable in front of West 24 (previously reported) was checked and found to be a disused cable. Patrol returned to West 24 and enemy arty barrage commenced. No gun flashes could be pin-spotted as guns opened all along the whole front. Patrol Comd's opinion was that enemy patrol movement was purposely cut down owing to arty shoot.
 - (ii) From 87383007 to 87343009 old unused diggings. At 87323011 enemy working party heard clearly North of ry line driving in pickets and digging; sounded in area 87353015. At 87273014 patrol lay up for one hour and recced on a radius of 150 yds. There was no sign of any enemy and it was definitely established that the suspected post at 87273014 does not exist.
 - (iii) At 87323005 patrol struck enemy minefd, BP Mk II mines, pattern unknown. Not marked by wires - f'd running on a bearing of 80 deg. At 87213010 Spandau opened fire on patrol from bearing 250deg and unknown gun from bearing 360 deg.
 - (iv) A derelict tk with a hy sig cable leading from it back towards the enemy lines was located at 87242986. No phone was connected. At 87212989 TSMG was fired into the ground in order to draw fire, but no response was made. At 87192989 a number of empty mine crates were found together with two British Mk IV mines. No buried mines were located in spite of an exhaustive search. At 87182990 which was a suspected LP a number of shallow deserted weapon pits were found. These had NOT been in recent occupation. The patrol continued to 87152992 without incident without locating wire or mines and NMH or S in that area. Some tk tracks were seen. These had probably been made previous to rain. While at 87212989 our planes flew over and dropped flares and bombs. The patrol comd took the opportunity to search his front with the aid of binoculars but could NOT locate enemy wire or posns.

5. SALVAGE:-

- 5 Cases BSA amm
- 2000 rounds BREDA amm
- 1 Box Spandau amm
- 1 Breda mounting
- 1 set Springs (MG)
- 7 sets Basic pouches
- $\frac{3}{4}$ bag empty cartridge cases
- 1 Cable drum
- 4 Respirators
- 3 Steel helmets
- 8 Bayonets and scabbards
- 7 sets Equipment complete
- 6 Mess tins
- 3 25 pr amm cases

B R King Lieut
 IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
 (B R KING)

GENERAL OPS

(Based on infm received from Div Summary No 320)

1. AIR OPS:- Air activity during the period seems to have been mainly initiated by us, though there were some enemy rocces of the Div area and at last light a Ju88 flew very low over our posns and was last seen making out to sea smoking slightly.
2. ENEMY METHODS:- Two things brought out by patrols are worthy of comment:-
 - (a) Appearance of warning sigs on onemy wire in the form of bells probably made from brass shell cases.
 - (b) Repeated reports of enemy attempts to attract patrols attention by unnecessarily loud talking, whistling and rattling of tins and tools. While this is going on onemy patrols attempt to outflank our patrols. In the absence of enemy patrols these decoy noises have been almost invariably followed by hy fire from the area of the sounds.

SECRET

Copy No 20
9 Oct 42

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY No 46
(Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 9 Oct 42)

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

Section "A" Operations Int

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS:- Poor visibility rendered observation of movement practically impossible. Our Mortars carried out HF shoot on WEST Pt 23 night 8/9 Oct.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:-
 - (a) Shelling - Shelling in the Bn area for the period under review was NIL. 17 shells fell in area between Pt 17 (872300) and WEST 24.
 - (b) Enemy movement - 87333027 to 87253025 enemy movement
87348024 - four men moving around derelict truck.
87253025 - five men and diggings
87123010 - one man moving around buildings
Between 0810 hrs and 1310 hrs SIX MT moved NE and FOUR MT moved SW along rd in sq 870301. At 1625 TWO MT around buildings at 87123010

Section "C" Own Ops

Tests have been carried out with SPIGOT Mortar and the following results were obtained:-

A TK BOMB:- (a) Against side armour of GERMAN Mk III Tk - The bomb struck on the side plate just below turret. The plate approx 7 feet by 10 inches was lifted off, exposing the interior. The corresponding plate on the opposite side was partly damaged - approx one-third of welding being split.

(b) Front armour:- the bomb struck the main lower armour (55mm) blowing a hole approx 5" diameter and chamfering large flakes off the inside to a distance of 12", also damaging the gear box. A bomb directed at the front armour of the turret was low and struck the same point as the first bomb, thus destroying evidence of the first hit.

These shoots were carried out from a range of 150 yds.

HE BOMB:- These were fired on to an open patch of ground, TWO bombs landing on a stony surface and TWO in sand. In each case only a shallow crater was made. The tail-piece and nose-cap remained in the crater with only a few fragments; these pieces were examples of good fragmentation.

4. PATROLS:- Report on Engineer patrol night 8/9 Oct is not yet to hand. Covering Patrol of 1 Offr and 15 ORs for Mortar shoot met with no incident.

Enemy working party at 87222980. Two man post with LMG at 87202983. Patrol Comd moved between these two pts to 50x further on and located enemy FDLs at 87182980. Because of Bn Mortar shoot enemy was very alert and kept firing flares. These were in a U shape continuously lit up the front. No wire was located to the front and the only mines located were in the known floating fd at 87442987. Near LMG post at 87202983 many shallow weapon pits were located freshly dug.

5. Night 8/9 Oct Mortar Pl carried out HF shoot on known enemy posn at West Pt 23. Mortar posns were sighted by day at approx 87422976. These posns were well fwd of our FDLs and Mortars and amm were carried on vehs 1500 yds from our FDLs. For remaining 950 yds Mortars and

amm were manhandled assisted by carrying parties from coys. The operation went according to plan and all parties were behind our EDIs by 2330 hrs. The effect of the shoot could not be accurately gauged but the enemy put up numerous illuminating flares for some considerable time after the shoot. MG fire was directed at Mortar posns but enemy were obviously firing at the flash and the fire went above the heads of our tps.

B. R. King
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

GENERAL OPS

AIR OPS: Day 4 Oct - Bad weather governing factor in days activities. Our fighters made a small number sorties over battle area without incident. Morning Tac R reported wet ground conditions central sector west of bomb line. Strat R of enemy L of C revealed no targets rd or rail. Enemy air activity included Stuka attack by 10 aircraft midmorning in southern sector, 3 small fighter bomber attacks battle area and few fighter patrols.

Night 4/5 Oct. Hurricanes patrolled Battle area and west to PUKA not sighting enemy aircraft and strafing GHAZAL Sta and MI battle area.

5 Oct. Fighter ops on reduced scale and confined to escorted Tac R. small number patrols battle area and attack by Hurricane IID southern sector. On latter operation direct hits observed on 2 semi tracked vehs. PRU aircraft reported very wet ground conditions west of bomb line probably accounting for very reduced scale of enemy air activity. Beaufighters harassing enemy L of C damaged gp of 5 MT BARDIA area.

An unidentified aircraft dropped 8-10 bombs in area 888294 without effect at 0605 hrs this morning.

ENEMY METHODS:-

(i) In the recent op in the MUNASSIB Depression, an improvised wooden mine was encountered; it consisted of a shallow box about one foot square, which contained nine 1 lb slabs of GC (ours); a wooden lid, loosely att. to the box by wire, rested on a pressure igniter which detonated the mine when pressure was put on the lid. The mine was thus both anti-personnel and a tk in effect; mines of similar type were encountered in the ABYSSINIAN campaign.

The merit of the mine is that it does not react to a mine detector having no metal parts; this characteristic was vitiated in the event by the fact that little attempt at concealment has been made, and each mine was located by the mound of "spoil" beside it.

(ii) Warning devices: During the raid on Pt 62, night 5/6 Oct, a triple dannerf fence was found surrounding the enemy posts at a distance of 150 yds. On this fence were booby traps which gave warning of the approach of our patrols. Few details are available but it appears that the explosions caused by these traps were not very great. Pt 62 is believed to be occupied by Germans and it is possible that the traps consist of German "egg" hand grenades with the screw caps removed and the igniter strings tied to the wire fence. This type of booby trap was found at SOLLUM in Jan 42 where a derelict veh which would have afforded good cover for attacking tps had at least 20 such grenades tied to it. The German "egg" grenade relies on blast for its effect and is comparable to the Italian red hand grenade.

2/48 AUSTRALIAN INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 47
(Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 10 Oct 42)

Ref Map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" OPERATION INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS: Over period of last three days enemy activity on our front has been on a very restricted scale during hrs of daylight. Movement observed is from 0700 hrs to 1000 hrs and 1700 hrs to 1800 hrs. These reports confirm that enemy remains underground by day and moves mainly by night. HF was brought down on area 871298 & 871299. MT movement on SKYLINE track was normal.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:

(a) Shelling. Shelling for period under review was below normal with 6 shells in area. These all fell in PIMPLE area.

(b) Enemy movement.

87083039 - 20 men and diggings.
87303024 - 2 men and truck in veh pit.
87262973 - 6 men moving around singly between 0630 - 0650 hrs
87123025 - 1 man.
87103020 - 3 men approached from SE and disappeared here.

SECTION "B" OWN OPS

3. PATROLS: At 87263013 solitary Mk IV BP Mine. At 87233014 patrol went to ground and a recce was made on a 300 yd radius. Patrol stayed here for 45 mins but nothing was located. Enemy working party was heard NW of ry line. 2/23 Bn Mortar Shoot commenced but did not interrupt working party. At 87293018 German cable (red bakelite covering) was found running NORTH and SOUTH. Line was cut. At 87313016 (approx) a large Pimple with U/S MG on it. Also at Pimple was a well with water in it. Note - it is apparent that the enemy's defences are at least 400 to 500 yds further WEST than 87233014. At 87132994 enemy minefd was contacted and patrol comd investigated thoroughly. Tabulated infm is as follows:-
(i) No defensive wiring was encountered. It may have been further in but was not visible.
(ii) The minefd consist of GS Mk IV mines and 4 definite rows were established.
(iii) Distance between mines and rows was difficult since mines were all buried but rain had caused clay around mines to crack and patrol comd formed opinion the fd was very staggered, and those that were located varied from 4 to 15 yds apart with 8 to 12 yds between rows.
(iv) Fd at the point runs NORTH and SOUTH. Patrol comd investigated 50 yds on right and left.
(v) Fd is not marked on our side by wire but on the enemy's side is marked with single dannert wire held in place by large stones. Dannert appears to follow closely the edge of the minefd.
(vi) Minefd and wire is not booby-trapped.
(vii) Three yds in from the minefd wire there is a single row of booby traps on one foot angle iron pickets. Type of mine ITALIAN Mk IV (Cotton-reel type). Three trip wires were att, one left, one right and one towards the minefd. Booby traps were regularly spaced at 12 yds apart.
(viii) Enemy posts: At 87132984 there appeared to be two posts inside the wire, each about 150 - 200 yds NORTH and SOUTH respectively. Voices were heard and one man was seen. Footsteps were also heard. and closest mine to wire was two yds.

Over

Enemy minefd was located at 87242981, bearing 200 deg; direction pattern; mines laid 5 apart; fd of 5 rows 50x deep; those observed were NOT booby trapped; type British Mk IV and were dug in flush with the ground. At approx 87232981 single dannert wire found, a trip wire was discovered at 8721629760. A 25 yd gap at 8722029775 and also a 18 yd taped gap at 9721629780. During this inspection a number of unoccupied weapon pits were inspected. These contained copies of German newspapers and showed signs of fairly recent occupation. Derelict Bren Carriers were discovered at 8725129763 one of which was number T49038 and contained two dead bodies. At this point recce party was fired on by MG from 8722329759.

4. SALVAGE:

1 Wire Towing Cable	1 CAS sand tyre & wheel
6 Water drums	2 Rifles ITALIAN
15 Water Bottles	10 water bottle carriers
4 Bayonets	10 Scabbards
17 Haversacks	15 Haversack straps
30 Basic Pouches	25 Supporting straps
1 Steel Helmet	1 Breda barrel
1 A Tk Rifle	300 rds SAA (damaged)
2 Frogs	2 Dixies
4 Amm cases	2 Haversacks (Respirator)
1 Webb Gaiter	1 Bayonet ITALIAN
2 Rifles SMLE (Incomplete)	4 Pouches utility
1 Bren cleaning rod	1 Shovel CS.

B R King Lieut
 IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
 (B R KING)

GENERAL OPS

ENEMY METHODS:

Patrol reports mines in enemy fd linked with heavy cable which runs back to enemy posn. This may have some connection with the "observation mines" stated by German PW from West Pt 23 to be laid fwd of his posn.

It is thought that these mines would be fired electrically when enemy is seen in the vicinity of the fd.

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 48
 (Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 11 Oct 42)

Ref Map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" OPERATION INT

1. GENERAL: The enemy shelling on our posns has been on a reduced scale and CB office advise that the enemy is replying to our destructive shoot on 9 Oct 42. Shelling has been limited to a few rounds from single guns. The destructive shoots were carried out by our med arty against 9 DP guns each of which received about 36 rounds. CB office also reports the use of 75 mm mountain guns in the northern sector. Most probably situated North of 303 northing. Our arty has been active in RUWEISAT Ridge area and an effective shoot on Pt 62 is reported.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:
 - (a) Movement - at 1145 hrs 3 tks were observed in area 867299 moving North along SKYLINE TRACK towards the MOSQUE. Our arty engaged target but tks continued to move North. Inf - 50 men, well dispersed over a front of 800 to 900 yds, were observed in area 868301 at 1825 hrs. Owing to bad visibility and wide dispersion our arty did not engage.
 - (b) Shelling - Shelling on Bn area was very light for period under review, a total of 5 shells all falling in left fwd coy area.
3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY: At 1604 hrs 7 ME 109s and one Dornier 17 flew from West to East along ry line at height of 300 ft. Our AA together with small arms fire engaged, but EA turned and flew South over Pimple still flying very low.

SECTION "C" OWN OPS

4. PATROLS:

At 87293011 patrol passed North of a well. Patrol continued on the same bearing, encountering a small mound (natural) at 87273012 surmounted with what appeared to be an aiming mark, consisting of a number of scrub sticks tied together and standing upright for a height of approx 5 ft. Patrol Comd continued to 87223013 and moved to either flank for a distance of 100 yds - no trace of wire or minefd was found. Patrol proceeded to 87293017 - NTR. At 87343013, solitary British GS Mk IV mine. Remainder of leg - NTR.

At 87222993, telephone post and wire on ground; also old unused diggings were encountered in this area. At 87152992 patrol encountered North-South Rd. Rd had not been used recently. Rubber cable, $\frac{3}{4}$ " running West side of rd. When patrol was at 87112992 voices unidentified were faintly heard from North and South of the patrol. Patrol halted at 87082991. Two sprs with patrol made recce fwd and to flanks for distance of 100 yds; no mines or wire were found. Patrol then withdrew. At 87002998 a mine detonated.

5. SALVAGE:

1 US Salvage Float	2 Respirators
2 Mauser Rifles	2 Batteries
2 Italian Rifles	1 Steel Helmet

W. R. Red
 IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Att Appendix "A"

GENERAL OPS

(Based on info received from Div Summary No 323)

AIR OPS:

Night 5/6 Oct. Halifax and Wellington aircraft resumed attacks on TOBRUCH reporting one fire harbour area.

6 Oct. Early recce revealed all enemy fwd F LGs unserviceable owing to rain and evacuated by enemy air forces except for small number unserviceable aircraft. Taking full advantage of these circumstances commencing early afternoon and continuing till dusk, F Bs and Fs attacked MT and camps northern, southern and coastal sectors and ry and LG at DABA. Results by low level strafing alone 20/30 MT set on fire but one Hurricane destroyed by hitting ground, pilot killed. Bombing resulted 3 fires and numerous misses in MT target areas and one direct^{near} hit on ry track near GALAL and near misses on 2 JU 88s on LG 104. Total fighter sorties 148. Lt Bs attacked pet dump east of DABA starting one fire. On outward journey 3 Baltimores hit by AA over SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN two of which regained our lines. One crashed in minefd killing all crew, other crash landed safely with 3 of crew safe. Third aircraft crash landed no-mans-land and one member of crew brought in by our land forces after they had put out smoke screen to cover op. Our aircraft report intense AA all areas but all these ops unhindered by enemy Fs. Enemy air activity restricted to recce of battle area, F - B attack central sector and very few F patrols all late afternoon. Beaufighters attacked gp of 6 seaplanes in BOMRA alighting area not observing results.

Night 7/8 Oct. Hurricanes patrolled DABA area not sighting enemy aircraft. Wellingtons bombed TOBRUCH starting 2 fires harbour area. Halifaxes attacked jetties SUDA BAY without observing results.

8 Oct. Hurricanes early carried out low level strafing attack on MT TAQA Plateau area. Results 1 arm'd C hit and MT seen to be hit. 2 aircraft missing. Weather our LG area later deteriorated preventing ops until late afternoon. Spitfires again patrolled ALEXANDRIA - HAMMAM but did not sight enemy aircraft reported in area. Early recce by our Fs indicated enemy fwd F LGs DABA area probably still unserviceable. Ground reports indicate very reduced enemy air activity consisting of few small F patrols.

4 ME 109s dropped six bombs on area 881294 without doing damage. Bombing of LGs by medium Bs on 9 Oct is reported to have been very successful and F escorts destroyed up to 20 enemy aircraft in combat or by ground strafing for the loss of 5 of our Fs.

SECRET

Copy No 1
12 Oct 42

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY No 49
(Based on info received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 12 Oct)
Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50000

Section "A" Operations Int

1. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:- OPs report much activity in sq 872302, 872303. Our arty brought down fire in these areas and at 87223033 one body was seen to be carried from under a camflg net to a nearby veh and driven off. More movement of enemy AFVs was reported, 3 tks observed in area 866296 at 1015 hrs were engaged by arty.

(a) Shelling:- Shelling for period under review was below normal, a total of 22 shells falling in Bn area. These were distributed as follows:-

EAST 24 area	6 shells
CUTTING area	12 shells
PIMPLE area	4 shells-incl 2 airbursts.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS:-
87173017 - single row dannert running EAST and WEST
87162993 - single row dannert
872303 - diggings
87323022 - suspect dug in tk with turret showing.

Section "G" Own Ops

3. PATROLS:-

(i) At 87283013 working party heard to the North across my line. At 87203016 w/party heard 300-400 yds to the NW. At 87173017 struck enemy wire which consisted of single row dannert running on bearing of 90 and 270 deg. Patrol did not investigate to the West but proceeded along wire on bearing of 80-90 deg. Wire was penetrated in 2 places and at 50 yds from wire minefd consisting of GS MkIV mines was located. Distance between mines and rows - 5 yds. Mines were flush to the ground but not covered. 4 were examined and found to have the sheer pin removed. Patrol did not penetrate further than two rows but minefd appeared to be regular pattern. A further single wire fence 2'6" could be seen 50 yds away and behind it a further cattle fence. Outside dannert had kerosene tins painted a dark color placed at irregular intervals inside the coils. Thought by patrol comd to be warning sigs. At 87223018 noise of w/party heard inside second fence. No voices were heard. Party sounded to be handling boxes of mines. At 87253018 dannert swung away to the NW. Patrol continued to 87283019 when another enemy party was heard moving about in the direction of his wire. Again there was no talking. Note - possibly one of the enemy's wire patrols. Patrol returned to SP without incident. Note: Enemy did not appear to be very alert.

(ii) At 87162993 patrol encountered one row dannert wire. Movement could be heard from inside wire, as well as coughing. No mines could be located outside or inside the wire. Wire at this pt ran over the crest of a small hillock and patrol comd and engr investigated three very shallow sangers. In opinion of patrol comd they could not be used owing to the fact of their being on a fwd slope and too exposed. 1 B4 Italian booby trap was found between the sangers. Booby trap was on 2ft stake and 3 trip wires 4ft long - 1 to the right, 1 left and 1 towards the dannert. 2 flares and then a further flare and a rifle shot were fired from 87142992. At pt of contact wire ran on bearing 310 deg for approx 100 yds then bearing 360 deg for approx 100 yds, then appeared to go West for some distance. Patrol comd is of the opinion that this part of the line has no definite connection with minefd located on night 9/10 Oct and considers it more likely to be an outpost.

(iii) After leaving our FDLs patrol followed sig wire to OP at 87292994, thence to 87132990 where enemy minefd was found. The component parts of the field were encountered in the following order:-

- (a) 1 row of B4 Booby traps 15ft apart and mounted on short pickets with trip strings att to bushes. B4s were concealed in bushes.
- (b) Single dannert along a bearing of 350 deg. On enemy side of wire a circle of dannert was laid. B4 mines laid 15 to 20 yds apart were laid in all dannert with strings connected throughout.
- (c) Again booby traps were mounted on short pickets 9" above ground.
- (d) Although rows of earth heaps were found there were not any mines found.

On moving through the minefield a further 120 yds on the same bearing 2 enemy posts were located at about 50 yds further on, at one of which was a utility truck. Talking (German), singing and the playing of a mouthorgan was quite distinct. Patrol comd does not think there could have been any lure intended as there were not any signs of patrols etc. Patrol moved back outside of wire and halted for half an hour. During this period 3 men were seen patrolling inside wire. Patrol was unable to remain any longer and returned without incident.

4. SALVAGE:- 170 rds 47mm AP HE; 40 boxes BREDA amm; 16 boxes FIAT amm; 13 boxes 20mm; 3 Italian rifles; 7 mags 20mm BREDA; 1 damaged Lt BREDA; 1 spare barrel Lt BREDA; 1 belt FIAT amm; 2 x 2 gall water containers; 21 Italian Waterbottles and dixies - mixed.

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Lieut
10 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

GENERAL OPS.

(Based on info received from Div Sum No 324)

1. AIR OPS:-

During the month of Sep a Beaufighter sqn carried out 90 sorties totalling 326 flying hrs. During this period the following casualties were caused among EA:- 3 He111, 1 Ju88, 1 Sm81, 1 Fiesler Storch, 1 Me202 - destroyed. 1 Ju87 probably destroyed. 3 Ju87s damaged. 1 Cr42 damaged on ground.

During the course of rd strafing ops along the enemy's L of C a total of 150 vehs have been attacked, 9 of which have been completely destroyed by fire or explosion and most of the others have been damaged. In addition many casualties have been caused among enemy tps in vehs attacked, in roadside camps or among rd repairing gangs. The sqn have suffered no casualties among either aircraft or airmen during this period.

Photographic cover of DABA LGs established presence of EA grounded on rain sodden but drying aerodromes. Plan evolved at short notice to maintain by continuous bombing attacks on aircraft on LGs throughout day supported at selected intervals by low flying F attacks was most successful. Early attacks obtained measure of surprise and later attacks benefited from cumulative effect of sustained B effort by Bostons, Baltinores and B 25 Mitchells.

Photographic results of bombing not yet available but visual reports show 4 direct hits on aircraft, 7 near misses and number of fires and explosions in dispersal areas. 1 Baltimore missing and several damaged by intense AA fire. Low flying attacks by Fs destroyed 1 Me110, 1 Ju52, 3 Me109s, 2 Fiesler Storch, 1 HS 126 and damaged 1 He111, 10 Me109s, 2 Ju88s, 1 Ju87 and 4 single engine aircraft on ground. Escorting and covering F force which included USAAF destroyed 10 Me109s with 5 Me109s probable and 2 Me109s, 4 Me202 damaged in air combats. Total of 11 of our Fs missing from days ops. Highlight of days ops was initial synchronised attack on 2 LGs with Bs and low flying Fs with total 183 aircraft. One F missing from this sortie after attempted interception by enemy Fs operating from FUKA and following intense low strafing of aerodromes. Total F sorties 401, B sorties 160. EA activity consisted mainly of interception patrols by small numbers of German and Italian Fs DABA area. Our land forces report increased recce activity over battle area and 4 small F-B attacks southern and Central sectors. Early Strat R located train of 20 trucks moving East near MISCHEIFA. Bisleys and Beaufighters later bombed and strafed causing amm truck to blow up resulting in probable destruction of complete train.

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY No 50

(Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 13 Oct 42)

Ref Map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50000

Section "A" Operations Int1. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:-

- (a) Movement:- OPs report much movement in area BLOCKHOUSE 87073038. At 1000 hrs and between 1030 and 1130 hrs DRs were observed arriving and departing from this area. Continuous MT and some tk movement in area 867302 suggests a possible HQ or wkshops. Traffic on SKYLINE track was normal.
- (b) Shelling:- Shelling on Bn area was very light for last 24 hrs, a total of 13 shells was reported, 4 of which fell on WEST 24 feature. The remainder were distributed as follows -
A Coy EAST 24 area 6 shells (incl 1 dud)
B Coy CUTTING area 3 shells.

2. ENEMY DISPOSALS:-

- 87142988 - Sangar occupied.
87162986 - Fresh diggings.
87092994 - Minefd consisting of EP Mk II mines buried but uncovered by rain. Distance between mines 6 yds and 8 yds between rows. Bearing of fd - 5 degs.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:- At 1100 hrs an unidentified EA flew over Bn area from NW to SE.

Section "C" Own Ops

4. PATROLS:- (i) At 87242995 voices and hammering of pickets heard on right of patrol some distance away. At 87122995 crossed track running North and South with thick rubber cable. At 87132994 1 white flare from approx 87132993 followed by voices and coughing. Voices also heard NW of patrol. Voices now heard North and South of patrol at distance of 200 yds plus. At 87122994 voices and coughing heard immediate front as well as flanks. At 87102994 patrol halted and recce party went fwd to 87092994 where enemy minefd was encountered. Voices in front could be heard from 4 distinct places. Mines were EP MkII buried but had been uncovered by the rain, 6 yds between mines, 8 yds between rows. Bearing of fd 5 degs. Patrol Comd went fwd to count number of rows and reached third row when a voice shouted "Halt" from a distance of approx 100 yds to the front. Withdrew to edge of minefd and heard handling of weapons and men moving down minefd. Returned to patrol who had noticed 2 men walking to their rear. Patrol Comd decided to withdraw. Voices were again heard on their flanks. In patrol comd's opinion they were outposts fwd of the minefd, as once the minefd was struck the voices came from the front. No wire was encountered and none could be seen between patrol comd and enemy who called out "Halt".
- (ii) At 87183004 4 scattered EP MkII mines widely spread. No wire encountered. At 87063010 trip wire 6" to 8" high on short pickets running on a bearing of 144 deg. On investigation found GS MkV mines on our side of the wire. Mines did not appear to form a regular pattern and were irregularly spaced. Patrol searched for 150 yds and found 25 mines. No booby traps were encountered. Recce patrol went fwd and at 50 yds encountered another trip wire on same bearing as before (144 degs). Another 50 yds encountered a 4ft cattle fence with wire broken (1 strand only) - again on bearing of 144 degs. Further 60 yds 2 EP MkII mines partly buried. At this stage German voice heard a short distance to left and left rear. Further 75 yds found 5 empty EP Mine cases. Had just moved beyond this pt when enemy gp heard approaching. At this moment our arty HF to the North commenced and enemy was heard making for cover in great haste. Returned to first trip wire when remainder of patrol reported having heard considerable number of voices to the North as well. Note: By reason of the fact that there was movement North and South of the trip wire encountered and that a penetration of 200 yds was made without striking a minefd patrol comd is of the opinion that the MkV mines are his main fd at this pt.

(111) At 87202989 7 British Mk IV mines were seen. These were about 5 yds apart. At 97182989 a further 3 similar mines were seen. All these mines appeared old and dangerous to handle. A search of these failed to reveal any more mines. While at 87182989 intermittent picking could be heard to the front. This was afterwards thought to come from enemy post. At 87152987 single dannert on a bearing of 320 deg was found. Patrol Comd left patrol and reced fwd. 20 yds of wire and located single row of British MkV mines spaced about 5 yds apart, and a further 30 yds fwd located triple dannert also on bearing of 320 deg. 3 sentries were seen about 25 yds fwd of triple dannert about 75 yds to 100 yds apart. Three feet from the triple dannert on our side a B4 Italian Mine was found mounted on a short picket. Patrol comd brought back the flash-cap pin from this mine. Three flares, one of which did NOT ignite, were fired by the enemy while the patrol was in this area, and from these flares it was estimated that enemy posts were about 200 yds inside the wire. Voices heard in the area were definitely GERMAN.

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(B R KING)

GENERAL OPS

(Based on infm received from Div Summary No 325)

1. AIR OPS:- At 1745 hrs 4 unidentified planes dropped 20 bombs areas 442902 and 438899. No damage is reported. 5 cannisters of Butterfly Bombs were also dropped, many of which did not explode; two however exploded during the night without outside interference.

2. ENEMY METHODS:- It has been reported that a patrol heard a voice shout in URDU "I have been captured". No Indians are missing and it is considered it was a decoy. Similar tactics may be tried on other parts of the front.

2/48 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY No 51

(Based on infm received for 24 hrs ending 0600 hrs 14 Oct 42)

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.Section "A" Operations Int1. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:-

- (a) Shelling - Shelling in the Bn area was slight, a total of 30 shells being reported, including 12 on the area of WEST 24 feature. The remainder all fall in CUTTING area.
- (b) Movement - OPs report decrease in enemy movement for period under review. Our arty engaged tps seen in area 872302. At 0840 hrs ONE tk on salvage float was observed in sq 867298 moving North.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS:-

<u>Posts</u>	87203020
	87333024 - suspect
<u>Diggings</u>	87293019
	87273018
	87253033
<u>A Tk guns</u>	87213021

MT - Veh moved to 87023035, four men debussed in this area.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:- At 1030 hrs 1 Me 109 flew over CUTTING area from East to West smoking.Section "C" Own Ops

4. PATROLS:- (i) Patrol proceeded to Pt 17 without incident. At 87213003 fighting gp went to ground and further recce was made by patrol Comd and 2 ORs. At 87183003 patrol crossed telegraph line and track with thick cable running alongside. At 87163003 a metallic return sig cable was crossed. This cable was running North and South. Several old sangars and slit trenches were passed. These were invariably behind clumps of bushes, were unused and had caked dry mud on the bottom. At 0330 hrs a white verelight was fired from approx 87102997. At 0340 hrs when patrol was at 87093003 another verelight was fired at 87053003. Patrol at 87093003 observed 1 man walking on the right and to the rear of them at a distance of 400 yds. This man appeared to be making for 87123007 which appeared to be a bare knoll and voices of 3 men could be heard faintly coming from this knoll. No mines or wire had been encountered on route. On return a fire was observed in sq 873301 caused by arty fire. At 87213003 5 EP Mk II mines were found laid - 4 of these mines were in a row, but depth and distance could not be calculated. All mines had been in the ground a considerable time. Throughout the patrol the absence of MT, digging, firing of weapons was most noticeable. Visibility with fd glasses was good.

(ii) At 87223018 voices were heard and patrol took up posn but enemy were not observed. Patrol then moved to 87213019 where enemy wire was encountered - single dannert. Wire runs due East and West. Patrol followed wire for 300 yds to 87183019 where patrol took up posn. At 0030 hrs voices were heard ahead but no movement could be picked up. Patrol of impression that voices were of enemy patrol inside his main wire. Our arty HF was observed to fall North of ry line on enemy FDLs.

(iii) At 87132991 sounds of digging could be heard to the North and South of patrol. Patrol moved fwd to 87122991 where a large cairn of stones was encountered. 10 yds further along route a single row of dannert was located. Wire was unpegged. Patrol moved 75 yds North and 25 yds South of route. At 25 yds South of route wire went off to SW towards enemy lines. Voices were heard, also sounds of digging. Cigarettes were seen. Immediately to our front sound of rifle bolt was heard. It appeared that enemy activity was intended to draw patrol on and it is thought that recce portion of patrol was sighted. Patrol

then moved to 87122988 where single dannert was again struck and voices heard. Wire continued North on bearing 310 deg. Dannert was broken at 87122988 by a gap 5 yds wide, then single dannert ran from a junc in direction of South for one leg and SE for the other. From here a cough was heard close to patrol from NW and man was seen to move from one mound to another. Rifle bolts were again heard close in (approx 50 yds) to SW. Patrol withdrew 300 yds to 87122991. Patrol moved 100 yds South in towards enemy wire and was called on in German to halt from a pt 20 yds to SW - possibly a LP. Patrol then withdrew without incident. No minefids or booby traps contacted. Enemy was very alert.

(iv) At 87282982 the usual 4 strand HT cable was cut. This cable is joined by each length being plugged into the cable drums which are fitted for the purpose enabling the cable to be quickly lifted. At 87232983 many unoccupied sangars were found. At 87282983 the end of a new locking sig cable close to a sangar suggested a possible OP. The minefid was located at 87192983 but only 2 mines could be located on the way through. At 87172983 single dannert was located running on a bearing of 325 deg and was followed for a distance of 300 yds to 87162986. Immediately West sounds of digging, laughing and coughing disclosed the presence of a working party. At 87162986 the minefid was again found and consisted of two rows of Brit Mk IV mines 20 yds apart with 10 yds between rows carefull laid. The presence of empty det packages suggested that the mines were doted. At 87292983 two weapon pits well screened by camel brush and with sig wire running into one of them gave the impression of a possible OP.

5. SALVAGE:- 336 rds 47mm amm AP; 65 boxes FIAT amm; 33 boxes BREDA amm; 4 boxes 20mm amm; 1 SMLE Rifle; 6 Italian rifles; 1 towing chain; picks, shovels, and Italian eqpt.

W Reid Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

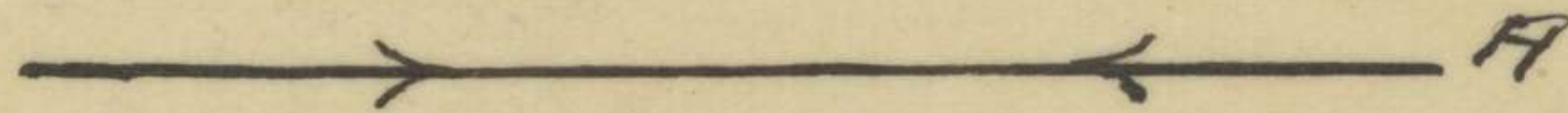
2'48 Bn Patrols Night 4-5 Oct 42.

Most Secret.

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50000.

376

300

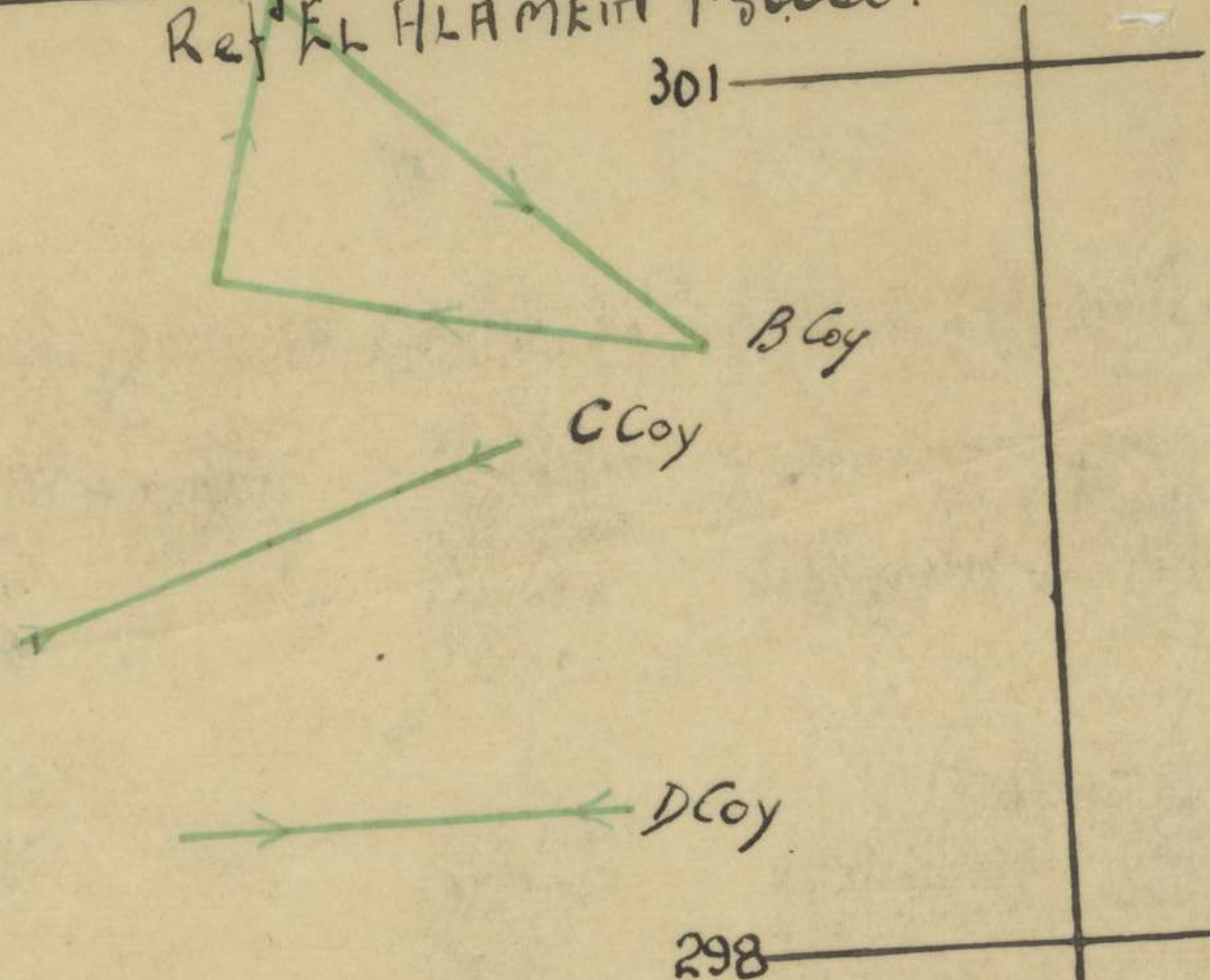


297

5 Oct 42. Int Sec
2'48 Bn

2'48 Bn Patrols Night 1-2 Oct 42.

Ref EL FLAMMINT 1-50000. 876



Int Sec
2'48 Bn.

To 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

SECRET
2/48 Aust Inf Bn

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 1/2 Oct 42 - Ref MAP EL ALAMEIN 1:50000

Serial	Coy	Strength	Out	In	Route	Remarks
1	D	1 Offr 1 Sgt 9 ORs Standing.	2015	0400	As per trace att	Driving of pickets heard on bearing of 200 deg from 87302985 Otherwise NTR.
2	C	1 Offr 10 ORs Lieut GREGORY Standing	1930	0340	As per trace att	Movement seen at 87312994 but nothing could be found on investigation. At 87292994 sounds again heard on right flank but investigation again showed nothing. Patrol lay up at 87252993. Here patrol was forced to ground by white illuminating flare on bearing of 255 deg which landed 500 yds in front of patrol. Illuminating flares were seen from this poen at following times and bearings:- 255 deg at 2140, 2145, 2200 2217, 2221, 0115 hrs; bearing 215 deg at 1945, 2230. Picking heard from approx 87152995. Voices heard from approx 87182991. Hy truck heard moving for 45 mins on bearing of 335 deg.
3	B	1 Offr 2 ORs 1 NCO Engrs Lieut BUTLER Recce	2105	0045	As per trace att	First leg NTR. Second leg to ry line. Voices heard coming from approx 87373014. At 87313017 patrol heard voices from approx 87293018. Ground between enemy and patrol was flat claypan and patrol stayed in posn 30 mins. A truck moved up to men and patrol estimates strength of 15 plus enemy in the area. Note: This is concluded to be an enemy post.

B R King Lieut
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(B R KING)

To 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 2/3 OCT 42

SECRET
2/48 Aust Inf Bn
3 Oct 42

REF MAP EL ALAMEIN 1:50000

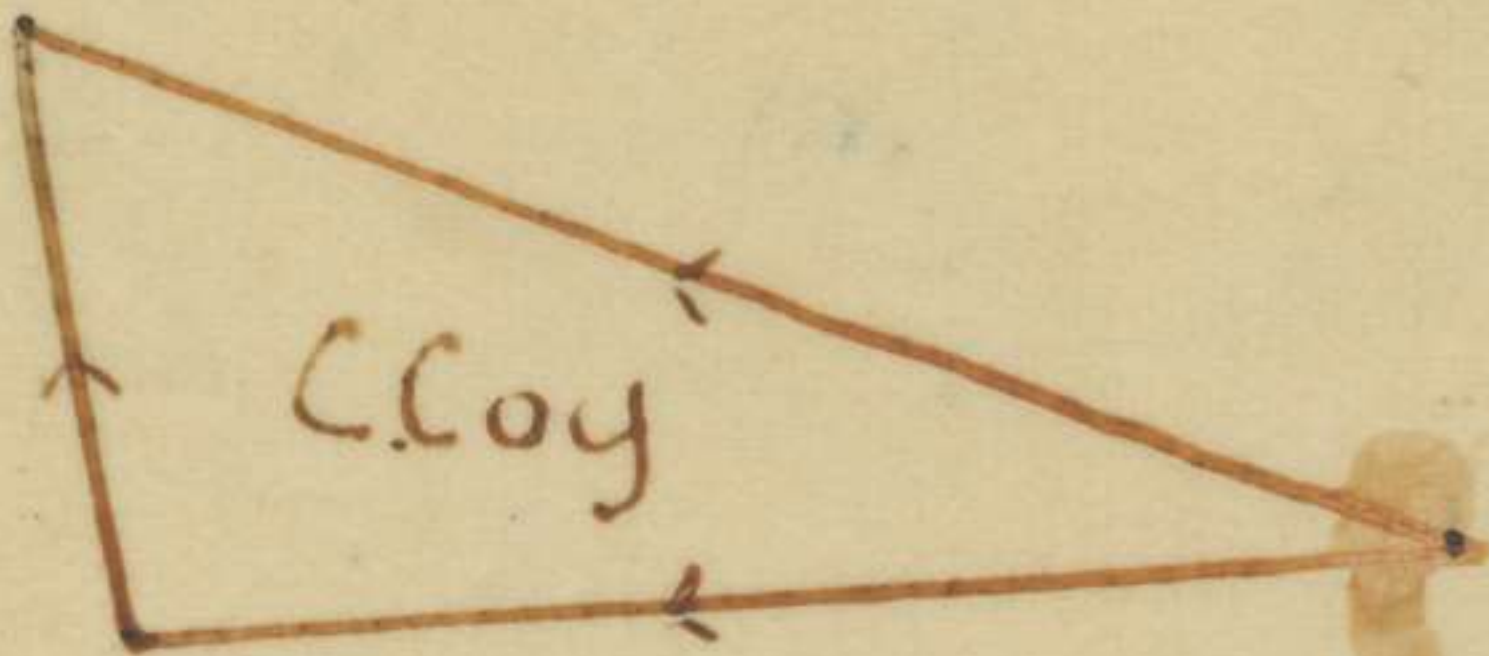
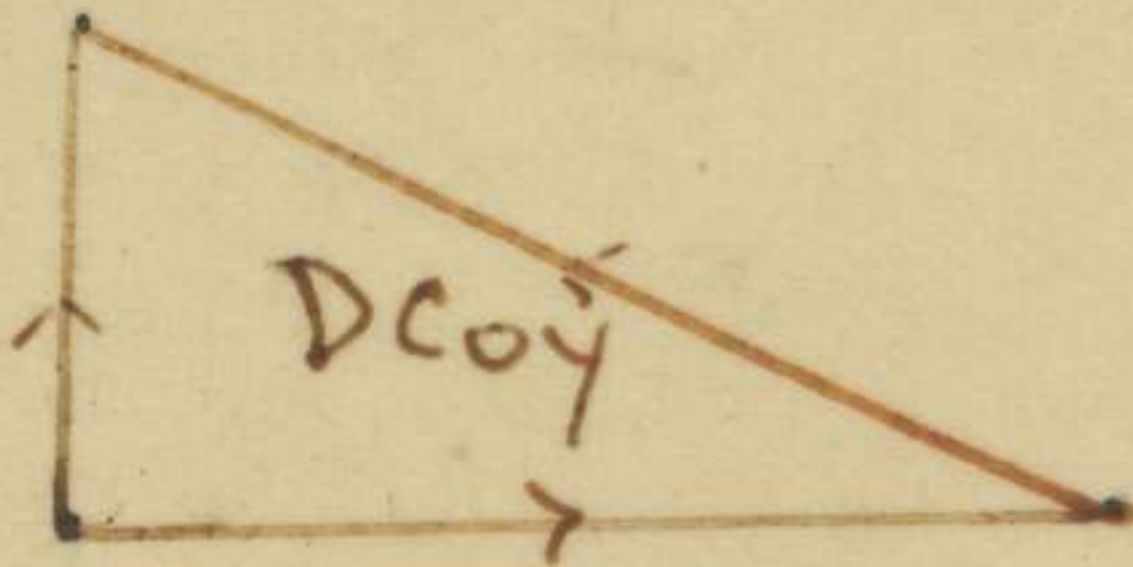
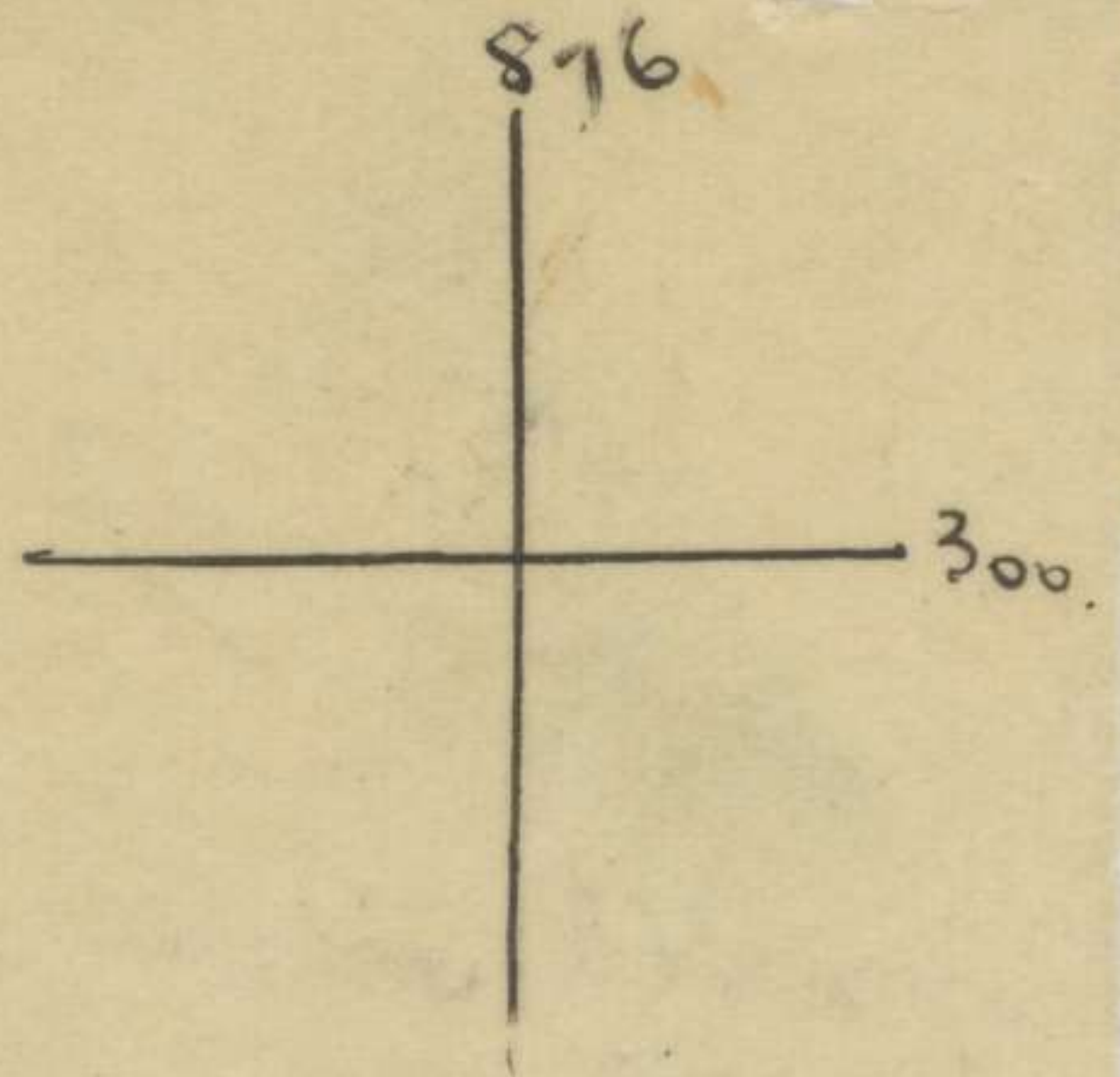
<u>Serial</u>	<u>Coy</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Out</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	D	1 Sgt 6 ORs Sgt BUCKLEY Recce	1930	0200	As per trace att	At 87312992 old slit trenches in one of which were 24 Mk IV and V mines (not recovered). At 87302993 two German burnt out vehs (tp carriers semi-tracked). At 87302987 carrier which had exploded on a mine; severe damage to track and bogies but otherwise seems alright. Otherwise NTR.
2	C	2 Offrs 6 ORs Lieut NICHOLAS Recce	1930	2355	As per trace att	Many sig wires crossed on first leg otherwise NTR or NMS.

B R King Lieut
IC 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

SECRET.

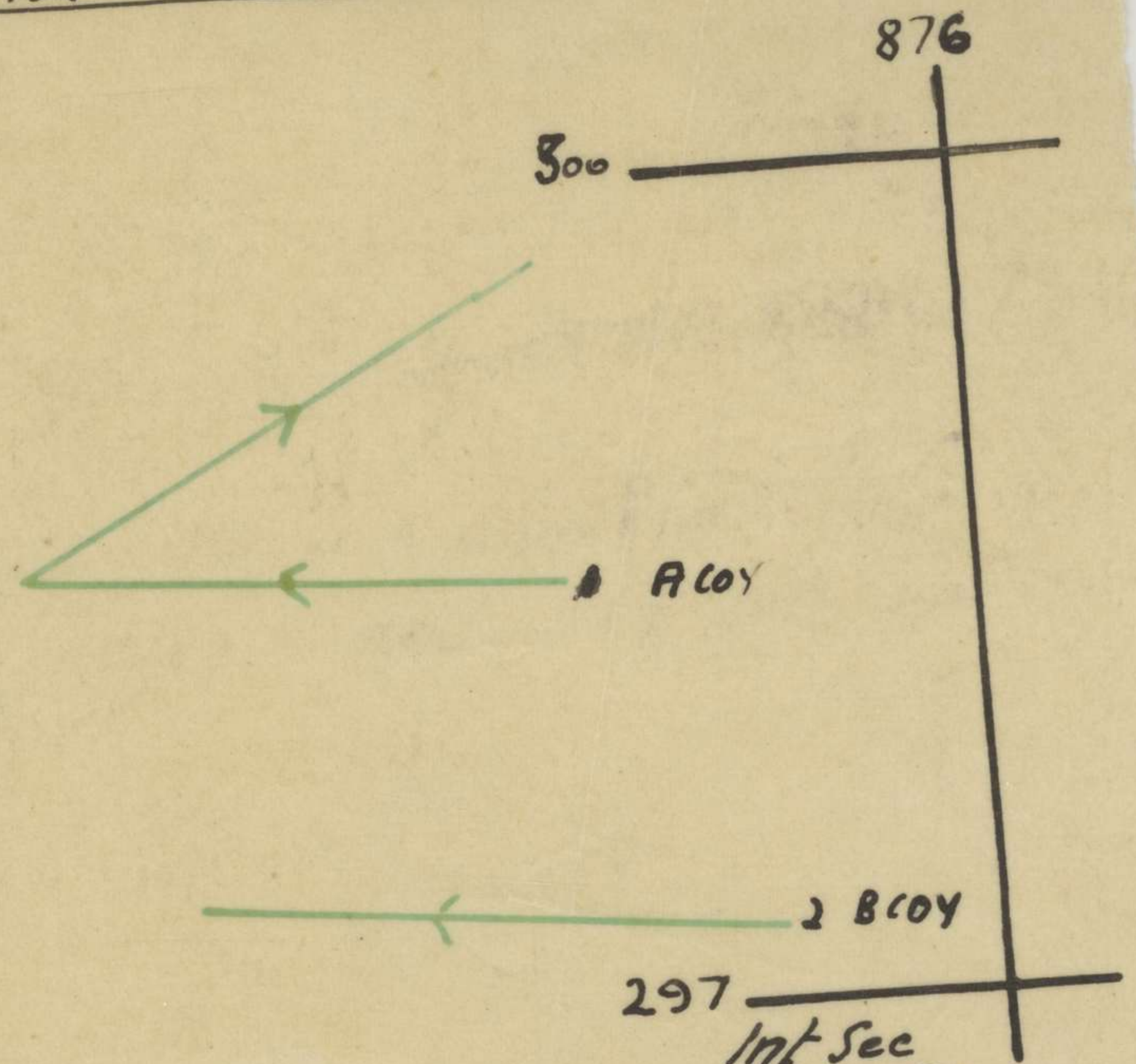
2/48 BN PATROLS NIGHT 2/3 OCT 43

REF MAP · EL ALAMEIN 1:50 000



2'48BN PATROLS NIGHT 3/4 Oct

Ref Map E/W FLAMMEN 1:50,000.



297
Int Sec
2'48BN
4 Oct 42.

To 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

SECRET
2/48 Aust Inf Bn
3 Oct 42

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 3/4 OCT 42 - Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50000

Serial	Coy	Strength	Out	In	Route	Remarks
1	B	1 Sgt 6 OR 1930 Sgt BUCKTON	2400		As per trace att	At 87372973 five weapon pits appeared to have been freshly cleaned out. At 87322974 ground opened out to bare open patch. Two members of patrol went fwd to 87312974. Here two enemy were observed through glasses to be moving towards patrol from SW. They disappeared and a party of 20 enemy in line moved towards patrol. Patrol comd decided to fire when enemy came into range but further enemy patrols were observed coming in on the patrol's front from the South and North. Patrol comd decided to withdraw and enemy followed for 1400 yds. No fire was exchanged.
2	A	1 Sgt 6 ORs 2015 Sgt DERRICK	0245		As per trace att	Patrol moved direct to 87272986 without incident. Search was made 300 yds radius but no mines mines or wire located. NMS.

B R King Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

To 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

SECRET

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
5 Oct 42

PATROL REPORT - NIGHT 4/5 Oct 42

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50000

Serial	Coy	Strength	Out	In	Route	Remarks
1	A	1 NCO 4 ORs Protective 1 NCO 2 Sprs Engrs Recce	1930	0130	As per trace att	No mines were encountered by patrol. At 87332990 single telegraph pole. At 87312990 4 derelict MT. Thick cable crossed at 87182990 87222990 Cable running North and South. At 87182990 patrol was forced to ground by 5 illuminating flares fired from 87152990. One enemy working party heard at approx 87182988 and MT movement a long way behind enemy lines. Patrol moved fwd another 150 yds where enemy patrol (strength 12), was heard at 150 yds North (87182992). Appeared to be patrol that enemy was moving behind them. Patrol withdrew 500 yds and waited for 30 mins but no sign of enemy. Patrol returned without further incident.
2	D	1 NCO 4 ORs Sgt BUCKLEY Recce	1930	2359	As per trace att	Patrol's object was to recce carrier reported in area 87302987. Was unable to locate it.
3	C	1 Offr 1 Sgt 15 ORs Lieut KENNEALLY Fighting	2130	0200	As per trace	NMS and NTR. Patrol comd remarks that this was an amazingly quiet night for the sector. (i.e. West 23 Sector).
4	D	Salvage: Area 87402985:-			(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	1 MMG Dial Sight Kittihawk Propellor (Damaged) Quantity MMG Belts (empty) 3 Boxes MMG Belts (filled) Quantity 5" MMG amm.

B. SALVAGE

(a) 1 BOX GERMAN 50m.m. MORTAR AMN.

B R King

Lieut

IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

To 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

SECRET

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
6 Oct 42

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 5/6 Oct 42

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50000

Serial	Coy	Strength	Out	In	Route	Information
1	D	1 NCO 3 ORs Cpl STERZL Recce	2030	0050	As per trace att	NIS and NTR (Carrier could not be located.)
2	B	1 Sgt 3 ORs Plus 3 Sprs Engrs Recce Sgt PEARSON	2015	0140	As per trace att	At 87372987 old track running North and South with six unused slit trenches. 87352987 another track running North and South. At 87322987 struck a telegraph line and another track. At 87262987 a track in dead ground. Track appeared to have been used since the rain and before the patrol arrived. Working party heard in vicinity 87212979 from this pt. At 87182987 working party, at 87212979 could still be heard and another at 87152987. Patrol could hear wire being dragged and pickets being driven in. Engrs in view of their instns decided not to go further fwd. Patrol turned South and at 87212983 another working party was heard at 87212982. Patrol returned to SP. At 87302983 patrol found reel of hy rubber covered cable running North and South.
3	C	1 Offr 5 ORs Lieut GREGORY Recce	2000	2345	As per Trace att	At 87322972 at 2245 hrs GREEN and RED flares followed at 2250 by one illuminating flare on bearing 240 deg. Otherwise NTR.
4	C	1 Sgt 5 ORs Sgt WEBSTER Recce	2400	0340	As per Serial 3	NTR.
5	SALVAGE: NIL					

B. R. King

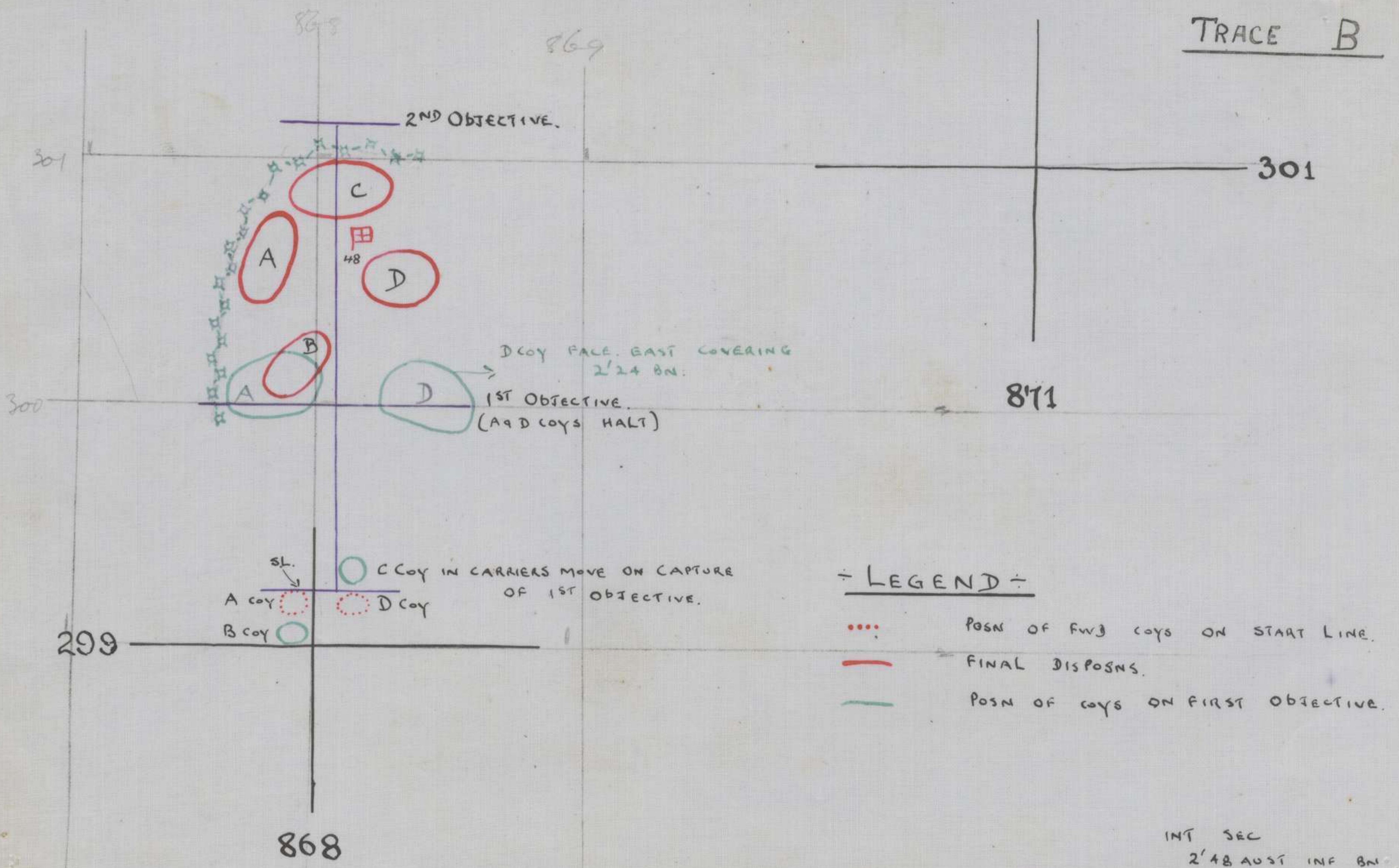
Lieut

IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

2'48 BN ATTACK NIGHT 25'26 OCT & FINAL DISPOSNS.

REF MAP. EL WISHKA & SIDI ABDEL RAHMAN 1:25000

TRACE B



LEGEND

- POSN OF FW3 COYS ON START LINE.
- FINAL DISPOSNS.
- POSN OF COYS ON FIRST OBJECTIVE.

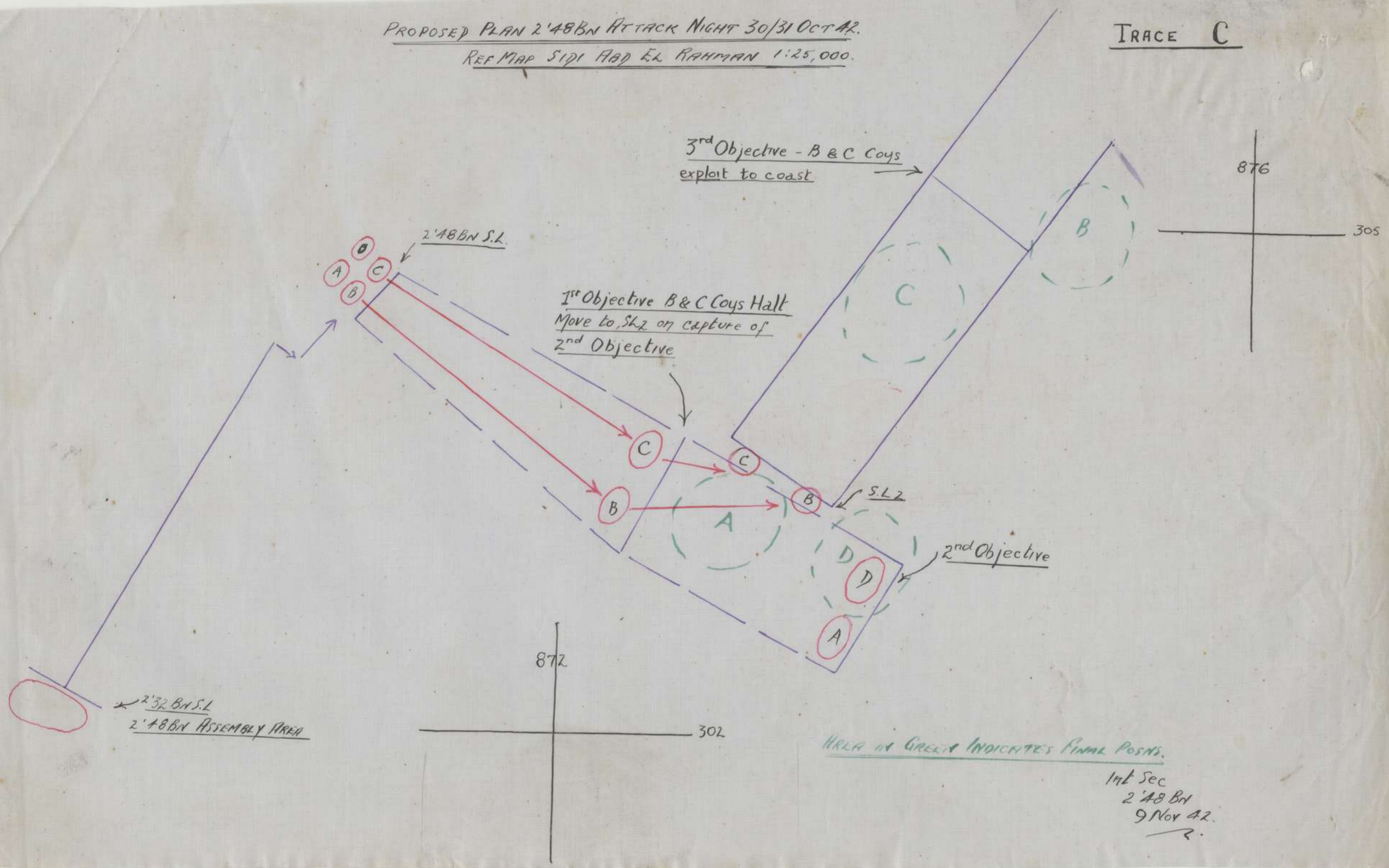
INT SEC
2'48 AUST INF BN
8. NOV 42.

PROPOSED PLAN 2'48BN ATTACK NIGHT 30/31 OCT 42.
REF MAP SIDI ABAD EL RAHMAN 1:25,000.

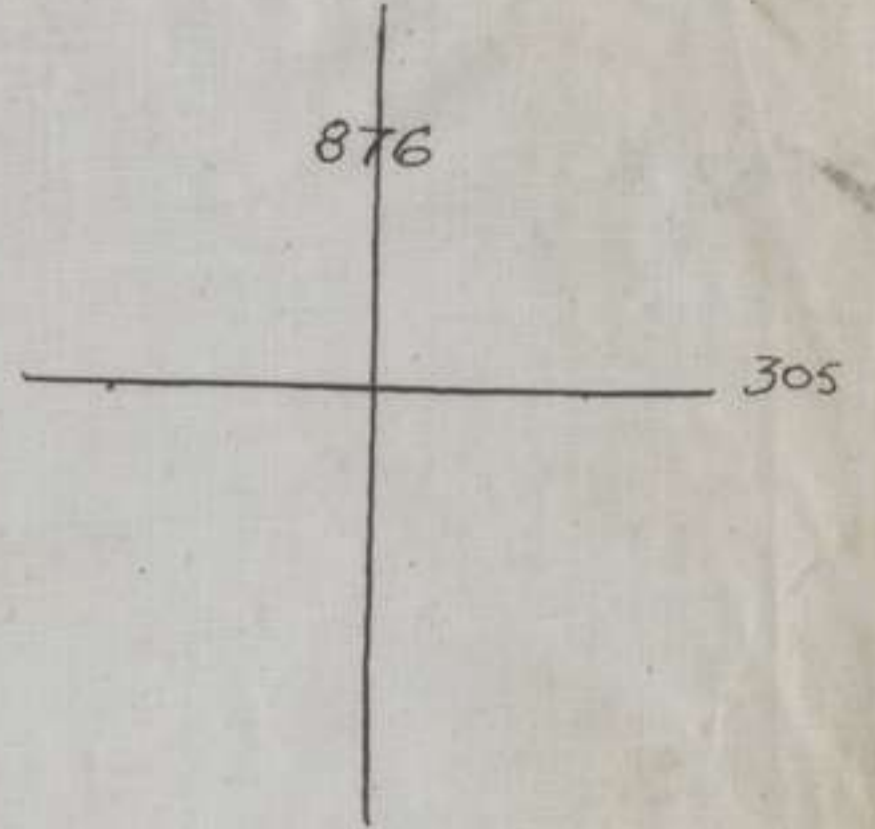
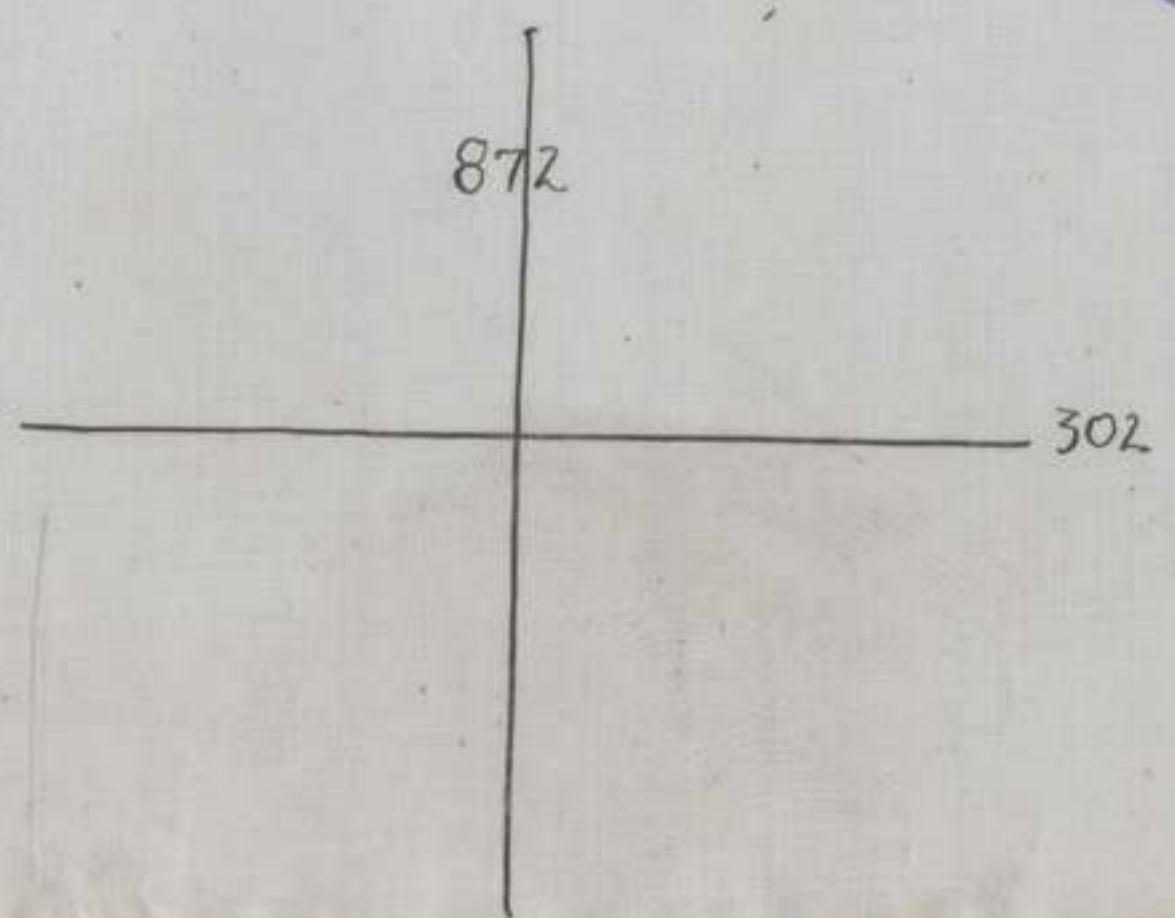
TRACE C

3rd Objective - B & C Coys
exploit to coast

1st Objective B & C Coys Halt
Move to Sk2 on capture of
2nd Objective



2'32 BN S.L.
2'48 BN ASSEMBLY AREA



AREA IN GREEN INDICATES FINAL POSNS.

1st Sec
2'48 BN
9 Nov 42.

2/48BN ATTACK NIGHT 30/31 OCT 42.

Ref Map SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN 1:25,000.

TRACE D

305

876

2/48Bn S.L Zero 0100hrs
A B C D

Final Post 2/48Bn
0630hrs

1st Objective

Limit of
Exploitation
0530 hrs

2/32Bn S.L
2/48Bn Assembly
Area. Bn moves 2230hrs.

302

872

Int Sec

2/48 Aust Inf Bn

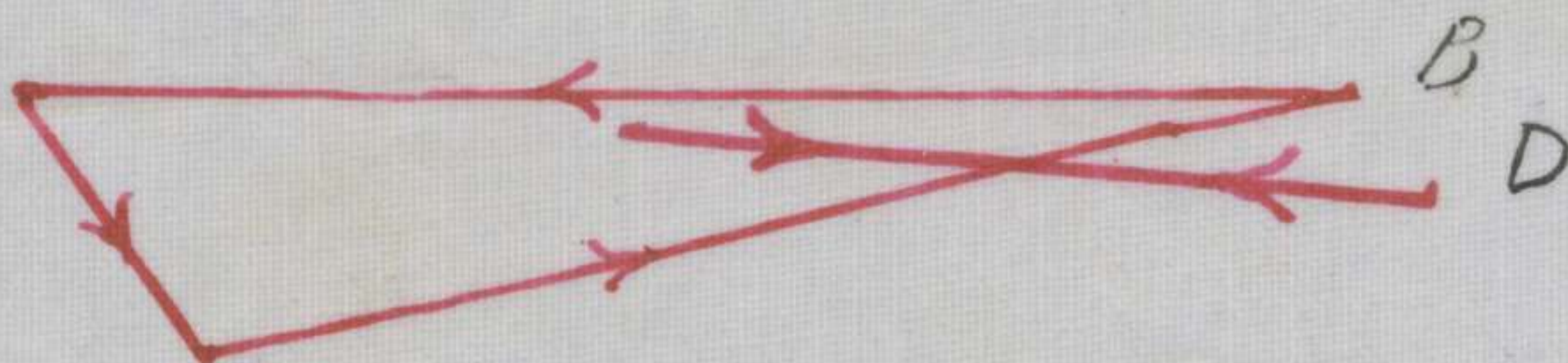
9 Nov 42.

2'48 BN PATROLS NIGHT 5/6 Oct 42.

Ref Map EW ALAMEIN 1:50,000.

300

876



To 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

SECRET

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
7 Oct 42

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 6/7 OCT 42

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50000

Serial	Coy	Strength	Out	In	Route	Info	
1	D	1 NCO 3 ORs 3 Engrs Recco	1930	0030	As per trace att	No mines or wire encountered. At 87282993 a patrol of 10 men passed on patrol's right. At 87192993 sounds of digging heard on immediate front. Patrol turned South and proceeded for 400 yds. Sounds of digging could be heard all the time. Patrol comd is of the opinion that there were two fairly large working parties operating in the area. Patrol returned to SP.	
2	B	1 Offr 10 ORs Lieut BUTLER Fighting	2000	0245	As per trace att	At 87373010 our arty at 2115 hrs (approx) opened up and fire fell opposite patrol on North side of ry. Patrol comd considers arty was very short of enemy, FDLs. At 87353013 our mortars opened fire again level with patrol on North of ry and still short of enemy FDLs. At 87343013 by enemy gun was firing on bearing of 308 deg. Time between flash to report - 15 secs and to burst 29 secs. When patrol was at 87303011 enemy put up green - orange flare following by spandau fire North of ry line. At 87293006 sig wire running parallel to axis of adv. This line appeared to mark the Northern end of a minefield. Patrol could only locate three mines - two EP Mk II and one TELLER mine South of this Sig wire.	
3	A	1 Offr 10 ORs Lieut McKINNON Fighting	1930	0200	As per trace att	Passed Pt 17 on right (Note only 1 drum now standing on Pt 17). At 87133003 by cable running North and South. At 87153001 lone telegraph pole. At 87152999 black cable running East and West. 10 yds further found 2 EP Mk II mines 20 ft apart. No other mines were located. Otherwise HES.	
4		<u>SALVAGE:</u>					
		Lee Enfield Rifles		7		Italian Rifles	1
		Spare parts wallet Bren		1		BSA amm	1000 rounds
		BSA amm in belts		500 rounds		German A Tk amm	50 "
		Light Breda Gun parts					
		Plus eqpt, bayonets, pouches, waterbottles, haversacks, steel helmets etc.					

[Signature]
IC 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(P. B. 1740)

Lieut

To 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

SECRET
2/48 Aust Inf Bn
8 Oct 42

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 7/8 OCT 42

Ref Map: EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000

Serial	Coy	Strength	Out	In	Route	Information
1	A	1 Offr 1 Sgt 10 ORs Lieut HAMILTON Fighting	2000	0300	As per trace att	Patrol moved to 87182995 without incident. Here patrol lay up for 70 mins, but nothing was seen or heard. My rubber cable in front of West 24 (previously reported) was checked and found to be a disused cable. Patrol returned to West 24 and enemy arty barrage commenced. No gun flashes could be pin-spotted as guns opened all along the whole front. Patrol Comd's opinion was that enemy patrol movement was purposely cut down owing to arty shoot.
2	B	1 Offr 1 Sgt 10 ORs Lieut NELSON Fighting	2000	0145	As per trace att	From 87383007 to 87343009 old unused diggings. At 87323011 enemy working party heard clearly North of ry line driving in pickets and diggings. Sounded in area 87353015. At 87273014 patrol lay up for one hr and reced on a radius of 150 yds. There was no sign of any enemy and it was definitely established that the suspected post at 87273014 does not exist. Note: It is suggested that arty HF shoot on to area 87353015 to 87333016 at approx 0130 hrs will deal with the enemy working parties.
3	C	1 NCO 3 ORs 2 Sprs Cpl KENNEDY Recce	1930	0105	As per trace att	At 87323005 patrol struck enemy minefield, NP Mk II mines, pattern unknown. Not marked by wires - fd running on a bearing of 80 deg. At 87213010 Spandau opened fire on patrol from bearing 250 deg and unknown gun from bearing 360 deg. Patrol withdrew to 87253008. Patrol turned South to 87243005 and then to SP without incident.

SALVAGE:

Breda Amm	2000 rounds	Spandau Amm	250 rounds
BSA Amm	1500 "	Spandau Amm	1 box
BSA Amm	4 Cases	Springs MG	1 Set
Breda mounting	1		
Plus: Bayonets, eqpt, mess tins, steel helmets, 25 pr amm cases and respirators.			

B. King Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

SECRET

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 9/10 OCT 422/48 Aust Inf Bn
10 Oct 42

To: 26 Aust Inf Bde

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000

From: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Serial	Coy	Strength	Time out	Time in	Route	Information
1	B	1 Offr 15 ORs Lieut CAPLE Recce and Protective	0100	0535	As per trace att	At 87263013 solitary Mk IV BP Mine. At 87233014 patrol went to ground and a recce was made on a 300 yd radius. Patrol stayed here for 45 mins but nothing was located. Enemy working party was heard NW of ry line. 2/23 Bn Mortar shoot commenced but did not interrupt working party. At 87293018 German cable (red bakelite covering) was found running North and South. Line was cut. At 87313016 (approx) a large Pimple with U/S MC on it. Also at pimple was a well with water in it. Note - it is apparent that the enemy's defences are at least 400 to 500 yds further West than 87233014.
2	A	1 Offr, 1 Sgt 14 ORs Lieut TAGGART Recce and Protective	2359	0510	As per trace att	At 8713 2994 enemy minefd was contacted and patrol comd investigated thoroughly. Tabulated infm is as follows: (i) No defensive wiring was encountered. It may have been further in but was not visible. (ii) The minefd consists of GS Mk IV mines and 4 definite rows were established. (iii) Distance between mines and rows was difficult since mines were all buried but rain had caused clay around mines to crack and patrol comd formed opinion that fd was very staggered, and those that were located varied from 4 to 15 yds apart with 8 to 12 yds between rows. (iv) Fd at the point runs North and South. Patrol Comd investigated 50 yds on right and left. (v) Fd is not marked on our side by wire but on the enemy's side is marked with single dannert wire held in place by large stones. Dannert appears to follow closely the edge of minefd. and closest man to wire was two yds. (vi) Minefd and wire is not booby-trapped. (vii) Three yds in from the minefd wire there is a single row of booby traps on one foot angle iron pickets. Type of mine

Italian Mk IV (Cotton-reel type). Three trip wires were att, one left, one right and one towards the minefield. Bobby traps were regularly spaced at 12 yds apart.

(VIII) Enemy posts: At ~~87132984~~ 87132984 there appeared to be two posts inside the wire, each about 150 - 200 yds North and South respectively. Voices were heard and one man was seen. Footsteps were also heard.

Salvage:

1 wire towing cable	1 CAS Sand tyre and wheel complete
6 x 4 gall Water drums	15 Waterbottles
Haversacks	Web equipment
1 Breda Barrel	1 A Tk Rifle
Bayonets	Steel Helmet
2 Rifles	Dixies
Arm cases	300 rounds SAA (Damaged)

W. King Lieut
10 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 10/11 OCT 42

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
11 Oct 42

SECRET

To: 26 Aust Inf Bde
From: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

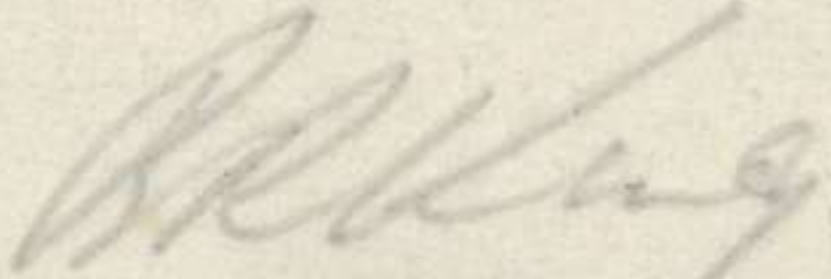
Serial	Coy	Strength	Time out	Time in	Route	Information
1	D	1 Offr 15 ORs Lieut R W LEWIN. Recce with Fighting protection	0100	0545	As per trace att	At 87293011 patrol passed North of a well. Patrol continued on the same bearing, encountering a small mound (natural) at 87273012 surmounted with what appeared to be an aiming mark, consisting of a number of scrub sticks tied together and standing upright for a height of approx 5 feet. Patrol Comd continued to 87223013 and moved to either flank for a distance of 100 yds - no trace of wire or minefd was found. Patrol proceeded to 87293017 - NTR. At 87343013, solitary British GS Mk IV mine. Remainder of leg - NTR.
2	C	1 Offr 15 ORs Lieut J T GREGORY. Recce with Fighting protection	0150	0600	As per trace att	At 87222993, telephone post and wire on ground; also old un-used diggings were encountered this area. At 87152992 patrol encountered NORTH-SOUTH rd. Road had not been used recently. Rubber cable (3/4 in) running West side of rd. When patrol was at 87112992 voices unidentified were faintly heard from NORTH and SOUTH of the patrol. Patrol halted at 87082991. Two sappers with patrol made recce fwd and to flanks for distance of 100 yds; no mines or wire were found. Patrol then withdrew. At 87002998 a mine detonated.

Reid Capt
Lieut
IC 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
12 Oct 42

SALVAGE NIGHT 11/12 OCT

1 Lt BREDA (damaged)	1 Spare BREDA barrel
170 rounds 47mm amm	40 boxes BREDA amm
1 belt FIAT amm	16 boxes FIAT amm
13½ boxes 20mm amm	7 mags 20mm amm
plus shovels, picks, Italian rifles, eqpt, waterbottles.	

 Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

To: 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 11/12 OCT 42

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50000

SECRET

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
12 Oct 42

Serial	Coy	Strength	Out	In	Route	Infm
1	B	1 Offr 15 ORs Lieut BUTLER Reece and Protective	2400	0425	As per trace att	<p>At 87283013 working party heard to the North across the ry line. At 87203016 working party heard 300 - 400 yds to the NW. At 87173017 struck enemy wire which consisted of single row dannert running on bearing of 90 and 270 deg. Patrol did not investigate to the West but proceeded along wire on bearing of 80-90 deg. Wire was penetrated in two places and at 50 yds from wire minefd consisting of GS Mk IV mines was located. JMK Distance between mines and rows - 5 yds. Mines were flush to the ground but not covered - four were examined and found to have the sheer pin removed. Patrol did not penetrate further than two rows but minefd appeared to be regular pattern. A further single wire fence 2' 6" could be seen 50 yds away and behind it a further cattle fence. Outside dannert had kerosene tins painted a dark color placed at irregular intervals inside the coils. Thought by patrol comd to be warning signals. At 87223018 noise of working party heard inside second fence. No voices were heard. Party sounded to be handling boxes of mines. At 87253018 dannert swung away to the NW. Patrol continued to 87283019 when another enemy party was heard moving about in the direction of his wire. Again there was no talking. Note: Possibly one of the enemy's wire patrols. Patrol returned to SP without incident. Note: Enemy did not appear to be very alert.</p>
2	A	1 Offr 1 Sgt 13 ORs. 1 Sgt 1 Spr (Engrs) Lieut TAGGART Reece and Protective	2300	0510	As per trace att	<p>At 87162993 patrol encountered one row dannert wire. Movement and coughing could be heard from inside the wire. No mines could be located outside or inside the wire. Wire at this point ran over the crest of a small hillock and patrol comd and engrs investigated three very shallow sangers. In opinion of patrol comd they could not be used owing to the fact of their being on a fwd slope and too exposed. One B4 Italian booby trap was found between the sangers. Booby trap was on 2ft stake and 3 trip wires 4ft long - one to the right, one left and one towards the dannert. 2 flares and then a further flare and rifle shot were fired from 87142992. At pt of contact wire ran on bearing 310 deg for approx 100 yds then bearing 360 deg for approx 100 yds then appeared to go West for some distance. Patrol comd is of the opinion that this part of the line has no definite connection with minefd located on night 9/10 Oct and considers it more likely to be an outpost.</p>

SALVAGE (see attached)

B. King Lieut
TO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

To: 26 Aust Inf Bde
From 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 12/13 OCT 42
Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
13 Oct 42

Serial	Coy	Strength	Out	In	Route	Information
1	C	1 Offr 15 ORs	2200-0455	As per trace	att	<p>At 87242995 voices and the hammering of pickets heard on right of patrol some distance away. At 87212995 crossed track running North and South with thick rubber cable. At 87182994 one white flare from approx 87132993 followed by voices and coughing. Voices also heard NW of patrol. At 87142994 another white flare landed 200 yds South of patrol. Voices now heard North and South of Patrol at distance of 200 yds plus. At 87122994 voices and coughing heard immediate front as well as flanks. At 87102994 patrol halted, and recce party went fwd to 87092994 where enemy minefd was encountered. Voices in front could be heard from 4 distinct places. Mines were EP MkII buried but had been uncovered by the rain sp 6 yds between mines, 8 yds between rows. Bearing of fd 5 degs. Patrol comd went fwd to count number of rows and reached third row when a voice shouted "Halt" from a distance of approx 100 yds to the front. Withdrew to edge of minefd and heard handling of weapons and men moving down minefd. Returned to patrol who had noticed 2 men walking to their rear. Patrol Comd decided to withdraw. Voices were again heard on their flanks. In patrol Comd's opinion they were outposts fwd of the minefd, as once the minefd was struck the voices came from the front. No wire was encountered and none could be seen between Patrol Comd and enemy who called out "Halt"</p>
2	D	1 Offr 15 ORs	2400-0545	As per trace	att	<p>At 87182604 4 scattered EP MkII mines widely spread. No wire encountered. At 87063010 trip wire 6" to 8" high on short pickets running on a bearing of 144 deg. On investigation found GS MkV mines on our side of the wire. Mines did not appear to form a regular pattern and were irregularly spaced. Patrol searched for 150 yds and found 25 mines. No booby traps were encountered. Recce patrol went fwd and at 50 yds encountered another trip wire on same bearing as before (144 deg). Another 50 yds encountered a 4ft cattle fence with wire broken (1 strand only) - again on bearing of 144 deg. Further 60 yds 2 EP MkII mines partly buried. At this stage German voice heard a short distance to left and left rear. Further 75 yds found 5 empty EP mine cases. Had just moved beyond this pt when enemy gp heard approaching. At this moment our arty HF to the North commenced and enemy was heard making for cover in great haste. Returned to first trip wire when remainder of patrol reported having heard considerable number of voices to the North as well. Note: By reason of the fact that there was movement North and South of the trip wire encountered and that a penetration of 200 yds was made without striking a minefd Patrol Comd is of the opinion that the MkV mines are his main fd at this pt.</p>

B. King
Lieut
IC 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

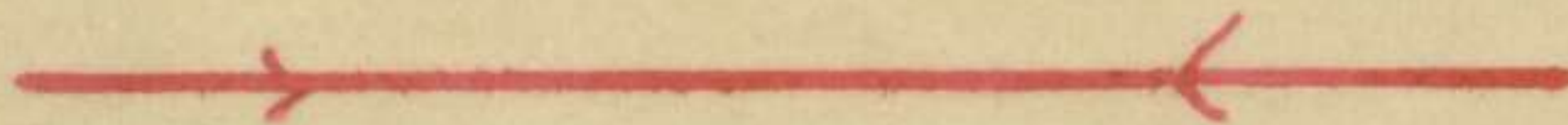
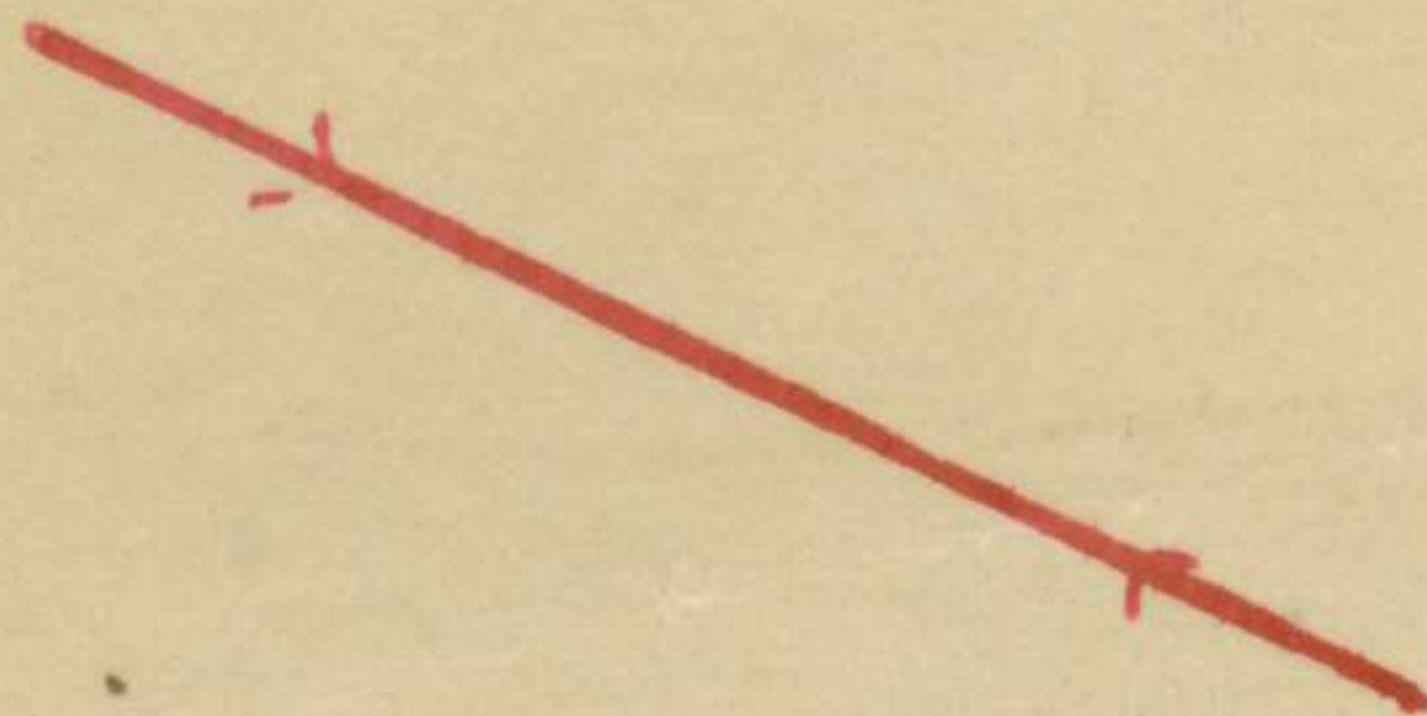
2'48 Bn Patrols Night 12-13 Oct 42

Ref EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000.

Secret

875

302



IntSec
2'48Bn
13 Oct 42

299

SECRET

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
15 Oct 42

PATROL REPORT NIGHT 14/15 OCT 42

To: 26 Aust Inf Bde
From: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Serial	Coy	Strength	Time out	Time in	Route	Information
1	D	1 Offr 15 ORs Lieut BYRNE Recce and Protective	2200	0530	From SP 8743007 -87123015 -87073011 to SP	At 87263012 thick black cable running North and South. End of first leg no wire encountered. Patrol Comd proceeded to 87123015 where he contacted single dannert wire. GERMAN voices heard on patrol's right. Penetrated 50 yds beyond wire but no mines or booby traps found. GERMAN voices 30 yds plus in front right and left. At 87103014 patrol put to ground by Green flare from right on bearing of 285 degs. GERMAN voices heard in rear of patrol. At 87173010 one EP Mk II mine located. A thorough search was made in area but no further mines were located.
2.	C	1 Offr 14 ORs 1 Spr Lieut GREGORY Recce and Protective	2200	0300	From SP 87312995 -87132997 - SP	At 87132997 patrol struck enemy minefd and was just about to move fwd when one man approached patrol from West. He came to 30 yds of patrol then withdrew through well trodden place in wire. Minefd consisted of EP Mk V mines and was 3 rows deep. Distance between rows-8 yds between first and second, 12 yds between second and third. Distance between mines - first row 8 yds, second row 12 yds, third row 8 yds. Recce party followed enemy to wire 20 yds from edge of minefd on enemy's side but could not go further owing to roving picquet guarding working party on other side of wire where truck was heard unloading. Wire was single dannert. No booby traps were located and the fd was not marked on our side. Fd ran on bearing of 350 degs. There were no booby traps in the wire and none were visible within 15 yds of the fence.

Blking Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

W D

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
4 Oct 42

BN SO NO A16

STAFF CONFERENCES

The following will attend conferences as under:-

1. 0900 hrs daily at COs office:-

OC HQ Coy
Adjnt
IO
Sig Offr

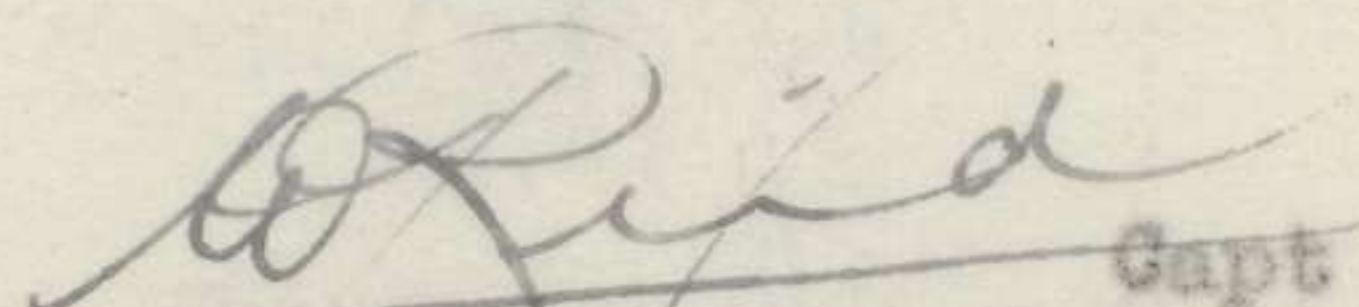
2. 0900 hrs daily at HQ Coy:-

OC HQ Coy
Specialist Pl Comds

OC Coy to keep CO infmd daily of points discussed.

3. 1900 hrs daily at Bn Hq:-

OC HQ Coy
Adjnt
IO
Sig Offr
QM
RSM
TC
FWO (as reqd)


Capt
Adjnt 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

2/48 AUST INF BN GENERAL INSTN No 3PATROLS

The following notes are to be incorporated in Bn Op Standing Orders and all patrol comds must be familiar with them.

1. PREPARATION FOR PATROLS:-

- (i) Daylight observation of area over which patrol will move is to be made whenever possible.
- (ii) Compass bearings are to be checked by an offr other than the patrol comd before the patrol goes out.
- (iii) At least two compasses must be carried by patrol - one to work on and one (dry type if no liquid type is available) for second in command of patrol as a check.
- (iv) All members of the patrol must be told and know OBJECT, ROUTE, and NUMBER OF PACES.
- (v) A rough indication is to be given to the patrol either by STARS or PROMINENT OBJECTS of the route OUT and IN before the patrol goes out.
- (vi) Patrol comd must ensure that all members of patrol are searched and have no identification other than their paybook on them.
- (vii) All patrols are to be warned against giving infm to the enemy if captured and told what they are required to give:- NAME, NUMBER and RANK.
- (viii) A plan must be made of formation in which patrol will move and what action the patrol will take under various circumstances, e.g., if an enemy patrol is encountered.
- (ix) Every member of the patrol must know the PASSWORD and patrol challenge.
- (x) All available infm about the area over which the patrol will move is to be passed on to members of the patrol.

2. ON PATROL:-

- (i) One member (preferably patrol comd) should use the compass.
- (ii) One man is to act as pacer with another man as checker.

3. PATROL REPORTS:-

- (a) Remember that the value of a patrol nearly always depends on the accuracy and completeness of the Patrol Report. Patrol reports should contain the following infm:-

- (i) Coy
- (ii) Time out and time in.
- (iii) Type of patrol
- (iv) Route out and route in.
- (v) Strength and name of patrol comd.
- (vi) Casualties - both our own and enemy's.
- (vii) Report - including answers to questions given to patrol comd.
- (viii) Signature of patrol comd.

(b) Points for patrol reports.

- (i) Never make an ambiguous statement - if you are not sure, don't guess - say unknown.
- (ii) Vehs and tks. Give type, and if a derelict whether it is salvageable or not. If a moving veh or tk - which direction it is travelling.
When reporting tk tracks give width and type of tracks.
- (iii) Men seen - Always give numbers not estimates, e.g., if you see six men and feel there are more don't say "about 10" but six plus. If you are uncertain of the number then report it as number unknown.
- (iv) Minefields - If you encounter a minefd find out at least

one of the following items of infm:-

- (a) Type of mine
- (b) How fd is marked on home side and on the enemy's side
- (c) What is the depth of the fd.
- (d) What is the distance between mines and distance between rows.
- (e) Pattern of minefd.
- (f) Length of fd.
- (g) Bearing of fd.

(v) Posts -

- (a) Number of men occupying post
- (b) Weapons in post
- (c) Post wiring
- (d) Listening posts
- (e) Are there any mines or booby traps surrounding post.
- (f) Alertness of members of post.

(vi) Booby traps

- (a) Type
- (b) If you don't know the type, don't guess but give a full description.

(vii) Flares:-

- (a) Always give the color of the flare and time at which it is seen and bearing.

(viii) Topographical:- If you find anything unusual in the nature of the ground put it in your report, e.g., swampy ground over which tks or vehs cannot move.

(ix) Noises heard:- Always give Nationality - if unknown don't guess.

(x) Casualties inflicted:- Number killed, wounded and PW.

(xi) Wire:- Type and extent.

B R King Lieut
IO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(B R KING)

NOTES ON COMDS CONFERENCE

The following notes are issued to confirm points discussed at Comd's Conference held 1000 hrs 3 Oct 42.

(1) BN FIRE PLAN:-

There is a tendency for weapons to be sited frontally instead of in enfilade. Unless arcs of fire and fixed lines (by night) are sited to give flanking fire to right and left no mutual support will be possible.

Mortar det comds must liaise daily with Coy Comds. All Comds must be familiar with Arty SOS tasks on their own particular front.

(2) MINEFIELD GAPS:

C Coy is to be held responsible for the patrolling of veh gap between C and D coys whilst D Coy will patrol gap to the right of D Coy. Standing patrols are to be placed on these gaps and men are to be detailed by the coys to close the gaps when required. Wire and pickets are to be placed in readiness should this necessity arise.

(3) WIRE AND MINEFIELD PATROLS:

C Coy will patrol the wire from right, minefield gap C and D Coys inclusive, to left, Bde boundary exclusive.

D Coy will patrol from right, D Coy minefield gap inclusive to left gap C and D Coys exclusive.

A Coy will patrol from right, A Coy gap inclusive, to left D Coy gap exclusive.

B Coy will patrol from right, inter Bn boundary 2/23 Bn, to left A Coy gap exclusive.

(4) RANGE CARDS AND RANGE MARKS:

It has been noticed that in some section posts range cards have not been compiled. These are to be completed immediately and every soldier must be thoroughly familiar with his section range card.

(5) PATROLS:

Patrols, generally have been very good but particular attention must be paid to detailed preparation orders and conduct of patrol (ref ISL Chap VIII). The objects and routes for patrols are laid down by Bn HQ. If these do not meet with approval, Coy Comds are to bring points fwd to be confirmed by Bn HQ.

(6) COY ROUTINE - ORGANISED REST:

Coys must organise work so that men may avail themselves of maximum rest. Coy routine is to be laid down to attain this object. Times are to be allocated for

- (a) Cleaning of sec posts.
- (b) Cleaning of weapons.
- (c) Preparation of patrols and other adm matters.

Coy Comds must pay particular attention to enemy shelling times and adjust Coy routine to cope with these periods.

(7) FIRING PRACTICE:

Organised firing practice is to be conducted by all coys. The objects of these practices are:-

- (a) To improve marksmanship.
- (b) To familiarise the soldier with all pl weapons.
- (c) To improve Fire Control.
- (d) To ascertain the density of pl fire power.

(8) INCREASED ENEMY SHELLING:

Enemy shelling has increased in coy areas. This is possibly due to:-

- (a) Increased veh movement in coy areas.
- (b) Increased movement of personnel. Coys noting any enemy arty registration will immediately submit report to Bn HQ.

Vehs in the Bn area will travel at maximum speed of 7 mph. Signs indicating speed limits are being erected by RP.

(9) VISITORS TO BN AREA:

All visitors to the Bn area must report to Bn HQ before proceeding to coys. RP on duty at TCP will conduct them to the Adj. On proceeding to coys visitors will report to coy comds.

When an offr visits a sec post the NCO in charge or senior soldier present will come fwd to meet the offr. (See Bn RO 2 Oct 42)

(10) TRAINING:- Consideration is to be given in trg to the minimum use of vehs and the maximum use of manhandling for Bn operations. Trg is to be conducted in manhandling A Tk guns, MMGs and Mortars in this area, and reports submitted to Bn HQ.

Electric torches, lights, batteries etc are to be conserved for availability in future moves or exercises.

(11) RES RATIONS AND WATER:- Res water must be changed regularly throughout the whole Bn. Sec comds must know exactly what rations and water are held in posts and a list of post stores is to be kept by each section.

(12) XMAS GIFTS AND CARDS:- Unit Xmas Cards are to be purchased and coy requirements of cards are to be fwded to Bn HQ.

A Bde scheme for the purchase of Xmas gifts is in progress. Selections of gifts have been ordered and these will be taken to coys by Lieut WALLIS. Any soldier desirous of purchasing any of these gifts must pay cash.

W Rend Capt
Adj. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Distribution.

- HQ Coy
- A Coy
- B Coy
- C Coy
- D Coy
- CO
- Adj. 2/48
- QM
- IO
- War Diary (2)
- File

SECRET

Copy No 70
2/48 Aust Inf Bn
7 Oct 42

ALLOTMENT OF THREE LETTER CALL SIGNS

Addressees will destroy all existing lists of four letter code names and will bring into use the new three letter call signs as set out below from 0301 hrs 9 Oct 42.

CALL SIGNS

	<u>9 Oct</u>	<u>10 Oct</u>	<u>11 Oct</u>	<u>12 Oct</u>	<u>13 Oct</u>	<u>14 Oct</u>	<u>15 Oct</u>
"A" Room	VAK	ISJ	OHF	FKJ	VVF	QQC	XMN
Comd Post	VAK1	ISJ1	OHF1	FKJ1	VVF1	QQC1	XMN1
HQ Coy	MSN	PTO	LDS	KAT	LEL	OTI	AMO
Carrier	MSN1	PTO1	LDS1	KAT1	LEL1	OTI1	AMO1
Mortar	MSN2	PTO2	LDS2	KAT2	LEL2	OTI2	AMO2
A Tk	MSN3	PTO3	LDS3	KAT3	LEL3	OTI3	AMO3
A Coy	RRT	GAR	TKN	ONP	WKS	AOI	XGE
No 7 Pl	RRT1	GAR1	TKN1	ONP1	WKS1	AOI1	XGE1
8 Pl	RRT2	GAR2	TKN2	ONP2	WKS2	AOI2	XGE2
9 Pl	RRT3	GAR3	TKN3	ONP3	WKS3	AOI3	XGE3
B Coy	BNR	WDE	OJA	LTU	RBW	PEM	NDG
10 Pl	BNR1	WDE1	OJA1	LTU1	RBW1	PEM1	NDG1
11 Pl	BNR2	WDE2	OJA2	LTU2	RBW2	PEM2	NDG2
12 Pl	BNR3	WDE3	OJA3	LTU3	RBW3	PEM3	NDG3
C Coy	SQB	NGT	OVV	XQE	KRG	BOQ	IWL
13 Pl	SQB1	NGT1	OVV1	XQE1	KRG1	BOQ1	IWL1
14 Pl	SQB2	NGT2	OVV2	XQE2	KRG2	BOQ2	IWL2
15 Pl	SQB3	NGT3	OVV3	XQE3	KRG3	BOQ3	IWL3
D Coy	WNO	KSB	LPD	MUP	AXA	YVA	JEO
16 Pl	WNO1	KSB1	LPD1	MUP1	AXA1	YVA1	JEO1
17 Pl	WNO2	KSB2	LPD2	MUP2	AXA2	YVA2	JEO2
18 Pl	WNO3	KSB3	LPD3	MUP3	AXA3	YVA3	JEO3
2/23 Bn	WAK	ZFB	QDH	OOH	UIY	LGF	WWX
2/24 Bn	ECW	SXI	NRM	NVA	LQR	MCE	JNF
2/2 MG Bn	MPA	CFA	IUO	JKS	DVC	FZN	KMR
26 Bde							

NB:- WHERE APPLICABLE APPOINTMENTS CODE WILL BE USED

A. Keen Capt
Adjut 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No 1	A Coy
2	B Coy
3	C Coy
4	D Coy
5-8	HQ Coy
9-10	Sig Pl
11	CO
12	Adjut
13	IO
14	Sig Offr
15	B Echelon
16	Comd Post
17	"A" Room
18	RAP
19	TCP
20-21	War Diary
22	File
23-24	Spares

WD

25 NOV 1942

2/48 AUST INF BN CASUALTIES

DURING PERIOD 23 OCT - 4 NOV 42 - TEL
PL EISA

HQ Coy	Date	KIA	WIA	Missing	Total	DOW
1 Pl	26	1			1	
	27		1		1	
	29					2
	31	4	11		15	
Total		5	12		17	2
2 Pl	25		1		1	
	26	1			1	
	31		2	1	3	
Total		1	3	1	5	
3 Pl	24		1		1	
	27		3		3	
	29		2		2	
	31	2			2	
	Nov 4	1			1	
Total		3	6		9	
4 Pl	24		2		2	
	26	2	2		4	
	31		2		2	
Total		2	6		8	
5 Pl	25		1		1	
	29		1		1	
	31	1	1/2		1/3	
Total		1	1/4		1/5	
6 Pl	24		1		1	
	25		1		1	
	26	4	1		5	
	31		2		2	
		4	5		9	
TR Pl	25		1		1	
	26		2		2	
	27		1/1		1/1	
	31		2		2	
Total			1/6		1/6	
7 Pl	26		1		1	
Total			1		1	
HQ	31		1		1	
Total			1		1	
Total HQ Coy		16	2/44	1	2/61	2

Coy	Date	KIA	WIA	Missing	Total	DOW
A	24		9		9	
	25		4		4	3
	26	1/7	13		1/20	2
	27	1	4		5	
	31	1/7	1/22		2/29	
Total		2/15	1/52		3/67	5
B	24	1	5		6	
	25	2			2	
	26		1/2	2	1/4	1/-
	27		1		1	
	30		1		1	1
	31	1/11	3/36	1	4/48	
Total		1/14	4/45	3	5/62	1/1
C	24	1/-			1/-	
	25		8		8	
	26	3	3		6	
	27		2		2	
	28		4		4	
	29		1		1	
	31	7	2/30		2/37	1
Nov 4		2		2		
Total		1/10	2/50		3/60	1
D	24	1	1/4		1/5	
	25	3	4		7	
	26	1	1/5	1/-	2/6	
	27		1		1	
	28	1			1	
	31	1/9	2/19	2	3/30	
Total		1/15	4/33	1/2	6/50	
Bn HQ	24	1	2		3	
	25	1	1		2	
	26	2	3		5	
	28		1		1	
	31	1/2	1/9		2/11	1
Total		1/6	1/16		2/22	1
TOTALS						
Bn HQ		1/6	1/16		2/22	1
HQ Coy		16	2/44	1	2/61	2
A Coy		2/15	1/52		3/67	5
B Coy		1/14	4/45	3	5/62	1/1
C Coy		1/10	2/50		3/60	1
D Coy		1/15	4/33	1/2	6/50	
GRAND TOTALS		6/76	14/240	1/6	21/322	1/10

NOTE: DOW 1/10 incl in WIA total

DAILY CASUALTIES

	Date	KIA	WIA	Missing	Total	DOW
Oct	24	1/3	1/24		2/27	
	25	6	21		27	3
	26	1/21	2/32	1/2	4/55	1/2
	27	1	1/13		1/14	
	28	1	5		6	2
	29		4		4	
	30		1		1	1
31	4/43	10/138	4	14/185	2	
Nov	4	1	2	3		
Totals		6/76	14/240	1/6	21/322	1/10

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
27 Nov 42

CASUALTIES - SIGA
EVACUATED DURING PERIOD 24 Oct - 4 Nov 42

	HQ Coy											Total	
	1 Pl	2 Pl	3 Pl	4 Pl	5 Pl	6 Pl	A Tk	Bn	A	B	C		D
24 Oct					1	1						1	3
25 Oct				1							1	2	5
26 Oct						1							1
27 Oct			1										1
28 Oct	1		1		1								5
29 Oct		1	2		1	1	2				2		8
30 Oct							1		1	1			3
31 Oct						2	1						3
2 Nov												2	2
3 Nov			1					1		1		1	4
Totals	1	1	5	1	3	5	5	1	1	5	2	5	35

EVACUATED TO B BUN
DURING PERIOD 24 Oct - 31 Oct 42

	HQ Coy											Total	
	1 Pl	2 Pl	3 Pl	4 Pl	5 Pl	6 Pl	A Tk	Bn	A	B	C		D
24 Oct			1		1							1	5
25 Oct									1		1	1	3
26 Oct			1		1							2	4
27 Oct												4	4
28 Oct			1		1					1			3
30 Oct					1								1
Totals			3		4				1	3	1	8	20

wD

20/10/42

SECRET

Copy No:

2/43 Aust Inf Bn Movement Table No 1

1. 2/43 Aust Inf Bn will move to 88172965 night 20/21 Oct 42.
2. SPEED AND SILENCE: 40 vts 10 min.
3. ROUTE: MAIN RD.
4. START PT: KILC 88 (43699020).
5. START TIME: 2100 hrs LEAVE this area 2055 hrs.
6. Times will be rigidly observed to avoid blocking other units.
7. It is NOT essential that subunits arrive with every veh - break downs must NOT be allowed to slow up traffic longer than avoidable. Vehs will be moved off tracks if breakdowns occur - They will be recovered in daylight
8. Tp Carrying vehs remain with coys in new area.
9. As far as possible each veh moving in will take the place of a veh already in area but moving out tonight. Vehs to be in posn by first light.

10. Rec Posts: (a) 88042974 (b) About minefd 425902 (c) Junc SYDNEY and MAIN rds.

<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>SUB-UNIT</u>	<u>IN</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>	<u>AGE</u>
1	A Coy	1 x 15 cwt 1 x 3 Ton	5 x 3 Ton	
2	B Coy	do	4 x 3 Ton	
3	C Coy	do	5 x 3 Ton	
4	D Coy	do	4 x 3 Ton	
5	Bn HQ	1 x 3 Ton	→	
6	HQ Coy	1 x 3 Ton	→	
7	Carriers			

1. Coy Comds will move their convoys to posn to ensure that they pull on to the "out" rd from Bn area immediately after the gp they are to follow.
2. TO will establish Check Post at Bn "out" track and main rd junc at 2030 hrs and ensure that coys fall in to their correct convoy order head leaving at 2055 hrs passing Start Pt at 2100 hrs.
3. Tp Carriers will report to coys by 1900 hrs.

W. Reid
 Capt
 2/43 Aust Inf Bn

REPORT ON TESTS OF A TK GRENS

A test of 68, 73 and 74 (ST) A Tk grenades was held at the old
 Sherman Tank (Mk III) - Ref Map 87642986, at 1000 hrs 10 Oct 42.

Report:

(a) 68 Gren

Range used - 80 yds.

2 grenades hit the turret at an oblique angle and bounced off harmlessly, failing to explode.

(These grenades were later detonated by rifle fire)

1 grenade fell short, exploded with great concussion effect, but did not penetrate the armour of the tk.

2 grenades hit directly, exploded with great concussion, and penetrated the armour. One made a hole an inch wide and approx $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter in the $3\frac{1}{2}$ " armour just below the turret. The other similarly pierced the thick armour above the track.

Conclusion: It is considered that the 68 grenade must be fired as to secure a direct, and not an oblique, hit on the tk. If this is done it is capable of penetrating by armour, as well as exploding with good concussion effect. An oblique hit appears to be useless. Great accuracy however, can be obtained at a range of approx 70 - 80 yds.

(b) 73 Gren

Range used:- 5 to 10 yds.

Two of the five grenades thrown failed to explode, but were exploded when a subsequent grenade was thrown. The other three exploded with terrific concussion. Two blew portions of the tank away, without damaging the actual armour. The fifth grenade damaged one of the bogies.

Conclusion: This grenade gives great concussion effect, without damaging by armour; it is considered however that the concussion would suffice to put the crew out of action & force their surrender. If the grenades are thrown at the tracks or bogies it is considered that the tk would certainly be stopped, sufficient damage to these parts being inflicted.

(c) 74 (ST) Gren

Two of these grenades failed to explode. Each was thrown with great force and the handle broke away. The other three scored direct hits, at close range (the 4 sec fuze enables the attacker to dash for cover and avoid the effect of the concussion).

One gren cracked the thickly armoured turret along the whole length of one seam; another blew away portions of the turret; and the third damaged the track and completely blew away the track wheel.

Conclusion: This is considered to be the most effective of the three types of grens tried out. From the attacker's view point it is safer to use than the 73, and it is more effective, damaging even heavy armour. A gren planted anywhere near the tracks or bogies would almost certainly put any tk out of action.

Lt Col
 Comd 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

REPORT ON TESTS OF A TK GRENS

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Conclusion: It is considered that the 68 grenade must be so fired as to secure a direct, and not an oblique, hit on the tk. If this is done it is capable of penetrating by armour, as well as exploding with good concussion effect. An oblique hit appears to be useless. Great accuracy however, can be obtained at a range of approx 70 - 80 yds.

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Lt Col
Comd 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

SECRET

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
13 Oct 42

REPORTS ON ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

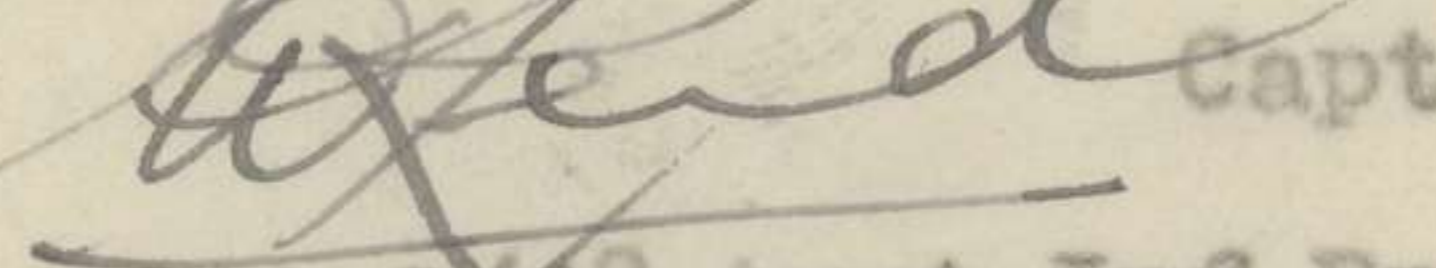
1. Subunits will report enemy air activity immediately after occurrence to these HQ in the following terms:-

(a) Recce: Time
Number of aircraft
Type of aircraft
Height of aircraft
Direction of approach and departure
Map ref (four figure) of area reconnoitred
Any hostile action

(b) Bombing: Time
Number of aircraft
Type of aircraft
Height of aircraft
Direction of approach and departure
Number of bombs dropped
Map ref of area bombed (four figure)

2. In addition sub units will report by 1700 hrs daily full details of bombing attack giving detailed map refs (six figure) of area bombed, target details of damage and casualties.

Distribn: All Coys
WD (2)
File
Spares (2)

 Capt
Adit 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

2/48 AUST INF BN CASUALTIES

DURING OPS TEL EL BISA 23 OCT - 3 NOV 42

Coy	Date	KIA	WIA	DOW	Missing	Total
A	24		9			9
	25		4	3		7
	26	1/7	13	2		1/22
	27	1	4			5
	31	1/8	1/22			2/30
Total		2/16	1/52	5		3/73
B	24	1	5			6
	25	2				2
	26		2	1/-	4	1/6
	27		1			1
	30		1	1		2
	31	1/11	3/35			4/46
Total		1/14	3/44	1/1	4	5/63
C	24	1/-				1/-
	25		8			8
	26	3	3			6
	27		2			2
	28		4			4
	29		1			1
	31	7	2/29	1		2/37
Total		1/10	2/47	1		3/58
D	24	1	1/4			1/5
	25	3	4			7
	26	1	1/5		1/-	2/6
	27		1			1
	28	1				1
	31	1/9	2/19		2	3/30
Total		1/15	4/33		1/2	6/50
Bn HQ	24	1	2			3
	25	1	1			2
	26	2	3			5
	28		1			1
	31	1/4	1/8	1	1	2/14
Total		1/8	1/15	1	1	2/25

2/48 AUST INF BN CASUALTIES DURING OPS

TEL EL EISA 23 OCT - 3 NOV 42

HQ Coy	Date	KIA	WIA	DOW	Missing	Total
1 Pl	26	1				1
	27		1			1
	28			2		2
	31	4	11			15
Total		5	12	2		19
2 Pl	25		1			1
	26	1				1
	31		2		1	3
Total		1	3		1	5
3 Pl	24		1			1
	27		3			3
	29		2			2
Total			6			6
4 Pl	24		2			2
	26	2	2			4
	31		2			2
Total		2	6			8
5 Pl	25		1			1
	29		1			1
	31	1	1/2			1/3
Total		1	1/4			1/5
6 Pl	24		1			1
	25		1			1
	26	4	1			5
	31		2			2
Total		4	5			9
A Tk	25		1			1
	26		2			2
	27		1/1			1/1
	31		2			2
Total			1/6			1/6
MMG	26		1			1
Total			1			1
Coy HQ	31		1			1
Total			1			1
Grand Totals		6/74	13/235	1/10	1/8	21/329

Our Ref: A1/303

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
20 Oct 42

26 Aust Inf Bde

LOB PERSONNEL

1. The present strength of this unit in relation to active ops is a matter of some concern to me.

Strength of Unit is as follows:-

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>
Available for duty 20 Oct 42	29	648
Leave	2	25
Detached	2	11

2. The above figures based on today's fighting strength represents a shortage against WE of 7 Offrs 164 ORs. Added to the existing WE, for which no allowance in personnel has been made, are the A Tk Pl and MMG Pl which I am manning with strengths as follows:-

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	
A Tk Pl	2	45	
MMG Pl	1	19	3 Offrs 64 ORs

The addition of these two Pls represents an increase in WE (not including the two A Tk Offrs) to 34 Offrs 876 ORs, making the total below strength - 5 Offrs 228 ORs.

3. The withdrawal of LOB personnel, even in proportion to present strength will mean severe reduction in the fighting capabilities of the unit as it is at present constituted and some additional relief or even the elimination of personnel to be left out of battle is requested.

4. Figures taken from the most recent Part II Orders dated 9 Oct 42, which cannot represent the exact posn to date, show 3 NCOs 16 ORs as having marched into 26 ITB for return to Unit. School personnel are 2 Offrs 4 NCOs with 6 NCOs at OCTU and 1 OCTU graduate now at 26 ITB.

5. Excluding OCTU personnel 2 Offrs 7 NCOs and 16 men therefore are available for LOB. Added to this 3 Coy Offrs can be made LOB making a total of 5 Offrs.

6. I have made no mention of the Offrs and the large number of wounded and sick men, a great proportion of whom will soon be available for duty. These figures represent approx 7 Offrs and 184 ORs.

7. I cannot too strongly recommend that the present fighting strength of the Unit may be kept intact to do any task given to the Unit.

H H Hammer
Lt Col

Comd 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(H H HAMMER)

War Diary

SECRET

2/48 Aust Inf Bn
12 Nov 42

26 Aust Inf Bde

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON OPERATIONS
FOR PERIOD 23 OCT - 3 NOV 42.

Ref Maps: EL WISKA 1:25,000 overlay,
SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN 1:25,000 overlay,
TEL EL MAKH KHAD 1:25,000 overlay.

During the period under review, the Bn was engaged in three attacks. For this reason this report falls into three phases;

23-25 OCT 42 Attack on MITEIRIYA RIDGE - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn as
right flank of EIGHTH ARMY. Trace A att.

1. APPROACH. On night 23/24 Oct the Bn moved on MT to a posn just outside our FDL's, SOUTH of TEL EL BISA Sta. Here the Bn de-bussed and moved on foot to 2/24 Bn S.L., which had been established 1500x from the enemy FDL's.

The task of the 2/24 Bn was to attack the enemy's front line of FDL's on an 800x front, moving out approx 2000x, then reorganising. Following on, 2/48 Aust Inf Bn was to attack the enemy's second line of defences from a start line just behind 2/24 Bn's objective and reorganise facing WEST and NORTH as the right flank of 9 AUST DIV and EIGHTH ARMY.

2. ATTACK. Forming up with two Coys fwd and two in reserve, in box formation, the Bn passed through 2/24 Bn, and following timed arty concentrations the two fwd coys assaulted the enemy's second line of defence.

The defences were heavily wired, mined and booby-trapped, and at first stiff resistance was encountered. This was quickly overcome, however, and the fwd coys reached a line 1700x from the S.L. The res coys, which had been mopping up in rear, then moved through and cleaned up to the limit of exploitation - a distance of 3900x from the S.L.. Seventy P.O.W's (Italian) were captured, some of the enemy retreating before the fierce hand to hand fighting. From the debussing area to the final objective the Bn had been subjected to considerable enemy arty and mortar fire as well as small arms fire.

3. REORGANISATION. On success, the Bn reorganised, the left fwd Coy facing WEST, the right fwd Coy facing NORTH; the right reserve Coy swung right so as to face NORTH and the left reserve Coy moved slightly forward and took up position facing WEST and NORTH-WEST.

Meanwhile the A Ech vehicles (including 3 Bn A/Tk guns, Two tps 6 prs, the Bn Pl of W/Gs, one Pl 2/2 MG Bn, 6 mortar dets, Coy store vehs, the Bn carriers loaded with Pl packs, amm, stores & food, Bn res amm vehs and pioneer veh with 2400 Hawkins mines) were moving fwd on a route 280x SOUTH of the main axis of advance. This route was being cleared and lit by engineers, and as soon as the gaps had been cleared the column pushed through and was directed to coys by guides and by the flashing of Lucas lamps from each Coy.

Reorganisation went ahead full swing now, as it was 0400 hrs and the Bn had to be ready for possible counter-attack at first light. Vehs and carriers at once off-loaded and then continued a shuttle service to increase all Coys' reserve supplies before dawn.

By first light all supporting weapons were in position, Coys had dug in and every man was equipped with head cover, and a double-row Hawkins minefield wired with Dannert had been laid around the Bn area. All vehicles were cleared out of the area by first light.

4. COUNTER ATTACK. Counter-attacks failed to materialise at first light but throughout the day the Bn was subjected to heavy arty, mortar and M/g fire. Most of the arty fire was directed from Pt 29, a prominent ridge 1600x NORTH of our FDL's and completely overlooking them.

Late in the afternoon, the CO received infm that the Bn would probably be required to attack Pt 29 the following night.

Although much movement of enemy tanks and vehs could be heard, the night passed without incident except for our own and enemy night bombing, but during the next day the Bn was again subjected to heavy arty, M/g and mortar fire. One counter-attack from the NORTH was dispersed by our arty fire. Enemy tks attempted to draw our fire on the WESTERN flank but only succeeded in doing so when one 6 pr A/Tk gun had been knocked out. A German Mk IV tk was hit and set on fire and the remainder withdrew.

5. INTERCOM. (a) R/T sets to Coys and Bn rear HQ worked well throughout. A temporary breakdown by the control set was overcome by the C.O. using a reserve Coy set.

(b) L/T followed the attack and shortly after success Bn was in communication with Bde.

(c) L/T was out to Coys, supporting arms and Arty OP's before daylight and the stage was set for operations as they eventuated.

25-27 OCT 42. ATTACK on TRIG 29 - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn exploit the ARMY right flank. Trace B att.

C.O. received orders from BDE that the Bn would attack Pt 29 under cover of arty concentrations night 25/26 Oct and after success reorganise facing NORTH and WEST again.

1. PLAN. The plan was as follows: S.L. parallel to the objective and 1600x from it, astride a track running due NORTH to Pt 29. Two fwd coys to advance on 800x front for 900x and halt. One Coy mounted on carriers, with one tp 6-pr and four 37 mm A/Tk guns in tow, to move under cover of the arty concentration up the track to within 200x of Pt 29, debuss, and assault the objective - timed to arrive 3 mins after the arty concentrations ceased.

The right fwd coy at 900x was to face NE and hold the enemy localities running to the EAST while the 2/24 Aust Inf Bn formed up under cover of the new Bn area and assaulted the enemy localities from WEST to EAST in the direction of THOMPSON'S POST.

2. ATTACK. The plan proved entirely successful. Fierce hand to hand fighting won the ridge. The assaulting Coy then exploited fwd to the NORTH of Trig 29, the left Coy, on success, exploited to the WEST of Pt 29, overcoming stiff resistance, and reorganised facing WEST; the res Coy moved fwd along the track and linking the left fwd coy with the Bn on our left, reorganised facing WEST and NORTH-WEST; while the right Coy after a heavy engagement with the enemy held fast until the 2/24 Aust Inf Bn passed through them, moved NORTH a few hundred yards and reorganised as the reserve company.

3. REORGAN. Again a number of carriers was loaded with P1 packs, and these with A Ech vehs quickly brought up stores; so that by first light all Coys were mined, wired, well dug in, with head cover and ample reserves of amm, food and water. A/Tk guns, MMG Mortars etc all in posn ready to fight at first light.

79 P.o.Ws were captured during this op and at least 100 killed. All were Germans of the 125 REGT. One Italian M13 tk which had been used as an OP at Pt 29 was captured intact.

4. INTERCOM.- R/T. Throughout the attack perfect R/T comm with Coys was maintained. This had a marked effect on the rapidity of the attack, the employment of reserves to mop up enemy posts and permitted almost a perfect teamwork between C.O. and Coys in the conduct of the attack, mopping up and reorganisation.

L/T. The line was continued from the Bn's previous posn and L/T was possible from Bn HQ to Bde almost at any time. L/T to Coys, supporting arms and arty OP's were out quickly during reorgn period.

Later during heavy arty fire by the enemy considerable difficulty was experienced in maintaining L/T to Coys and Bde and R/T was used effectively as a substitute.

RUNNER. Contact was always maintained and there was a close liaison between all Coys at all times, evidencing the team work of the Bn in keeping contact

5. DEFENCE OF TRIG 29 - 26 OCT 42. From first light until 0900 hrs the whole area and especially Pt 29, was subjected to an intense arty concentration. Shelling, mortar and M/g fire continued throughout the day, but no counter-attack developed, probably because of the accurate arty support assisting the Bn. At this stage three Fd Regts and one Med Regt were ab call if necessary. During the day 300 enemy inf moved into posns 1500x NORTH of Trig 29 - they were engaged by our arty and dispersed.

At a conference the following morning, the CO learned that the Bn was to be relieved by 2/17 Aust Inf Bn that night, to withdraw for a probable attack the next night (Oct 28/29).

6. COUNTER-ATTACKS. At first light (Oct 27) 30 tks were seen close in to the Coy facing WEST. They remained there all day. No engagement took place - the enemy main object being to watch our armour which was on our southern flank.

At 1400 hrs 4 tks approached Pt 29 from the NW and attempted to draw our fire. They were engaged by our arty and withdrew. At 1600 hrs enemy lorried infantry were seen to move into dead ground 1500x NORTH of Pt 29, and immediately afterwards our FDL's were very heavily shelled. At 1630 hrs enemy inf (strength one bn) were seen to form up just SOUTH of where the troop-carriers had disappeared. They began to move towards our positions.

Promptly, our arty brought down an intense barrage in front of our FDL's and the enemy was engaged with mortar, M/g and SA fire. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans but they maintained their efforts until just before last light, when they withdrew to approx 600x from our FDL's. They were seen to evacuate many wounded men.

At 2200 hrs the relief of the Bn began. Shortly afterwards the enemy again counter-attacked from the NORTH, this time getting right on to our wire before being driven back by fire. The relief was then completed without incident and the Bn withdrew to an area SOUTH of TEL EL BISA stn.

During these counter-attacks the enemy suffered heavy casualties. A P.o.W. later stated that 80 had been killed and 200 wounded in one advance by his unit.

28 OCT 42. - Arrangements for attack on enemy from the rear SOUTH of SIDI RAHMAN to RING CONTOUR 25.

On 28 Oct 42 plans were made for the next attack. These involved a move from Pt 29 area NORTH to the rly and main road, then SE astride the road, and an attack on ring contour 25 from the rear, followed by reorganisation to NORTH and WEST.

The Bn, on night 28/29 Oct, moved up to the area of Pt 29, to follow up the 2/23 Aust Inf Bn's attack to the rly line, but because this Bn was not able to get fwd and the tks accompanying it were held up by minefields, the attack was postponed to night 30/31 Oct.

Moving back to its lying up area, the Bn although lightly shelled, was enabled to rest during 29 and 30 Oct.

30 OCT - 1 NOV 42. Traces C & D att.

1. PLAN. The plan for night 30/31 Oct was briefly for one Bn to move to road and rly (squ 870304) from Trig 29 area and re-organise forming a defended locality to NORTH and WEST, while 2/48 Aust Inf Bn and 2/24 Aust Inf Bn followed through and formed up astride rd and moved SE to Ring Contour 25. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn to move NORTH of Main Rd to enemy FDL's, with 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on the SOUTH, then 2/48 Aust Inf Bn to swing left and move NE along enemy FDL's and attack CLOVER LEAF, then continue and mop up to the coast. A further Bn was to move through the first objective (squ 870304), capture and hold a line from the main rd to the coast. This would cut off and contain a large enemy force not specifically dealt with by the 2/48 and 2/24 Aust Inf Bn's.

Arty concentrations to support the whole attack from Trig 29 on known enemy localities.

All Ech only to be taken with units - the balance to move EAST to WEST via the main road when it was opened through the enemy FDL's.

The total strength of the rifle coys of the Bn available for the attack was approx 220 all ranks.

2. APPROACH. After last light the Bn moved up by MT to 1600x^{NORTH} of Pt 29 and debussed. Here the A Ech vehs remained, while after a halt for the first attacking Bn to move through, the Bn itself again moved forward. Some fighting had to be done before the railway line was reached, two Coys being employed to silence opposition. There the situation was far from stabilised. Under cover of a patrol the start line was laid, and while mopping up was still proceeding in the area, the Bn moved on to the S.L. The necessity to fight to get on the start line caused some delay while the two Coys employed returned.

At Zero our arty barrage began and many shells fell on and near the start line causing slight disorganisation while assembling on the start line. Fairly heavy shelling apparently from our guns was experienced here and our arty fire seemed to lack the accuracy which characterised its previous support to the Bn in the earlier attacks. Several casualties occurred on the start line.

3. ATTACK. The Bn moved off, two Coys up and two in res on a 400x front which was to be widened to 800x on contact with the main road. Once the road was crossed the advance continued from just astride the road on the right flank to 800x NORTH.

Strong opposition was met and fierce hand to hand fighting took place almost every yard of the 3800 yd advance, but the fwd Coys succeeded in reaching the first objective at 2200x from the start line and halted. At this stage Bn HQ was 400x in front of the fwd coys and was meeting with stiff opposition. The rear Coys now passed through and continued the advance all suffering heavy casualties, mainly from mortar and M/g fire.

500x from the Ring Contour the Bn was halted by mortar fire and M/g fire and despite many attempts further advance became impossible, heavy casualties being received. By this time A, B and C Coys had been contacted and all reported heavy casualties and the situation such that they could make no progress. No word could be had from D Coy - it was later found that all officers were casualties and the whole of D Coy HQ killed or wounded.

A Coy was also without officers or senior NCO's. Contact was made with 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on the right, who had met with similar strong opposition. They had decided to withdraw.

The strength of the Bn was now reduced to 41 and the C.O., after a preliminary decision to dig in close to the enemy strong post under heavy fire, made a further decision at 0530 hrs in view of all the circumstances to move back to the 2/32 Aust Inf Bn who were holding a position in the vicinity of our start line, astride the rly line and assist in cutting off the enemy force contained in the area.

The withdrawal was effected without further loss. As many wounded as could be located were helped back and many prisoners brought in as well. The prisoners taken numbered approx 200, and although our casualties had been heavy, many more of the enemy were killed in the fierce hand to hand combats. Many prisoners who were taken on in the advance were killed and wounded by their own fire.

Officer & NCO casualties were very high in this action. Three officers only were unwounded and almost all Coys were completely depleted of NCO's. There were many gallant instances of officers and NCO's badly wounded who carried on until their Pls and Coys were reorganised and dug in before being evacuated.

4. INTERCOM. R/T. Generally speaking in this action the sets worked well and contact with Coys was well in hand. Bn to rear Bn HQ was out of touch from the commencement and therefore unable to contact Bde. Enemy action was mainly responsible for the breaking of R/T comm with Coys in the latter stage of the attack.

L/T. was not employed in this attack owing to the distances involved. Later during the day the only contact with Bde was by R/T which worked most effectively. The great urgency of the traffic necessitated the use of clear together with some jargon.

RUNNER & COY LIAISON. Runner comm was almost faultless - runners doing a stirring job.

Coy team work - liaison with each other & Bn HQ was once again outstanding and always enabled a control of the battle by the C.O. even in the difficult circumstances of fire, smoke, dust, mines, wire, booby traps, direction finding and the dark.

5. REORGN. Meanwhile A Ech vehs (which had been split into A1 and A2 Ech) had been assembled at the rly line, but the situation was such that A2 Ech had to return without making contact with the Bn. A1 Ech (carriers with Pl packs, 2 mortar dets, and 4 Bn A/Tk guns) remained at the rly line.

Having made contact with the 2/32 Aust Inf Bn, the Bn dug in on their EASTERN flank, between the rly line and the main road holding the ridge B11 (87083046).

6. COUNTER-ATTACK. During the day (31 Oct) the main enemy counter-attacks were launched on the 2/32 Aust Inf Bn right flank and the small Bn force was not seriously involved in any action although it was under intense arty and A/Tk gun fire while a tank battle raged for seven hours between our Valentines and 20 German Mk III tanks.

At last light plans were made to reorganise the defences, but before this could be put in hand, it was learned that the Bn was to be relieved by the 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.

7. RELIEF. The relief was effected without incident and the Bn withdrew to the area Pt 24 and CUTTING, near TEL EL BISA Sta and occupied the FDL's facing THOMPSON'S POST and Ring Contour 25.

Daylight patrols to THOMPSON'S POST on Nov 2 established the fact that the enemy had withdrawn. The main road was opened on night 2/3 Nov.

Bn strength on 23 Oct was 30 Offrs 656 ORs.

Total casualties in the Bn during this period 23 Oct - 31 Oct were:

K.I.A.	7	Offrs	134	ORs
W.I.A.	13	"	215	"
Missing	1 (believed killed)	"	8	"
TOTAL	<u>21</u>		<u>327</u>	

LESSONS

The main lessons have already been discussed with and fwded by 26 Aust Inf Bde and only a few now remain to be mentioned or elaborated.

1. ENGINEER SUPPT. Valuable assistance was given by RAE in mine sweeping and lighting and there were no vehicle losses by the Bn from mines on routes swept by the RAE. The close co-operation by the Eng Officer (Lieut Murray) and his thorough knowledge of the working and requirement of the Bn A Ech transport on training exercises enabled the Bn to get its vehicles up early for the re-organisation period. A thorough understanding of a Bn's methods in this type of attack is essential to safe and speedy reorgn.

2. ARTY. In general arty concentrations were excellent and its intensity had a tremendous effect on enemy morale. We all received our dropshorts and overs but learned to grin and bear it for the sake of the many others falling on the target.

O.P.O's were generally unsatisfactory:-

- (i) Tendency to operate too far back from F.D.L's.
- (ii) Comms at times were appalling. At Trig 29 four OPO's were all out of comm (L/T and R/T) with their units at the same time on several occasions and guns were fired on orders from Bn HQ. This occurred again at the BLOCK HOUSE (SIDI RAHMAN).
- (iii) Junior OPO's with a Troop of guns were rather staggered when they realized that they could call on two or three Regts of Arty. In important situations with great fire power available more senior and experienced officers would appear to be the answer.
- (iv) It seemed such a frightful waste to have such tremendous fire power available without the experienced eyes in the right place with fool proof comm to use it to the best and most economical advantage.
- (v) The D.F. system was excellent and saved many a difficult situation during enemy counter-attacks. The opportunity for observed fire was also there but was seldom used to ^{the} advantage that forward observation can give.
- (vi) There was a great reluctance by OPO's to disconnect sets from carriers despite the fact that covered posns in good OPs could be obtained with dismounted sets.
- (vii) The extended line of comm (L/T) from OP to guns during enemy arty action made the maintenance of L/T most difficult and resulted in at times almost complete lack of L/T comm.

3. TRAFFIC CONTROL. One of the outstanding lessons of the action seems to be the necessity for a co-ordinated system of traffic control for the handling of large columns at night.

Unit traffic control, guiding and lighting was always present and without it some of the assemblies for attack would never have materialised.

The main difficulty arises when several units decide to use the same up route at the same time and several other units or part thereof decide to use it as a down route at about the same period, or if there are instructions to the contrary - completely ignore them.

Many harrowing experiences were encountered and were sufficient to indicate that traffic control is a subject that needs study, planning and action.

4. TANKS. While tanks were not in support directly with this Bn, special mention must be made of the action of 40 RTR at the BLOCK HOUSE area (SIDI EL RAHMAN) on 31 Oct 42 against 20 plus German Mark III tanks. They fought them at close range for a period of

7 hours and prevented the enemy tanks from overrunning the localities of units in that area. The united efforts of 40 MTR our arty and inf prevented a breakthrough by heavy and determined enemy counter-attacks on 31 Oct 42.

5. A/TK GUNS. These were fought gallantly on all occasions when with the Bn. The main lesson appears to be for the 6 pdr to be up, sited in depth from the FDL's with the Bn smaller calibre guns in the greater depth positions to fire on limited ranges.
6. CARRIERS. These were invaluable for ferrying of Coy packs, of ream, mines, wire, food etc for reorgn phases. They were used most successfully to carry a Coy assaulting force, four Carriers abreast on to Trig 29 at the same time towing 4 Anti-Tank guns for A/Tk defence against tank counter-attack in the moonlight. 6 pdr A/Tk guns were also rushed forward with this assaulting force for the same purpose, carrying a Pl of inf as well. There was an economy of vehs in this and it provided a strong mobile striking force of a Coy of Inf and eight A/Tk guns.

7. INTERCOMM. R/T worked admirably. One feels that if there are faults in the No 18 or 108 sets the main responsibility lies in the operator rather than the set. However it must be remembered that the Bn was working on a limited front in all attacks and the terrain was mostly flat.

L/T was always up early - by vehicle and manhandling. The difficulty is to maintain it when the enemy is shelling and mortaring heavily. Duplicate lines and courageous linesmen provide the answer. We have the courageous linesmen but limited cable.

8. ENG STORES, MINES ETC. The Hawkins mines were invaluable - easy to handle. Head cover, sandbags, demert wire were always used and together with mines for attack and reorgn appear to be a necessity for unit stores.

Where a unit moves from locality to locality carrying out a series of attacks, these stores should move with them unless there is an absolute guarantee that other and sufficient stores are available.

The use of these stores were part of the battle drill of the unit on reorgn and their employment saved many casualties.

9. LIGHTING & GUIDING. Once again this was carried out as a drill and at all times worked effectively. A standard type of light and stand is required for this work. Beer tins with electric batteries mounted on a steel rod were used and worked well but can hardly be described as a standard type.

Guides were always well instructed in route, distances, order of march, flanking units etc and taught to volunteer infn during the approach by unit vehicles. They were always taught to make notes of their duties.

Lucas Lamps were effectively used by Coys to indicate by a color allotted, the location of the Coy for guiding A Ech vehs fwd for reorgn.

Team work by every Officer, NCO and man was probably the outstanding feature to ensure accuracy and speed in the handling of men vehicles, supporting arms and weapons.

H. H. Hammer

Lt-Col
Comd 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
(H H HAMMER)

BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN 23 OCT - 3 NOV 1942

LECTURE NOTES FOR TOUR OF IRAQ AND IRAN (PAIFORCE)

Jan 1943

by Lt-col H H HAMMER DSO

CONTENTS

1. Summary of EL ALAMEIN BATTLE.
2. Night Attack - ALAMEIN.
3. Reorganisation Methods - ALAMEIN.
4. Notes on Attacks by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
 - (a) MITEIRIYA RIDGE Night 23/24 Oct 1942.
 - (b) TRIG 29 Night 25/26 Oct 1942.
 - (c) RING CONTOUR 25 Night 30/31 Oct 1942.

SUMMARY OF EL ALAMEIN BATTLE

23 Oct - 3 Nov 1942

These notes are only intended to be a brief summary of the battle and the events leading up to the battle.

1. THE PROBLEM:

The British and German - Italian Armies had been facing each other between EL ALAMEIN and the QATTARA depression since the end of June. At the time when the EIGHTH ARMY first occupied the position, there were few troops available to hold the 35 miles of front. In the north - one S A Div only recently withdrawn from the frontier. Further South there were elements of 5 and 10 Ind Divisions who had both seen heavy fighting. In the centre was the 2 N Z Div who had been fighting at MATRUH. In the extreme South was the 7 Armoured Div consisting of 7 Motor Bde but no Armoured Bde. The 1 Armoured Div, much reduced in strength, was covering the gap between 1 S A Div and 2 N Z Div.

Between the 1st and 26 Jul a series of offensive operations were carried out. Owing to lack of resources none of these was on a large enough scale to be greatly successful but 9 Aust Div did gain the high ground at TEL EL EISA on 10 July later on in this month advancing the original ALAMEIN line to link up with TEL EL EISA and TRIG 33.

By the end of July the C in C decided to adopt a defensive attitude and build up a powerful force for a counter-offensive.

During July and August, each Army was engaged in strengthening their positions. By the end of July there was a continuous belt of mines from the Coast to HIMEIMAT and many of the positions had by then been developed to considerable depth. This process continued and by the end of August the British position was heavily mined and strongly held in depth as far South as the ALAM NYAL Ridge; further South the position was also well mined but held only by mob troops with an armoured force placed to hold the vital ground covering the Southern flank.

As was expected the Germans attacked in strength on the Southern flank at the end of August. This attack was held. Considerable losses inflicted on the enemy who withdrew to his own positions, remaining in possession of some of our minefields and ground near HIMEIMAT and TAQA which gave him observation over our old minefields on the Southern flank.

After this reverse the enemy paid great attention to his defences and generally throughout the front strengthened them with further minefields, wire and booby traps. At the same time preparations for the counter offensive were being pressed forward by the EIGHTH ARMY.

There was great activity in training the troops, for their part in the plan made by Gen Sir Bernard MONTGOMERY when he assumed command of EIGHTH ARMY in the middle of August.

The problem was to break into and through a position which had been organised and prepared over a period of three months and was now strongly held along the full 35 miles of front and with a powerful armoured force in support.

Gen MONTGOMERY'S object was not only to break into and through the position but in his own words "To hit ROMMEL for six out of AFRICA".

Because of the QATTARA depression and the very soft sand in the South it was not possible to turn the enemy's flank from this direction.

2. THE PLAN IN OUTLINE

The Army's Comd plan was to penetrate the minefields in the Northern Sector by an infantry attack by 30 Corps. This penetration was to be a sufficient depth and on a wide enough front to enable the 10 Corps, who were in reserve, to be passed through into the open country. The 10 Corps consisted of 2 N Z Div who were to take part in the 30 Corps battle of penetration and the 1 and 10 Armoured Divs who were, for the most part, equipped with the new American SHERMAN Tanks.

The 13 Corps was to contain the forces opposite to them on the Southern flank and in particular, to prevent the enemy moving armoured reinforcements to the Northern battle.

An elaborate deception scheme was worked out to deceive the enemy and make him believe we were preparing an attack in the South.

This plan was disclosed to senior comds only and great secrecy was maintained from the inception of the plan.

Much training was required both for the troops who had to assault the minefields and for the 10 Corps who had to pass through. (51 Highland Div attached to 9 Aust Div).

A full moon was essential for the opening attack and 23 Oct was the date fixed with zero 2200 hrs.

3. PLAN IN NORTHERN SECTOR

30 Corps attacked with 9 Aust Div on the right - 51 Div centre - and 2 N Z and 1 S A Div on the South.

The sectors of attack and line of objectives shown on MAP.

The depth of attack varied from 5,000, to 8,000 yds. The infantry attack was supported by a carefully prepared and very heavy arty program (408 guns) which in some cases was a barrage and other cases a series of concentrations on enemy positions.

As the infantry advanced gaps were cleared in the minefields behind them by engineers for the transport and armoured forces which were to follow.

4. PLAN IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR

13 Corps attacked with the 7 Armoured Div, a narrow sector of the minefields between HIMEIMAT and the MUNASSIB depression. Further South the 1 Fighting French Bde attacked HIMEIMAT from the South. These attacks were simultaneous with the attacks in the North.

5. SUBSEQUENT FIGHTING

The result of the first night's fighting was to make a great bulge into the enemy's position on the North and a smaller dent into his minefields in the South. The bulge in the North was not yet sufficiently clear to enable the 10 Corps to pass through. During the next 9 days there was continuous and heavy fighting in the Northern sector.

The 9 Aust Div steadily improved their position, particularly towards the North, gradually extending the right flank of the EIGHTH ARMY. A strong and large pocket of enemy resistance was threatened with encirclement and very strong enemy counter attacks were made against this Division. All counter attacks were held and very severe losses were inflicted on the enemy.

The 51 Div steadily improved their position. 2 N Z Div and 1 S A Div completed the capture of MITEIRIYA Ridge which was then taken over by 1 S A Div. 10 Corps were continually trying to force a way out but the German Armoured Forces and A Tk guns were determined to prevent the British armour breaking out. In one of these efforts, the 2 RIFLE BDE on night 26 Oct attacked through the 51 Div position and found themselves at first light within 600 yds of a German Armoured leaguer. This Bn held its position throughout the 27th and knocked out approx 50 German and Italian tanks.

The Southern sector where the fighting had died down after the first 3 days, provided the 151 Bde, 5 Ind Bde, 7 Armoured Div including 4 Lt Armoured Bde and 131 Infantry Bde for operations in the North.

The German 15 Armoured Div wore itself out in counter attacks in the North and 21 Armoured Div was brought from the South. 164 German Lt Div was being pulverised by the Australians and 90eLt Div reduced their own strength greatly in bloody counter attacks on the Australians.

A final plan to overthrow the Germans in the North was then made by the Army Comd. This plan known as "Supercharge" involved a further break out due West through approx the objective gained by 9 Aust Div and 51 Div. The main assaulting force was 2 NZ Div who had under command the 151 and 152 Infantry Bdes.

This attack went in on 1 Nov and was most successful in neutralising enemy A/Tk guns and as a result 10 Corps was able to pass through although they still had severe fighting against enemy A/Tk guns in the AQQAQIR area.

Early on the 3 Nov it was clear that the enemy was withdrawing.

6. R A F

Throughout the operations the R A F gave excellent support. The continuous bombing of the enemy concentrations gave the enemy no rest, and the measure of air supremacy achieved was such that our own operations were never impeded by the enemy airforce.

A. H. Hammer
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.

NIGHT ATTACK - ALAMEIN - Oct 23 to Nov 1, 1942

1. GENERAL:

The two Armies had faced each other at ALAMEIN since the end of June to 23 Oct 1942 and both lines were strongly held with considerable minefields and wire, the enemy with a powerful armoured force in support.

The problem was to break through his minefield defences to his gun line - establish a bridgehead through which our armour would operate.

The attack situation I am going to deal with, is, as the battle and the events leading up to it, affect an Infantry Bn, with its supporting arms - one MMG Pl - two troops A/Tk guns 6 Pdr - one sec RAE - Arty OPO - representing considerable arty.

2. ATTACK - PHASE 1

(a) Trg phase - long planning ahead for large scale offensive -

9 Aust Div directives on 3 Aug, 15 Sep and 14 Oct 42

inspired by EIGHTH ARMY dealing with:-

Night attack with engr co-operation to pass through minefields including booby traps.

Passing reserve Coys through forward Coys for second Phase of Bn attack - leap frogging movement.

Thorough testing of manloading arrangements.

Manhandling supporting weapons - weapons on objective ready to fight.

"Pl Pack" system using carriers.

Capture of enemy positions with or without tanks.

Rapid re-organisation.

Mopping up.

Maintenance of comms in battle.

A battle drill for every individual was practiced.

(b) Early knowledge of type of actual attack permitted rehearsals of actual Bn tasks on a full scale course complete with obstacles and fire effects - Day and night trials.

(c) Security. Infm passed to next lowest comds on time program.

(d) Army Comd (Gen MONTGOMERY) reveals big plan to all offr

30 Corps and 13 Corps - He makes a few special points:-

The attack was to be in 3 phases -

- i. Battle for posn.
- ii. The dog fight.
- iii. Methodical destruction of the enemy.

Special points:-

- i Don't expect spectacular results too early.
- ii Operate from firm bases.
- iii Quick reorgn - must be quick and good.
- iv Maintain our balance - balance disposns - don't do foolish things - fight wisely.
- v Keep up the pressure of the dog fight - relentless pressure slowly eating into the enemy guts - pressure never to be relaxed.
- vi Offensive eagerness - the battle must be won - we can last the enemy cannot.
- vii Kill Germans

(e) Sub units Comds and tps put completely in the picture and plan - Everbody battle conscious - offensively eager for battle.

(f) Detail preparation for battle:-

- i. Weapons.
- ii. Amn and stores - veh and carrier maintenance.
- iii. Man Leads.
- iv. Carrier packs
- v. A Ech Packs - Coy trucks.
- vi. Supporting weapons and arms.
- vii. Start lines established.
- viii. Routing and guiding -(lying up areas to ASSEMBLY AREAS and start line)
- ix. Lighting systems prepared.
- x. Bn and Coy formations.
- xi. Liaison points with flank Bns.
- xii. Arrangements to man handle MORTARS, MMGs, A/Tk Guns etc (Get the weapons onto objective ready to fight).
- xiii. Carrier Courtesy Patrol to assist immobilised vehs and arms.

xiv. Time and space arrangements. Careful measurements - accurate timings.

xv. MORALE - Bn Comd talks to Coys. No walkover - must fight hard to win - men offensive eagerness - learn to kill - strike before enemy can surrender.

xvi. FINAL CONFERENCE - who attends?
All comds, Coys, Staff, supporting weapons and arms, Arty, Sappers, "I" Sgt, RSM, RP Sgt, RMO.

We check the details of the attack - tasks - timings etc. Written orders are issued but not required - mental picture has been built up by exercises, sand table and blackboard - issue of sequence of events times and distances. Everybody happy, eager and determined.

(g) Bumph rolls in - amendments - addendums - we check quickly - it dos'nt affect main plan - stick it in the file!

(h) TIME to move from LYING UP AREA to VEH ASSEMBLY AREA - TRAFFIC CONTROL.

(i) 2140 hrs Counter Bty work starts (awe inspiring and frightening) - we move to ASSEMBLY AREA under fire.

(j) We assemble and we're off on our journey of 8,000 yds.

3. ATTACK - PHASE 2

(a) ASSEMBLY AREA TO START LINE

i. Formations - Pls in coln of threes.

Coys two up

Bn Two up.

ii. Direction - we move on centre line established by 2/24 Bn. We check with compasses and pace checkers.

3 leading parties each Coy

2 leading parties Bn HQ.

iii. Never rely on the other fellow - check his arrangements with your own.

iii. START LINE - established by IO and Staff behind 2/24 Bn (TWO Gps in case of casualties).

iv. All this under light to heavy Arty and Mortar fire.

(b) START LINE TO OBJECTIVE

i. Formations - Pls - Two secs up - 1 res.

Coys - Two Pls up.

Bn - Two Coys up - Two res.

ii. Frontages - 400 yds each Coy.

iii. Mopping Up - Res Coys echeloned to cover Coy boundaries and Bn boundary on left flank.

iv. PW - Coys pass to res coy thence to centre line back to FUP - RPs collect.

ITALIANS - easy (Put senior ITIE offr in charge)!

HUNS - Less easy - don't waste your man power on PW.

v. Centre Line - IO and one guide per light lay centre line behind Bn - makes one centre line from original centre ASSEMBLY AREA to objective.

vi. Guides - on lights are briefed by IO. They know the order of the march of assaulting coys, vehs, their distances in yds from SL and from objective.

vii. Keeping Direction - 3 leading parties per coy.

1 or 2 Bn HQ

Compasses - pace checkers - time keepers.

3.7 BOFORS firing tracer at 5 minute intervals up the centre line assist in keeping direction.

Bn on left flank)
Arty flanking protection) Accurate direction important.

viii. Engineers

(a) Behind the Bn two teams of sappers sweeping 8 yd lanes through the minefields - establish and light gaps - light the Bn veh axis (in this case 200 yds South of centre line) Two gaps are established - one an emergency gap with switch lines swept - lit only when required.

(b) Parties with each Coys for BANGALORES, BOOBY TRAPS.

(c) Personnel with each coy A Ech veh to assist in laying HAWKINS mines on reorgn.

ix. Supporting Weapons and Arms

(a) (SIG VEHS - Bn and Bde
(CARRIER PACKS
OC (A/Tk GUNS
HQ (MMG
Coy (MORTARS
(ARTY CPO CARRIER
(Bn A ECH VEHS

move along the veh axis in rear of Engr to join coys on success.

- (b) One guide from each Sub unit march through with Coys to objectives then returned to the Centre Line to assist in a rapid guiding.

x. Arty Support

- (a) In general based on rate of advance 100 yds in three minutes.
- (b) Pauses for one Bn to leap frog through the other.
- (c) Pauses for Coys to leap frog at intermediate objectives.
- (d) Series of timed concentrations on known enemy positions - air photos - counter bty data - engr and inf recce.
- (e) The maintenance of timings, direction is essential to obtain the best support from arty and there must be an endeavor to "lean on the barrage" and catch the enemy before he has time to recover.
- (f) Arty OPO moved with Bn HQ on foot to keep in the picture.

xi. Air Support - bombing by flares - bombing was very close - too close to be premeditated but effective because it did not affect us.

xii. Bn HQ

- (a) COs Gp - CO, Adjut, 2 Sigs, 4 Runners, Bren Gunner, Pnrs, Sig Offr, Bde LO, IO.
- (b) HQ ~~Coy~~ Gp - Bn HQ Gp, Sigs, Pnrs, "I" Sec (not employed).
- (c) COs Gp was flexible while HQ Gp moved with a res Coy and along the Centre Line. RSM in charge. He arranged direction, pacers, timers etc.

xiii. Intercomn

- (a) R/T sets No 108 and 18 - CO, Coys, Veh Gp (Rear Bn) with a repeat set to Bde.
- (b) Worked almost perfectly - own set failed once or twice and nearest Coy set used.
- (c) Runners invaluable.

- (d) Bde cable followed Bn adv. First through minefield gaps - contacted Bde very quickly on objective.
- (e) Report centres established (Two lights) - reliable man in charge - fully in picture.
- (f) Bn HQ marked on centre line at objective two (all round) Blue Lights - limited range.
- (g) V/S - Lucas lamps for messages if comms failed.
- (h) CODEWORDS for INTERMEDIATE & FINAL OBJECTIVES
- (i) SUCCESS SIGNALS - By all available means R/T, L/T, Yellow rocket repeated twice. SOS - ROCKET - Three star with trailer for D F tasks to be fired.
- (j) SUCCESS reports came through almost dead on time. Opposition had been strong but not as difficult as anticipated.
Casualties from this action 2/27
Reorgn now commenced.

A. H. Hammer
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/43 Bn. A.I.F.

RE-ORGANISATION - ALAMEIN - OCTOBER 23 to NOVEMBER 1

1. GENERAL: To picture reorganisation after an night attack you must think of the situation:-
 - (a) Moonlight or dark - advanced 7 - 10,000 yds.
 - (b) Shelling from sides - you may be amongst your own as well.
 - (c) Heavy fighting may have taken place - ranks thinned - Comds hit.
 - (d) Fog of war - dust, smoke, wire, mines, booby traps.
 - (e) Men are tired - battle weary.
 - (f) Ground - what you can see of it - is unknown.
 - (g) Time before daylight limited - Rapidity required.

2. DIRECTION AND PACING:- Great accuracy is required after careful calculations have been made - each Coy three leading parties - allows for casualties.

3. RIFLE COYS: Recongn posn on success must be carefully selected - usually by map - each coy has its own measurement in yds - the Coy reduces it to paces - paces train for accuracy.

Coy task laid down with orders regarding the supporting weapons operating in each coy area - Some plan for immediate counter attack on objective - made before attack and checked again before and at dawn.

4. SELECTION OF GROUND: On arrival at the Coy final objective necessary to select ground which provides field of fire by day:-
 - (a) Breathing Space: Careful pacing between pls by Coy Comd to get a diagramatic lay out - Pl Comd repeats with secs - moonlight exaggerates distance - usual disadvantage is cramping - huddling - must have depth - Res Coys pace back.
 - (b) Field of Fire: Sub unit comds must study map for features, tracks, fences, cairns - by night lies down looks for ridges within view - goes forward lies down again - obtain the best field of fire - saves movement in the morning.

5. RESERVE COYS: In close touch with fwd coys on objectives - contacts - pace back for diagrammatic layout - desert usually featureless - unable to recognise ground - always tendency to jam up on fwd coys.

6. DIG IN PERIOD: Once the layout is complete the Coys commence to dig - single slits sited for all round defence - link up if require later - good drill - every man has a set task - picks and shovels, sandbags - sentry and patrols - runners to Coy and Bn - everybody in the picture.

Knowledge of direction of other Sub units.

LUCAS LAMPS commence to flash for supporting weapons - supporting weapons guides sent to contact sub units on centre line.

7. SUPPORTING WEAPONS: Sig veh to Bn HQ, Carrier Packs, A/Tk Guns, (up early in case of counter attack by tks in the moonlight) MMG, MORTARS, A ECH Vehs with more HAWKINS mines, wire, sandbags, over head cover (half sheet iron), amm, food water.

Super-guide at Bn HQ. double blue light on the centre line to direct the vehicles - He never waits for questions but VOLUNTEERS infm.

Everything possible done to speed up - He collects infm from the vehs, sends reports to Bn - Bn Comd can obtain a built up picture of the whole situation - each stage of the reorgn is known.

8. DECENTRALIZATION: In the original plan all supporting weapons are allotted to Coy areas - Carrier, A/Tk, MMG, MORTAR sub unit Comds llok for that Coy - The Coy Comd knows the ground, the situation - he can assist more quickly in the reorgn - arrange inf protection for A/Tk, MMG, MORTARS.

Engrs move back with guides from Coys to Centre Line to check for mines, wire etc and assist in leading vehs fwd.

9. INTERCOMN: The Sig veh arrives - the linesmen are on the job - they move out to the flashing LUCAS LAMPS - soon the sig system is working - down to pls - scrounged phones of course.

Meanwhile R/T sets from Coys are busy - Coy Comds report their reorgn progress - CO is hot on the trail - he aims to know at any stage exactly what the situation is - his Staff helps him, Adjnt, IO, Sig Offr.

Bde Sig veh arrives - the CO speaks to the Brigadier on L/T.

10. CARRIER PACKS: Move out to coys with amm reserves - unload and back along the track to refill. The CARRIER COURTESY PATROL is on its way - use of trailers (additional stores) and tow for A/Tk guns.

11. CO: It time and situation permits the CO makes a run around for final co-ordination - flat feet of course. When in doubt stay put at Bn HQ - the Coy Comd howl for the old man - all kind of minor problems are cropping up and you make the Coy Comd happy if you can fix him up immediately.

12. COY A ECH PACKS: These arrive - HAWKINS mines, wire, more amm, overhead cover, sandbags, food and water.

HAWKINS mines - enough for 1 per yd of front are laid 3/4000 - danner wire around posts or well out in front of mines.

Stores are fine now. Men are contented. Amm to fight, A/Tk defence, food to eat and water to drink and a nice little bit of overhead cover stops splinters.

13. FINAL STAGES: The whole thing takes shape now and by daylight after a long advance, a hectic fight, and a busy reorgn the whole Bn^{at} is ready for the always-to-be-expected dawn counter attack and the inevitable daylight counter attacks which always come, but the unit is sitting pretty, ready and willing to fight.

Coys well sited and weapon pits dug to reasonable depths.

Over head cover for every man.

A/Tk mine defence with some wire.

Amm in plenty.

Supporting arms in posn.

Comms down to pls - at least to coys.

Food andnwater.

All vehs out of defensive area - get rid of the thin skins.

Flat country where anything is difficult to pin point.

Normal post routine goes on. The men snatch some sleep.

14. DAYLIGHT COMES: ARTY OPO registers his own - registers your FDLs for you, unobtrusively. Prepares his DF tasks - unless the ground is favourable get the Arty OPO out of his carrier.

MORTARS register or takes ranges.

Sec range cards prepared - may check range estimation
b by firing a few bursts - depends if you want to lie doggo.

Pinpoint yourself on the map - sketches of Coys posns - usually very difficult - try flares with co-operation of flashspotters - they give you atten or 12 fig map ref.

Keep contact with your neighbors -- if they don't come to you - go to them - contact is essential.

Organise some sleep for everybody - be fresh for the Hun when he comes.

Get rid of captured weapons you are not using, as soon as you can.

15. ADDITIONAL POINTS:

(a) SUPPORTING ARMS COMDS AND MEN: In trg periods try and get the same people all the time. They know the CO and Sub unit Comds and their idiosyncracies - better co-operation - everybody works better. (In the middle of the attack on TRIG 29 the Spr Offr contacted me and said "By God I like fighting with the 48th").

(b) UNSELFISHNESS is a golden rule - Coy Comds and Pl Comds who help each other, fight a better battle and win a better war. Bn Comds must do all they can to help the unit on right or left. Not enough to do just your own job. Team work pāys handsome dividends.

(c) BATTLE DRILL: A task for every individual and every sub unit is essential. Tasks reduced to habit or a drill leaves a man free to think and use his initiative. Keep all the men in the picture - they fight better when they know what is doing.

(d) INTENTION OF OP: Keep this always before you - every man must know it - if a comd is knocked the next in line carries on with the INTENTION uppermost in his mind.

(e) WOUNDED MEN: Never listen to them - they almost always lie or exaggerate - disregard anything that suggests things are going badly - high morale talk is usually reliable. Lightly wounded men must carry on with the fight.

(f) EMPLOYMENT: Give everybody in the Bn a job - that is why he is on the WE .

(g) COMDS: Brave, impetuous Pl and Coy Comds think they are yellow if they are not always up in the front - they usually catch the first bullet then can't comd at all.

Fight wisely - keep Comds alive - they will come to the front when things are tough. Allow sec comds to carry out their responsibility.

(h) COUNTER ATTACKS: Will always come - if you are well reorganised with sufficient stores - and the will to fight nothing can upset you. Arrange your own counter attack plans early, you may need them.

(i) MANHANDLING WEAPONS: Train your men to manhandle A/Tk guns, MMG, Mortars over long distances if the vehs are hit. The essential thing is to get weapons fwd to fight.

The CARRIER COURTESY PATROL will help.

(j) DEF FIRE: The system of a series of named regtl concentrations over 1,000 yds of front worked well, the inf calling for any particular concentrations plus or minus during daylight.

Observed fire is of course better but many times Arty OPO comms failed and DF by day was necessary.

(k) PW: Bn must get on to objective. Can't afford to deplete strength to extent that too weak to gain objective. Enemy will not consider you if you have wasted manpower in escorting PWs.

Best policy - use by 48th Bn - Don't give them time to surrender.

16. EMPIRE TPS V HUNS & ITALIANS

The fighting clearly showed we were more than a match for the enemy. We should always fight with the utmost confidence. Hun is a bogeyman. He fights well but is not impregnable and can always be beaten if you have the "WILL TO WIN".

A.H. Hammer
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/43 Bn. A.I.F.

ATTACK

23/24 Oct 42 - MITEIRIYA RIDGE - Right flank of EIGHTH ARMY.

PREPARATION: Plenty of time - everybody well in the picture - practiced battle drill. Strength although not up to WE maximum that could be produced - morale high.

PLAN: Fairly straightforward - distance long 7000 yds - great accuracy required - 2/24 Bn assault - reorganise facing front and flank - this is difficult at night.

BATTLE: Not as tough as expected - mostly Italians few Germans - casualties small 2/27 - Plan worked out well - reorganisation excellent - solid position at first light but overlooked by TRIG 29, and high ground in front.

"Brutal Australians heightened and rendered bestial by drunkenness Versus the Murder, Rape and Arson Calamity Kids (164 German Light Div)".

(EXTRACT of letter from GOC BRESCIA DIV:-

" The enemy generally attacks with well trained troops - These special units , generally New Zealanders and Australians launch their attack with extreme decision and brutality, heightened and rendered bestial by drunkenness."

The 164 German light Div described by PW as the Murder, Rape and Arson Div because of their activities in GREECE and CRETE, and as the CALAMITY KIDS because they were so short of transport and had to walk in AFRICA).

25/26 Oct 42

ATTACK ON TRIG 29 - Extend the flank of EIGHTH ARMY - 2000 yd attack.

PREPARATION: Limited - Warning order to Coys "Prepare for attack tonight - Adm normal".

Bde verbal orders received late enough but some prior planning done with Coy Comds - Battle drill was good - did not require much detail. Men tired, 27 further casualties during day.

PLAN: Secure the flanks and rush a coy mounted on carriers and 6pdr portees together with 8 A/Tk guns on a due North bearing 360 deg Right on to the TRIG 2 minutes after the Arty support had ceased - minefields nil by process of elimination by evidence - zero 2400 hrs.

Attack from our own FDLs and carry out a relief with 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

Engrs in this case followed fwd Coys to clear track for carriers.

BATTLE: Capture of Regtl Comd 125 Regt and Bn Comd II Bn 125 Regt - infm and map gained. (Party of 15 - many killed - Bn Comd frightened)

The plan was very successful - fighting was heavy and we killed Germans - our casualties 4/55. The carrier assault was grand and obtained complete surprise. Despite the fact that 6 of our vehs were blown to bits (they all contained mines) we were perfectly reorganised by dawn with 2400 HAWKINS mines laid and dug in very solidly - (Cpl "Ripper" KING - Sig Dick RAMSDALE "Wait till the b.....s cop this lot")

Pte P E GRATWICK, A Coy wins V C.

The counter attacks by fire and tps were unending but they could not take a trick. One PW said in one attack his unit had 80 killed and 200 wounded.

Tanks were there but never came in - We were waiting with 24 6 pdrs and 8 2 pdrs A/Tk guns.

30/31 Oct 42

ATTACK ON RING CONTOUR 25 via TRIG 29 and the East of SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN - 12,000 yds.

PREPARATION: The Bn was withdrawn to TEL EL EISA for a short rest and to reorganise. Strength of assaulting coys was down to 216 men - Coys average about 50 strong - The spirit was willing.

PLAN: 2/32, 2/48, 2/24, 2/3 Pnr Bns involved - move to TRIG 29 (12 miles) after dark, debus, form up and in succession move to the BLOCK HOUSE area between rail and road.

2/32 Bn to form up a protective box for 2/48 and 2/24 Bns who turned East and headed for RING CONTOUR 25 (3,800 yds).

In its capture 2/48 Bn turned North and go for the CLOVER LEAF locality thence to the COAST. 2/24 Bn South to THOMPSON'S POST - Easy! - 2/3 Pnr Bn move through 2/32 Bn North to the Coast and box in the enemy.

BATTLE: We were involved with the enemy shortly after leaving the Start Line at TRIG 29 area. Flares and bursts of MMG fire from both sides. PW came in from both sides.

At the ry line the 2/32 Bn were hard at it - I employed the two coys in the attack to establish the Start Line for ourselves and 2/24 Bn. Heavy Shelling.

We got away after several casualties had been received and away to the heaviest fight. What a fight it was - we lost the Arty concentrations our Arty 600 yds in advance for safety due to angle of guns - got to RING CONTOUR 25 but could not hold it - reduced to 41 all ranks including wounded with us. Decide to move back at 0530 to the firm base of 2/32 Bn and reorganise.

The following day 31 Oct 42 was a hellish day but we hung on and were relieved that night by 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Casualties 14/184

Action of 40 RTR - Enemy lost 8 tanks we lost 22 tanks - 2 pdr V 75 mm. - Guts won/Action of Tp RHODESIAN 6 pdrs. Badly sited but will to win good.

Sgt W H KIBBY wins V C.

H. H. Hammer
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/48 Bn. A.I.F.