

AWM52

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

1/4/3 CORPS

1 Australian Corps
Quartermaster General
Branch (1 Aust Corps
QMG Branch)

January-February 1944



1/4/3-013%

SECRET

WAR DIARY OF "Q" BRANCH - HQ 1 AUST CORPS

From 1 Jan to 31 Jan 44

- VOLUME V1 -

PART 1 - DAILY EVENTS

NIL

PART 11 - SUMMARY OF SELECTED EVENTS

1. QUARTERING (See also Appendix "A")

- (a) To accommodate the formations and units known to be coming to this area, it was decided that four divisional camps and a number of Corps troops camps (to hold 13,000 men) were required.
- (b) The divisional camps were designed to take a basic jungle division plus certain Corps troops which might normally be attached.
- (c) The allocation of units to camps of various sizes and the grouping of camps into areas is considered to be reasonably normal and to be suitable for planning but it is realised that the allocation and grouping will be varied by the various formation commanders.

PART 111 - APPENDICES

Appx "A"

Accommodation Requirements - Basic Jungle Division and attached Units.

MAR 30 1944

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Appendix "A" to 1 Aust Corps War Diary
for Jan 44

ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS
BASIC JUNGLE DIVISION AND ATTACHED UNITS

1. Unit camps required.

Serial	Unit	Strength	Number of Unit Camps required			
			Major Units	Minor Units	Div HQs	Bde HQs
1.	Div HQ, LAD (Type A), HQ and one pl Gd Regt, FS Sec, HQ RAA	373	-	-	1	-
2.	Fd Regt, Sig Sec, LAD	804	1	-	-	-
3.	Lt AA Bty	153	-	1	-	-
4.	HQ RAE, Fd Pk Coy, LAD, Sig Sec, Camouflage Unit	250	-	1	-	-
5.	Three Fd Coys	3 x 251	-	3	-	-
6.	Div Siga, Cipher Sec	279	-	1	-	-
7.	Three (Bde HQ, Sig Sec, LAD, pl Gd Regt)	3 x 198	-	-	-	3
8.	Nine Inf Bns	9 x 822	9	-	-	-
9.	Div Carr Coy	147	-	1	-	-
10.	HQ AASC, Sup Depot Coy Gen Tpt Coy	631	1	-	-	-
11.	Three Fd Ambs	3 x 233	-	3	-	-
12.	Three (Bde Wkshop, Bde Ord Fd Pk)	3 x 152	-	3	-	-
13.	Div Provost Coy, Div Postal Unit, Fd Cash Office, Div Salvage Unit, Concert Party	220	-	1	-	-
14.	Div Sec Reception Camp	10 (+500 staging)	1	-	-	-
TOTAL: Serials 1-14 (Basic Jungle Div)		13,267	12	14	1	3
15.	Cav (Commando) Regt	750	1	-	-	-
16.	Fd Regt, LAD, Sig Sec	804	1	-	-	-
17.	MG Bn	782	1	-	-	-
18.	Pnr Bn	865	1	-	-	-
19.	CCS	105	1	-	-	-
20.	Mob Laundry & Fwd Decn Unit	121	-	1	-	-
TOTAL: Serials 15-20 (Attached Units)		3,427	5	1	-	-
GRAND TOTAL: Serials 1-20 (Basic Jungle Division and attached Units)		16,694	17	15	1	3

2. GROUPING OF UNIT CAMPS

- (a) Divisional HQ Area - Serials 1, 6, 13
- (b) Each Brigade Group Area - one third of Serials 7, 8, 11, 12
- (c) Divisional Troops Area - Serials 2-5, 9, 10, 14-20.
The divisional troops area may be divided into two or more sub-areas.

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SECRET

WAR DIARY OF "C" BRANCH - HQ 1 AUST CORPS

From 1 Feb to 29 Feb 44

15 Apr 1944

- VOLUME VII -

PART 1

27 Feb 44: 1 Aust Corps Administrative Order No 5 was issued. This order consolidated various orders and instructions relating to the movement of units, detachments and reinforcements to NEW GUINEA and tropical areas north of AUSTRALIA.
See Appendix "A".

PART 11

MILITARY FORWARDING ORGANISATION

To ensure that all stores for this area which are handled by the Military Forwarding Organisation arrive as quickly as possible, arrangements were made with 2/1 Aust Lvy and Tn Cp, TOWNSVILLE, for the following procedure to be adopted:-

(a) Stores to this area

Stores are put in a railway truck or trucks at TOWNSVILLE and sent direct to AHERTON. Distribution is made from there by both motor transport (in the case of units close to AHERTON) and rail transport (in the case of a distant unit and/or of the stores are not required urgently).

(b) Stores from this area

Stores are loaded on railway trucks at the railway station nearest to the unit concerned and sent under normal arrangements.

Previously a truck load of stores took about 14 days to come from TOWNSVILLE to AHERTON because stores had to be off-loaded at many stations en route. Now the time is about 4 days.

COMPOSITION OF PERSONNEL TRAINS

The lack of information as to the number of personnel by units travelling on personnel trains to this area has caused much inconvenience, particularly in respect to rationing and accommodation on arrival of large numbers of personnel for one particular unit.

Arrangements have now been made with 2/1 Aust Lvy and Tn Cp for this information to be gathered by the CC train whilst en route from TOWNSVILLE to CAIRNS and for the information to be passed to HQ 1 Aust Corps by MCCO CAIRNS. This system is working satisfactorily and has ensured that units are able to make adequate arrangements for the rationing and accommodation of incoming personnel.

PART 111

Appendix "A" - 1 Aust Corps Administrative Order No 5.

S E C R E T

HQ 1 Aust Corps
27 Feb 44

1 AUST CORPS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 5

Amendment No 1

Insert the following paragraph:-

"20A. NOMINAL ROLLS

In order to save time and to economise in the use of stencils, all wax stencils used for the preparation of nominal rolls will be carefully preserved and delivered to the Records representative at the port of embarkation at the same time as the nominal rolls are delivered.

Al. sc E Roro Maj
for Brig
DA & QLG 1 AUST CORPS

Distribution:- 4s for 1 Aust Corps Administrative Order No 5

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 5

Copy No.....

25 Feb 44

1. SCOPE

This order is applicable to all movements of units, detachments and reinforcements proceeding to NEW GUINEA and tropical areas north of AUSTRALIA and will be read in conjunction with "Standing Orders for Movements within Australia and its Territories - 1942", General Routine Orders, 1 Aust Corps Administrative Standing Orders and 1 Aust Corps Routine Orders.

2. SECURITY

Prior to movement, the following security precautions will be observed:-

- (a) All unit vehicle markings will be removed or obliterated
- (b) All unit names appearing on packing cases, packages or equipment will be removed or obliterated.
- (c) Wharf or rail loading parties will be strictly controlled. These parties will not be permitted to wander into town areas
- (d) All personnel will remove colour patches, puggarees and hat bands prior to leaving unit areas and will not replace them until embarkation is complete.
- (e) All ranks must be informed that it is imperative that no information whatsoever should be divulged regarding our activities in AUSTRALIA with reference to movements or installations, particularly in the CAIRNS and AHERTON area. It is essential that the utmost secrecy be observed, and the possibility of information reaching the enemy be precluded.
- (f) The name of the port of disembarkation, which necessarily must be known to some officers, must not be divulged to personnel embarking, or to unauthorised persons. The port of disembarkation will not be shown on AAF T.51, but will be inserted after completion by the Embarkation Staff Officer when signing documents prior to hand over to OC Troops.

3. LOADING

Unless otherwise directed, units and cargo will be combat loaded and units will ensure that their stores and equipment are so packed that this can be done. Gas equipment may be carried in bulk except that respirators and gas capes will be carried on the man.

4. RATIONS AND CANTEEN GOODS

Units are responsible for drawing one day's landing rations from their DID before movement.

For details of the landing ration to be taken by units see Appendix "A".

Canteen goods may not be available on the ship.

5. SCALES OF CLOTHING, ARMS AND EQUIPMENT

See Appendix "B".

6. CLOTHING

Clothing will be on the tropical scale and will be dyed green except when otherwise ordered.

7. BLANKETS

One blanket will be carried on the man, and one additional blanket per man will be loaded as unit stores, available for use during the voyage.

8. TENTAGE

Tentage coloration will be completed prior to movement.

All tents/^{taken}will be complete with flies and poles.

9. ARMS AND AMMUNITION

Individual issues of ammunition will be made prior to embarkation. All small arms weapons will be available for use during the voyage.

10. INDIVIDUAL ISSUES

O's C units or detachments are responsible that all ranks under their command are completely clothed and equipped, and that mosquito nets, insect repellent lotion, individual water outfits etc, are issued individually to all ranks under their command, and will render a certificate to the OC Troops in the following terms:-

"I certify that all personnel under my command are properly equipped (or otherwise) for tropical service, and that all troops embarked have been issued with mosquito nets and individual issues".

11. NOTIFICATION OF DEFICIENCIES

AA Forms E2(a) will be submitted in triplicate for deficiencies in non-controlled stores, and will be accompanied by separate lists/dealing with both controlled and non-controlled stores in triplicate showing major deficiencies of essential items of associated stores and tool kits.

12. VEHICLES

Vehicles will be four-wheel drive except for those vehicles for which no four-wheel drive type exists. Units unable to provide four-wheel drive vehicles up to the full scale allotted will report immediately the numbers by type required to complete their entitlement.

Motor cycles will not be taken unless orders are issued to the contrary.

All units proceeding to NEW GUINEA will ship with their vehicles 65.4-gallon empty petrol drums per armoured fighting vehicle, 10 4-gallon empty petrol drums per other type of motor vehicle except motor cycles, and one petrol pourer per vehicle. Similar equipment will be drawn and sent to all vehicles to NEW GUINEA irrespective of whether they are shipped with units or independently.

The following measures will be taken to avoid the loss of tools:-

Unit Vehicles

All tools and loose and easily removeable equipment will be removed from vehicles and will be despatched properly cased as unit equipment. This also applies to easily removable components of machines carried in machinery, garage and similar vehicles.

In the case of vehicles remaining for later movement, rear parties will retain sufficient tools to carry out maintenance. Prior to embarkation these tools will be cased and carried separately as unit equipment on the same ship.

13. SURPLUS CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES AND KITS

Clothing and equipment will be returned to 13 AAOD, vehicles as directed by this HQ and kits to the appropriate kit store.

14. DEFUELLING OF VEHICLES

On arrival at the wharf, the Sea Transport Officer may order sufficient petrol to be left in vehicle tanks to enable vehicles to be moved to their positions in the ship's holds.

15. WATER VEHICLES

At discretion of the Embarkation Staff Officer, water vehicles will be placed available for use during the voyage. Water filters will be tested and drivers instructed in their use.

16. PERSONNEL TO TRAVEL WITH VEHICLES

Two drivers will accompany each vehicle on vehicle trains

17. ENGINEER STORES

Engineer stores not authorised to be taken with units and not forming part of the camp buildings and facilities will be returned to the Corps Engineer Dump.

18. HIRINGS

Units will arrange for the Hirings Officer to inspect and assess the damages to hirings which will be vacated. If the hirings are to be terminated, units will conform to the procedure laid down by the Hirings Officer.

19. CLAIMS

Except those which can be settled, all claims for damage to civilian property will be investigated by an investigating officer whose report will be submitted to this HQ before departure of the units concerned.

20. BILLS OF LADING

A copy of an AAF G964 with instructions on the method of filling it in is attached as Appendix "C".

21. REFERENCE TO PARTICULAR GENERAL ROUTINE ORDERS

Particular attention will be paid to the following General Routine Orders:-

A.281/42 - "Transfer of formations from one L of C area to another and finalisation of outstanding administrative matters"

O.205/43, as amended by 256/43, 330/43, 371/43, 485/43, 497/43, 551/43, 560/43, 575/43, and by amendments notified in General Routine Orders dated 24 Sep 43 and 12 Nov 43; 0359/43.

- "War scales of clothing and necessaries for all ranks on full time duty - AMF (other than women's services)".

G.318/43 - "Orders for moves of formations or units".

A.404/43 - "Malaria - measures for prevention and control".

0.612/43 - "Jackets SD, trousers SD and greatcoats - deposit in kit stores".

0.805/43 - "Scale of field service accommodation - stores and tentage (Scale "A")".

F.819/43 - "Control of unit trust funds".
Paragraph
30.

R. Bierman
Brig.
DA & QMG, 1 AUST CORPS.

DISTRIBUTION

COPY NO.

3 Aust Div	1
6 Aust Div	2
1 Aust Beach Gp	3
RAA 1 Aust Corps	4
RAE 1 Aust Corps	5
HQ Comd 2 Aust Corps Tps AASC	6
2 Aust Corps Reception Camp	7
1 Aust Corps vehicle Pool	8
G	9
A	10
Q	11
DDST	12
DDMS	13
DDOS	14
DDME	15
War Diary	16 - 17
Spare	18 - 70

SECRET

APPENDIX "A" TO 1 AUST CORPS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 5

LANDING RATION SCALE

<u>Item</u>	<u>Oz per man</u>
Tea	3/8
Biscuits	12
Salt	1/2
Margarine or tropical spread	1 3/4
Preserved fruit	4
Bacon	2
Cheese	1 1/2
Meat and vegetables (tinned)	8
Preserved meat	6
Milk U.S.	3
Jam	4
Sugar	3
Beans	2 2/3
Tomatoes (tinned)	2

SECRET

APPENDIX "B" TO 1 AUST CORPS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 5

SCALE OF CLOTHING, ARMS AND EQUIPMENT

SCALE 1511

1. (a) On the man

Knife and lanyard	1
Identity discs with cord (set of 2 discs)	1
Paybook	1
Field dressing	1
Record of Service Book	1

(b) Dress

Jersey, pullover (if ordered)	1
Socks, prs	1
Shirt green drill	1
Trousers green drill	1
Boots AB universal with laces, prs	1
Gaiters (American) or anklets web, prs	1
Singlets cotton athletic	1
Drawers cotton short	1
Hat khaki fur with band and chinstrap	1
Badge hat Commonwealth CO	1
Braces, prs	1

2. To be carried in the haversack

Tins mess (in cover)	1
Knife, fork and spoon	1 each
Rations emergency dehydrated (not to be eaten until authorised)	1
Unexpended portion of day's ration	1
Towel	1
Pullover (if not worn)	1
Socks, prs	2
Holdall	1
Soap piece	1
Razor safety with one spare blade	1
Brush shaving	1
Brush hair	1
Comb	1
Brush tooth	1
Sheet ground Mk V111	1
Outfit individual water sterilizing	1
Atebrin tablets	24
Insect repellant lotion, bottles	1

3. To be carried in the pack

Helmet steel (attached)	1
Blanket (under flap)	1
Tent mosquito and sandfly proof (wrapped in blanket)	1
Shirts green drill	2
Trousers green drill, prs	2
Boots AB universal and 2 prs laces, prs	1
Towel	1
Housewife	1
Singlets, cotton athletic	2
Drawers cotton short	2
Cape gas (carried on back above pack vide Pam 1, "Protection against Gas and Air Raids", Appx 'B').	1

APPENDIX "B" (Contd)

4.	<u>Haversack respirator</u>	
	Outfit anti-dim	1
	Eyeshields anti-gas	6
	Ointment anti-gas	1
	Disc identity	1
	Respirator (facepiece, connecting tube and container)	1
5.	<u>To be carried in bulk</u>	
	One blanket per man	
6.	<u>Equipment to be carried on the man will be in accordance with the WET of the unit concerned. The following is set down as a guide.</u>	
	Rifle or revolver (as authorised)	1
	Pullthrough	1
	Bottle oil (filled)	1
	Flannelette 4 x 2	2 pieces
	Sling rifle web	1
	Bayonet	1
	Scabbard bayonet	1
	Frog bayonet	1
	Bottle water (filled)	1
	Carrier bottle water	1
	Belt waist WE pattern '37	1
	Braces WE pattern '37 left	1
	" " " " right	1
	Haversack WE pattern '37	1
	Pack	1
	Pouches basic WE pattern '37	2
	Straps web supporting	2
	Straps shoulder haversack WE pattern '37 left	1
	" " " " " " right	1
	Special equipment for officers and ORs, as laid down in WET for unit concerned.	
7.	<u>Arm. (to be carried on the man)</u>	
	SAA .303 rds	50

NOTE: Items of special issue such as boots ankle half heavy brown, and berets khaki, etc, will be carried by personnel, as authorised in GRO O.205/43 as amended.

S E C R E T

APPENDIX "C" TO 1 AUST CORPS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 5

COMPILATION OF BILLS OF LADING

The following notes can be identified alphabetically with the copy of a Bill of Lading (AAF G 54) attached.

- (A) Name of vessel if known
- (B) Masters name may be omitted
- (C) Insert "as shown below"
- (D) Leave this blank
- (E) Name of consignee. In the case of units moving the War Office serial number will be used
- (F) Insert "ten copies of"
- (G) Insert "District Finance Officer, BRISBANE"
- (H) Place and date of signing of Bill
- (I) Serial number or marks on packages
- (J) This column will show bundles, bales, bags, cases, trusses, boxes etc, as the case may be
- (K) Description of stores, together with their deadweight and measurement tonnages. It is not desired that full details of every package be shown. The words "ammunition", "petrol", "oils", "inflammables", "unit equipment" etc as applicable is sufficient.
- (L) Total number of packages etc
- (M) Insert here the total deadweight and measurement tonnage
- (N) The officer responsible for shipping cargo will sign here over War Office serial number of unit
- (O) The shipping company concerned or its agent will sign as having received the cargo.

Army Form G 964

SHIPPED in apparent good order and condition on board the *H*
 Mr. *B* Master, the packages and loose articles undermentioned.
 tonnage* *C* tons feet († *C* tons feet)
 to be delivered in the like good order and condition at the Port of *D*
 to

In Witness whereof the Master of the said Ship hath affirmed to *F* Bills
of Lading all of this tenor and date, one of which Bills being accomplished the others to stand void.
Payment to be made at *G*.

N.B.—Strike out whichever of the two preceding clauses is inapplicable.

Dated at *H* the *H* day of *H* 19 *H*.

Shipping Officer.

C. & J. Printer, Brisbane.