

**AWM52**  
**2nd Australian Imperial Force and**  
**Commonwealth Military Forces unit war**  
**diaries, 1939-45 War**

Item number: 8/2/26

26 Infantry Brigade  
August - September 1942



OPERATIONS

BDE  
RELIEVED

by 20 Aust Inf Bde 2/3 Aug and 26 Bde took up positions in the Tel El Shammana area. Most of month engaged on defensive positions.

MR. CHURCH- Prime Minister of England, Mr. Winston Churchill, visited forward areas and Bde members lined the route taken by him 5 Aug. IT

EIGHTH  
ARMY  
CMD

visits Bde. Gen Montgomery met the Bde Command, BM and SC in the vicinity of Bde HQ 14 Aug. C-in-C (MEF), Gen Alexander inspects 9 Aust Div area 21 Aug.

PAMPHLETS  
DROPPED

on Aust, N.Z. and Indian troops in Eighth Army area 21 Aug.

JULY OPS

Narrative app.

CEREMONIAL

MR. CHURCHILL'S  
VISIT

Prime Minister of England, Mr. Winston Churchill, visited forward areas and Bde members lined the route taken by him 5 Aug.

HQ 26 AUST INF  
BDE  
AUG 42.

PERSONNEL

HONOURS &  
AWARDS

An investiture ceremony was held at Bde HQ on afternoon 20 Aug. Div command presented ribbons to recipients of recent honours and awards.

HQ 26 AUST INF  
BDE  
AUG 42

UNIT  
ORIGINAL  
WAR DIARY



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

10 SEPT 1942  
WAR DIARY

174

Aug

Army Form C. 2118.

ack

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Unit HQ 26 Aust INF BDE.

Commanding Officer

Month and Year AUG 42.

(Erase heading not required).

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
EGYPT.	1 3		Salvage party 2/48 Aust Inf Bn recovered, night 31 Jul/1 Aug, 16 tons of enemy warlike stores from enemy dumps west of WEST pt 24. Recce and adv parties all units reconnoitred the new unit localities in the TEL EL SHAMMAMA box. HQ 9 Aust Div 00 No 11 of even date was received ordering relief of this bde by 20 Austi Inf Bde. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn arrived in the Bde area to carry out the relief of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn and portion of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	
			NARRATIVE I summary no. 199. O.O. no. 13. Admin. Order no. 6.	appx 1A.
	2		O.O. no 14. At 0043 hrs relief of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn and one coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn by 2/15 Aust Inf Bn was completed. Normal standing and recce patrols were maintained night 1/2 Aug but no contact was made along Bde front. With the exception of light shelling day was generally quiet.	appx 1, 2 + 3. 4.



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Month and Year AUG 42

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

Commanding Officer.....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
EGYPT	Aug 2		During afternoon Main HQ and Rear HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde moved to TEL EL <del>KISA</del> SHAMMAMA box.	
	" 3		During night 2/3 Aug remainder of bde was relieved. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn relieved major portion of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn and remainder of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, 2/13 Aust Inf Bn moving into sector reserve. Final relief was completed by 0036 hrs and sector comd passed to <del>0035</del> 20 Aust Inf Bde at 0035 hrs 3 Aug 42, when Tac HQ this bde rejoined Main HQ. The day was occupied by adjustment to Bde dispositions in the TEL EL SHAMMAMA. HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde was est at , with Bde disposed as follows, 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on the right at , 2/48 Aust Inf Bn on the left at , 2/23 Aust Inf Bn being in reserve at . During the afternoon GOC visited Bde Comd and discussed future ops within 30 <del>Cops</del> Corps area. (9 Aust Div, 1 SA Div, 5 Ind Div)	

Wt 13474/1805 1,200,000 7/40 BPL 51-7171 Forms C2118/22



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Unit HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

Commanding Officer.....

Month and Year.....AUG 42

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
EGYPT	3		incl the role of 30 Corps. Outgoing units patrolled Bn sectors during night of relief. <i>I Summary no 200</i>	<i>appx 5</i>
	4		The day was devoted to adjustment of dispositions whilst recce of ABU SHIMEIMA box was carried out by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. <i>Gpr. Inscr. no 6</i>	<i>6</i>
	5		The morning was made notable by the visit of the Prime Minister of England, Mr Winston Churchill, accompanied by the CIGS and C in C MEF, to the fwd areas. The Bde Comd visited HQ 9 Aust Div while available members of this bde lined the route to witness the return journey of these notables. During the day an exercise was carried out by 2/24 Aust Inf Bn in co-operation with Army Tks of 23 Armoured Bde Gp. Recce and preparation of defensive works in the area continued.	
Wt 13474/1805 1,200,000 7/40 BPL 51-7171 Forms C2118/22				



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Unit HQ 26 Aust Ing Bde

Commanding Officer.....

Month and Year Aug 42

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
EGYPT	6		<p>The day was quiet. In the afternoon GOC accompanied Bde Comd on an inspection of the TELL EL SHAMMAMA box.</p> <p>32 Fd Regt R.A. came under comd and made its HQ at 43309021.</p> <p>One bty supporting 2/24 Aust Inf Bn and the other supporting 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.</p>	
	7		<p>The day was quiet.</p> <p>G.S. Enstr. no. 1.</p>	alpha 7.
	8		<p>Normal progress was continued on Defensive posns Sectors A &amp; B whilst 2/23 Aust Inf Bn moved from Bde Reserve West of Posn A and by 1920 hrs occupied ABU SHINIER posn.</p> <p>Two pls A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn and one tp 12 Aust A Tk Bty were moved from comd of this bde.</p>	



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Unit HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

Commanding Officer.....

Place.	Date	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
EGYPT	10		During night 9/10 Aug a further exercise in tk co-operation with Army tks was carried out in the area SW of TELL EL SHAMMAMA by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn in conjunction with units of 23 Armd Bde Gp. There was nothing unusual to report during day.	
	11		Normal work on defensive posns proceeded. During afternoon Bde Comd accompanied by BM visited the 20 and 24 Aust Inf Bdes.	
	12		The result of 9 Aust Div Op. Instn No. 14, Bde Op Instn No. 7 was issued yesterday ordering the occupation by 26 Aust Inf Bde of the TELLEL SHAMMAMA Defences and the preparation of 2/23 Bn and supporting arms as a mob. Bn Battle Gp. In the a.m. 2/23 Bn carried out rehearsal in co-op with tks in the 'ALAM EL DAKAR area and in evening at 2320 hrs carried out the exercise. The GOC 30 Corps was present at the rehearsal. <i>Op. Instn. no. 7. Op. Notes.</i>	<i>Appx. 8, 9.</i>
			1622/PMEA/1—500,000—9/41.	



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Unit Hq 26 Aust Inf Bde

Commanding Officer .....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	13		In the p.m. GOC accompanied by GSO 1, visited the Bde Comd and discussed plans for the employment of the Bde in posn "A" in the event of a GERMAN offensive.	
	14		During a tour of inspection of the fwd areas, the new Eighth Army Comd (Gen. MONTGOMERY), met the Bde Comd, BM, & SC in the Vicinity of Bde HQ.	
	15		Re night 15 Aug, patrol exercise was carried out by 2/24 Aust Inf Bn in which 2" M flares were used with success for the first time.	
	16		Normal working on Defensive Posn A continued. <i>War Diary - Supplies and Adm.</i>	<i>Alpha 10</i>
Wt 13474/1805 1,200,000 7/40 BPL 51-7171 Forms C2118/22				



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Commanding Officer .....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	17		<p>In course of inspection of the Div area, the Army Comd visited Posn A and discussed with the Bde Comd the defensive plan of the locality.</p> <p>Div O.O. No. 15 was received, placing Bde in Mob Res. for Northern Sector.</p>	
	18		<p>In the morning, the Bde Comd and BM attended a conference at 20 Aust Inf Bde HQ, at which the policy regarding harassing fire and patrols was discussed, and also a number of matters regarding adm policy.</p> <p>A Tk range practices were held by 2/23 and 2/48 Aust Inf Bns during the day.</p>	
	19		<p>During the morning, the Bde Comd and members of Staff attended a trial arranged by 3 Aust A Tk Regt to ascertain the effects</p>	

Wt 12474/1805 1,200,000 7/40 BPL 51-7171 Forms C2118/22



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Unit HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

Commanding Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Place.	Date	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	19		<p>of 6 pr, 2 pr, 37 mm, and 28/20 mm fire on a GERMAN Mk III Special Tk.</p> <p>At 1015 hrs, a Spitfire was damaged in aerial combat and crash landed at Eastern entrance of Locality "A".</p> <p>By late afternoon, interchange of posns between 2/23 and 2/28 Bns was completed. At 1830 hrs, 2/23 reported unit in posn at East end of 2/24 Bn area locality "A".</p> <p>Op Instas 8&amp; 9 were issued by this HQ. <i>Adm. Instr. no. 7.</i></p>	<i>Appx. 11, 12, +13.</i>
	20		<p>An investiture ceremony was held in afternoon at Bde HQ, at which Div Comd presented ribbons to recipients of recent honours and awards. C.Os of Bns attended.</p> <p><i>Reserves - Posn. "A"</i></p>	<i>14.</i>
	21		<p>In the course of a tour of inspection of the 9 Aust Div area, the C in C (MEF) met the Bde Comd, members of Bde Staff, unit</p> <p>1622/PMEA/1-500,000-9/41.</p>	



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Unit **HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde**

Commanding Officer

Place.	Date	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	21		<p>and sub-unit Comds at HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde.</p> <p>Trg as a mob force was carried out by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn in area near GEBEL BEIN GABIR and ry.</p> <p>In the evening at 1900 hrs, a considerable number of pamphlets were dropped on Australian, N.Z., and Indian tps in the Eighth Army area.</p> <p><i>Adm. Instr. no. 8.</i></p>	<p><i>c Appsc. 15.</i></p>
	22		<p>A further Mob force exercise was carried out by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn in area West of GEBEL BAIN GABIR, which lasted throughout the day.</p>	
	23		<p>During night 23/24 Aug, a further Mobile force exercise was held by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn in area South of IMAYID ry sta.</p> <p>In the evening, the GOC. visited the Bde Comd., and discussed, in outline, divisional plan for counter-action in the event of</p> <p>1622/PMEA/1-500,000-9/41.</p>	



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Commanding Officer .....

Place.	Date	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	23		possible enemy attack on Eighth Army front night 25/26 Aug. <i>Adm. Order, no. 7.</i>	<i>Appx 16.</i>
	24		9 Aust Div O.O. No. 17 was received approx 0100 hrs. 30 Corps Sig Exercise commenced at 0500 hrs, but was cancelled later in morning. Early evening, a Warning Order from 9 Aust Div was received, instructing units to be prepared to offer battle with effect from 2359 hrs. <i>Notes on Future Possible Ops.</i>	<i>'7.</i>
	25		Work on the resiting and relaying of minefields in Defended Locality "A" was commenced by 2/7 Aust Fd Coy. <i>Res. Ann. - Locality "A"</i>	<i>18.</i>
	26		Further progress in adjustments and relaying of Northern Portion of Locality A minefields was continued.	
			1622/PMEA/1-500,000-9/41.	



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Unit **HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde**

Month and Year **Aug 42.**

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Commanding Officer.....

Place.	Date	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	27		<p>The Bde Comd was visited in the late afternoon by GOC.</p> <p>Work on the Defansive Locality A continued.</p>	
	28		<p>The BRITISH Forces concert party visited the Bde bringing one performance to each bn during the course of the day. The concert was an unqualified success.</p> <p>A recce party of 3 offr of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn made an all day recce with view to counter-attack in the bn areas 24 Aust Inf Bde.</p> <p>Similar recce parties are to recce 24 Bde area daily until further notice.</p>	
	29		<p>At midday a Warning Order was received from 9 Aust Div for relief of 24 Bde by 26 Bde.</p> <p>During the afternoon, a recce of 24 Bde area was carried out by Brig, B.M. &amp; S.C.</p>	
			1622/PMEA/1—500,000—9/41.	



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Unit HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

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Place.	Date	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	29		At 1845 hrs, Warning Order for relief was sent to all units of Bde and at 1945 hrs Bn Comds attended a conference at Bde HQ at which verbal advice of the move was issued.	
	30		Unit recce parties proceeded fwd to 24 Bde area and reccecd posns to be occupied by Bns on relief. Work on minefields and defences continued. However the day was quiet.	
	31.		At 0455 hrs, Action Stations were ordered by 9 Aust Div on account of a number of thrusts on the Div front by enemy and thrusts on SA and NZ fronts and a hy thrust by his armour on the South flank of 13 Corps.  All preparations were made with the units of Bde and all but essential minefield gaps were closed.  Bde Comd & BM visited 24 Bde and made a recce of FDLs of 2/43	
			1622/PMEA/1—500,000—9/41.	







SECRET

Copy No. 22  
1 Aug 42.

26 AUST INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 199

(Compiled from info received for 24 hrs ending 2000 hrs 1 Aug 42)

Ref Map: EL ALAMERIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" : OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

- (a) INF  
Weapon pits in the vicinity of gun at 87503044 were in shape of a "v" with the apex towards the gun. ITALIAN voices were identified by right bn patrol which may indicate line in this area is held by both GERMANS and ITALIANS or maybe only ITALIAN working party. Considerable diggings exist in area 87303015 to 87313011.
- (b) MG  
MG in area 87503044 fired on right bn patrol during night. Enemy MG fire from three posns vicinity 87333006 was brought down on centre bn patrol.
- (c) ARTY  
Enemy guns in vicinity Pts 9, 87403044, and 11 sq 870304 brought down harassing fire on ridge 33 and on Pt 17 area at 0900 hrs, approx 40 shells falling. Posn at 87363037 was found to contain a camouflaged gun, crew of which is believed by right bn patrol to be GERMAN.
- (d) MORTAR  
Left bn patrol during night came under accurate 81 mm mortar fire, weapon apparently being located in rear of West Pt 23.
- (e) OP  
A sangar at 87383032 appears to have been used as a daylight OP. Centre bn patrol during night observed three GERMANS in what appeared to be an OP at 87473016.
- (f) WIRE  
Trip wire at 87473027 reported in this Summary No. 198 has been investigated by an engr and found NOT to be att to a booby trap. Another trip wire was encountered by left bn patrol at approx 87502983.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

- (a) PATROLS  
Enemy party of 12 men was observed approaching 87303013 in extended line by one of our patrols during night.
- (b) SHELLING  
Dummy OP pole erected by centre bn has been subjected to considerable enemy shellfire.
- (c) OBSERVED MOVEMENT
  - (i) A.P.Vs  
At 2020 hrs 8/10 tks were observed moving south in sq 870300
- (d) WORKS PROCEEDING  
An enemy working party of approx one pl. was observed at 87473044. The party was identified as GERMAN and on sighting right bn patrol, they ceased work, took up posns and opened fire. Digging and working parties were heard in area 87433018. Noises of compressor and picks striking rock were heard during night at 87203005.



(2)

SECTION "B" : GENERAL INT

3. ENEMY METHODS

On Night 15/16 Jul 15 tp carrying vehs and two A.Tk guns approached centre fwd coy of our left bn. From close observation of derelict vehs in that area, it is found that the leading was a VOLKSWAGEN. It is now believed that the attack was launched by THUGS or GERMAN raiding parties.

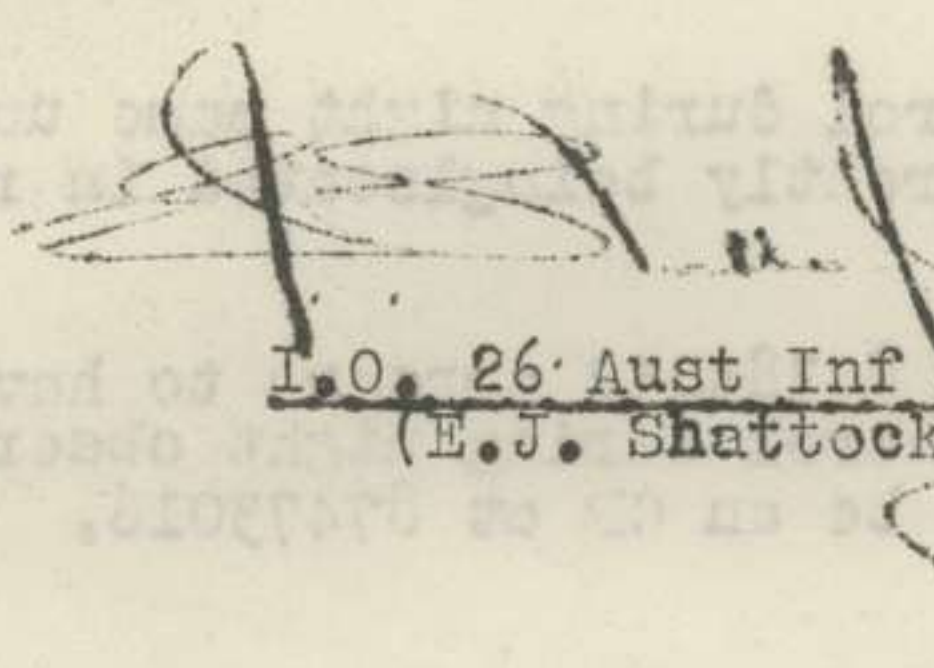
SECTION "C" : OWN OPERATIONS

4. SALVAGE PARTY

Salvage party from left bn collected 16 tons of A.Tk, light and hy Breda amn, from dump reported at 87282998 by patrol Night 29/30 Jul. Dump has been practically cleared. Covering party to above salvage party reported that enemy were apparently aware of operations but did not send out patrols to investigate. During whole period of activity only five bursts of Spandau were fired.

5. PATROL ACTIVITY

Patrol to 87322972 heard voices appearing to come from 300x NW. Sounds of iron pickets being driven in were also quiet clear. This patrol also came under accurate enemy fire. Right bn patrols reported that enemy were very alert, flares being sent up at frequent intervals and automatic weapons were active. Enemy coy reported as being at 87373026 by patrol of previous night has been established as GERMAN. Centre bn patrols came under MMG fire and observed enemy patrol reported in Enemy Ground Activity.

  
Lieut  
I.O. 26 Aust Inf Bde.  
(E.J. Shattock)

Distribution:-

As per List No. 2



--- CONTENTS ---

PART 1

NARRATIVE

PART 2

Appx A - Op and adm orders and instns

B - Int <sup>all</sup> summaries

C - Table of casualties

D - Lists of PW

E - Traces of bde disposns

-----OOO-----



-- 26 AUST INF BDE --

NARRATIVE OF OPS

5 - 31 JUL 42



26 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE

Narrative of Ops - 5 - 22 Jul 42

1. On 3 Jul 42 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp consisting as shown below occupied the South-Western sector of the AMIRIYA defences and work on those defences was being carried on with all speed.

2. Composition of Bde Gp :-

Hq 26 Aust Inf Bde  
2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
L Sec Sigs  
4 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn  
78 LAD  
2/12 Aust Fd Regt  
10 Aust A Tk Bty  
10 Aust Lt AA Bty  
One Sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy  
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn  
12 Coy AAAC  
2/11 Aust Fd Amb  
1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshop  
H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk

3. On this day orders were received for the Bde Gp (less one bn) to recce and occupy an allround defensive posn in the TELL EL SHAMMAMA area and southward to include EL QASABA - EL SHIRQIYA.

4. On 5 Jul at first light the Bde Gp moved in two cols to the TELL EL SHAMMAMA area (see CO No 9 of 5 Jul att at Appx A) approx 6 miles East of the Eastern perimeter of the ALAMEIN defences with 2/24 Bn on right astride the main rd and 2/48 on left astride the railway. Bde Hq was set up at 43309015.

5. During the afternoon of 5 Jul a high level bombing attack was made on 2/48 Bn gp on the Southern ridge inflicting losses to the extent of one killed, four wounded, one A Tk portee destroyed and one lt AA tractor damaged.

6. During 6, 7 and 8 Jul def wks in the TELL EL SHAMMAMA QASABA area were continued.

7. On 6 Jul 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp received orders to attack and capture the three mile feature which runs East and West with its Eastern end resting about two miles West of the Western perimeter of the ALAMEIN defences rising to pt 26 and following the ridge for some 4000 metres to trig 33.

8. At first light the next day recce parties from Bde Hq and units under comd proceeded to the western perimeter to the defences held by the 3 SA Inf Bde and recce the area and the objectives for the projected attack.

9. On the same night personnel from units of this bde accompanied patrols of 3 SA Bde and familiarised themselves with the ground to be covered. Independent patrols lead by the two COs concerned personally penetrated deeply into the enemy posns, and actually reached pt 26 and the sand hills to the north.

10. The original order for the capture of the feature included as objectives Ft 26, Ft 23, Ft 33 and the ring contour 25.

As a result of the recce carried out on 7 Jul Bde comd represented to 9 Aust Div that the inclusion of ring contour 25 would so spread the Bde (only two bns available) as to reduce the probability of

/holding



holding the position against enemy counter attacks. The vital features Pt 26 the nearest pt to the ALAMEIN defences and Pt 33 the highest, both of which overlooked the rear areas of the defences, however, Pt 23 appeared to offer good possibilities for a strong defensive position on a considerably smaller frontage.

11. It was therefore agreed that the bde would not include ring contour 25 in the objectives but would include the limit of exploitation the two Pts 24, south and across the ry line from Pt 33.

12. The plan for the op together with the additional tps under command are given in CO No 10 at Appx A.

13. After last light 9 Jul the bde gp moved in two columns to assembly areas in the western perimeter of the ALAMEIN box.

2/24 Bn via the coastal route along the sandhills and 2/48 Bn via the main rd, switching to the centre track between the sandhills and the main rd inside the box.

14. Each bn had under command one tp of 10 Aust A Tk Bty, one pl of A Coy 2/2 MG Bn and a det 2/13 Fd Coy to clear minefields and assist in consolidation.

15. Though the coastal route to the assembly area was reccecd and reported as passable, it did not stand up to the weight of very considerable traffic in a bn gp and after the second coy had passed vehs began to bog badly. The tks which were to support 2/24 Bn, with the exception of four, became bogged together with the MG vehs and the A Tk guns and were not extricated until the next day.

16. Only by the energy of the offrs and the superhuman efforts of all personnel did the whole of 2/24 Bn cross the start line on time. The four tks which were not bogged backed out and using the centre route managed to join the bn in time.

17. 2/48 Bn, crossing their start line at 0330 hrs advanced silently without arty gp on their first objective, Pt 26 and captured it with complete surprise to the enemy by 0455 hrs. The number of prisoners taken on this objective was approx 400 also a quantity of guns, amm and other stores.

18. The second coy passing through that on Pt 26 advanced with arty gp from 2/7 and 2/12 Fd Regts and captured Pt 23.

19. The enemy holding this feature were well awake at this stage and resisted as did also enemy in the sand dune area, and enemy arty from both front and left flank.

20. Despite this resistance Pt 23 was in our hands by 0655 - five mins ahead of schedule.

21. In the meantime, 2/24 Bn crossing their start line at 0430 hrs proceeded along the lower ground between the main feature and the sand dunes.

22. Owing to the bogging of the vehs on the coastal track inside the box only a portion of their tks and none of their MGs had arrived in time and the tps themselves proceeded by march route.

23. No opposition was met until Pt 26 was taken and the arty opened the supporting barrage on Pt 23.

24. Opposition in the sandhills was quickly overcome by a small force specially detailed and the bn drew level with its objective.

/for the purpose but this sector produced some 150 prisoners in addition to many enemy killed,



25. The arty sp lifted from Pt 23 and commenced a barrage on Pt 33 Co sp 2/24 Bn as it turned left and attacked.

26. Despite enemy opposition Pt 33 was occupied at 0745 hrs and consolidation was at once put in hand under hy enemy arty, and SA fire and mortars.

27. In the meantime 2/48 Bn had come under hy enemy shelling from the NW as well as from the south but had speedily consolidated on Pt 26.

28. C and D Coys 2/48 Bn supported by tks of 8 RTR exploited southwards to the ry line and the situation was reported as "quiet" during their consolidation in the vicinity of TEL. EL. RISA ry sta.

29. As tks and MGs to sp 2/24 Bn had not arrived and comd 2/24 Bn had decided not to exploit to the two pts 24 until these were available D Coy exploited to ry line only.

30. At 0345 hrs the first enemy counter attack with tks and inf launched against the 2/24 Bn coy in the sandhills made some slight headway but was then beaten off with some losses to the enemy.

31. The inf accompanying these tks being dispersed by arty fire, tks withdrew leaving two disabled and took up hull down posns outside FILs and engaged fwd coys with fire.

32. Shortly before this three separate waves of stuka dive bombers attacked the 2/48 Bn on Pt 26 destroyed one A tk mine truck and one light veh, inflicting a few casualties and cutting line com to that unit. In all five separate bombing raids were made during the morning.

33. At 1630 hrs 10 tks moved SE towards TEL. EL. RISA ry sta along the ry line and were engaged by arty fire, 3 tks being destroyed and the remainder dispersed.

34. At 1612 hrs 7 enemy tks approached 2/24 Bn posn from the South and moved North across the bn front and engaged the A Tk guns.

They then swung west but several were disabled and others appeared bogged. Under hy shelling the crews abandoned their tks and took to the beach.

35. Immediately another 11 tks appeared from the same direction and swung across the South of the Bn posn where they were engaged by our A tk guns and two were immediately knocked out and caught fire.

36. Throughout the remainder of the afternoon there was constant enemy mvt on the front which was engaged by arty fire.

37. This mvt culminated at 1930 hrs, in attack by mob inf sp by hy arty fire on 2/24 Bn front. By 1945 hrs enemy tks had joined in and by 2030 hrs both bns were heavily engaged and 44 RTR was moved to an area in rear of Pt 23 to counter enemy penetration there.

38. At 2100 hrs 7 tks broke through between C and D Coys of 2/48 Bn at TEL. EL. RISA ry sta though no penetration was effected on 2/24 Bn front.

By 2140 hrs the inf had been beaten off on 2/48 Bn front and tk hunting patrols were out looking for the tks which had penetrated.

2/48 Bn reported little damage done as our inf had remained in posn when the tks passed through.

39. By 2310 hrs the tks were beaten off and withdrew south of the ry line but enemy inf infiltration was taking place which was counter attacked by 2/48 Bn coys and the two res coys were also prepared to counter attack.

40. The night 10/11 Jul passed fairly quietly on the 2/24 Bn front but 2/48 Bn stood to all night with very active counter penetration

/patrols



patrols. The enemy used flares extensively, apparently as guides for rallying.

41. At 0545 hrs 11 Jul 2/24 Bn supported by 2/7, 2/8 and 2/12 Fd Regts and one sqn 44 RTR attacked the double feature south of the ry line. (It will be remembered that this feature was not attacked the previous day owing to the late arrival of the tks and MGs which were bogged on the coast rd.

42. By 0630 hrs D Coy had gained the objective and were consolidating supported by the sqn 44 RTR which drove off a tk counter attack by 6 M 13 tks from the South East.

43. At 0800 hrs consolidation was proceeding and the tks had rallied in dead ground North of the feature in order to meet a threat tk from an armd coln which was approaching from the West.

44. The op yielded 10 offrs and 250 OR PW.

45. On 2/48 Bn front the morning 11 Jul found all enemy driven clear of the FDLs which were retained intact and five enemy tks disabled within the FDLs of 2/48 Bn which were not there at nightfall. Two of these had been knocked out by ST grenade and the remainder by 2pr fire.

46. At 1055 hrs enemy tks and inf approached from the South and West apparently to attack D Coy 2/24 Bn and A & C Coys 2/48 Bn. This attack was heavily engaged by 2/8 Fd Regt.

47. At 1130 hrs this attack had been beaten off without reaching the FDLs, two tks had been destroyed by arty fire and the inf and the rest of the tks were withdrawing hastily to their own posns.

48. At 1246 more enemy tks approached Pt 24 from the West between ry and rd and were heavily engaged by arty fire and did not press home the attack.

49. Throughout the day a composite force of all arms had been operating from within the box to the south of 2/48 Bn. At 1313 hrs this coln withdrew past 2/48 Bn leaving one sqn of tks and one bty (A Tk) to patrol the telegraph line 2000x South of 2/48 Bn FDLs.

50. At 1700 hrs D Coy 2/24 Bn on Pt 24 was subjected to very heavy mortar and arty fire and 2/8 Fd Regt engaged the hostile btys in an endeavour to silence this fire.

51. At 2000 hrs enemy inf and MT approached 2/48 Bn FDLs and were joined by tks. These were heavily engaged by 2/8 Fd Regt and withdrew and appeared to leaguer about 4000 yds South of the FDLs.

52. During the night there was some mvt of tracked vehs outside the FDLs of 2/48 Bn right fwd coy and at 0054 hrs the enemy shelled the main rd and the gun posns of 2/8 Fd Regt.

53. Patrols during the night captured 1 German and 5 Italian PW obtaining valuable indentifications.

54. At 0630 hrs 12 Jul Bde Hq and 2/7 Fd Regt areas were heavily dive bombed but with only slight casualties.

55. At 0950 inf came with mortars between rd and ry NW of Pt 24 apparently infiltrated during night, heavily engaged by 2/8 Fd Regt and at 1030 hrs were reported to have been silenced.

56. At 1110 hrs 12 tks supported by lorried inf approached from the west down the ry line apparently to attack 2/24 Bn FDLs, 2/8 Fd Regt engaged and air sup was requested.

/57.



57. At 1210 hrs our Bostons bombed heavily and very accurately the enemy inf which became very disorganised and the attack was broken up withdrawing in disorder.

58. At 1315 hrs a further conc of inf and LT commenced forming NW of 2/24 Bn File and moving East but no attack developed.

During the afternoon 2/8 Fd Regt was engaged in shelling hostile btys and located enemy mortar and other dispsns.

59. At 1520 hrs a by inf attack supported by arty developed on the coastal sector of 2/24 Bn front, there did not appear to be any tks. One sqn 44 RTR was moved along the high ground North of Pt 33 with the object of enfilading the attack as tks were unable to move across the flat.

60. By 1845 hrs 2/24 Bn was heavily engaged in beating off a determined inf attack by what has later been identified as three German Lorried Inf Regts.

61. At 1930 hrs a determined attack by four coys, inf and four tks developed from the South against D Coy 2/24 Bn on Pt 24.

62. Air sp requested against this attack was not accepted.

63. By 1945 hrs three enemy tks were reported on the South slope of Pt 33 and our tks were moving out to engage them.

64. At 1956 hrs the Bde comd placed 2/23 Bn which was still back in the SHAMAMA area East of EL ALAMIN box, on immediate Notice to move.

65. For 2 hrs 20 mins the enemy exerted extreme pressure on the coastal flank till at 2105 hrs he was beaten off and withdrew 1000 yds leaving at a conservative estimate 600 dead.

66. In the meantime the situation on the Southern flank on Pt 24 was very obscure and a patrol of one offr and 12 ORs was sent to contact D Coy 2/24 Bn as comd with that coy had been cut.

67. At last light it was reported that there were still 3 tks South of Pt 33 and a fresh enemy attack was being launched in the coastal sector against 2/24 Bn.

68. A Coy 2/23 was placed under comd 2/24 Bn and plans were prepared for a counter attack by 2/48 Bn to recapture Pt 33 should it fall into enemy hands. At the same time B Coy 2/23 was placed under 2/48 Bn.

69. At 0130 hrs 13 Jul Comd 2/24 Bn reported that all attacks had been beaten off, and that he was coming to Bde HQ to see Bde Comd concerning holding of Pt 24 feature as one coy was too weak for this purpose.

70. At 0215 hrs Comd 2/24 Bn, Comd A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn and the A Tk to comd on Pt 24 arrived at Bde HQ where comd 2/24 Bn put fwd a modified plan to hold Pt 24.

71. This plan was agreed by Bde Comd and the above party left Bde HQ.

72. By first light 13 Jul B Coy 2/24 Bn had found D Coy on Pt 24 and the whole feature was placed under comd of OC B Coy Maj BUDGE.

73. 2/24 Bn also reported that the Bn Comd and other offrs who accompanied them to Bde HQ had not returned. These offrs were subsequently reported missing and it is believed that in the darkness their veh was driven into enemy territory and that all three with their dr were captured.



74. At 0945 hrs the GOC advised the Bde Comd that there were indication of an impending attack by 21 Arm Div supported by lorried inf against the southern front of the bde.

75. Shortly after this warning, approximately one enemy inf bn debussed to the south, and supported by thirteen tks, advanced on the 24 feature from the SW. They were engaged by our arty, one tk was destroyed, whereupon the inf failed to press home the attack and went to ground.

76. At midday, the enemy renewed the attack on the 24 feature, after heavily engaging our posns there by shell fire. Bomber sq had been request, but our planes in error bombed D Coy 2/24 Bn, no casualties however, resulted, ~~but~~ The enemy were engaged by our arty and at this stage eighteen tks appeared on the NW flank 2/24 Bn, zig zagging through the sand dunes. Evidently this move was<sup>a</sup> faint, because eventually the tks turned south, whilst the attack on 24 feature was successfully repulsed.

77. Concurrent with the attack on 2/24 Bn, the enemy launched a strong attack against the south of the ALAMEIN posn, but met with failure in his endeavour to penetrate the perimeter.

78. Meanwhile a mob force consisting of two sqns 8/44 R tks, one tp of 25 prs, and one A Tk sq was being held in readiness under Brig RICHARDS in the vicinity of the western ALAMEIN perimeter.

79. At 1630 hrs, hy conns of inf appeared in the area NW 2/24 Bn, and advanced to within a mile of the FILs, where they went to ground and failed to continue the adv after being engaged by our fire.

80. Night 13/14 Jul was quiet.

81. During 14 Jul there was considerable mvt of enemy, particularly to the south of TEL EL KISA ridge. Throughout the entire day our arty constantly engaged enemy targets along the 2/24 Bn front, where the mvt of tps, MT, and guns continued to increase as the day progressed, although no attack developed.

82. 2/23 Bn rejoined the bde from div res, and moved into bde res on the coast north of Pt 26.

83. Commencing at about 1930 hrs, with the adv of 20 tks strongly supported by inf on the 24 feature, the enemy launched a swift attack on 2/24 Bn front. This attack was pushed in with great speed and determination, and, following a hy stuka raid at 2000 hrs on this feature the enemy drove in NE behind feature 24, with the result that at 2030 hrs this 2/24 Bn posn was reported to be surrounded. B and D Coys withdrew from this feature intact, C Coy protecting right flank 2/48 Bn by taking up a posn on the cutting, with D coy going into res.

84. At 2320 hrs, a tk force from 8/44 R Tks reached tac Hq 26 Aust Inf Bde to be available for use at first light.

85. 15 Jul 2/48 Bn reported tks and inf massing in front of A and C Coys at 0055 hrs. Def fire was put down, but, with the exception of exchange of MG fire, no attack developed on this front during night 14/15 Jul.

86. At 0447 hrs, Maj BUDGE A/cond 2/24 Bn reported that his tps would not be able to occupy the cutting owing to extremely hy enemy fire.

/87.



87. With first light 15 Jul it was revealed that the enemy had pressed fwd on to Pt 33 with tks followed by inf. Three tks reached Pt 33, but the following inf were driven back by SA fire by 2/24 Bn, and the tks were forced into dead ground. Further enemy inf plus 35 tks moved on to the 24 feature at approx 0700 hrs; this force then advanced towards pt 33 at 0730 hrs, but then changed direction and moved towards 2/43 Bn.

88. At this period, our own tks drove in along the south of Pt 26 and towards Pt 33 and launched a counter attack on the enemy tks, who were then on the 33 feature and occupying the lower slopes north of the ry line.

89. The enemy were engaged by our arty whilst 8/44 Tks attacked. At 0900 hrs, Brig RICHARDS reported 8 enemy tks on the ridge south and west of Pt 33 were withdrawing and that he was pressing home his attack. Enemy tks withdraw and adopted hull down posns to the west.

90. At 1130 hrs the final enemy attack - two inf coys unsupported by tks - which advanced from SW towards Pt 33 was broken up by our fire.

91. During the remainder of 15 Jul, 2/24 Bn readjusted its dispoans, whilst orders were issued to 2/23 Bn to capture 24 feature from the enemy at dawn 16 Jul.

92. Night 15/16 Jul was quiet, whilst a coordinating conference for 2/23 Bn attack was held at Bde Hq late on 15 Jul.

93. Attack by B and D Coys 2/23 Bn supported by one sqn 8/44 R Tks and arty was successful - East Pt 24 being gained at 0630 hrs, and West Pt 24 by 0743 hrs. The enemy then concentrated exceedingly by arty fire on the feature causing casualties among our tps. At 0824 hrs, the fwd coy comd requested permission to withdraw due to increasing casualties from arty fire, and coy was subsequently forced to withdraw. 2/23 Bn then held the East Pt 24 and the cutting, but increasingly by fire and casualties forced the bn comd to withdraw his tps to southern slopes of Pt 33. The withdrawal was completed by 1115 hrs. Approx 400 PW (incl 30 Germans) were taken.

94. Subsequent to the withdrawal of 2/23 Bn, the enemy commenced filtering back on to 24 feature and cutting. 2/23 Bn reorganised during the day, and orders were issued that afternoon for 2/23 Bn to occupy a posn between 2/24 and 2/43 Bns.

95. Night 16/17 was quiet, and the centre sector was occupied by 2/23 Bn.

97. Accordingly, at last light 17 Jul, a carrier force from 2/43 Bn executed a successful nuisance raid on West Pt 24, returning by 2140 hrs. The attack in the south, however was cancelled.

96. On 17 Jul, orders were received to sp attack by 24 Aust Inf Bde in south by recapturing the cutting and East Pt 24 and by raiding West Pt 24 during night 17/18 Jul.

98. The period from 18/21 Jul was quiet along the bde front except for sporadic shelling and occasional air raids. This period was fully occupied in the adjustment of the bde dispoans and improvement of the hastily constructed def posns. It was evident that the enemy spent his time similarly. Active patrolling was carried out both by night and by day along the entire front.



99. At this stage, the C-in-C ordered a full-scale attack by Eighth Army. In the north, 26 Aust Inf Bde was to secure the right flank by capturing and holding Ring Contour 25 and the Double 24 feature.

100. A conference of bn comds and sp arms was held during the morning 21 Jul at Hq 26 Aust Inf Bde to discuss the plans for the attack. Final orders were issued by CO No 12 at 1803 hrs.

101. Attack commenced at 0630 hrs 22 Jul. At 0630 hrs 2/23 fired the success signal on gaining East Pt 24, whereupon 2/48 Bn advanced through the 2/23 Bn positions and commenced the attack on West Pt 24. Meanwhile 2/24 Bn attack on contour 24 proceeded according to plan, and at 0635 hrs the bn reported that the objective had been gained and that the coys concerned were consolidating under by arty and MG fire from the oasis and ruin areas. Arty sp was called for and given; and further fire sp was given to 2/24 Bn at their request. 2/23 Bn under by enemy fire advanced its right flank toward K109 to conform to progress of 2/24 Bn.

102. At 0659 hrs, CO 2/23 Bn reported that by shell fire was falling on both Pts 24, and that his casualties were undoubtedly by. 2/24 Bn were meantime coming under extremely by arty and MG fire, and at 0701 hrs CO advised that this fire was preventing the fwd mvt of tpt on to Contour 25.

103. Increasingly by fire on 2/24 Bn finally caused the withdrawal of A and C Coys who were holding the feature Contour 25, back on to Pt 33. 2/23 Bn then again adjusted its right flank to conform to this mvt by 2/24 Bn. Very fierce hand to hand fighting took place in this area and smoke was eventually employed to extricate elements of 2/23 Bn.

104. 2/48 Bn attack was partly successful, the right coy at 0753 hrs being on the objective where it was pinned down by by arty and MG fire, whilst the left coy had not yet reached its objective.

105. By fire continued on TELL EL RISA Ridge. At 0830 hrs 2/23 Bn advised that D Coy was withdrawing and was being replaced by A Coy. Continuous MG fire on the right coy 2/48 Bn now finally forced the coy comd to withdraw his depleted force to the area of TELL EL RISA sta. The left coy was still fwd, but contact had been lost.

106. Shortly after 0800 hrs, a by inf counter-attack overwhelmed fwd elements of C Coy 2/23 Bn near East Pt 24. A Coy held its position by the cutting, however, and was ordered to cover the withdrawal of portion of 2/48 Bn.

107. At 1016 hrs one sqn 44 R Tks that had been placed under bde comd moved to rear of Pt 26 in order to sp 2/48 Bn. Contact was made with the left fwd coy who were holding out on West Pt 24 with difficulty. The tks, one rifle pl, and one A Tk tp were ordered fwd to assist the left fwd coy 2/48 Bn which was to remain in position if possible and to establish comm between this coy and TELL EL RISA.

108. Towards late morning, 2/23 Bn formed a weak coy to strengthen the gap between the main Pt 33 ridge and the cutting, which was still being held. By midday the cutting was held by A Coy and two pls B Coy 2/23 Bn. The cutting had been cleared, and 2/23 Bn reported that a number of the original 2/48 Bn right coy were also in that area.



109. The force of the, inf, and A Tk guns moving out on TELL EL KISA Ridge was delayed by minefields, and finally, after suffering casualties, withdrew during the afternoon at about 1645 hrs. 2/48 Bn discovered that their tps had not reached West Pt 24, and that B Coy was pinned down mid-way between both pts.

110. Soon after 1900 hrs, by inf concentrations to the South and SW of TELL EL KISA ridge were visible, but the subsequent adv was broken up and dispersed by our arty fire.

111. It was then decided that A Coy 2/48 Bn would relieve the remaining elements of B and D Coys, and establish a posn on East Pt 24, thus forming a line between 2/23 Bn cutting posn and 2/48 Bn tps at TELL EL KISA sta.

This op was successfully accomplished by 0800 hrs 23 Jul when it was also reported that the enemy on the ridge appeared to be considerably reinforced.

112. The day 23 Jul was spent in re-organising the badly battered coys of all bns and by the readjustment of existing posns held.

113. From this time until 31 Jul, the TELL EL KISA Salient was strengthened by the consta of def wks and in particular by the completion of the minefield enveloping the western and southern flanks of the bds.

A policy of active patrolling to determine the enemy dispositions with particular reference to any indication of a withdrawal or thinning out, and to disturb his peace was vigorously implemented. During this period it rapidly became evident that the enemy, far from reducing his posns in any manner was in fact, consolidating to prepare against further attacks by our forces.



LIST OF PW

1. The following schedule of PW taken during the above period includes only those who actually passed through either one of the two Bde Collecting Posts

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GERMANS</u>		<u>ITALIANS</u>	
	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>
10 Jul 42	-	70	30	625
11 "	-	-	13	178
12 "	-	1	-	9
13 "	-	2	-	-
14 "	-	1	-	-
15 "	-	9	-	-
16 "	1	11	25	473
17 "	-	-	-	5
18 "	-	-	-	-
19 "	-	-	-	-
20 "	-	-	-	-
21 "	-	-	-	-
22 "	-	11	-	-
23 "	-	9	-	-
24 "	-	-	-	-
25 "	-	-	-	-
26 "	-	1	-	-
<hr/>				
<u>TOTALS</u>	1	115	68	1290
<hr/>				

TOTAL (all ranks) 1474

2. During the early part of this active operational period 26 Aust Inf Bde evacuated all PW received at collecting posts to EL ALAMEIN 30 Corps adv cage. 3 SA Bde tpt was used to evacuate from these collecting posts. Regrettably, there were many PW who, instead of proceeding to 30 Corps adv cage, were tpted direct to 30 Corps main cage at BURG EL ARAB mostly in unit MT, some by any available empty tpt returning along the main rd - DABA - ALEXANDRIA. Records of these prisoners were not kept in the fwd area and consequently the total PW taken by this Bde cannot be ascertained.

It is considered, however, that the total PW taken by 26 Aust Inf Bde during the above period amounted to 3500, of which the majority were Italian.

-----000-----



## --- 26 AUST INF BDE - CASUALTIES FROM 10 - 29 JUL 42 ---

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Killed</u>		<u>Wounded</u>		<u>Missing</u>		<u>Missing and Wounded</u>		<u>Died of Wounds</u>		<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>
HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde		1		1							1	1
4 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn		1		6							-	7
L Sec Sigs				1							-	1
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	6	58	9	181	1	35	2	1	2	7	20	274
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	3	35	8	144	2	41			1		14	220
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	5	56	5	113		16					10	185
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>445</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>688</u>

SICK EVACUATIONS BEYOND RAP

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>
HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde and att tps	1	5
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	3	52
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	2	56
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	1	50
<u>Total</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>163</u>



105  
Appa. 2.

SECRET

Copy No. 28.

1 Aug 42

26 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE CO NO 13

Ref Maps : EL ALAMEIN and QASABA sheets 1/50,000.

INFM

1. Contained in sitreps and daily int summaries.
2. 9 Aust Div is taking over responsibility for the Northern portion of the EL ALAMEIN defences which in general terms lies between the coast on the North and the telegraph line two thousand yds South of the ry line to the South.
3. 2/28 Bn comes under comd 26 Aust Inf Bde wef completion of relief.

INTENTION

4. 26 Aust Inf Bde will hand over their present disposns to 20 Aust Inf Bde and will occupy in a defensive role the prepared posn in the TELL EL SHAMMAMA 434901 area.

METHOD

5. The relief will take place during nights 1/2 and 2/3 Aug on the following plan.
6. Day 1 Aug : B Ech 2/24 Bn moves to new area between 1500 and 1800 hrs.
7. Night 1/2 Aug : 2/15 Bn relieves 2/24 Bn and one coy 2/23 Bn in present locations.
8. 2/24 Bn using tp carrying tpt which carries 2/15 Bn fwd moves back to Northern posn at TELL EL SHAMMAMA. The coy 2/23 Bn on relief will move to an area in the sand dunes in the present locality.
9. Day 2 Aug : B Ech all units (less 2/24 Bn) move to unit B Ech areas.
10. Night 2/3 Aug : 2/17 Bn relieves 2/48 Bn and remainder of 2/23 Bn. 2/13 Bn moves into res this area.
11. 2/23 and 2/48 Bns using 13 and 17 Bns tp carrying tpt move to TELL EL SHAMMAMA area, 2/48 Bn occupying Southern area in prepared posn and 2/23 Bn moving into res area East of prepared posn and astride the main rd.
12. Adv parties both Bdes move to new areas 1 Aug.
13. All documents, maps etc relating to the defence of this sector (and infm re enemy disposns etc) will be handed over to the incoming units.
14. Reliefs will be completed and relieved units clear of fwd areas by 0300 hrs.
15. Units of 26 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for patrolling up till and incl the night of their relief, personnel of incoming units accompanying patrols.

/16.



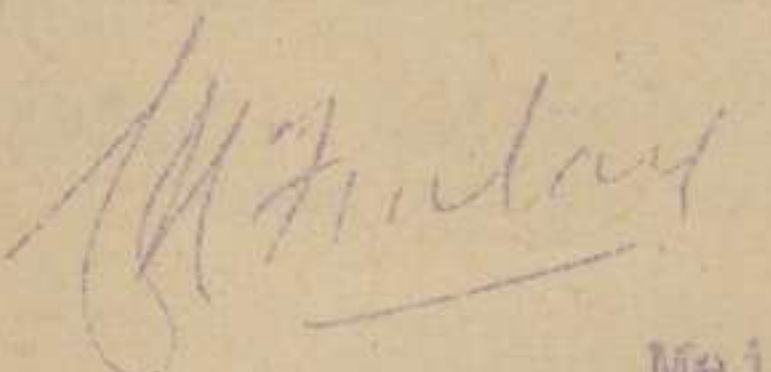
16. Areas for de-bussing and embussing in this area will be as decided mutually between units - no move of tpt West perimeter of ALAMEIN box before last light.
17. Routes for incoming and outgoing units will be track junc 88112996 - track X-ing - 88102982 - track junc 88172974 - track junc 88822946 thence main rd to TELL EL SHAMMAMA.
18. Detailed plan of posns in new area as far as prepared will be handed to unit adv parties.
19. Details of relief of A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn will be issued later.
20. Passage of comd in respective areas will be notified later.

ADM

21. Issued separately.

INTERCOMN

22. Bde HQ remains present location till relief complete, time of reopening in new location will be notified by sig.
23. LOS with bns till relief complete.

  
Maj  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde  
(C H FINLAY)

Ack

Signed at 1225 hrs

Issued through Sigs

Distribn :-

Copy No

✓ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	1	
✓ 2/24 " "	2	
✓ 2/48 " "	3	
✓ L Sec Sigs	4	
✓ 4 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn	5	
✓ 8 LAD	6	
✓ 2/8 Aust Fd Regt	7	
✓ A Tk Comd	8	
✓ 104 A Tk Bty	9	
✓ 9 Aust A Tk Bty	10	
✓ 10 Aust A Tk Bty	11	
✓ 10 Aust Lt AA Bty	12	
✓ 2/13 Aust Fd Coy	13	
✓ A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	14	
✓ 12 Coy AASC	15	
✓ 2/11 Aust Fd Aac	16	
✓ 1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshop	17	
✓ H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk	18	
✓ 9 Aust Div	19	
✓ 20 Aust Inf Bde	20	✓ Bde TO 24
✓ 24 " "	21	✓ Spare 25-26
✓ Comd	22	✓ File 27
✓ SC	23	✓ War Diary 28-29



SECRET

COPY NO. 28

26 AUS INF BDE ADM ORDER No. 5.

1 Aug 42.

(Issued in conjunction with 26 Aust  
Inf Bde O O No. 13)

1. GENERAL

This order covers -

- a. The relief of 26 Aust Inf Bde by 20 Aust Inf Bde in present area.
- b. The move of 26 Aust Inf Bde to EL ALAMAIN area.
- c. General adm arrangements in new area. These will stand unless otherwise notified.

2. SUPP

- a. Sup pt for 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp 2 Aug 42 will remain as for 1 Aug 42 (already notified).
- b. Sup pt for 3 Aug 42 and thereafter will be notified later.

3. REQ

Three days veh ration at present held will be taken to new areas by all units.

4. WEAPONS AND AM

- a. All weapons on G 1000 scale will be taken to new areas.
- b. As a policy, all foreign weapons should be taken to new areas. Units may, however, arrange mutually to hand over any foreign weapons at present in their possession.
- c. G 3000-1st line scale of am only will be taken with units. Any surplus am will be left.
- d. A reasonable proportion of foreign am only should be taken to new areas. Any surplus foreign am should be handed over with foreign weapons (if this applies) or returned to 12 Coy AP.

5. REL

Normal cases res should be retained on all vehs.

6. WATER

- a. All units will draw at EL ALAMAIN WP up till 2 Aug 42.
- b. After 2 Aug 42, 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp will draw from EL IMAYED WP. This applies to both 1st line in unit water carts and water refilling parties in 2nd line (under AAC control).

7. REC

78 LAD and 1 Rec Bde 2/1 A Fd Wkshs both move to new areas which will be notified separately.

8. MED

2/11 Aust Fd Amb MDS remains at present location.



9. HYG

Personnel of 3/4 Aust Fd Hyg Sec at present att to 2/23 and 2/24 Aust Inf Bns will move with these units to new area.

10. TPT

a. Tp carrying tpt of 345 Gen Tpt Coy RASC (one pl to each Bn) at present att to Bns of 20 Aust Inf Bns will be used by bns of this Bde to move to new areas. Bns can expect this tpt to leave them the morning after their respective reliefs and rearward movement.

b. Embussing areas as laid down in 26 Aust Inf Bde O O 13 para 16.

ACE

*[Signature]*  
(G H NATHAN) Capt  
SO 26 Aust Inf Bde

Signed at 14.15 hrs

Issued by

Distrib

As for CO No 13.



Appa. 4.

SECRET

Copy No. 19.

2 Aug 42

26 AUST INF BDE OC NO 14

Ref Maps : EL DABA 1/250,000, EL QASABA 1/50,000 Sheets

INFORM

1. Enemy appears to have ceased his attacks in order to regroup and organise his forces.

Latest details of enemy dispositions are contained in daily Int summaries.

2. 9 Aust Div is to hold the former 26 Aust Inf Bde area, the western perimeter of the ALAMEIN defences and defended areas 432902 and 432898.

3. Tps under comd :-

2/28 Aust Inf Bn (for adm only)  
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn  
1 Rec Sec, 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshop  
H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk  
12 Aust A Tk Bty (reforming) comes under comd on withdrawal into ALAMEIN defences of 24 Aust Inf Bde.

4. Tps in sp :-

2/7 Aust Fd Coy (after withdrawal of 24 Aust Inf Bde)  
12 Coy AASC  
2/11 Aust Fd Amb

INTENTION

5. 26 Aust Inf Bde will defend the areas ABAR EL SHAMMAMA 432902 and EL QASABA EL SHARQIYA 432898.

METHOD

6. The basis of the defence will be bn localities in the two above areas sited for all round defence.
7. Fwd tps - 2/24 Bn on right, 2/48 Bn on left.  
Res - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn temporarily in area 436901 and 437901.  
Detailed dispositions of res bn will be subject of separate orders.
8. The existing defences will be developed and the fire plan coordinated with the existing A Tk minefd plan.
9. Trace A att shows detail of existing coy and pl areas and completed minefds.
10. OC A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn will coordinate the MG fire plan, details of which will be decided this day.
11. Details of fd, A Tk and Lt AA arty to be included in the EL SHAMMAMA defences will be advised later.
12. Units will submit by 1800 hrs 4 Aug detailed traces showing :

/ (a)



- (a) Inf disposes down to pl localities with details of fire plan.
  - (b) Tactical wiring both completed and projected.
  - (c) Recommended arty SOS and def fire tasks.
  - (d) Disposes of bn A Tk weapons.
13. Requisitions for def stores etc will be submitted through these HQ as early as practicable.
14. 26 Aust Inf Bde under separate orders is to:
- (a) Prepare a scheme for the defence of AEU SHINELA area 440902 based on a garrison of two lns and one fd bty.
  - (b) Subsequent to the development of the EL SHAMMAMA defences prepare and develop the defences stated in sub para (a) above.

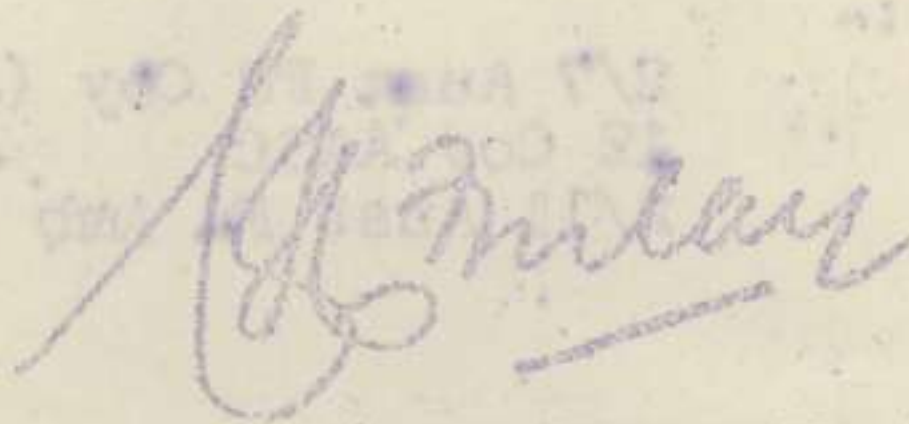
ADM

15. Issued separately.

INTERCOMN

- 16. HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde located at 43829021.
- 17. Air sp contact passed to comd 20 Aust Inf Bde 0035 hrs 3 Aug.

ACK



(C H Finlay) Maj  
EM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Signed at 1476 hrs  
Issued through Sigs

Distribn :

Copy No

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	1
2/24 " " "	2
2/48 " " "	3
L Sec Sigs	4
4 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn	5 X
78 " " "	6 X
12 Aust A Tk Bty	7
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	8
12 Coy ANSC	9 X
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	10
1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshop	11 X
H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk	12 X
9 Aust Div	13
Comd	14
Spare	15-17
File	18
War Diary	19-20

X Less trace

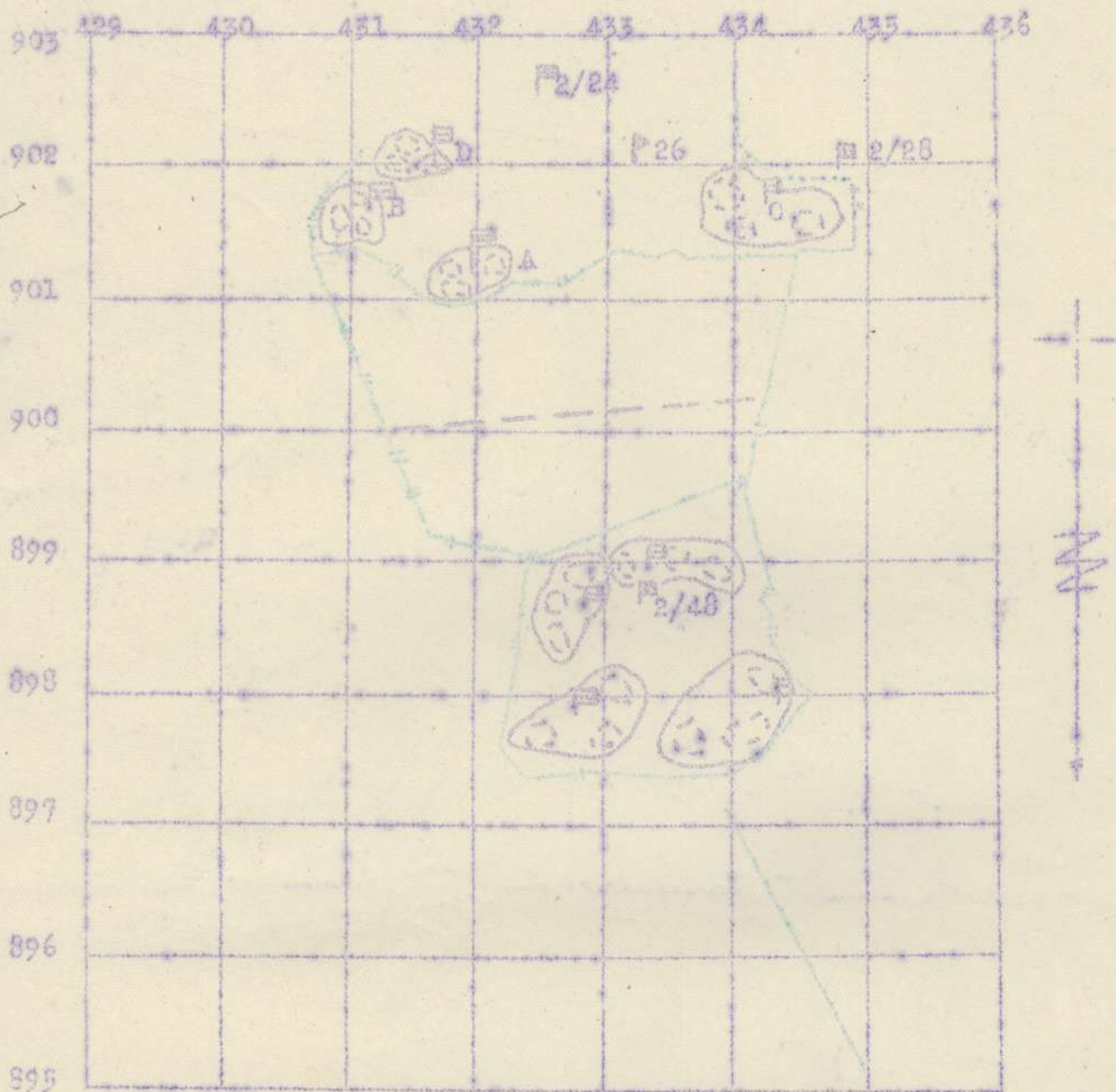


100

APPX "A" to 26 AUST INF BDE G.O. No. 14

MINEFIELDS and INF DEFENSIVE POSNS --- TELL EL SHAWANE DEFENCES

Ref Map: - EL QASALA 1/50,000



-----LEGEND-----

Minefields

Minefield Gaps

Coy and Pl Localities

Dummy Minefield

Bn Areas



All minefields are completely fenced and gaps clearly marked.



SECRET

Copy No. 22  
3 Aug 42.

26 AUST INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 200

(Compiled from infm received for period ending 0035 hrs 3 Aug 42)

Ref Map: EL ALAMIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" : OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

(a) INF

5 GERMANS were observed by left bn patrol night 1/2 Aug in posns on the slopes of Pt 23 sq 872296. 25x East of the posns is a single row of dannert wire fixed with short pickets. This is considered to be a pl posn.

Diggings extending 300x in length with seven enemy in occupation were seen at 87263017.

Approx 15 men were observed 0615 hrs 1 Aug taking rations into what appeared to be a permanently occupied post at 87162992.

4 men were observed moving in posns consisting partly of sangars at 87112992.

At 0735 hrs 1 Aug a motor cyclist left a post at 87173002. 3 or 4 men were seen moving in pits in this area, 2 stationary vehs dispersed 300x West.

At 0915 hrs 1 Aug 30 enemy inf were observed moving about in diggings at 87182973.

Inf were seen patrolling up and down angle iron pickets and probable wire from 87142978 to 87142972.

A further small post containing 3/4 men exists at 87142985.

Enemy diggings 200x in extent with wire 200x East were contacted by left bn patrol.

(b) MGs

A newly prepared mound at 87423010 is a probable MG posn.

2 MGs at 87172981 opened fire on our aircraft at 1900 hrs 1 Aug.

(c) ARTY

Arty bty of 4 guns well dispersed fired on our posns from approx sq 869278 at 1950 hrs 1 Aug 42.

(d) WIRE

Left bn patrol located trip wire at 87542974 consisting of a single barb on short angle iron pickets but no minefield was found.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) OBSERVED MOVEMENT

At 1910 hrs 2 Aug 3 men moved North from 2 derelict vehs at 87203014.

(b) WORKS PROCEEDING

Centre bn patrol at 87333009 heard sounds of digging in vicinity of ry line in that area. Working party was estimated 20/30 and possibly a line is being built from area cistern sq 872301 to Kilo 110. 150x East of main working party, 3 separate gps of enemy inf were heard digging.

An enemy working party was also heard driving pickets in are Kilo 109.

Right bn patrol observed a GERMAN working party at 87363025, digging and probably wiring, being in progress.

At 87353028 a further working party was observed with probable listening post in front.



(2)

The noise of pickets being driven in was heard, by left bn patrol, about 300x West of Pt 23 sq 872296.

A small working party with at least 14 inf in a semicircle around it was observed in area 87323009 during night 2/3 Aug.

A further working party was also heard during night 2/3 Aug at 87142974.

SECTION "B" : OWN OPERATIONS

**3. BDE RELIEF**

Relief of this Bde took place without incident during nights 1/2 and 2/3 Aug, comd of sector passing at 0035 hrs 3 Aug. On night 1/2 Aug, right fwd bn and 1 coy centre bn and on night 2/3 Aug left fwd bn and remainder centre bn were relieved.

**4. PATROLS**

Throughout 1 Aug, an offr from left bn lay out on West Pt 24 and observed numerous enemy dispositions and movements listed in Operations Int. The offr returned under cover of darkness at approx 2100 hrs 1 Aug.

Numerous fighting, recce and standing patrols were fwd of bde sector during nights 1/2 and 2/3 Aug. Enemy posns were observed as listed in Enemy Dispositions, but our patrols were unable to make contact.

Lieut.  
I.O. 26 Aust Inf Bde.  
(E.J. SHATTOCK)

Distribution:-

As per List No. 2.



Appx. 6.

MOST SECRET

Offrs Only

Copy No. 6

4 Aug 42

26 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN NO 6

Ref Map : EL HAMMAM 1/100,000 Sheet.

INTM

1. 30 Corps Main Zone defences are being prepared in the form of a series of defended localities not more than 10000 apart each designed for a garrison of two bns and one fd regt.
2. Of these defences 9 Aust Div is to prepare and develop areas A (TELL EL SHAMMAMA) and B (ABU SHINEIA).
3. The preparation of both these areas has been allotted to 26 Aust Inf Bde.

INTENTION

4. 26 Aust Inf Bde will prepare, improve and complete to battle worthiness the defensive area B at ABU SHINEIA 440902 for a garrison of two inf bns and one fd regt.

METHOD

5. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will -

- (a) Recce the above posn in the above light.
- (b) Prepare and recommend disposns and a fire plan for its defence.
- (c) Recommend further additions to those already sited if not suitable for the proposed garrison.

6. Upon approval of the defensive scheme for these defences as stated above, 2/23 Bn will prepare, improve and complete to battle worthiness the defences at ABU SHINEIA as set out in such scheme.

7. 2/23 Bn will submit the recommendations required in para (5) above to reach these HQ not later than 1400 hrs 6 Aug 42.

8. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will also submit separately a complete list of engr and other def stores required to implement the recommendations made in accordance with para (5) above.

ACK

Signed at 2010 hrs

Issued through LO & Sigs

Distribn :-

Copy No

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

1

2/24 " "

2

2/48 " "

3

Comd

4

File

5

War Diary

6-7

  
(C H Finlay) Maj  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde



WD

cd Appa. 7.

200/18A/35

MOST SECRET  
Copy No. ....  
7 Aug 42

26 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE GS INSTN NO 1

In present circumstances constant preparedness for all or any eventualities or enemy action is essential and the following points are stressed :-

- (a) With the long coastline to the north, raids by small or large landing parties of enemy commandos or other tps are always possible - units with sea frontage will maintain coast watches both by day and night with an efficient alarm signal.
- (b) It is reported that a German Paratp Regt with a strong A Tk element has landed in AFRICA - The many wide-open spaces in the area offer suitable localities for the ops of such tps.

To be prepared to meet this and also the threat referred to in para (a) above and to catch the enemy when at the greatest disadvantage, i.e. at the moment of landing, small mob forces with some carriers and suitable weapons will be maintained by all Bns and will form part of each defence scheme - all other units must be prepared to protect themselves against any enemy action - Arty units must give careful thought to this and prepare plans to render assistance by fire in certain circumstances at definite localities or by observation.

All HQ personnel and adm units are to be organised into fighting units for the defence of their HQ and its environs and practices in assembly, manning etc are to be held at frequent intervals under cond of the camp cond or other suitable offr. Gds in HQ areas are to be maintained both by night and by day.

In short we are up against a clever resourceful enemy and we MUST NOT allow ourselves to be surprised.

The above is in addition to the general defensive role allotted to the Bde Gp.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

(C H FINLAY) Maj  
EM 26 Aust Inf Bde

<u>Distribn :</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	1
2/24 " "	2
2/48 " "	3
4 Fl Aust HQ Gd Bn	4
78 LAD	5
32 Fd Regt RA	6
12 Aust A Tk Bty	7
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	8
1 Rec Sec 2/1 A Fd Wkshops	9
H Div Sec Ord Fd Pk	10
Comd	11
Camp	12
File	13
✓ War Diary	14-15



12 Aug 42

## 26 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BDE OP INSTM NO 7

Ref Maps : EL HAMMAN 1/100,000 and EL QASABA 1/50,000 sheets.

INFM

1. In the event of 30 Corps fighting in the EL ALAMEIN main zone defences, 9 Aust Div is to defend localities A and B.
2. 5 Ind Div is to defend localities C and D on the left of 9 Aust Div.
3. 20 Aust Inf Bde is to occupy defended locality B.
4. Location of defences and inter div bndy etc is shown in most secret notes on EL ALAMEIN main zone defences issued separately.

## 5. Tps under comd :

Subject to further orders the following tps will be under comd 26 Aust Inf Bde for the defence of locality A.

One fd regi (possibly plus two btys)  
One a tk bty  
One lt AA bty  
One fd coy  
One MG coy  
One fd amb (less dets)  
Tp carrying tpt for one bn

INTENTION

## 6. 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp will :

- (a) Occupy and defend locality A (TELL EL SHAMMAMA - SHARQIYA EL QASABA) and
- (b) Train and prepare under certain circumstances to operate from those defences a mob bn battle gp.

METHOD

## 7. The present defences will be effected as follows :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn will move into the northern area of locality A and will take over from 2/24 Aust Inf Bn the eastern defences with the following restrictions.

- (a) Not more than two coys will be sited in the PDLs.
- (b) The bn (less two coys) will be maintained in mob res with defensive localities sited in depth for occupation in emergency.
- (c) 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will site localities for occupation in liaison with 2/24 Aust Inf Bn which unit will take over these localities in the event of action in para 14 (b) and (c) being implemented.

## 8. The inter bn bndy incl 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will be :

The coast at 43309026 - Pt 10 43319021 - K92 43319017 - Pt 2 43489001.



9. Arty - In general terms, subject to confirmation the arty will be sited :

- (a) One fd regt (less one bty) in Northern area.
  - (b) One bty of regt in (a) in Southern area.
  - (c) Additional arty if allotted - Northern area.
10. A Tk Bty - In the event of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn being ordered to withdraw from the area, the following dispositions will be made :
- (a) One bty (less two tps) in Northern area.
  - (b) Two tps in Southern area under cmd 2/48 Bn.

In each area A Tk defence both inf and arty guns will be coord by senior offr of A Tk Bty in area.

11. Lt AA - Lt AA Bty (less one tp) will be disposed in Northern area.

One tp Lt AA Bty will be disposed in Southern area under cmd 2/48 Bn.

12. Engrs - One fd coy (less one det) in Northern area.

Det fd coy in Southern area under cmd 2/48 Bn.

13. Bn battle gp - One bn battle gp will be constituted as under :

Cmd : Lt-Col B EVANS DSO - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
 2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
 One fd regt (less one bty)  
 Two tps A Tk Bty  
 One MG pl  
 Det fd coy  
 Mob sec fd amb  
 Tp carrying tpt (for inf bn)

14. The battle gp stated above may be required to :

- (a) carryout local counter attack to restore the situation within the bde.
- (b) act under div cmd for counter attack against enemy endeavouring to outflank posn if bde posn is not directly threatened.
- (c) operate outside div sector.

15. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will :

- (a) recon the routes and areas between locality A and the next localities to the South, SE and West.
- (b) under separate orders, carry out exercises with the cooperating arms of the battle gp in preparation for the roles indicated in para 14.

16. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn will :

- (a) re-plan the location of its fd coys, in the light of the disposals to be occupied by 2/23 Bn ordered in paras 7 and 8 so that in the event of 2/23 Bn adopting its mob role, 2/24 Bn can extend and reoccupy the defences of 2/23 Bn.
- (b) Submit, by 1800 hrs 14 Aug, details of new defended localities with fire plans together with recommendations for alterations to, and new minefields.



17. Comms : Units will submit by 1800 hrs 14 Aug a statement of sig eqpt necessary for maintenance of battle comms within bn areas to incl duplicate channels and lateral links.

Wherever possible W/T, L/T and V/T will be utilised on all channels.

ADM

18. Tpt : The battle gp outlined in para 13 will be maintained fully mob.

All other units will submit by 1800 hrs 14 Aug a statement of the minimum tpt necessary to be retained in the unit areas to enable them to function in their role as at present specified.

The balance of tpt and adm units will then be moved to a div adm area to be notified later.

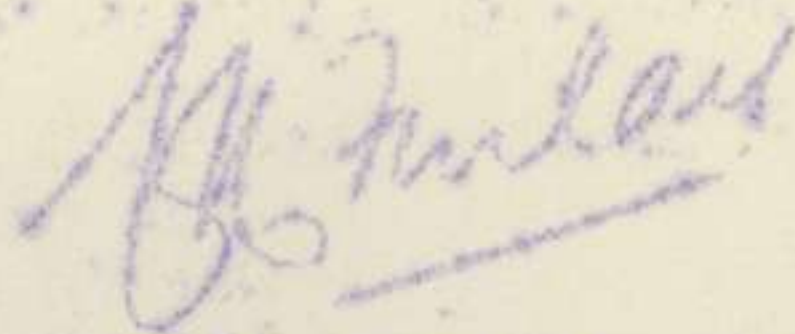
19. Other adm detail is being issued separately.

INTERCOMM

20. Tac HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde at 48359018 opens in the event of ops.

21. Main HQ 9 Aust Div will be in area 443903.

ACK.



(C H FINLAY) Maj  
EM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Issued by Sigs and LOs

Signed at 1720 hrs

DISTRIBUTION

COPY NO

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	1
2/24 " " "	2
2/48 " " "	3
L Sec Sigs	4
4 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn	5
78 LAD	6
32 Fd Regt RA	7
12 Aust A Tk Bty	8
3/7 Aust Fd Coy	9
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	10
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	11
1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Whshop	12
H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk	13
2 Aust Div	14
RAA 9 Aust Div	15-17 (for fd regt A Tk and Lt AA bty concerned)
Comd	18
SC	19
Bde TO	20
Spare	21-23
File	24
War Diary	25-26



Offrs Only

12 Aug 42

26 AUST INF BDE OP NOTES

Ref Map : EL HAMMAM 1/100,000 Sheet.

1. The following notes are issued for the purpose of indicating future possible ops on a broader scope than is customary to include in normal COs or instns.
2. The enemy may attack us on the ALAMEIN posn before we are ready to resume the offensive.  
Depending on the scale of attack and the warning received, EIGHTH Army is to fight in present posns or in the ALAMEIN main zone defences.
3. The main zone defences in the 30 Corps area are shown on trace att at Appx A.
4. 13 Corps is preparing other def localities further South.
5. Should it become necessary 80 Corps is to occupy its main defensive zone in the following manner :-
  - (a) Divs, when ordered, to thin out leaving outposts in outpost zone.
  - (b) 9 Aust Div to occupy and hold northern sector (defended localities A and B).
  - (c) 5 Ind Div to occupy and hold southern sector (defended localities C and D).
  - (d) 1 SA Div is to pass through 9 Aust Div and 5 Ind Div to Eighth Army res in defended localities -

G	SALOMAS	451896
H	QASIMIYA	454902
K	NAYTL	460897
  - (e) 6 SAAC Regt is to take over from 1 SA Div on 890 easting grid to report enemy's adv and to maintain contact with enemy, falling back if necessary to cover the gap between locality A and locality C.
6. These def localities are sited to be within arty sp of each other and to enable the operation of battle gps in the areas between.
7. In addition to the div battle gps certain mob and armd forces will be operating based on these localities.
8. Upon occupation of these localities by hdes it is intended to move all non-essential tpt beyond the bde area to a div adm area which is not threatened by the enemy.
9. Sufficient sups, POL, amm and water is being stored in localities to enable them to remain self contained for a short period though it is considered that access to all localities will be maintained in the event of ops.



10. The contents of these notes may be passed at discretion of unit comds to senior offrs of units but any marking of localities will be done on tale only in order that it may be quickly erased and the notes themselves will NOT be passed below En or equivalent HQ.

*(Signature)*

(C H FINLAY) Maj  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde

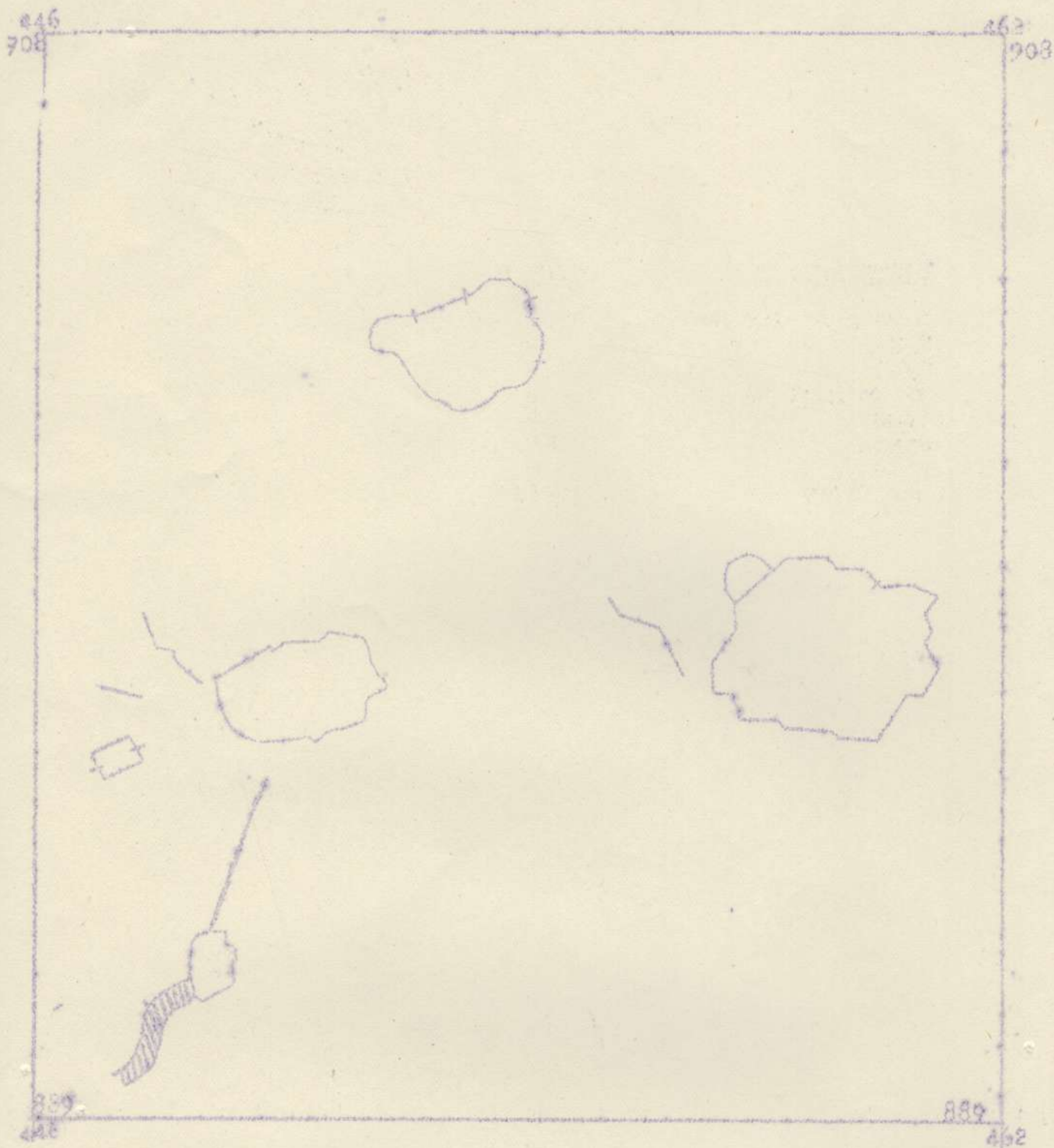
DISTRIBN : COPY NO :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	1
2/24 " "	2
2/48 " "	3
32 Fd Regt RA	4
Comd	5
Spare	6-8
File	9
War Diary	10-11



Annex "B" to 26 AUST INF EDE OF NOTES  
MINEFIELDS LAID OR BEING LAID IN MAIN DEFENCE ZONE

Ref Map: EL HANNAN 1/100,000

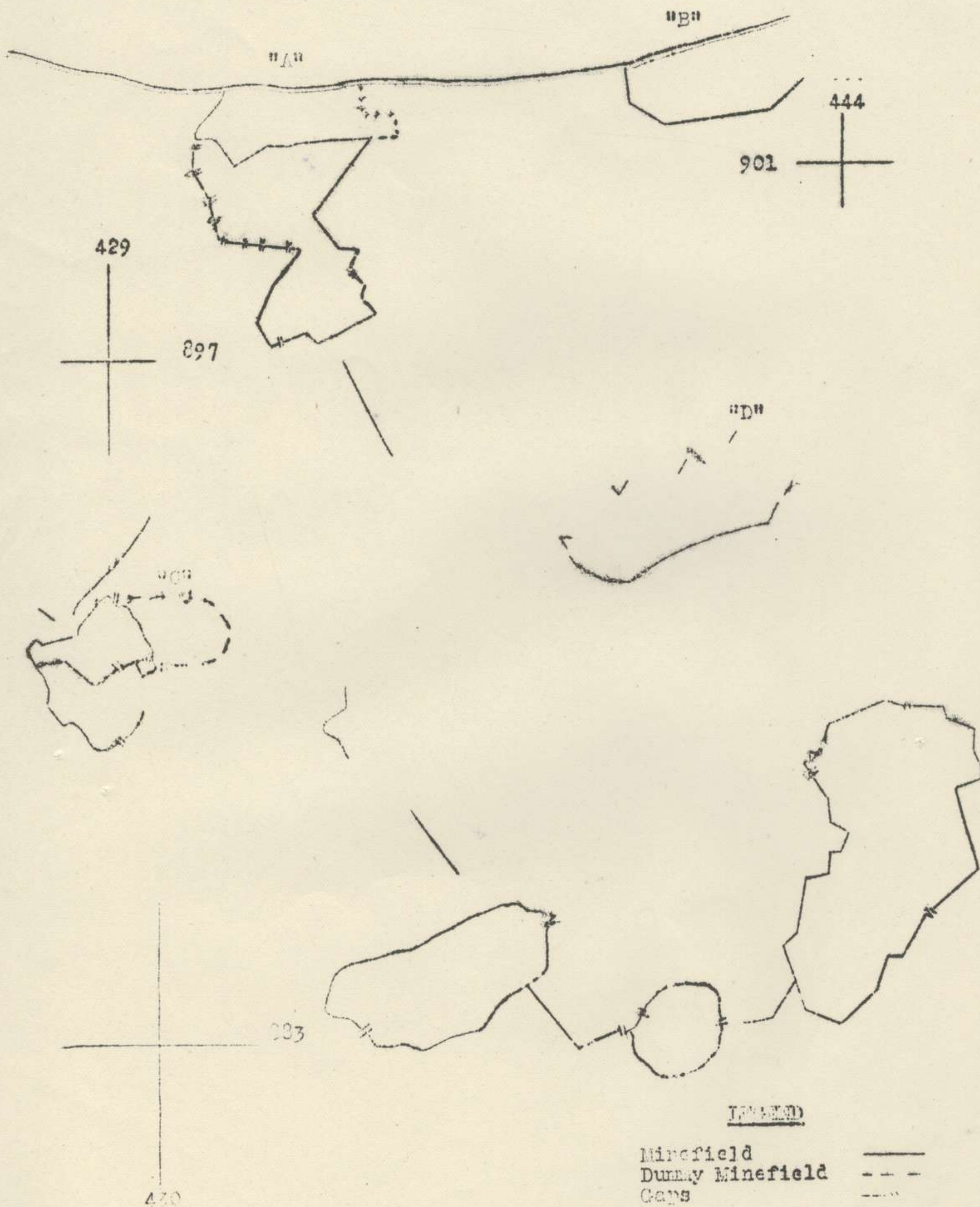




Appx "A" to 26 AUST INF BDE OP NOTES.

MINIFIELDS LAID OR BEING LAID IN MAIN DEFENCE ZONE

Ref Map:- El HAMMAN 1/100000





WAR DIARY - SUPPLIES AND AMN

26 Jun - 7 Jul 42

SUPPLIES A - MOVEMENT FROM SYRIA TO WESTERN DESERT

1. During this movement of the Bde Gp rations and POL were drawn by units at various DIDs en route. Rations were usually at veh or travelling scale.
2. Bde AASC offr travelled in adv of convoy lodging bulk indents at DIDs.
3. Convoy arrived AMIRIYA 1 Jul 42.
4. On 4 JUL 42 from 1700 hrs to 1900 hrs a sup pt was established by 12 Coy AASC near Bde Gp biv area. One days rations at hard scale were issued for consumption 5 Jul 42.
5. On morning of 5 Jul 42 on orders from HQ AASC 9 Aust Div the following rations were drawn by units at same sup pt :-
  - a. 2 days at hard scale for cons 6 and 7 Jul 42
  - b. 3 days at res scale NOT to be consumed.
6. While at AMIRIYA units drew pet in 4 gal tins, light, from 2 Bulk Pet filling centre.
7. On 6 Jul 42 Bde Gp moved to Western Desert carrying all possible cased pet in unit tpt.

SUPPLIES B

IN WESTERN DESERT

Rations

1. Since (incl) 7 Jul 42 rations have been delivered daily by 12 Coy AASC to a sup pt open for one hr where they have been collected by units. These sup pts are selected by Bde AASC offr in cooperation with SC and changed every 3 to 5 days or as necessitated by movements.
2. Indents for rations are lodged with Bde AASC offr 72 hrs in adv of day of consumption. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in checking unit strengths, as shown on indents for rations, with daily strength states. To facilitate this units are required to show details of attachments and detachments on indents. Although no weekly return AF W3810 is submitted by units they must keep a close check on rations drawn in comparison to ration strenghts and keep these figures approximately balanced,

Scale of Rations

For some days after arrival in Western Desert scale of rations was most irregular, only approximating ME FS Scale. After about 7 days the issue of AIF scale 70% fresh 30% hard was arranged. For a short period after this wereceived ME FS scale 100% fresh ~~maxxxx~~ However since incl 31 Jul 42 AIF scale 100% fresh has been issued to all Aust units.

4. This is most satisfactory, the fresh meat and bread being especially appreciated by those personnel actually occupying the fwd posns.

Meat has been New Zealand frozen beef without bone.

Vegetables have been Tomatoes, Cucumbers Marrow and Egg Fruit from the local market and of poor quality. The Egg fruit is



practically useless.

5. MBO has been issued from sup pt at normal cooking fuel scale.
6. All units have been issued with Emergency Chocolate Rations.
7. Expense stores and hospital comforts are issued once weekly.

POL

8. Pet<sup>and</sup> oil has been issued daily to units from a PP established in the same way as sup pt. Average daily consumption of Bde Gp while stationary 2400 gals.

Water

9. Under 9 Aust Div arrangements a 3 ech system of water supply has been established. By this system water is collected daily at sup pt at scale of 1 gal per man per day with special allowances for RAPs ADSs etc. This water is issued in 2 gal containers which must be returned by units the following day when a fresh supply of filled tins is issued.

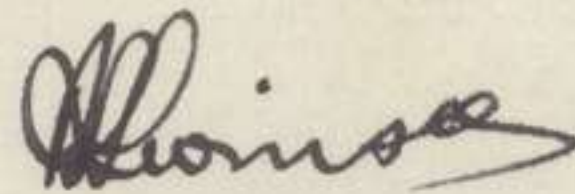
10. As units draw unlimited supplies of water from EL ALAMEIN water pt this system is unsatisfactory resulting in loss or damage of cans through enemy action, issue of rusty water and wasted tpt. However the system should prove efficient and useful in the event of any considerable fwd movement.

11. Ammunition

Amm pt established by 12 Coy AASc is open continuously for supply of amm. Holdings at this pt are according to a 2nd line scale laid down by HQ AASC 9 Aust Div.

Salvage

12. All amm salvage is returned to AP. Other salvage can be returned to rear areas by AASC tpt from the spp pt daily.



(A E LEVINSON) Capt  
AASC Offr 26 Aust Inf Bde



Alpha II.

SECRET  
Copy No. 25  
19 Aug 42

26 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN NO 3

Ref Maps : EL QASABA, EL ALAMKIN 1/50,000 and EL HAMMAM 1/100,000 Sheets.

ITEM

1. 26 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 7 is cancelled.
2. 9 Aust Div is to hold the present FULs at all costs.
3. 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp remains in res and is to be made mob.

INTENTION

4. 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp will :
  - (a) defend locality A and
  - (b) prepare to counter-attack if necessary, to restore the situation in either 20 or 24 Aust Inf Bde areas.

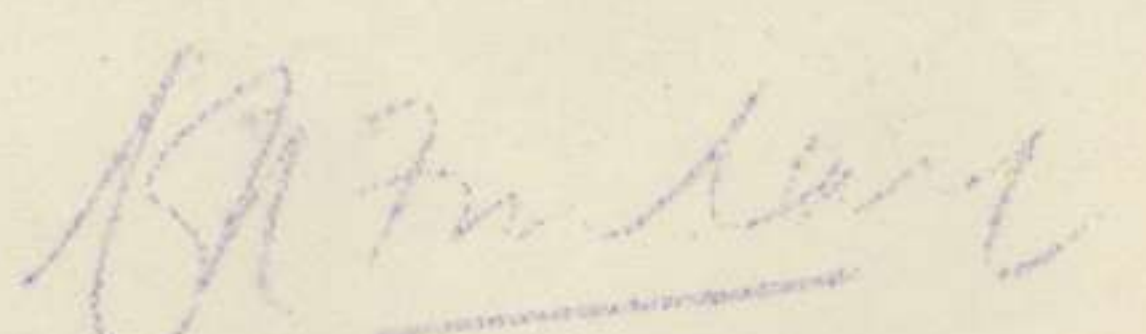
METHOD

5. 2/23, 2/24 and 2/43 Aust Inf Bns will review the existing defence schemes for locality A with special ref to :
  - (a) minefields to be of irregular pattern, concealed and covered by fire
  - (b) rangemarks in the form of cairns, tins or other identifiable marks.
  - (c) the provision of a unit res for counter-attack in each locality down to incl coy localities.
6. Units will submit by 1800 hrs 21 Aug recommendations for alterations or adjustments to minefields required to implement para 5 (a) above.
7. 2/23, 2/24 and 2/43 Aust Inf Bns will each recce the area occupied by the other two bns and will under separate orders prepare plans to counter-attack to restore the situation in either of the other bns areas.
8. 26 Aust Inf Bde will issue further orders for the carrying out of recces in 20 and 24 Aust Inf Bde areas for preparation of counter-attack roles as div res.
9. Trg : Present trg for mob ops will continue, primarily by bn g.c. and under later orders as a res bde gp in accordance with the div counter-attack plan.

ADM

10. Issued separately.

ACK



(C H FINLAY) Maj  
EM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Signed at 0703 hrs  
Issued through Sigs

DISTRIB :

A3 for Op Instn No 7



100

Apr 12.

SECRET

Copy No. 25

19 Aug 42

26 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE OP INSTN NO 9

Ref Map : EL HAMMAM 1/100,000.

INFORM

1. This instn will be studied in conjunction with 26 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 8.

INTENTION

2. 26 Aust Inf Bde will defend against attack by air-borne tps the area from excl minefn, 42503037 - 88202899 - 43202970 - 44668970 - 44559047.

METHOD

3. Areas of responsibility - As per att trace Appx A.
4. Air combat force
  - a. Each bn will organise and train a mob air combat force to deal with any attack by air-borne tps or paratps in the bde area.
  - b. Strength - One rifle coy plus carriers, mortars, MMGs.
  - c. Role - To deal with any attack in the bn area or, on receipt of orders from this HQ, to act against enemy forces elsewhere in the bde area.
5. Bns will establish OPs and, on receipt of warning of possible enemy attack by air-borne tps, OPs will be manned.

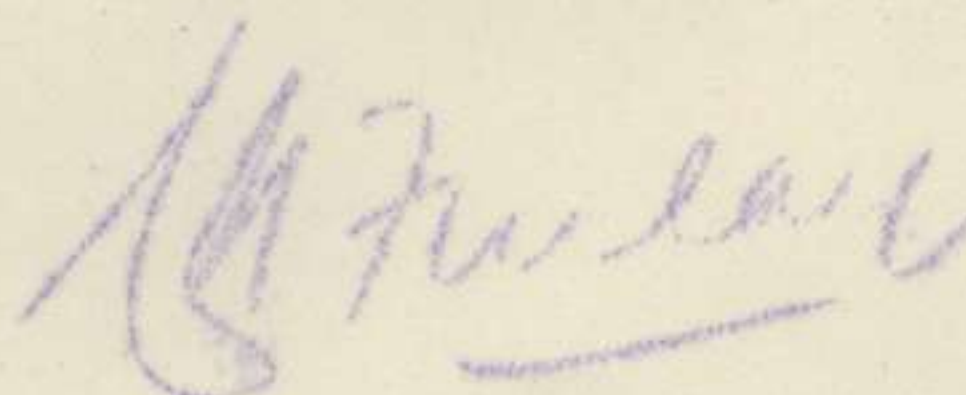
ADM

6. Issued separately.

INTERCOMN

7. From OPs to Bn HQ - W/T supplemented where possible by L/T and V/T.

ACK



(C. H. FINLAY) Maj  
FM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Signed at 1345 hrs

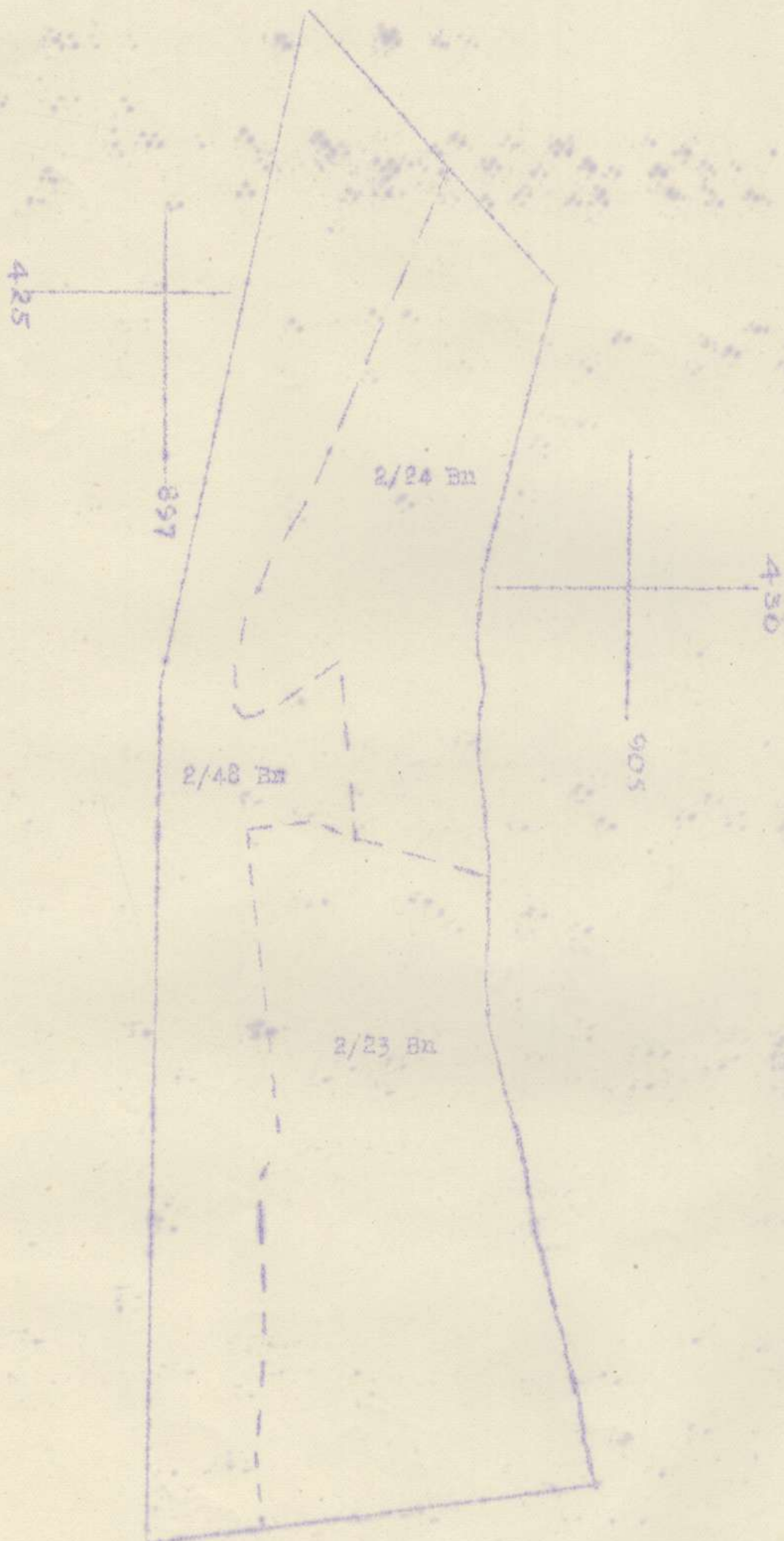
Issued through Sigs

DISTRIBN :

As per Op Instn No 7



Ref Map: EI HAMMAM 1/100,000





Appx. 13.

SECRET

COPY NO. 2/.....

18 Aug 42

28 AUGUST 1942 HQ AFM INST No. 7.

Ref Map : EL QASABA sheet 1/50,000

## 1. GENERAL

This instr deals with admin arrangements for the occupation of posn "A" as a def locality and also as an area to hold the Div mob res. To carry out this policy reserves will be kept as mob as possible.

## 2. SCALE OF RES

- Three days res of sups, amm, POL and water will be kept mob by all units (in the case of inf bns this policy can only be carried out with the allotment of tp carrying apt).
- A further two days res of the above commodities will be held by all units in present areas.
- The dumping policy already outlined to some units in the res area is now cancelled.

## 3. SUPS

Scale will be "HARD SCALE" i.e. normal scale, but with tinned or "hard" items substituted for fresh equivalents.

## 4. HOLDING AND MAINTENANCE

It will be a bde responsibility to take over all commodities from AASC on delivery to unit areas. In order to save time units will check items received as per the att Appx "A" and issue receipts to AASC accordingly. One copy of all receipts will be fwded to Bde HQ within 24 hrs after taking over of commodities.

A report will be fwded to this HQ indicating the condition of commodities once weekly commencing Sat 22 Aug 42.

## 5. UNIT DISTRIBUTION

The three days res mentioned in para 2 (a) above will be distributed down to coys in the case of bns, blys in the case of fd regts, tps in A Tk blys, pls in MG coys and in other units the corresponding sub-units.

The two days res mentioned in para 2(b) above will be kept as a bn (or equivalent unit) res and will be kept intact, under the direct control of the "C" staff. This res in order to maintain same in good condition will be dug in unit areas covered from the weather and guarded.

## 6. DELIVERY

Res sups will arrive in posn "A" on 20 Aug 42. Guides will be supplied by units at the following kilo posts on the main rd MATRUH - ALEXANDRIA :

Bde HQ	92 Kilo	12 Aust A Tk Bty	90 Kilo
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	91 Kilo	A Coy 2/2 MG Bn	92 "
2/48 " " "	94 "	2/7 Aust Fd Coy	90 "
32 Fd Regt NA	92 "	2/11 Aust Fd Amb	87 "

Those units for which res are being held in the res area and who are not at the moment in this area will be kept in the Bde res at 43259024.



Guides will report to the above kilo posts at 1300 hrs for those units mentioned. Reserves for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will be held temporarily in Bde res area until the completion of their relief with 2/28 Aust Inf Bn. QM 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will advise SC Bde HQ when res can be taken by his unit.

7. AASC PERSONNEL

Det of AASC personnel will be available to 26 Bde Gp to break bulk down to coys or equivalents. Further advice on this matter will be issued separately.

8. WATER

Res will be held in 44 gall drums and must be constantly turned over to keep it in good condition.

9. POI

Scale of res will be full tks plus 100 miles per veh (vide our sig Q344 of 13 Aug 42).

ACK

*G. H. Nathan*  
(G. H. NATHAN) Capt  
SC 26 Aust Inf Bde

Signed at 1015 hrs

Issued through Sigs

Distribn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No. 1
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	2
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	3
L Sec Sigs	4
4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	5
78 LAD	6
32 Fd Regt RA	7
2/12 Aust Fd Regt	8
12 Aust A Tk Bty	9
10 Aust Lt AA Bty	10
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	11
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	12
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	13
Bde HQ CCMS	14
Bde TO	15
9 Aust Div	16
Spare	17-20
✓ War Diary	21-22
File	23



APPX "A" to 26 AUST INF BDE CP AIN INSN No. 7.

The following subs will be delivered to units on <sup>20</sup>~~15~~ Aug 42:

Unit	Three days (mob res)	Two days (Bn or equiv. alent res)	Five days (Total)
Bde HQ and att	630	420	1050
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Same as for other two Bns, delivered at a later date.		
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	2100	1400	3500
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	2100	1400	3500
2/12 Aust Fd Regt	2025	1350	3375
32 Fd Regt RA	1350	900	2250
12 Aust A Tk Bty	405	270	675
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	360	240	600
10 Aust Lt AA Bty	525	350	875
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	600	400	1000
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	540	360	900

Ø To be delivered to Bde res area.



Apr 14

SECRET

73A/163

EO 26 Aust Inf Bde

4) Aug 42


RESERVES - POSN "A"

The following amendments will be made in 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp Adm Instr No 7.

1. Para 2 (a) ~~delete~~ whole para.

Insert the following - "Three days res of sups, amm, POL and water will be held by all units and sub-units for distribution down to coys and pls. (or equivalents) and even to sects (or equivalents) at the discretion of unit comds".

2. Para 2 (c) add - "This five days res will be treated as a Posn "A" res only, which will be handed over to corresponding units in the event of a relief. In no way will this res be confused with the three days veh res at present held by all units.

  
(G E NATHAN) Capt  
SC 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribn :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
L Sec Sigs  
4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn  
78 LAD  
32 Fd Regt RA  
2/12 Aust Fd Regt  
12 Aust A Tk Bty  
12 Aust Lt AA Bty  
2/7 Aust Fd Coy  
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn  
2/11 Aust Fd Amb  
Bde HQ COMS  
Bde TO  
9 Aust Div  
✓ War Diary (2)  
File



24/1/42 15.

SECRET

COPY No. 25

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde  
21 Aug 42

26 AUST INF BDE GP ADM INSTN No.8.

Ref Maps : EL QASARA 1/50,000

EL HAMMAM 1/100,000

1. a. 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp Adm Instn No.7 of 19 Aug 42 and amendment "Res - POSN "A" of 20 Aug 42 (NOT TO ALL ADDRESSEES) are both cancelled.

b. This instn relates to 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp Instn No.8.

2. This instn deals with adm arrangements for the occupation of Posn "A" as a def locality.

3. SCALE OF RES

a. Rations - 5 days to be distributed as follows :

i. 3 days with coys and pls (or equivalents), and even to secs (or equivalent) at the discretion of unit comds.

ii. 2 days under Bn (or equivalent) control.

Scale will be "HARD SCALE" i.e. normal scale, but with tinned or "hard" items substituted for fresh equivalents.

b. Water - 5 days at 3/4 gall per man per day, held as follows :

i. In coys etc - proportion in both 2 gall containers and 44 gall drums.

ii. In Bn res - all in 44 gall drums.

Details of exact numbers in each type of container will be issued separately.

c. POL - Full tanks plus POL for 100 miles carried on all vehs.

d. Ann - See APPX "A" to be issued separately.

4. GENERAL

a. The five days res rations detailed in para 3 (a) are in addition to, and will NOT be confused with, the three days veh ration now held.

b. Bde HQ will be responsible for the distribn of res to units and sub-units of supporting arms which are under comd or in sp. Res will NOT be issued to units moving to Div adm area i.e. units mentioned in para 7 (b) below.

c. Res will be delivered to 26 Bde Gp area in AASC tpt. Arrangements for units to collect will be notified as reserves come to hand. At all times units will arrange for off loading parties and guards for res, and will arrange guides where necessary. It may happen that res will have to be delivered before preparation of sites is complete.

/In



In order to save time units will check items received and issue receipts to AASC accordingly. One copy of all receipts will be fwded to Bde HQ as soon as possible after taking over of commodities.

A report will be fwded to this HQ indicating the condition of commodities once weekly commencing SUN 23 Aug 42.

- d. Res of all natures will be dispersed in small dumps, each containing all items of the res concerned i.e. sup dumps will each contain balanced quantities of all commodities; amm dumps will contain amm of all natures; POL on all vehs will include the correct proportion of oils and lubricants.
- e. Receipts for res will be given and a record of res maintained by Bde HQ. Records and res will be handed over on relief. Unless orders are issued to the contrary, all res must be left for incoming units even though no relief has been effected. Every precaution will be taken to maintain res intact and in good condition.
- f. Units and sub-units will record the locations of all res and send two copies of record to this HQ.
- g. Res water in 2 gall containers will be turned over regularly. Frequent inspections by offrs will be made to ensure that reserves have not been reduced below scales laid down in this instrn, and that water is in good condition.
- h. Res in 44 gall drums will be dispersed and be covered with earth or sand, the locations being clearly marked. Water in 44 gall drums need NOT be turned over, but fortnightly tests of odd drums should be made.

5. (2/12 Aust) Fd Regt )

(11 Aust) AA Bty ) May be employed in the ALAMEIN Defences or in Posn "A" in sp of 26 Bde. Res of all natures for these units will, therefore, be held both by AASC and by 26 Bde in Bde Res area under direct control of SC. The res held by this Bde will be issued upon the return of these units to sp 26 Bde.

6. MAINTENANCE

Normal maintenance will continue as long as possible. Res will NOT be used unless circumstances prevent tpt from entering Posn "A".

7. ADM AREA

- a. Location - SOUTH of rd ALEXANDRIA - MATRUH and NORTH of grid 905 between 454 and 459 Easting grids.
- b. The following units will move to adm area on receipt of code word "DUSTY" :

12 Coy AASC  
1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops  
H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk  
Det 2/11 Aust Fd Amb

8. TP CARRYING TPT

To render 26 Bde Gp mobile, 101 Aust Gen Tpt Coy comes under comd of 26 Bde when notified and moves into area A under Bde arrangements.



9. REC

Unless defended areas are invested, rec sacs will recover from rec posts east of areas, at sites to be notified.

10. MEDICAL

2/11 Aust Fd Amb less det will come under comd of 26 Aust Inf Bde when notified and will move into area "A" to select-ed site under Bde arrangements.

11. PW

- a. 26 Bde will clear to corps cage at 470909.
- b. Bde cage (or cages) to be established in Bde area, will clear as early as possible using unit or gen tpt coy tpt, to ensure that minimum PW are held if areas are invested.

ACK

Signed at 1510 hrs

Issued through Sigs

*G E Nathan*  
(G E NATHAN) Capt  
SC 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No. 1
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	2
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	3
L Sec Sigs	4
4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	5
78 LAD	6
32 Fd Regt RA	7
2/12 Aust Fd Regt	8
12 Aust A Tk Bty	9
11 Aust Lt AA Bty	10
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	11
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	12
12 Coy AASC	13
1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops	14
H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk	15
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	16
Bde Sup O	17
Bde TO	18
Bde HQ COMS	19
9 Aust Div	20
Spare	21-24
War Diary	25-26
File	27



Appa. 16

SECRET

COPY No. 9...

23 Aug 42

26 AUST INF BDE GP ADM ORDER No. 7.

Ref Map : EL HAMMAM 1/100,000

1. Ref 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp Adm Instr No. 3, para 7.

INTENT

2. A redistribution of B Ech areas within the EL ALAMRIN defences is being made. To facilitate this the area is being cleared of non essential tpt.

INTENTION

3. Units and non essential tpt as set out in 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp Adm Instr 3 will move to 9 Aust Div Adm area on 24 Aug 42.

METHOD

4. Coord and Adm

a. Coord - Maj J P COX, HQ 9 Aust Div.

(b) Responsibility for the coord of defence and for moves of units into or out of the Adm area.

b. Rear 9 Aust Div will be responsible for local adm of the area.

5. a. Tps to move

b. Timings

c. SP

d. Speed and Density

e. Dispersal Pt

f. Route

See Appx "A"

6. Guides

DAPM will arrange for guides to meet heads of convoys at 45009050 and lead them to allotted areas.

ATM

7. Maintenance

Units and dets will draw from Sup Pts and PPs as at present. This arrangement will continue until further notice.

8. Internal Adm

All dets will be self contained as regards cooking eqpt, water containers etc.

Unit first line will be taken.

10. POL

100 miles plus full tanks carried in all vehs.

/11.



# 11. Supa

No res except the three day veh ration now held.

# 12. Water

Units will draw from WF at EL HAMMAN in own tpt after arrival in adm area.

# 13. Marching In State

All units and deta moving into the adm area will furnish to A Branch Rear 9 Aust Div at 50 sign NORTH of EL HAMMAN rd, NORTH of adm area a marching in state in duplicate of personnel and vehs at 1200 hrs 24 Aug 42 or immediately after arrival, whichever is the later. Subsequent changes will be notified similarly immediately they occur.

# INTERCOM

14. Code Word "LUSTY" is passed for 24 Aug 42 via 26 Aust Inf Bde Co Adm Instr No.3, para 7(c).

15. Sigs, 9 Aust Div are arranging L/T and W/T comm.

Signed at 1500 hrs  
Issued through Sigs

# Distrib

- 1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Workshops
- H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk
- 12 Coy AASC (for info)
- 2/11 Aust Fd Amb
- 78 LAD
- Bde TO
- Bde Sup O
- Spare
- War Diary
- File

- Copy No. 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9-10

Route - Main rd ALAMETH - ALEXANDRIA

Speed and Density 15 min 20 min

Dispersal Pt - 450905

Serial	Unit or Det	Approx No of Vehs	SP	Time Post
1	(1 Rec Sec 2/1 AFW (H Div Sec 1 CFP	17 7	Unit Lines	0730 0730
2	2/11 Aust Fd Amb	18	"	0730
3	12 Coy AASC			

As arranged by HQ AASC 9 Aust Div



copy 17.

SECRET

Copy No. 17

24 Aug 42

26 AUST INF BDE

Notes on Future Possible Ops

1. The enemy is expected to attack during the moonlight period between 25 Aug and 1 Sep.
2. The code words "ACTION STATIONS" have been adopted throughout 30 Corps to denote that a German attack has started or is expected to start in the near future.
3. The same code words will be used throughout 9 Aust Div.
  - (a) By fwd units to indicate that an attack has commenced.
  - (b) By Div HQ to warn formations and units to take up battle posns and be prepared in every way for attack.
4. Bn raids are being prepared by 2 NZ Div and 9 Aust Div (20 Bde) as immediate counter strokes to the enemy attack or for use prior to the enemy attack.
5. The following probable distribn of tps in locality A is repeated:
  - (a) Northern Area (astride main rd)
    - HQ 36 Aust Inf Bde
    - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
    - 2/24 " "
    - with in sp
    - 32 Fd Regt (less one bty)
    - 2/12 Aust Fd Regt (less one bty)
    - 11 Aust Lt AA Bty (less two sec)
    - and under comd
    - 12 Aust A Tk Bty (less two tps)
    - 2/7 Aust Fd Coy (less one det)
    - A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn (less one pl)
    - 2/11 Aust Fd Amb (less dets)
  - (b) Southern Area (astride ry line)
    - 2/43 Aust Inf Bn
    - with in sp
    - one bty 32 Fd Regt
    - one bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
    - one sec 11 Aust Lt AA Bty
    - and under comd
    - two tps 12 Aust A Tk Bty
    - one det 2/7 Aust Fd Coy
    - one pl A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn
    - one det 2/11 Aust Fd Amb
6. A forecast of conditions obtaining at the time of attack is not possible nor can a clear statement be given of the time at which the supporting arms not at present in posn "A" will report.
7. Units will be advised on all these pts as soon as they are firm.

/8.



- 8. Recommendations for alterations in minefields in Northern area are approved and work will probably start pm 24 Aug.
- 9. Additional cable for battle comms within inf bns will probably be available in the next twenty four hrs.

*Finlay*

(C E FINLAY) Maj  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBN :

COPY NO :

- |                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| 2/23 Aust Inf Bn       | 1     |
| 2/24 " "               | 2     |
| 2/48 " "               | 3     |
| 1 Sec Sigs             | 4     |
| 4 Pl 8/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn | 5     |
| 73 LAD                 | 6     |
| 32 Fd Regt             | 7     |
| 12 Aust A Tk Bty       | 8     |
| 2/7 Aust Fd Coy        | 9     |
| A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn   | 10    |
| 2/11 Aust Fd Amb       | 11    |
| Comd                   | 12    |
| SC                     | 13    |
| File                   | 14    |
| Spare                  | 15-16 |
| War Diary              | 17-18 |



Appx 18.

86A/122

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

25 Aug 42

RES AMN - LOCALITY "A"

Ref Map : EL QASABA SHEET 1/50,000

1. Att is APPX "A" to 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp Adm Instrn No. 8.
2. Amn as detailed on this Appx will be picked up by units concerned at the following times today from Bde Res area at 43259024 (track into area passes 26 Bde HQ) :

All Ens	-	1630 hrs
32 Fd Regt	-	1615 hrs
All other units	-	1645 hrs
3. By arrangement with 12 Coy AP AASC amn issuers will be available for this distribn.

*G E Nathan*  
(G E NATHAN) Capt  
SE 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
Bde CSM  
32 Fd Regt RA  
2/12 Aust Fd Regt  
12 Aust A Tk Bty  
11 Aust Lt AA Bty  
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn  
2/7 Aust Fd Coy (for infm)  
2/11 Aust Fd Amb " "  
Bde Sup O  
2 Aust Div  
Spare (2)  
✓ War Diary (2)  
File

Copy to : 12 Coy AP (for infm)



APPX "A" TO 26 AUST INF BDE GP ADM INSTN No. 2.

RES AMN LOCALITY "A"											
U N I T S											
Serial	Type of Amn	Bde HQ and att	2/23 Bn	2/24 Bn	2/48 Bn	32 Fd Regt	12 Fd Regt (X)	12 A Tk Bty	A Coy MG Bn	11 AA Bty (X)	TOTAL
1	25 pr HE					1728	2592				4320
2	25 pr SMOK					192	288				480
3	25 pr AP SHOT					96	144				240
4	25 pr SUPER					288	432				720
5	.303 Mk VIII Z								34000		34000
6	.303 CTN	1136	20000	20000	20000	4500	5500				71136
7	.303 EDR		10000	10000	10000						30000
8	.303 TRAC	1952	7000	7000	7000	3000	4000				29952
9	.450 AUTO	864	4500	4500	4500						14364
10	DOUBLE 5 IN		176	176	176	80	96	32	32	32	800
11	.455 REV		50	50	50	40	50				240
12	36M GREN HAND	20	50	50	50	35	45	25	25		300
13	36M GREN RIFLE		60	60	60						180
14	68 GREN		28	28	29						85
15	69 GREN	4	10	10	10						34
16	74 GREN (ST)		10	10	10						30
17	75 GREN		8	8	8						24
18	63 GREN		8	8	8						24
19	76 GREN(AW BOMB)		210	210	210						720

/Serial 20 - page 2.



Serial	Type of Amm	U N I T S									TOTALS
		Bde HQ and att	2/23 Bn	2/24 Bn	2/48 Bn	32 Pd Regt	12 Pd Regt (X)	12 A Tk Bty	A Coy MG Bn	11 AA Bty (X)	
20	3 MOR HE		508	508	508						1524
21	3 MOR SMOK		170	170	170						510
22	2 MOR HE		186	186	186						558
23	2 MOR SMOK		60	60	60						180
24	SIG AMM-"J"ILL		296	296	296						888
25	" " -GRN		288	288	288						864
26	" " -RED		288	288	288						864
27	18 SMOK GEN		8	8	8						24
28	BOMBS INCEND		8	8	8						24
29	6 pr A TK							384			384
30	2 pr A TK		TO BE HELD IN	TO BE HELD IN	TO BE HELD IN						320
31	37 m/m A TK		TO BE HELD IN	TO BE HELD IN	TO BE HELD IN						1220
32	40 m/m AA									1920	1920

NOTES (X) To be held in Bde Res pending movement of units concerned to Locality "A".

GENERAL

1. The above distribn totals locality "A" amm (by types) as laid down by 30 Corps. In actual fact distribn to units will be made to the nearest box; thus figures as set out above may vary slightly.
2. Bns should remember that it is their responsibility to supply sp arms dets with amm when, and if, these sp arms dets are adjacent to their area. This contingency has been allowed for in Bn allotments.
3. 384 rds 6 pr A Tk amm to be held by 12 A Tk Bty constitutes the whole of 6 pr amm res for locality "A". If in the future, Inf Bns are issued with 6 pr guns, a proportion of this amm will be taken from 12 A Tk Bty and given to bns concerned.

/4.



NOTES (contd)

4. Particular attention should be given to the storage of the following :

- i. ST (or No.74) Grenades
- ii. AW Bombs (No.76 Grenades)
- iii. 3 MOR SMOK
- iv. No.18 SMOK GEN
- v. Bombs Incend

These types should be well covered from the weather at all times.



WESTERN DESERT

SEP. 42

OPERATIONS

GERMAN DRIVE  
1 SEP. 42

expected between Gabel Bain Gabir and Alam Bad Shaza. Possible threat to Locality A - all necessary steps taken to guard against enemy thrust in Bde area. Reason: Enemy drive in South had turned and was likely to drive North.

SUPPORT FOR  
BDE. 1 SEP. 42

2/12 FD REGT. and 11 LT AA BTY moved in support of 26th Bde. News came through on 4 SEP. 42 that enemy withdrawing West.

COMD. COASTAL  
AREA

passed from 20 to 26 Bde on 23 SEP. 42. Relief completed that night without incident.

PATROLS

Fighting and salvage patrols sent out in coastal sector for remainder of month. Valentine tank recovered by 2/23 Bn. and driven in.

NIGHT  
EXERCISES

TRAINING

BY 2/23 Bn on 17 Sep. 42; 2/24 Bn, 19/20 Sep. 42; (GOC AIF (ME) present); 2/48 Bn exercise on 21/22 SEP. 42.

26 AUST. INF.  
BDE SEP. 42

PRESENTATION  
LINK

by Brig. R.W. Tovell, of metal biscuit barrel to form a link between SA Loronte LT INF. and 46 Bn AMF, affiliated Regts.

26 AUST INF BDE  
SEP. 42

152 HIGHLAND  
INF. BDE  
25 SEP. 42

Small parties from it arrived at their affiliated Bns., 2/23, 2/24 & 2/48 for attachment for battle experience.

NEW BDE  
CMD.

APPOINTMENT & COMMAND

passed from Brig. R.W. Tovell to Brig. D.A. Whitehead, 12 SEP. 42. Brig. Tovell departed for AUST. 14 SEP. 42, after farewell party and -2



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

Month and Year Sep 42.

*Orig*  
**- 8. OCT. 1942** **WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**  
(Erase heading not required).

174 *ack*  
Unit **HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde**

Army Form C. 2113

Commanding Officer

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
Egypt.	6.		O.O. No. 15	Appx 1
	12		Adm Instn. No. 10	2
	13.		Amendment No. 1 to Adm Instn No. 10	3
	15.		Copy of letter ref Affiliation with 51 HIGHLAND DIV.	4
	21.		Adm Order No. 8. O.O. No. 16	5 & 6
	23.		Action Diary.	7.
	24.		Action Diary. I Summary No. 201.	8 & 9
	25.		" " I " " 202	10 & 11
	26.		" " I " " 203	12 & 13
	27.		" " I " " 204	14 & 15
	28		" " I " " 205	16 & 17
	29		" " I " " 206	18 & 19
	30		" " I " " 207. O.O. No. 17.	20, 21 & 22
			War Diary 1 - 30 Sep.	23.

Wt 13474/1905 1,200,000 7/40 BPL 51-7171 Forms C2118/22

*J. Matthews Lieut.*  
*I.O. 26 Aust Inf. Bde.*



# MESSAGE FORM.

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS	IN	No. of Groups.  G.R.	Office Date Stamp.
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

TO

*M H 9 I sec*

FROM

*26 Aust Inf Bde*

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Numbers

<i>Enclosed</i>	<i>Letter with</i>	<i>original</i>	<i>Wdr</i>	<i>Diary</i>	<i>for</i>
<i>Ref</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>duplicate</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>copy</i>

This message may be sent **AS WRITTEN** by any means.

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

Originator's instructions  
Degree of priority

Time of origin.

Signed *G. H. Hannon*

Signed (BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

T.H.I.

T.O.R.



Appx. no. 1

SECRET

Copy No. 16

6 Sep 42

26 AUST INF BDE OO NO 15

Ref Map : EL QASABA 1/50,000.

INFM

1. The enemy may carry out raids by small or large landing parties of commandos or other tps along the coast-line of Locality A

- (a) in conjunction with other ops, or
- (b) independently

INTENTION

2. 26 Aust Inf Bde will defend Locality A against attack by sea-borne tps.

METHOD

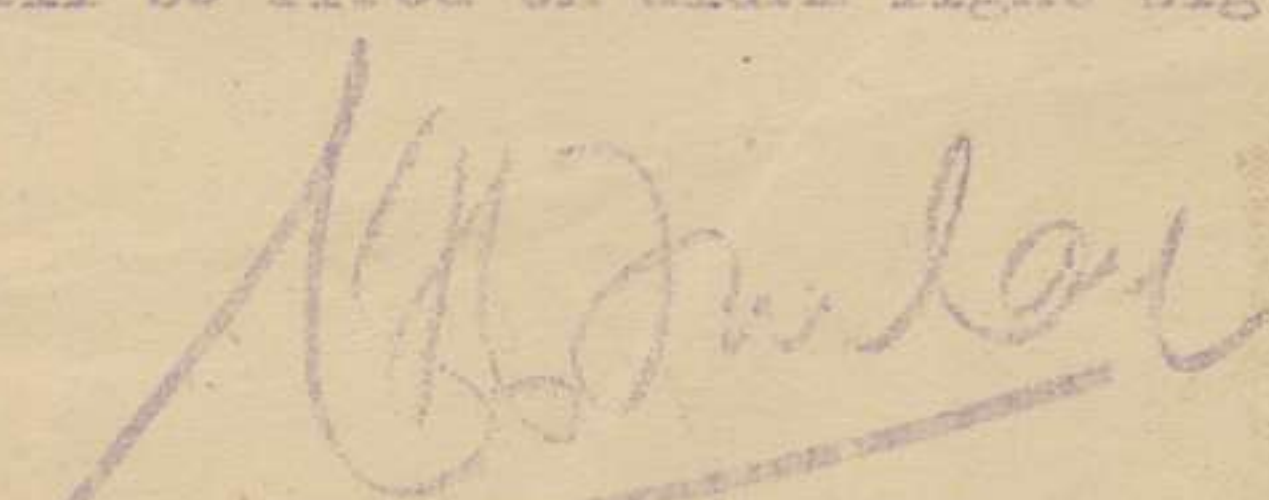
3. To give warning of possible enemy action 2/23 and 2/24 Bns, 4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn, 11 Aust Lt AA Bty and 2/7 Aust Fd Coy will maintain
  - (a) Coast watching and listening posts by day and night,
  - (b) Beach patrols by nightwithin the sub-sectors allotted in accordance with att Appx A.
4. Beach patrols will contact flanking patrols on sector bndys at every hr from incl 2100 to 0500 hrs.
5. Any suspicious occurrence will be reported by the quickest possible means to this HQ and to flanking patrols.
6. On receipt of warning of enemy action by sea-borne tps, 2/23 and 2/24 Bns will each be prepared to repel any attack in their areas as shown in Appx A.
7. All sp arms in northern sector of Locality A will be organised for internal defence against attack by sea-borne tps.

INTERCOMN

8. Alarm

- (a) By whistle blast from patrols to listening posts, by light sig RED RED RED from one post per sub-sector.
- (b) 2/7 Aust Fd Coy has arranged a flare system within engr sub-sector. 2/23 and 2/24 Bns will each arrange for a system of 2-in mortar illuminating flares within bn areas. All flares will be fired on alarm light sig.

ACK

  
(C H FINLAY) Maj  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde



Signed at 2200 hrs

Issued through sigs

DISTRIBN :

COPY NO :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	1
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	2
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	3
1 Sec Sigs	4
4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	5
78 Aust LAD	6
2/12 Aust Fd Regt	7
12 Aust A Tk Bty	8
11 Aust Lt AA Bty	9
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	10
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	11
101 Gen Tpt Coy AASC	12
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	13
9 Aust Div	14
Comd	15
War Diary	16-17
File	18
Spare	19-23

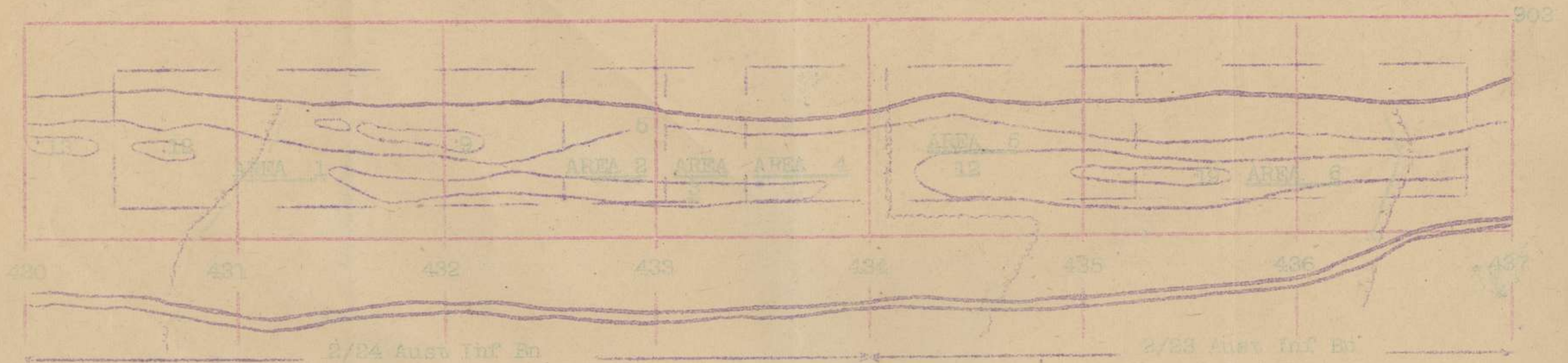


# BEACH WATCHING

Ref Map: EL QASABA 1/50,000

Scale: 1/25,000.

## AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.



### LEGEND:

- AREA 1. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
- 2. 11 Aust Lt AA Bty
- 3. 4 Pl Aust MG Co Bn
- 4. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
- 5. 2/7 Aust Rd Coy
- 6. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn



SECRET

COPY NO. 18....

12 Sep 42

26 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN No.10.

Ref Map - EL QASABA Sheet 1/50,000

GENERAL

1. Paras 3(a), 3(b) and 4 of 26 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instn No.8 are all cancelled.
2. Three days res for Defensive Locality "A" will be held and surplus disposed of in accordance with the succeeding paras of this instn.

SCALE OF RES

3. RATIONS

Three days res only held under 26 Bde control in bde res dumps in area 432902.

4. WATER

Three days res only at 3/4 gall per man per day held under 26 Bde control in res dumps at 432902.

5. POL

100 miles carried in all vehs (same as at present).

6. AMN

As set out in Appx A to 26 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instn No.8 will be retained except that fd arty amn held will be reduced by this HQ to a normal 1st line holding for one fd regt. Surplus fd arty amn will be returned to AASC under Bde arrangements.

7. RES FOR UNITS OTHER THAN THOSE IN AREA "A"

Res of rations, water and amn will be held in area "A" for one fd regt and one lt AA bty, in addition to res for units now in the area.

8. CENTRALIZATION OF THREE DAYS RES

- a. All units will retain two days rations less biscuits, based on ration strength on 15 Sep 42.
- b. All res rations held in excess of two days plus the biscuits of the two days rations being retained, will be returned to 26 Bde res dump at 432902 on 16 Sep 42 as follows :

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Time</u>
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	0900 hrs
12 Aust A Tk Bty	0930 hrs
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	1000 hrs
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	1030 hrs
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	1100 hrs
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	1130 hrs
101 Aust Gen Tpt Coy	1200 hrs
HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde	1400 hrs
2/12 Aust Fd Regt	1430 hrs
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	1500 hrs

/c.



- c. 2/12 Aust Fd Regt will be responsible for:
- i. Drawing two days rations less biscuits from bty and regtl areas where rations were dumped previously.
  - ii. Returning three days rations, plus biscuits for two days rations retained, to Bde Res Dump at time stated in para 8(b) above.
- d. Res rations from each unit will be checked into the bde dump by reps of the unit concerned, 26 Bde HQ and AASC on behalf of 9 Div HQ. Any shortages, between rations returned to Bde dump and rations originally issued and those mentioned in para 8(a) above, have been deducted, will be recorded. Issue and receipt vouchers signed by the above mentioned three reps will be completed and a copy retained by each rep.
- e. Either a debit will be raised against units to cover the cost of rations previously issued and NOT returned or such units will be short issued over a period until the deficiencies are made good. Decision on this matter will be promulgated when extent of shortages is known.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RES

9. Rations


The two days rations retained by units will be consumed on 17 and 20 Sep. As the biscuits of these two days rations will have been returned, vide para 8(b) above, bread will be drawn in lieu from Sup Pt at the normal times. No rations other than bread will be issued on 16 and 19 Sep.

10. Water

- a. Res to be held in AREA "A" will be held in 44 gall drums only.
- b. 44 gall drums and 2 gall cans will be disposed of as follows:  
  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn and 12 Aust A Tk Bty will return 34 and 6 - 44 gall drums (filled) respectively to Bde Res Dump at 1400 hrs on 15 Sep 42.
- c. Water in all other 44 gall drums and all 2 gall cans now held as an AREA "A" res may be used by units concerned. Empty 44 gall drums and 2 gall cans will be returned to Bde Sup Pt over a period, but by 20 Sep 42, under mutual arrangements between units and Bde Sup O.
- d. Certificates from all units will be fwded to this HQ indicating that all drums and cans have been returned to the Sup Pt.

ACK

Signed at 1805 hrs  
Issued through Sigs

  
(G E NATHAN) Capt  
SC 26 Aust Inf Bde

/Distribn.



Distribn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No. 1
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	2
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	3
L Sec Sigs	4
4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	5
78 LAD	6
2/12 Aust Fd Regt	7
12 Aust A Tk Bty	8
11 Aust Lt AA Bty	9
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	10
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	11
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	12
Bde HQ CQMS	13
Bde Sup O	14
9 Aust Div	15
Spare	16-17
War Diary	18-19
File	20
12 Coy AASC (for infm)	21



Appr 3.

S E C R E T

COPY No. 18.....

13 Sep 42

AMENDMENT No.1 TO 26 AUST INF BDE  
ADM INSTN No.10 DATED 12 SEP 42.

Para 10 of above instn is cancelled and the following amendment will be substituted :

"10. Water

- a. Res to be held in AREA "A" will be in 44 gall drums only.
- b. All 44 gall drums (filled) held by units as an Area "A" res will be returned to Bde res dump on 17 Sep 42 at the same times as set down for returning rations on 16 Sep 42.
- c. All 2 gall cans held by units as an Area "A" res will be returned to Bde Sup Pt over a period but by 20 Sep 42, under mutual arrangements between units and Bde Sup O. The water may be used by units and the cans returned empty.
- d. Certificates from all units will be fwded to this HQ by 21 Sep 42 indicating that all cans have been returned to Sup Pt. The number of cans returned will be stated".

ACK

Signed at 1445 hrs

Issued through Sigs

*G E Nathan*  
(G E NATHAN) Capt  
SC 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribn

As per Adm Instn No.10.



*copy 4.*  
COPY

SECRET

G200/18A/112

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde  
15 Sep 42.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn

AFFILIATION WITH 51 HIGHLAND DIV

1. 51 Highland Div has been affiliated with 9 Aust Div to assist 51 Highland Div in gaining desert and battle experience.

2. The following units have been affiliated in pursuance of this scheme and units of this Bde will give every possible assistance to the affiliated unit to achieve the object concerned:

2/23 Aust Inf Bn with 2 Seaforth

2/24 Aust Inf Bn with 5 Seaforth

2/48 Aust Inf Bn with 5 Camerons

3. Approval is given for bns concerned to liaise direct with their affiliated unit.

(Signed) C. H. FINLAY. Maj.  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde



SECRET

COPY No. 17.....

21 Sep 42

26 AUST INF BDE ADM ORDER No.8.

(Issued in conjunction with 26 Aust Inf Bde OO 16)

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN SHEET 1/50,000

1. GENERAL

This order concerns the relief of 20 Aust Inf Bde by 26 Aust Inf Bde.

2. SUPP

Sup pt for 26 Aust Inf Bde ration gp will continue to be notified daily by this HQ. Whereas the sup pt lately has been static, in the fwd area it will change both location and opening and closing times every two or three days.

3. POL

PP will continue to be notified daily, changing its location and opening and closing times in the same way as the sup pt.

4. AMN

Continuous AP will be located at 42559025.

5. RESERVES

a. Rations -- Three days veh ration now held will be taken to new areas.

b. POL -- 100 miles pet res and 3% lubricant res already issued to units will likewise be taken to new areas.

c. Amn

i. All amn excl that mentioned in para 4 (c)(ii) below issued as an Area "A" res (vide Appx "A" to 26 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instn No.8) will be left in situ and handed over to relieving units of 20 Aust Inf Bde. Receipts will be prepared and signatures obtained in the normal manner, one copy being sent to this HQ within 48 hrs of respective reliefs taking place.

ii. Res of 37 m/m A Tk amn at present held for bns in the bde res area will be taken fwd under bde arrangements. This will be held as a bde res and issued only if ops render it necessary.

d. General

Area "A" res of all natures now held in Bde Res area will be handed over to 20 Aust Inf Bde.

6. WEAPONS

a. All weapons held by 26 Aust Inf Bde will be retained.

b. The following additional weapons will be taken over in fwd  
/area



area as follows :

WEAPON	NUMBER	TAKEN OVER	
		FROM	BY
29 m/m Spigot Mortar	2	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	2/23 Aust Inf Bn
"	2	2/17 " "	2/24 " "
"	2	2/15 " "	2/48 " "
6.5 m/m Breda LMG	12	2/13 " "	2/23 " "
"	12	2/17 " "	2/24 " "
"	5	2/15 " "	2/48 " "

Non receipt of these weapons will be reported to this HQ as soon as possible after reliefs take place.

7. AMN

First line holdings will be taken to fwd areas. Under no circumstances will units make arrangements to exchange 1st line holdings.

8. WATER

New WP is located to the east of EL ALAMEIN sta.

9. REC

- 78 Aust LAD to be at 88392952.
- Rec Post of 1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops will be located at 42459030.
- "G" Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk now located at 89082932. 78 Aust LAD may deal direct from this sec.

10. MEDICAL

2/8 Aust Fd Amb will be in sp of 26 Aust Inf Bde  
ADS established at 88272981  
MDS established at 89042943.

11. HYGIENE

Hyg Cpl at present with 2/24 Aust Inf Bn will remain with that unit until relief has been completed. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn to notify this HQ when the services of this Cpl are no longer required.

12. TRAFFIC CONTROL

To be arranged mutually between SC and units concerned.

13. PW

Unless specifically required no Bde Collecting Posts will be established. Small numbers of PW will be evacuated to 9 Aust Div PW cage at 89132932.

/14.



14. "B" ECH AREAS to be occupied by bns of this Bde are as follows :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	88762948
2/24     "      "	88942936
2/48     "      "	88732945

ACK

Signed at 1930 hrs

Issued through Sigs

*G E Nathan*

(G E NATHAN) Capt  
SC 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No.1
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	2
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	3
L Sec Sigs	4
Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	5
78 Aust LAD	6
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	7
101 Aust Gen Tpt Coy	8
12 Coy AASC	9
1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops	10
20 Aust Inf Bde	11
9 Aust Div	12
Comd	13
BM	14
Sup O	15
TO	16
✓ War Diary	17-18
File	19-21



SECRET

COPY No. 20.....

21 Sep 42

26 AUST INF BDE OO No.16

Ref Maps : EL ALAMEIN and QASABA sheets 1/50,000

INFM

1. Current infm is contained in att Int Report No 2 and in sitreps and summaries.
2. On occupation of fwd bde sector, 26 Aust Inf Bde will have the following additional tps in sp :

C Sqn 9 Aust Cav  
2/7 Aust Fd Regt  
9 Aust A Tk Bty  
10 Aust Lt AA Bty  
2/13 Aust Fd Coy  
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn (plus one pl B Coy)  
12 Coy AASC  
2/8 Aust Fd Amb

INTENTION

3. 26 Aust Inf Bde will relieve 20 Aust Inf Bde in right fwd sector.

METHOD

4. Programme of Relief

- a. Night 22/23 Sep (2/23 Bn relieves 2/13 Bn  
(2/24 Bn relieves 2/17 Bn)
- b. Night 23/24 Sep 2/48 Bn relieves 2/15 Bn

5. Adv Parties

Adv parties of all units move on nights prior to relief.

6. Disposns

See att Appx "A"

7. Routes

- a. 2/24 and 2/48 Bns - Main rd.
- b. 2/23 Bn main rd - rd junc 88042973 - rd junc 88152991 - thence coast track west.

8. Timings

- a. No move of tpt west of 882 easting before last light.
- b. Relief by 2/23 Bn will be completed by 2400 hrs 22 Sep; relief by 2/24 Bn will be completed by 0200 hrs 23 Sep.
- c. 2/23 Bn will move to clear mined gap 43069017 locality A by 2000 hrs 22 Sep.
- d. 2/48 Bn relief will be completed by 0200 hrs 24 Sep.

/e.



9. 2/24 Bn will allow no tpt on main rd until 2015 hrs 22 Sep

9. Speeds and density

12½ mih 30 vtm

10. Tp carrying tpt

a. 20 vehs 101 Gen Tpt Coy report each bn as follows :-

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
i.	2/23 Bn	22 Sep	1700 hrs	HQ 2/23 Bn 43529021	Coy guides to meet
ii.	2/24 Bn	"	1800 hrs	Unit sign 62 on main rd 43209017	"
iii.	2/48 Bn	23 Sep	1800 hrs	Main rd and Bn guide to Track junc 43299017	meet. Coy guides meet

b. On completion of fwd move of each unit, this tpt is to move outgoing units. (on arrival in unit area)

11. Patrolling

- a. Responsibility for patrolling up to and incl nights of relief remains with 20 Aust Inf Bde units.
- b. Personnel of incoming units will accompany patrols.

12. Rear parties

Rear parties as requested by units of 26 Aust Inf Bde are being left by 20 Aust Inf Bde.

13. Sp arms

- a. A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn remains in sp 26 Aust Inf Bde and relieves B Coy (less one pl). Pls will move with bns in whose area at present located.
- b. Remaining sp arms at present in sp 20 Aust Inf Bde remain in present location in sp 26 Aust Inf Bde on relief.

14. Hand-over of infm

All documents, maps, etc relevant to the res bde role will be handed over to 20 Aust Inf Bde units.

15. Sector comd

Change of comd in fwd sector between 20 and 26 Aust Inf Bdes will be notified separately.

ADM

16. Issued separately.

INTERCOMM

17. HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde closes present location 1800 hrs 23 Sep reopens same time at 88023007.

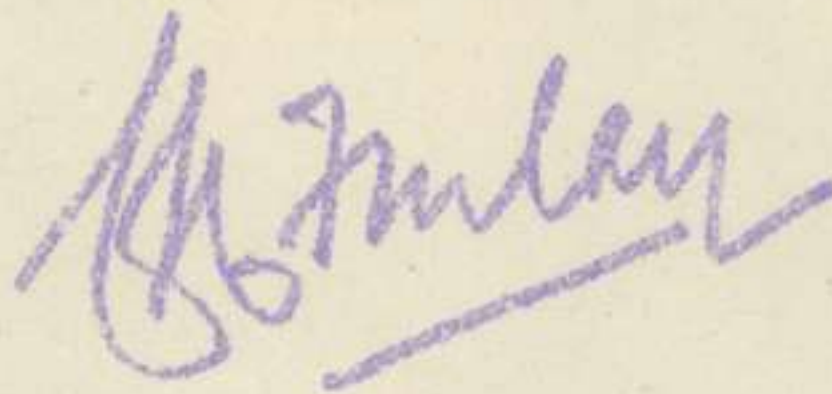
/18.



18. LOs with bns until reliefs complete.

19. Army Air SC tentacle with HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde on relief.

ACK



Signed at 0300 hrs

(C H Finlay) Maj  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Issued by LO and through sigs

DISTRIB :-

COPY NO :-

2/23 Aust Inf Bn	1
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	2
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	3
L Sec Sigs	4
4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	5
78 Aust LAD	6
12 Aust A Tk Bty	7
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	8
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	9
12 Coy AASC	10
101 Gen Tpt Coy AASC	11
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	12
1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops	13
H Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk	14
9 Aust Div	15
20 Aust Inf Bde	16
24 Aust Inf Bde	17
Comd	18
SC	19
War Diary	20-21
File	22-25



21 Sep 42

26 AUST INF BDE - INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 2

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

1. General

There have been no marked alterations in the line of enemy FULs as depicted on the EL ALAMEIN overprint 23 Aug 42.

The latest infm shows that these FULs are a series of strong pts protected by wire, mines and booby traps. British, German, Italian and French mines have been used. Behind these strong posts and up to 5 kilos in rear the enemy has prepared his defended line. In this northern sector there have been many enemy working parties, generally guarded by strong patrols. This seems to indicate that the enemy is still strengthening his northern posts.

The enemy consists of German and Italian units which have probably had the opportunity to bring their complements to full strength. Some PWs have been recent reinforcements to these units.

The role in which the German is using the Italian is already well known, but it is pointed out that in this sector there is no very great preponderance of Italians over Germans as in the sector immediately to the South.

2. Dispositions

From coast to northing grid 290 the enemy order of battle is as follows :-

Situated on the coast is a small pocket of ITALIANS (probably Bersagheri), then comes the 125 Inf Regt, the bns of which are disposed as follows :-

3 Bn	305 northing grid to main rd
1 Bn	main rd to ry
2 Bn	ry to 300 northing grid

382 Inf Regt

1 Bn	300 northing grid to 298
3 Bn	298 northing grid to 296

68 Inf Regt

1 Bn	296 northing grid to 294 or 300 northing grid to 299
------	--

382 Inf Regt

2 Bn	296 northing grid to 294
------	--------------------------

62 Inf Regt

3 Bn	294 northing grid to 292
2 Bn	291 northing grid to 290 ?

3. Strength164 Inf Div125 Inf Regt

8	37 mm A Tk	8	Inf guns	2500 men
---	------------	---	----------	----------

/382 Inf Regt



382 Inf Regt

8 37 mm A Tk 8 Inf guns 2500 men

433 Inf Regt

A Tk and Inf gun coys not yet equipped  
men ?

Estimate 11 Aug 42 - Div strength 48 guns incl inf guns  
45 A Tk 10,000 men.

TRENTO DIV

62 Inf Regt

3 bns each of 4 coys - regt mortar coy  
36 A Tk guns strength 2057

Div strength 6664  
48 Fd  
9 x 77/28  
72 A Tk

*J. G. Ochiltree*  
(J G Ochiltree) Lieut  
IO 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribn :-

As per OO No 16



26 AUST INF BDE DISPOSITIONS

Appx "A" to 26 Aust Inf Bde  
Op Order No. 16.

Ref Map: W1 ALAMPAIN 1/50,000

Scale: 1/50,000





*appx. 7*  
ACTION DIARY

23 Sep 42.

1. 2/15 Bn 0907 Sound bearing 243 degs from OP 87723004 - 30 shells.
2. RAA 0925 HF 3 8 10 11 15 17 19 22 23 26 29 30 32  
35 39 40 Between 1030 - 1730 hrs.
3. 2/24 1110 Sitnor.
4. 2/15 1630 10 men approaching BOB OP. Carrier patrol 2 qrd? patrol from East 24.
5. 2/15 1645 Water pipe line burst at TELL EL EISA sta - hit by shell.
6. RAA 1657 HF 2200 - 0300 hrs.  
3 8 9 13 14 58 16 20 25 26 31 35 38.
7. 2/15 1730 Ref serial 4 - arty fired on enemy - one wounded - all patrols in.
8. Bde 1812 To Div. Comd passed to 26 Aust Inf Bde.
9. 2/23 1930 Querying HF tasks 25 26 31 35 & 38 on a/c of patrols.
10. 2/15 1930 Lt-Col MAGNO contacted on coming under comd 26 Aust Inf Bde.
11. 2/15 1940 MT movement on SKYLINE track slight to 1000 hrs - 10/Hr. At 1000 hrs 25 even NW & SW . 0900 hrs MG opened fire on cutting from NW and also fired from SW during smoke screen. Blasting continues high ground square 868300. Shelling increase to 133. One casualty - slight. 1530 hrs arty Op fwd of FELs reported enemy patrol of 10 men advancing. 1 Sec & one carrier sec sent out. Our arty shelled enemy patrols whom went to ground about 800 yds from OP. Enemy withdrew carrying one man. Request HF 58 be not fired tonight.
12. 2/24 2000 Sitnor.
13. 2/23 2015 Sitnor except C Coy reports shelling in area - completed return by next sitrep,
14. 2/23 2115 4 shells on Ptv33 otherwise sitnor.
15. CRE 2145 Valve at ALAMEIN Sta shut off at 1800 hrs and valve at platelayer's hut immediately after, leaks should now be stopped.
16. 2/24 2150 Sitnor.
17. 2/15 2205 "
18. 2/23 2206 "
19. 2/24 2247 Hostile hy gun firing from bg. 275 degs from D Coy HQ.
20. 2/23 2300 Sitnor.
21. 2/48 2340 Relief complete.
22. 2/24 2345 Sitnor.
23. 2/23 2358 "
- 24.



*Appendix 8.*  
ACTION DIARY

24 Sep 42.

1. 2/23 Bn 0050 Sitnor.
2. 2/24 Bn 0105 "
3. 2/48 Bn 0110 "
4. 2/24 Bn 0140 "
5. 2/23 Bn 0200 "
6. 2/23 Bn 0215 Coy of 2/23 notified BHQ 12 men seen moving across  
Boys posn. towards Febo at 0220 hrs. O Febo notified.
7. 2/24 Bn 0340 Sitmor.
8. 2/23 Bn 0400 "
9. 2/48 0403 "
10. 2/23 0500 "
11. 2/24 0545 "
12. 2/23 0600 "
13. 2/48 0600 "
14. RAA 1200 HF task 1300 to 1730 4 10 12 15 18 60 21 23 24  
27 30 34 41 44 48 51 52 54 64
15. 2/48 1300 Sitnor.
16. 2/23 1734 "
17. RAA 1741 HF 199 20 22 25 26 28 31 33 37 63 from 2300  
to 0300 hrs.
18. 2/48 1830 Sitrep - 1720 hrs 16 shells A Coy area - 25 prs 1 salvo -  
no damage otherwise sitnor.
19. 2/48 1850 Could Bn have copy of Counter attack plan for this front?  
No copy was left by 2/15 Bn.  
Ref InterBde bdy - has this been readjusted? since the  
latest change in dispositions on the left?
20. 2/24 1947 Sitnor.
21. 2/23 2012 "
22. 2/48 2018 "
23. 2/24 2145 "
24. 2/48 2147 "
25. 2/23 2215 Light mortar fire heard well fwd of FDLs.
26. 7 Fd Bty 2225 Ref mortar fire 25. Map refs 874180304920, 874750303680,
27. 2/23 2255 Sitnor.
28. 2/24 2350 "
29. 2/23 2355 "
30. 2/48 2359 "



Copy No. 2  
24 Sep 42.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 201

Ref Map: EL ALATEIN 1/50,000

## SECTION NAME : OPERATIONS INT

## 1. GENERAL.

Period quiet. Patrols during night 23/24 Sep were mainly of protective nature.

## 2. AIR-TO-GROUND ACTIVITY

(E) III

Approx 12 enemy observed by right Bn patrol at 37493032.  
Sounds of digging and driving pickets heard at 87513045.  
Working party also heard in vicinity 87473043.

(b) IIGS

Spandau firing from 87262994.  
MG located at 87413025 fired on outpost.

(c) ARTY

Enemy shelling was light, 86 shells falling in the Bde area. A 20 mm gun was observed firing towards Pt 24 from 87272992. This gun apparently moved fwd after daybreak under cover of the mist but was later withdrawn.

Sq	874299	55	-	75	mm.
	873299	27	-	105	mm.
	875301	4	-	105	mm.

Harassing fire this morning and this evening was directed mainly against TELL EL EISA and OP areas in the North. A single gun registered the OP area about 881236 and this evening the same area was harassed by 12 guns. This is the first shelling on this area for more than a week.

It appears that nearly every field and medium gun North of 285 grid line has been active at some time today. On the other hand, the heavy guns have been quite silent. The reason for this enemy policy is not yet apparent.

## GENERAL.

Since many guns fire simultaneously, it is very difficult to decide just which HB is active and it becomes most important to send fragments of shell to the C.B.O. Today, the calibre of 3 HBs has been determined by shell fragments, but fragments of 105 mm and 75 mm shells are still urgently required. Fragments should bear the place and time of arrival whenever possible.

(Counter Battery Int Report No, 63) 23 Sep 42.

SECTION "B" : OWN OPERATIONS

## 3. Bde Relief -

Relief of 20 Aust Inf Bde took place without incident during nights 22/23 and 23/24 Sep, comd of sector passing at 1812 hrs 23 Sep. On night 22/23 Sep, right fwd and reserve Bns were relieved and on night 23/24 left fwd Bn relieved.

#### 4. PATROLS

Night 23/24 Sep, right fwd Bn sent out numerous recon and standing patrols. Enemy working parties as listed were heard, but our patrols did not make contact.

Distribution:-  
As per List No. 3.

(T.H. MATTHEWS) Lieut  
I.O. 26 Aust Inf Bde



25 Sep 42.

- 1.2/24 Bn 0145 Sitnor.
- 2.2/48 0200 "
- 3.2/23 0301 "
- 4.2/48 0341 " . B Coy patrol back, NMS or H.
- 5.2/24 0342 "
6. 2/23 0304 "
- 7.2/23 0517 "
- 8.2/24 0539 "
9. 2/23 0604 "
- 10.2/48 0611 " . All parties back.
- 11.2/23 0659 "
- 12.2/24 0710 6 pepperpot Iti hand grenades, 1 EP Mk II Mine - permission requested to blow same as in dangerous state.
- 13.2/24 0740 Sitnor. Nil return in respect of shelling.
- 14.Div 0755 G ~~III~~(0).51 Div. arriving 0900 to look at fwd Bn areas.
15. 2/48 0805 Sitnor.
- 16.2/48 08  
1025 "
- 17.RAA 1130 Three 4 9 58 60 11 17 20 23 25 29 32 40 41 45  
61 62 63 64 66 48 52 53 54 56 68 69 1400 hrs  
to 1700 hrs.
- 18.2/23 1155 Sitnor.
19. Maj. ~~1138~~  
Copeland 1320 11 ATK bty relieved 9 Bty HQ 1400 hrs 25 Sep 42.
- 20.2/48 1354 Sitnor.
- 21.2/48 1630 "
22. 2/48 1635 2 very loud explosions at 87302958 at 1610 hrs.
- 23.2/24 1800 Sitnor.
- 24.2/23 1708 "
- 25.2/48 1855 MT movement 87263023.- no further details available.
- 26.2/24 1950 Sitnor.
- 27.2/48 1955 Further to serial 25. 18 MT. 1630 to 1700 hrs. 8 in 1 gp,  
Rest moving individually all well dispersed, direction NW.  
2 bursts MG Eastern Pt 23 1910 hrs otherwise sitnor.
- 28.2/23 2000 Sitnor.
- 29.2/24 2155 "
- 30.2/48 2200 7 shells on Eastern Pt 24, 7 mortars on cutting 2130 hrs.  
1 casualty Lieut LUCY.
- 31.2/23 2210 Sitnor.



Copy 8:

SECRET

Copy No. 20  
25 Sep 42.

26 MOST INT. SEC.  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 232

(Compiled from infm received for period ending 0000 hrs 25 Sep 42)

Ref Map: EL ALAMIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" : OPERATIONS INT.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

(a) INF

- 87112989 - Occupied weapon pit.
- 87202989 - Men observed in pits.
- 87023012 - Three men observed.
- 87433017 - Small party of men observed near enemy posns.
- 87413007 (approx) - Old diggings in good state of repair found to be unoccupied. Telephone lines to some pits were discovered to be disconnected.

(b) MORTARS

- 87413043) Mortars fired on area 87513041.
- 87473036)

(c) ATK

- Add to ATK List: No. 53 1 ATK 87043001
- 54 1 ATK 87042999
- 55 2 ATK 87102987
- 56 1 ATK 87262958
- 57 4 ATK 87072964

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) SHELLING

Enemy arty again very quiet, only 16 shells falling in Bde area.

Following yesterday's activity from the Field and Medium guns, the h y guns opened up last night. The 149/40 guns fired singly from several different posns. The Flash Spotters fixed one gun and it proved to be about one thousand yds in front of the pits of M.B. "SL". It is thought that the other guns were also in the open in front of their battle posns. Dummy flashes also appear to have been used, and it is considered that the purpose of the activity was to mislead the Flash Spotters and to divert the fire of our guns from enemy battle posns.

Today, the enemy arty activity has been on a small scale: this morning against the area between 876292 and 876296, and this evening against TELL EL EISA.

(Counter Battery Int Report No. 64 of 24 Sep 42).

(b) OBSERVED MOVEMENT

- i. Small gps of men were observed moving area CLOVERLEAF feature to the NW.
- ii. Three men were observed at 87513046.
- iii. At 2030 hrs, single MT moved from NW and proceeded to rear of Cloverleaf feature, contacted a party of 8 men and served rations. Truck remained 20 mins at first gp and 10 mins at each of three other gps. (Possibly ration truck for Coy).

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

GENERAL:- Little air activity over Bde sector during the period.



SECTION "B" : ENEMY TECHNICAL AND ADM INTWORKS

GENERAL:- Photos and activity show that the GERMAN is digging alternative posns about 500 yds from his previous pits both after having been shelled and in anticipation of future bombardments.

(Source: 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 306).

(a) MINES

87293005 (approx) small field of EP Mk II GS Mk IV mines - approx size of field 50x by 125x. Field runs on bearing of 300 degs - mines appear to be scattered as some are buried and some uncovered. Innumerable booby traps have been laid in and around derelict carriers at 87513035. A cylindrical object - 8" diam 6" deep - with wire connected to a carrier was also seen.

SECTION "C" : OWN OPSPATROLS

Normal patrols were out during the hrs of darkness, but no contact with enemy was made.

Working parties were heard at 87453042, 87473046, 87483043, 87253015, 87293022.

Petrol from left fwd Bn to approx 87442967 came under MG fire. Voices were heard from Pt 23, but after what appeared to be an order, there was complete silence.

SPECIAL NOTE :-

It is reported that some radio receiving sets in GERMAN tks may bear a plate giving instns that they should be destroyed if the tk carrying them is to be abandoned. It is highly important that a watch should be maintained for sets of this type in order that they may be thoroughly examined.

Infm is also required on the use of substitutes for quartz in signals equipment. Should any examples be noted all details, with specimens if possible, should be fwded to GHQ immediately.

(From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 306 of 24 Sep 42)

*Matthews*  
(T.H. Matthews) Maj  
EM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribution:-

As per List No. 3.



25 Sep 42.      Cont.

32. 10 ATK Bty 2245 Relief OK.
33. 2/24            2350 Sitnor.
34. 2/48            2351 At 2330 approx 20 shells in right fwd coy area, seemed  
                           hy than 25s. Casualties nil.
35. 2/23            2356 At 2255 10 mortar bombs on D Coy area. in approx  
                           posn of our mortars which finished at 2045.  
                           The 2 hostile mortars fired from 87463038.  
                           D Coy outpost withdrawn when patrol of approx 40 enemy  
                           adv and tried to encircle posn. No casualties.

26 Sep 42.

- 3  
 1.2/24 0145 Sitnor  
 2.2/23 0155 "  
 3.2/48 0156 "  
 4.2/23 0300 "  
 5.2/24 0350 "  
 6.2/48 0355 "  
 7.2/23 0400 "  
 8.2/23 0450 "  
 9.2/48 0600 "  
 10.2/48 0610 Pts from patrol reports - daylight patrol from pt 23 which was  
                           reached by last light. Enemy opened up with MG fire from West.  
                           Lieut KENNEALLY gave the washout sign and firing ceased. Pt 23  
                           has no diggings on it. At 0430, went out again to remain at  
                           Pt 23 for observation until 1200 hrs.  
                           A Coy along ry line many voices heard after proceeding 2000x.  
                           All voices definitely GERMAN. Discovered minefield with  
                           EP Mk II mines 10x apart and rows 10x apart. A high wire  
                           on our side of fd. Dummy OP erected by 2/23 Bn appears to  
                           have been turned to face our lines. 2 Slit trenches at the  
                           base of it and a telegraph line leading to GERMAN lines.  
                           IO states most valuable patrols yet sent out.
- 11.2/24 0640 Sitnor.  
 12.2/23 0645 " , nothing of importance in patrol report owing to  
                           withdrawal of outpost personnel and mortar fire.
- 13.2/48 0805 Sitnor.  
 14.2/48 1015 Eastern 24 8 shells 0921 o(26 hrs. Cutting six shells 0925  
                           0930. Pimple 6 shells 0940 0950.
15. RAA 1014 HF 2 8 10 12 16 18 19 21 24 26 58 59 60 27 30  
                           31 33 35 38 39 44
- 16.2/24 1150 Sitnor.  
 17.2/48 1230 "  
 18.2/24 1400 "  
 19.2/48 1410 "  
 20.2/23 1455 "  
 21.2/24 1602 "  
 22.2/48 1608 "  
 23.1 RAA 1758 HF 3 4 8 9 12 14 41 42 43 48 54 59 60 64 65 66  
                           2230 to 0230 hrs.
- 24.2/24 1807 Sitnor.  
 25.2/23n 1810 " , 2 enemy recce planes flew over B area 1715 hrs -  
 26. height 5000 ft - direction South to cutting.
- 26.2/48 1840 4 shells at 1430 12 shells at 1720(5 dud) 87592982 105mm.  
 27.20 Bde 1905 Enquiry re circular on exercise recently done by units in 26 Bde.  
 28.2/24 1928 Sitnor.  
 29.2/23 2003 4 mortar bombs 87543018 at 1842 hrs. No flash or sound bearing  
                           obtained. Otherwise sitnor.
- 30.2/48 2014 1915 to 1922 hrs 12 shells Eastern 24 ( 10t mm). Mt movement  
                           (possibly tks) and also 6 vehs (possibly tks) heard 2000x  
                           West moving NW. Otherwise sitnor.



SECRET

Copy No. 20  
26 Sep 42.

26 AUGUST DNF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 203

(Compiled from info received for 24 hrs ending 1000 hrs 26 Sep 42)

Ref Map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" : OPERATIONS CONT

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

(a) INF

Three men were seen to leave a dugout at 87363013, which on inspection, was found to be connected by sig wires.  
Three men were seen in diggings at approx 87443042.

(b) MORTARS

Right Bn patrol reported unoccupied mortar pit connected by sig wires at 87383026.  
Two mortars firing from 87463038 on to right Bn area.

(c) DP

At 87333005, patrol encountered DP pole erected by right fwd Bn when previously in line. Sig wires led to C.I.s at base of pole, which was facing our Bn. Apparently this pole has been used as an enemy CP, so was destroyed by patrol.

(d) MINEFIELDS

Patrol reports encountering minefield at 87313014. Comprised EP Mk II mines at 10x between mines and rows. Also 3 S Type and Teller AP mines were seen in the field. Field was marked on our side by single strand trip wire about knee high.  
(Right fwd Bn patrol to enemy minefield)

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) FIGHTING PATROL

Large patrol 40 - 50 strong observed moving down right fwd slopes of CLOVERLEAF feature Sq 874304. Nearing foot of CLOVERLEAF, patrol split into 2 gps and continued moving directly towards our outpost. Our patrol withdrew to Coy area.

(b) SHELLING

Enemy mortars were a little more active during the past 24 hrs. Altogether 77 shells landed in the Bde area.

SOUND RANGING SHOOTS

The enemy has discovered that we are using sound ranging on the 13 Corps front and is counteracting it by firing a number of tps simultaneously. The enemy is also reported to possess Sound Rangars. So far, no evidence has come to light of enemy ranging by this method. Sound ranging is distinctive from other methods of ranging in that there is no bracketing. Each round getting nearer and nearer to the target. Any evidence of such ranging should be reported immediately to the CBO.  
(Counter Bty Int Report No 65 of 25 Sep 42)

(c) OBSERVED MOVEMENT

(1) MT

13 MT were seen moving NW in vicinity point 87263023. With the exception of 8, all vehicles were well dispersed.



(11) INF  
Left Bn daylight patrol reports having seen two men at 87192952 (approx 4/5 enemy were seen on EGG feature ref 87513044.

(d) WORKS PROCEEDING

(1) GENERAL

Patrols report working parties heard at 87383012 and 87348015. At the latter spot a single rifle shot followed by comm in GERMAN to "Stand to", was heard. Other working parties were heard at 87423018, 87473037, 87363024.

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

At 87313013, GERMAN voices were heard from NW at approx 87303014. It would appear that the strongpoint in this vicinity is definitely manned by GERMANS.

SECTION "B" : GENERAL INT

4. ENEMY METHODS

Dud 25 lb shells and fragments of fuze show that the enemy fires 117 and 119 fuzes frequently with caps on. He also uses fuze AT 23 converted to 2 secs delay action.

(Counter Bty Int Report No 55 of 25 Sep 42)

SECTION "C" : OWN OPERATIONS

5. PATROLS

Patrols, both recon and fighting, from fwd Bns, were active fwd of FDLs during the night.

Left Bn patrols obtained much valuable infm as listed.

Outpost on right Bn front was unfortunately forced to withdraw, but much valuable infm had already been obtained.

As a result of this, a mortar shoot was carried out on the CLOVERLEAF with good effect.

*T.H. Matthews*  
(T.H. Matthews) RMaj  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribution:-

As per List No. 3



27 Sep 42. Cont.

31. 2/24 2150 Sitnor.
32. 2/48 2157 "
33. 2/23 2200 "
34. 2/24 2300 "
35. 2/23 2355 "

<sup>27</sup>  
28 Sep 42.

1. 2/48 0005 Sitnor .
2. 2/23 0010 23 Bn report ability of fwd outpost to observe all of fwdto observe all of our HF. Asks if this infm is of value to arty.
3. 2/7 Fd Regt Report in serial 2 not immediately essential, but will 0013 take matter up with BM.
4. 2/24 0200 Sitnor.
5. 2/23 0200 "
6. 2/48 0200 "
7. Div 0205 Duty Offr Div requires Bde reports to be made at alternate hrs after 2300 hrs, viz. 0100 0300 etc.
8. 2/24 0349 Sitnor. Patrol returned nothing to report.
9. 2/48 0401 Sitnor.
10. 2/23 0407 "
11. Bde 0408 Reported sitnor.
12. 2/24 0549 Sitnor.
13. 2/23 0602 "
14. 2/48 0605 "
15. Bde 0606 Reported sithor.
16. 2/24 0742 Sitnor. Patrol report will be late.
17. 2/23 0830 "
18. RAA 1038 HF 1130 1700 1 5 11 15 17 22 25 29 32 34 336 37  
39 40 41 46 61 63
19. 2/24 1055 Sitnor.
20. 2/23 1102 0905 hrs 10 EA to 12 enemy 6 MT 1 tk 868300 stat. Convoy 10 MT moving North along SIDI RAHMAN track.
21. 2/48 1115 1 MC and truck pulled behind white mound 87173027. Truck pulled up and moved West over escarpment - 1020 hrs. Movement about blockhouse 87263023.
22. 2/48 1305 Sitnor.
23. 2/24 1307 "
24. 2/23 1325 "
25. 2/24 1455 "
26. 2/23 1500 "
27. 2/48 1510 "
28. 2/24 1655 "
29. 2/48 1717 Eastern 24 4 shells and sta area 4 shells at 1650 hrs.
30. 2/23 1727 1605 hrs 3 shells 87593006 - 1630 hrs 7 mortar bombs 87543018. 1655 hrs 3 shells 87623028. No damage.
31. RAA 1737 2200 to 2400 and 0200 to 0500 hrs. HF 20 23 25 26 28 31 34.
32. 2/24 1900 Sitnor. 3 dud shells fwd of A Coy.
33. 2/23 1900 Bn OP reports enemy MT traffic along supply route, Throughout day, traffic at any period would average 4 moving North and 4 moving South with exception at 0945 hrs 14 in convoy moved North. The number stat on SKYLINE averaged 25 vehs . 1745 hrs 1 enemy staff car stat at 87453066. Arty fired on rd causing it to move to 87423070. 2 more accurate rounds followed, but results not observed. DR moving from area 87453066 earlier suggests HQ in vicinity.
34. 2/48 1935 0830 to 1020 18 shells fwd of Pimple apparently registration. 21 shells on Bn area between 1800 and 1840 hrs. Otherwise sitnor.
35. 2/24 2105 Sitnor.
36. 2/48 2108 "
37. 2/23 2110 "
38. Div 2155 Between 2300 and 0030 hrs SA Div will be assisting INDIANS in Ops around DEIR EL SHEIN.
39. 2/48 2237 Sitnor.
40. 2/24 2247 "



Appx. 15

SECRET

Copy No. **21**  
27 Sep 42.

26 AUST INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 204

(Compiled from infm received for 24 hrs ending 1000 hrs 27 Sep 42)

Ref Map: E1 ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" : OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

(a) MGs

Unoccupied posts located at 87452981.

(b) OP

Add to hostile OPs No. 24 87232968.

(C.B. Int Report No. 66 of 26 Sep 42)

(c) MINEFIELDS

A booby trap was discovered at 87523037 as follows:- Wire 6" above ground was stretched between two shell holes 3'6" apart. Protruding from ground underneath this wire was a sheet of tin 6" high and 8" long.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) PATROLS

Right Bn patrol reports enemy patrol (approx 12) moving towards Pt 87553036. Enemy divided into two parties, one half moving towards beach, other half moving out into flat. Portion of our patrol moved to engage enemy but upon their approach, enemy withdrew to own FDLs. A patrol of 8 men was seen moving North and South along the outside of wire near enemy posn at 87413014. Beat was approx 400x long.

(b) SHELLING

Enemy shelling was again light, only 34 shells landing in the Bde area.

This morning there was a certain amount of ranging, followed by harassing fire from medium and field guns. Again this evening, there was harassing fire from enemy guns of different calibres firing all at once from between 300 and 295 Northing grid lines. An observation tower has appeared in Square 872291 and is possibly responsible for the increase in ranging shoots.

(Counter Bty Int Report No. 66 of 26 Sep 42)

(c) OBSERVED MOVEMENT

MT

Convoy of approx 60 EMT moving North on SIDI RAHMAN track.

(d) WORKS PROCEEDING

(i) At approx 87372961, a working party was observed driving pickets. Party consisted of three men.

(ii) Working party, apparently removing sleepers, was heard on ry line at approx 87323017.

This infm is significant in that it tends to confirm the report that the enemy is taking up a stretch of the ry to use in completing the line to TOERUK.

(iii) Enemy was heard working at 87343003 but on investigation digging stopped and no signs could be found.



3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

1 EA dropped two bombs in area 87553038, causing no damage or casualties.

SECTION "B" : GENERAL INT

4. ENEMY METHODS

The following is extracted from a translation of a GERMAN Arty Trg Pam. It is thought that this method of ranging may have been used on this front. Anyone observing its use should report the details to the C.B.O.

"Echeloned Tp fire" can be used in order to ascertain quickly the range to opportunity targets, and to cover the flank of a tk attack.

The gun designated puts on the range ordered, and the remaining guns add the amount of echelon cumulatively. The guns, with as a general rule, remain parallel.

Fire for effect follows in the form of a area shoot at the range ascertained to be the most favourable and with the pieces parallel.

Note: The amount of echelon is normally 100 m.  
(Counter Bty Int Report No. 66 of 26 Sep 42).

SECTION "C" : OWN OPERATIONS

5. PATROLS

Patrols from both fwd Bns were again out last night but no contact with enemy was made.

An outpost was established at 87503039 and is being maintained by 1 offr and 2 ORs from the right fwd Bn for a 24 hr period, relief taking place each evening.

6. MORTAR SHOOT

Ref Mortar shoot mentioned in this Bde I Summary No. 203 of 26 Sep 42, 120 bombs were fired and observation from out post at 87513041 report all bombs straddled the target at 87433043.

*Matthews*  
(T.H. Matthews) Maj  
HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribution:

As per List A



41. 2/7 Fd Regt 2245 Bty Comd with 2/23 Bn reports sounds of MT movement in rear of CLOVER LEAF feature - requests any arty required.
42. 2/23 Bn 2300 MT mvt serial 41 now stopped. - apparently a relief. - estimate 20/30 vehs - no AFVs - owing large no. of patrols fwd in that area and poor location of targets do not consider arty justified.

28 Sep 42.

1. 24 Bde 0018 Enquiry ref MG fire apparently coming from fwd 26 Bde area with overs falling in 2/32 Bn.
2. 2/48 Bn 0020 Ref serial 1. A Coy reports nil, B Coy reports tracer to left, C Coy tracers to South, D Coy tracer origin 2000x put, with some starys overhead. Patrols queried.
3. 2/23 0050 Sitnor.
4. 2/24 0055 "
5. 2/48 0100 Apart from serial 2, sitnor.
6. 2/48 0149 Firingbmentioned in serial 2 caused by patrol comd by Lieut LAIRD. Reports from LPs fwd of 2/48 Bn indicate that patrol came upon wired LP (enemy) at which a prisoner (thought to be GERMAN) was taken. Patrol continued and found a number of enemy in unwired diggings. Shots were exchanged and patrol split. More infm later.
7. 2/48 0215 PW now brought in - GERMAN 1/cpl - from 382 IR. 1 offr 3 ORs still unaccounted for. Requested flanking units be advised. 2/48 checking on HF tasks in area to see if likely to be in area of missing personnel.
8. 24 Bde 0242 1 OR from 2/48 patrol came into 2/32 lines and left to return to unit approx 15 mins ago.
9. 2/48 0250 1 further OR from patrol has returned.
10. 2/23 0255 Sitnor.
11. 2/24 0301 "
12. 2/48 0310 PW is 254 Hans REUTHER, 1/Epl. Captured in area 873298. Detailed ref not possible until all members of patrol are interrogated. Offr and 1 OR still missing.
13. Div 0418 PW passw- states password that has been in force for 3 days is FIGARO (challenge) and NDRIA (Counter sign). Does not know for how long this password will be in op.- sometimes remains unaltered for one week.
14. 2/23 0452 Sitnor.
15. 2/24 0504 "
16. 2/48 0508 " Offr and OR still missing.
17. 24 Bde 0700 24 Bde has no further infm re offr and OR.
18. 2/24 0701 Sitnor. Infm from patrols. Patrol to examine minefd at 87323020. 6 rows BP Mk IV 5 to 6x between rows and mines. 8 to 10 yds apart. Followed fd 50x to North where taped off into 3 mines - no further mines in area 150x radius. Then followed fd back bearing 260 degs for 700x where fd stopped. 87323008 weapon pits with new sandbags - unoccupied. LAIRD's patrol moved out to area 873298 turned South, passed two burnt out Br carrier then derelict GERMAN vehs then encountered enemy LP and trip wire. 1 GERMAN left dying, other captured. Patrol fired on from pt blank range by at least 10 automatic weapons incl Spandaus and TSMGs. Patrol separated and returned.
19. 0717 Patrol to Valentine tk 87433008 found Eng body of 2/lt. Brpught back epaulette and locket - no identity disc. Tk appears undamaged. Other patrols no contact. Salvage patrol 875302 brought in Jerry cans and located ITALIAN cooker, foodstuffs, 44 gall drums filled with water.
20. 2/7 Fd Regt 0815 HF from 0930 to 1700 on 2 3 9 10 12 18 21 24 28 30 33 35 38
21. 2/24 1058 Sitnor.
22. 2/48 1115 "
23. 2/23 1116 "



SECRET

Copy No. 21  
28 Sep 42.

26 AUST INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 205

(Compiled from info received for 24 hrs ending 1000 hrs 28 Sep 42)

Ref Map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" : OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

(a) Inf

87312976 four weaponpits located. These were newly dug and revetted with stones.  
87373008 a number of unoccupied weapon pits and also a large pit 6 ft by 7 ft by 2 ft 6". Pits were well concealed amongst bushes.  
87202996 fresh diggings located - four slit trenches in the form of a cross.  
87242988 enemy listening post located.  
Arty OP reported near diggings at 86903004.  
87053014 inf post located by arty OP.  
Suspected HQ has again been reported at 86993014.  
87453066 suspected HQ.

(b) OP

87423031 an unoccupied OP pole 30 ft high observed.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) Patrols

Right fwd Bn patrol report enemy patrol approx 15 strong, moving vicinity 87463044, but on approach of our patrol, enemy withdrew into own lines. Were at this point was patrolled by four men. Left fwd Bn fighting patrol, after capturing GERMAN PW from 382 Inf Regt, encountered enemy patrol and came under fire at point blank range. Our patrol split up and all returned to own lines with the exception of 1 offr and 1 OR, who are still missing.

(b) Shelling

Enemy shelling was on a slightly increased scale, 69 shells (4) duds, falling in Bde area.

Enemy arty has been on a considerable scale today, and our FDLs between Northings between 283 and the Coast have been subject to intermittent harassing fire, usually from single guns. The central sector of the front received most attention during the morning, but from 1600 until 1848 hrs, the Pt 24 - Trig 33 - TELL EL HISA cutting area came in for most of the shelling. The OP tower reported yesterday, was again visible this morning. The Flash Spotter ranged a gun of 426 Bty deliberately on to the impudent structure. One warner and 5 ranging rounds were too much for it, after the sixth round, it vanished from the ridge, and the fire-for effect was never called for. This loss should prevent the enemy from carrying out ranging shoot in areas other than the FDLs.

(C.B. Int Report No. 67 of 27 Sep 42)



(c) Observed Movement(i) MT

Outpost at 87433031 reported much movement of by MT from SW of RingContour 87343025. Staff car and DB seen in vicinity 87453066 suggests HQ in that area.

(ii) Inf

Outpost at 87403010 reported gp of four men moving at 87313020. At 87303011, three enemy approached, one of our patrols and then withdrew to own lines.

(d) WORKS PROCEEDINGGeneral

Working parties were again heard at several pts as follows:- 87293024, 87343024, 87503041.

SECTION "B" : GENERAL INT3. ENEMY METHODS

Outpost at 87403010 observed what resembled two dummy bodies in vicinity strongpoint at 87423018. Bodies remained in same position all day.

SECTION "C" : OWN OPERATIONS4. PATROLS

Our patrols were again active during night 27/28 Sep. One PW 382 TR was captured by patrol from left fwd En. Because of the nature of the ground, it has been found impossible to establish a standing patrol in the vicinity of 87503038.

Report of standing patrol at 87392980 is att as Appx A.

(T.H. Matthews) Maj  
RM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribution:-

List A less Serials 4, 5 & 6.



SECRET

Apex A to 26 AUST INF BDE Int Summary No. 203

REPORT ON OBSERVATIONS FROM STANDING PATROL AT

873922960 DURING DAYLIGHT HRS 26 Sep 42

COMPOSITION: 1 offr, 1 Sgt, 1 Rangefinder, 1 NCO Int Sec.

<u>Serial</u>	<u>Observations</u>	<u>Map Ref</u>
1.	Four or five men observed sitting above ground after first light. One man seen shaking blankets during the afternoon.	87202962
2.	Men appeared and disappeared at odd intervals during the day.	8722029595
3.	Men seen to disappear and reappearing, usually about meal times. Came from both sides of this posn, moving singly and in pairs.	87222957
4.	At 1130 hrs, 1 man was seen to move along wire from NW of this posn, passed across front and turned South for approx 50 yds. Stopped above ground as though talking to someone below him. Moved about a little as though from one hole to another.	87272953
5.	Single drum.	87302965
6.	Concertina wire.	87332964 to 87342965
7.	Th ree drums.	87282962
8.	Knoll.	87232953
9.	Derelict veh facing West.	87252957
10.	Ambulance - derelict.	87402959
11.	Plane wreckage.	87392959
12.	One drum.	87302956
13.	Tower (OP?).	87162922

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

MF movement on rd near enemy FDLs, observed through haze, was mainly moving in NW direction. During the day, our arty fire was falling on dead ground West of West Pt 23 (Sq 872296) South to approx 255 degs from our OP. OP could not observe any flashes from enemy guns. No movement vicinity West Pt 23 (Sq 872296) during the day. Practically all movement seen was observed during meal period.

All occupied posns were on the reverse slopes of low mounds. Enemy AA defences appeared to be heavy and during the air activity during the morning he fired on his own planes. The fwd posts did not fire at our aircraft in the morning, but an enormous amount of SA fire was directed at them from further back towards the main ridge which is approx 4 miles West from OP. The amount of weapons firing suggest great fire power and defences in depth.

Movement of tps - nil except at meal times.

Movement of vehs - in fwd areas vehicular movement very limited.

Wiring - Irregular in composition but FDLs all wired.

Notes: Posn is suitable as an arty OP and good observation is possible. Carriers etc, are not recommended to go out as they would draw too much fire.



*Appx. 18.*  
ACTION DIARY

28 Sep 42. Cont.

24. 2/24 1305 Sitnor.  
25. 2/23 1320 ~~At~~ One patrol returned. Went to 87473027 where it was mortared. Coast patrol reported to have met up with party of enemy which was engaged by arty and dispersed.. 2 patrols still out.  
26. 2/48 1330 Sitnor.  
27. 2/23 1410 Fighting patrol reached 87483027 and returned. Fighting patrol on coast 87553035 when dust lifted and enemy in vicinity EGG feature 87523044 appeared from pits. Arty spotted enemy vehs when fired on by our arty disappeared into dead ground.  
28. 2/48 1440 Ref patrol night 27/28. Consider enemy LP was at 87302970. Patrol encountered enemy post 200 x South this LP.  
29. 2/24 1458 Sitnor.  
30. 2/48 1510 "  
31. 2/23 1530 " . Patrol reached 87463016 when dust lifted. Patrol went to ground for observation report NMS.  
32. 2/23 1652 Sitnor.  
33. 2/48 1700 "  
34. Div 1825 All personnel of 152 Bde 51 HD to return to units tomorrow morning. Confirmatory sig being fwded.  
35. 2/23 1835 Observer 87543017 time 1815 to 1817 area shelled 87543017. Damage nil HF 6 Shells. 4 explosions with each shell . Ø Otherwise sitnor.  
36. 2/24 1859 Sitnor.  
37. 2/48 1910 A Coy 1845 hrs 2 shells. D Coy 1850 1 shell. Ref carrier and inf patrol. Patrol reached pt within 500x Western Pt 23 but could not see any sign of offr and 2 ORs missing. 1 Aust body was located with another complete set of equipment and 2 rifles, thought to be 2/15. Carriers came under hy HB and 1 OR killed. Foot patrol withdrew under Hy MG fire. All carriers and remainder of personnel returned without incident.  
38. RAA 1926 HF 2200 to 0400 hrs. 15 17 22 27 29 31 32  
39. 2/24 2051 Sitnor.  
40. 2/48 2101 "  
41. 2/23 2117 "  
42. 2/24 2300 "  
43. 2/23 2300 "

29 Sep 42.

1. 2/24 0050 Sitnor.  
2. 2/23 0100 "  
3. 2/48 0110 "  
4. 2/24 0255 "  
5. 2/23 0300 " . Unable to contact outpost on coast. Will advise re this at earliest.  
6. 2/48 0302 Sitnor.  
7. 2/23 0317 Outpost contacted, see serial 5.  
8. 2/24 0445 Sitnor.  
9. 2/48 0455 "  
10. 2/23 0500 "  
11. 2/48 0645 " . No highlights to report.  
12. 2/24 0650 "  
13. 2/23 0658 "  
14. 2/24 0855 "  
15. 2/48 0914 5 Shells E 24 0835 Hrs. Otherwise sitnor.  
16. RAA 0935 1000M- 1200 hrs and 1400 - 1700 hrs targets 4 8 16 19 20 23 Regtl concentration by 2/7 Regt at 8739130476 at 1230 hrs.  
17. 2/24 1050 Sitnor.  
18. 2/48 1100 51 shells cutting area and East Pt 24 during last hr, otherwise sitnor.  
19. 2/23 1115 Sitnor.  
20. 2/24 1250 "  
21. 2/23 1250 "  
22. 2/48 1303 "  
23. 2/24 1450 "  
24. 2/48 1500 "  
25. 2/24 1655 "



Appx 19

135 377

Copy No. 21  
29 Sep 42.

26 AUST INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 206

(Compiled from infm received for 24 hrs ending 1000 hrs 29 Sep 42)

Ref Map: E1 ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" : OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

- (a) Patrol  
Daylight patrol to 87292969 confirms previous night's patrol report that PW was captured in LP at 87292970.  
87423020 diggings located.  
Trailer at 87423016 is sandbagged underneath. This is probably an OP or an MG post.  
86832989 arty fired on tps round diggings.
- (b) OP  
Arty OP again reports suspected enemy OP at 87253072
- (c) Mines  
Right Fwd Bn patrol to 87413040 located line of booby traps fwd of enemy minefield.  
Booby trap - black cylindrical object 3" diam, 4" long - plunger protruded and to it were att 2 strings running at right angles to each other. Strings were taut and att to stakes similar to tent pegs.  
In sugar at 87523041 previously occupied by us, a blanket and a tin box 6" by 6" were found. As these items were not there when outpost was occupied by our tps it was thought that they may be booby traps.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

- (a) Patrols  
Patrol of approx 15 men was observed patrolling the wire in front of the CLOVERLEAF feature Sq 874304.  
Our daylight patrol to 87543035 observed enemy patrol of approx 20 men in gps of 3 or 4 with an IMG to each gp, moving from 87453043 towards 87523044. Enemy patrol was dispersed by our arty fire.
- (b) Shelling  
Shelling of Bde area was again light, 41 falling in Bde area. Sec of carriers which accompanied daylight patrol to 87292969 for part of the way received 2 airbursts and 3 HE shells, 1 OR being killed.  
10 mortar bombs and 4 airburst shells were also fired at our daylight patrol during its return from 87543035.

There was light shelling this morning, but this evening, once again, there was a busy period, when single guns fired off from all parts of the front. The areas shelled were TELL EL EISA - Pt 33 area and OP area about 881290. Fragments of shell show that the 17 cm gun is again sited to fire on this front. (Area shelled 878300). A groove bearing shows it to be North of the ry. There may be others about 290 Northing grid line. A dud shell, which landed well behind



our FDEs, shows that the ITALIAN must have run his 100/17 howa well fwd. The only explanation for this appears to be that he is copying our methods of running guns up to deal with trouble-some HBs, because no other guns are sited to reach our gun posns in that area.

(Counter Bty Int Report No. 68 of 28 Sep 42)

(c) Observed movement

Outpost reports continuous movement of gps of 3 and 4 men during the day in vicinity of 87313022.

(d) Works Proceeding

Sounds of pickets being driven were heard at 87463020. Working parties were also heard in CLOVERLEAF area. Three men were seen driving pickets near trailer at 87463020. A working party of 8 men was seen near CLOVERLEAF.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTION

General

Between 1745 and 1820 hrs, 8 EA flew over Bde area and were engaged by AA, 2 hits being scored on an ME 110 and 1 hit on an ME 109.

4. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

See report on Interrogation of PW att.

SECTION "B" : OWN OPERATIONS

5. PATROLS

Several recce patrols were out last night investigating vehs with a view to salvage.

Fighting patrols made no contact, but in formation about minefields and enemy working parties was obtained.

Salvage: - A wireless (No 19), parts of a 2 pr gun, 2 truck wheels, 1500 amn, and a quantity of rations were salvaged by right fwd Bn.

6. ARTY

The following targets were engaged by our arty yesterday: - 87262970, 86923002, 86903004, 86832989, 87063013, 86953015, 87253072, 87023018.

*T.H. Matthews*

(T.H. Matthews) Maj  
BM 26 Asst Inf Bde

Distribution:

List A less Serials 4, 5 and 6.



*Appx. 21.*  
ACTION DIARY

29 Sep 42. Cont.

26. 2/23 1707 Sitnor.
27. 2/48 1720 "
28. 2/24 1845 "
29. 2/48 1905 3 shells A Coy 1725. Otherwise sitnor.
30. 2/23 1906 Sitnor.
31. 2/24 2055 "
32. 2/23 2103 "
33. 2/48 2104 "
34. Div 2145 Capt. TRAINOR rang re number of vehs -
35. 2/48 2245 Sitnor.
36. 2/24 2247 "
37. 2/23 2248 "

30 Sep 42.

1. Bde 0001 Advising Lt)Col EVANS to call on Brig before going to ALEXANDRIA.
2. 2/23 0045 Sitnor.
3. 2/24 0046 "
4. 2/48 0100 "
5. 2/23 0250 "
6. 2/24 0250 "
7. 2/48 0306 "
8. 2/23 0455 "
9. 2/24 0458 "
10. 2/48 0503 "
11. 2/23 0645 "
12. 2/24 0655 "
13. 2/48 0659 "
14. 2/24 0859 "
15. 2/23 0910 "
16. RAA 0927 HF 1030 to 1330 and 1500 to 1700 hrs. 2 4 9 12 15 17 18 19 21 23 244 25 27 29 30 31 34
17. 2/48 0932 Sitnor.
18. 2/24 1052 "
19. 2/23 1114 87113073 suspected enemy gun. Placed by sound bearing only.
20. 2/48 1117 1030 to 1050 hrs 15 shells on Eastern 24, 20 shells between East and West 24.
21. 2/24 1255 2 shells 1255 hrs in C Coy.
22. 2/48 1315 1215 hrs 20 men forming up in line 87222991 - engaged by arty 1230 hrs 3 shells ( 75 mm ) on sta area. 1 OR slightly wounded. 1240 hrs 3 unidentified aircraft circled over area and flew off West.
23. 2/23 1335 UNidentified plane crashed 864302. 25 pr shell from own gun burst in air over 23 Bn 1130 hrs.
24. 2/48 1325 Ref serial 22. OP called for MG fire in front of Pt 24 and carriers encircled Pt 24 under instructions from OP. Enemy went to ground and could not be seen. Arty apparently inflicted casualties.
25. 2/48 1326 OP reports enemy appear to be withdrawing, some returned with red cross flags and appeared to pick up casualties.
26. 2/48 1437 1315 hrs twin engined recce plane, possibly spotter, crashed on ridge 869299. Appeared shot down by AA from Western 23.
27. 2/24 1455 Sitnor.
28. 2/23 1655 "
29. 2/48 1700 11 shells plus 2 duds 6 on B Coy 1640 hrs 5 on A Coy 1630 hrs - all 75 mm. Unidentified plane flew West over D Coy area.
30. RAA 1900 HF 2100 to 0300 hrs. 3 4 5 11 ; 3 59 60.
31. 2/23 1910 Sitnor.
32. 2/24 1920 "
33. 2/48 1921 1715 to 1730 6 shells cutting; 1800 1 shell sta. 1719 1 shell Pimple area. 1725 1 shell Pimple. 1735 1 dud Pimple.
34. 2/24 2050 Sitnor.
35. 2/48 2057 "
36. 2/23 2104 "
37. 2/24 2246 "
38. 2/48 2253 "



ACTION DIARY

30 Sep 42.

Cont.

39. 2/23 2338 Valentine tk salvaged and through own FDLs under its own power. 2/48 Bn informed in case of inquiry. No interference by enemy.

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26AUST INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 207

(Compiled from infm received for 24 hrs ending 1000 hrs 30 Sep 42)

Ref Map: E1 ALAMEIN 1/50,000

SECTION "A" : OPERATIONS INT

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

(a) Inf

87383011 - sandbagged weapon pit located. Nearby were found 1 box GERMAN hand grenades, 3 belts of Spandau amm (loaded), 3 small det. boxes.

At 87322969 many weapon pits were located, apparently hurriedly prepared, depth ranging from 6" to 2 ft 6".

87312969 - two men were seen leaving a Valentine tk which was evidently being used as a LP.

(b) MGs

MGs at 87282968 opened up on one of our patrols.

At 87262975, LMGs were fired followed by a gun similar to our Vickers MG.

Spandau at 87192989 firing on a fixed line.

(c) Minefields

Recce of minefield from 87503007 to 87453016 disclosed the following - fd 40 yds wide, 4 to 5 mines deep, irregular spacing, 8 to 10 paces between mines. Mines were GS Mk IV & V.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) Patrols

Two men were seen leaving LP at 87312969.

Patrol of approx 20 seen near bogged carriers and then moved back to own lines.

(b) Shelling

Shelling during the past 24 hrs was on a slightly increased scale, 56 shells falling in the Bde area. Distributed as follows:-

Trig 33 14; Cutting area 15; Eastern Pt 24 27.

Enemy Arty Activity has been less last week than the previous week, although more guns have taken part and shelling has covered a greater area.

Strength and Dispositions. The enemy strength is estimated at:-

150 field guns  
61 medium guns  
19 hy guns

These are disposed with a small gp of med (13 GERMAN) and hy (4) above 305 Northing grid line. Next comes the main body of fd (65) mostly GERMAN) from 364 to 295, then the med gp (34 GERMAN and ITALIAN), between 293 to 287. From 283 to 279 is the ITALIAN fd gp (46) sited to the East and SE.

The hy guns are all ITALIAN 149/40 except for 17 cm guns recently arrived in this sector. The 152/37 have not been reported for several weeks. The hys are all North of 285 grid line on this front. The GERMAN fd gp has been brought up to strength apparently by 105 GH. No 7.5 cm Mountain Hows have yet been located, and it is presumed they have been replaced by 25 prs. There are estimated to be 24 25 prs in use by the enemy against this Corps.

The greatest gun density is at TELL EL EISA cutting, against which



80 fd, 30 med, and 19 hy guns could bring down fire. In the past three weeks, 50 guns have been reported to fire in that area. The meds cover the whole front with an average density of about 25 guns. The fd gun density thins to 14 about 286 Northing line, and increases to 52 on RUWEISAT Ridge. The hys are disposed with greatest density (19) in the North.

(Counter Bty Int Summary No. 4 of 29 Sep 42).

(c). Observed Movement

i. Inf

Gps of 2 and 3 men were seen on CLOVER LEAF feature square 874304. A gp of 45 men was seen on BGG feature 87513044. Six men were observed near strongpt at 87413018.

ii. MT

Veh which was heard to stop in vicinity of Eastern Pt 23 was thought to be that of standing patrol.

Sounds of MT were also heard coming from 87123001.

A MC was seen to stop at TWIN PALMS 87343032.

iii. Works proceeding

General

Working parties were heard at 87433018.

Sounds of blasting heard at approx 87272982.

Digging and stake driving were heard at 87383018.

3. ENEMY SIGS ACTIVITY

At approx 87352980, 1 of our patrols reports having seen a red light which was shown at intervals of 10 to 15 mins. This was not continued after moonrise.

4. ENEMY FIREWORKS

About 5 mins after 2 men were seen to leave tk at 87312969, 1 red over 2 white tracers were fired to right and to left. From both sides, LMGs opened up, those on left being followed by a white flare.

SECTION "B" : OWN OPERATIONS

5. PATROLS

We had several patrols out last night, but again no contact was made with the enemy.

A tk compass was salvaged from the Valentine tk at 87473017. 1 box GERMAN hand grenades and 3 loaded belt cases of Spandau amm were also salvaged.

*John Matthews*  
Lieut

(T.H. Matthews) Maj  
HM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribution:

List A les Serials 4, 5, & 6.



Wardlawy Appx 22

SECRET

Copy No. 16

30 Sep 42

26 AUST INF BDE OO NO 17

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

INFM

1. The enemy may carry out raids along the coast by landing parties either
  - a. in conjunction with a major offensive, or
  - b. independently.

INTENTION

2. 26 Aust Inf Bde will defend the right flt bde sector against attack by sea-borne tps.

METHOD

3. General

All units and sub-units will be organised for internal defence against attack by sea-borne tps.

4. Coastwatching posts

- a. To give warning of possible enemy action 2/23, 2/24 Aust Inf Bns, 4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Cd Bn, 2/7 Aust FA Regt and A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn will each maintain coast watching posts during darkness.
- b. Sub-sectors of responsibility will be in accordance with att Appx A.
- c. Any suspicious occurrence will be reported by the quickest possible means to this HQ.

5. Mob force

- a. During the hrs of darkness, 2/24 Aust Inf Bn will maintain a mob force to be on immediate notice to repel any attack in the bde sector.
- b. Strength - One rifle coy plus carriers.
- c. The mob force will only be employed on the orders of this HQ.

ADM

6. Issued separately.

INTERCOMM

7. Alarm

- a. Light sig RED RED RED from one coast watching post per sub-sector.



- b. 2/23 and 2/24 Aust Inf Bns will each arrange a system of 2-in mortar illuminating flares within bn coastal sub-sectors. All coast-watching posts will be equipped with flares. All flares will be fired on alarm sig.

ACK

*C H Finlay*

Signed at 1130 hrs

(C H Finlay) Maj  
RM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Issued through Sigs

DISTRIBN :-

COPY NO :-

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
L Sec Sigs  
4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn  
78 Aust LAD  
C Sqn 9 Aust Cav  
2/7 Aust Fd Regt  
11 Aust A Tk Bty  
10 Aust Lt AA Bty  
2/7 Aust Fd Coy  
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn  
2/8 Aust Fd Amb  
9 Aust Div  
Comd  
War Diary  
File  
Spare

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16-17  
18-19  
20-23



SECRET

Appx A to  
26 Aust Inf Bde 00 No 17

ALLOTMENT OF SUB-SECTORS

Ref Map: EL ALAMEIN 1/500,000 Scale 1/25,000





Appx 23.

PRO-FORMA

C. 2118.

WAR

DIARY

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

Sep 42.

1. A high level bombing attack by ME fighter bombers at 0724 hrs resulted in 1 OR killed and 1 OR wounded from enemy Butterfly AP bombs.  
During late morning, infm was received that the enemy drive in the South had turned and was likely to drive North between Locality E (GABEL BAIN GABIR) and ALAM BAD SHAZA. All units were warned of this possible threat to Locality A. Throughout the day, news of the battle in the South continued to be received and all necessary steps were taken to guard against any enemy thrust in the Bde area.  
During the afternoon, orders were received by 32 Fd Regt RA to proceed that night and join the 1 SA Div. During the night and early morning, the 32 Fd Regt left the Bde.  
At 2315 hrs, 9 Aust Div advised the 2/12 Aust Fd Regt and 11 Aust Lt AA Bty to move in support of 26 Aust Inf Bde by first light 2 Sep.  
P Tp, 12 Aust A Tk Bty rejoined 12 Aust AVTk Bty late on 1 Sep.
2. During the morning, the move of the 2/12 Aust Fd Regt to Locality A was completed.  
Infm received during the day regarding the battle in the South indicated no major armour clash occurred. There was considerable air activity over the Bde area, but in other respects the day was quiet.
3. At approx 0130 hrs enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs in the Northern portion of Bde area - no casualties.  
The Bde Comd inspected the defences of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn area.  
At 1830 hrs, the Minister of State, Rt. Hon. R.G. CASEY, PC, DSO, MC., accompanied by the Div Comd, visited Bde HQ where he met, informally, some of the ofrs.
4. At 0525 hrs, the Northern area of Locality A was machine gunned by one EA - no casualties were sustained.  
The morning was spent by the Bde Comd and BM in carrying out a recce of Area D with a view to either counter attack or occupation on a two bn basis if necessary.  
Reports received during the day gave further indication of the enemy's withdrawal West, presumably for reorganisation after his casualties sustained in the Southern Sector of Eighth Army area.
5. In the morning, a recce of Area D was carried out by Comds of Bns and Comds of supporting arms of the Bde Gp, accompanied by a representative from the 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn.  
The Bde Comd and BM recced Area G during the same period.  
Instructors from the 3 Bns carried out instns, with the affiliated Btys of the 2/12 Aust Fd Regt, in the use and handling of grenades.  
In the afternoon, acting under instns from 9 Aust Div, the Bde Comds of 20 and 24 Aust Inf Bdes visited these HQ and accompanied by the Brig carried out a brief recce of Locality A.
6. Bn Comds and Comds of Sup Arms carried out a recce of Area G in morning.
7. During the day, orders were received for the 2/12 Aust Fd Regt and 11 Aust Lt AA Bty to move fwd and at 2000 hrs both units came under Comd RA A 9 Aust Div.  
In all other respects the day was quiet.
8. At 1030 a lecture was given on security by OC B Sec FSS to members of Bde HQ and att tps.  
Approx 1830 hrs the GOC visited the Bde Comd.
9. A trg conference of C.O's was held at Bde HQ at 1430 hrs.  
Subjects under discussion incl sigs for mob ops and proposals for the reorganization of the Inf Bn AIF (ME).  
Advice was received that Brig TOVELL was to be recalled for duty in AUSTRALIA.



Sep 42.HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

10. In the afternoon, the Brig, accompanied by Lt-Col EVANS, visited the SA LORONTE Lt Inf, and on behalf of the 46 Bn AMF, presented a metal biscuit barrel to form a link between the two affiliated Regts. This barrel was made from the boss of an ITALIAN plane shot down in the area between the LORONTE Lt Inf and 26 Aust Inf Bde during the July ops.  
(Prior to the outbreak of hostilities, Brig TOVELL was CO of the 46 Bn AMF and arrangements were then complete for the affiliation of the two Bns, but no personal contact had been made between the two units until these ops).  
At night, a farewell Dinner was given in honour of Brig TOVELL. In addition to the members of the Bde Staff present were C.O's of the 3 Bns, C.O. of the 2/12 Aust Fd Regt (Lt-Col. GOODWIN), O.C. of 2/3 Aust Fd Coy (Maj. GERHANN), and 2 i/c of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn (Maj. GEBHARDT).
11. In the afternoon, the Bde Comd and members of Bde Staff attended a farewell party for Brig TOVELL at the 2/24 Aust Inf Bn, at which the Brig farewelled members of the Bn.  
Also in the latter portion of the afternoon, the new Bde Comd, Brig. D.A. WHITEHEAD DSO, MC., arrived.
12. In the morning, Brigs TOVELL AND WHITEHEAD inspected defences of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn and in the afternoon completed their tour of inspection of the Bde area by visiting both 2/48 and 2/23 Aust Inf Bn areas respectively.  
The Comd of 26 Aust Inf Bde passed from Brig R.W. TOVELL, DSO, ED., to Brig D.A. WHITEHEAD, DSO, MC.
13. During the day, Brig TOVELL attended farewell Bn parades of 2/23 and 2/24 Aust Inf Bns.
14. At a parade held at 0900 hrs, Brig TOVELL farewelled members of Bde HQ, L Sec Sigs, 78 LAD, 4 Pl HQ Gd Bn, HQ 2/11 Aust Fd Amb, and A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn.  
Approx 0910 hrs three bombs were dropped in area 432896, but no damage or casualties were caused.  
Brig TOVELL departed from these HQ at 1100 hrs and members of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn lined the road.  
During the morning, the I.O. and L.O. from 152 Inf Bde, 51 HIGHLAND Div, visited these HQ to discuss the affiliation of the two Bdes. (Appx re affiliation attached separately).  
During the afternoon, the BDE Comd, (Brig WHITEHEAD), visited 9 Aust Div and discussed future trg.
15. At 0930 hrs, a conference of Bn Comds was held to discuss points of tactical policy and future trg.  
Approx 1110hrs 12 EA flew over the locality and dropped a number of bombs over a wide area. No bombs fell in the Locality A area and no damage or casualties have been reported.  
In the afternoon, the Bde Comd attended a demonstration of the 69 Grenade by 2/24 Aust Inf Bn and later visited 2 SA Bde in an adjacent Defended Locality.
16. During the morning, Capt COMBES from Div visited Bde to discuss the 2/23 Aust Inf Bn exercise of 17/18 Sep.  
A further conference was held in the afternoon with the G II (Maj. BARHAM).
17. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn carried out preparations for a Divisional Night Trg Exercise, which took place the same night.  
During the day, orders were received to detonate mines in two areas totalling 1600 yds of minefields in the 2/48 Aust Inf Bn Perimeter Defences.



Sep 42.HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

18. The Bde Comd called a conference in the afternoon on the previous night's Div exercise carried out by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. The BM(L), Capt. J.G. OCHILTREE, returned from the RAAF Army Co-operation Sqn, where valuable infm was gained for future ops.
19. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn carried out the Bn exercise under Divisional control night 19/20 Sep. The GOC 9 Aust Div was present.
20. --
21. The final Divisional exercise concerning inf Bn in attack supported by tks was carried out night 21/22 Sep by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.
22. The 2/23 and 2/24 Aust Inf Bns relieved the 2/13 and 2/17 Aust Inf Bns of the 20 Aust Inf Bde in the Coastal Sector during night. The relief was carried out without incident by 0100 hrs.
23. At 1812 hrs, the comd of the Coastal area of the Northern Sector passed from 20 to 26 Aust Inf Bde. During the night, 2/48 Aust Inf Bn relieved 2/15 Aust Inf Bn thus completing the 20 to 26 Aust Inf Bde change over. The relief was completed by 2235hrs without incident.
24. During the afternoon, the Bde Comd attended an ATK Flash Simulation demonstration in the EL ALAMEIN area. The day was quiet and active patrolling was carried out during the night.
25. The Comd of 152 HIGHLAND Inf Bde visited this HQ and was shown around the area by the Brig. Parties from 2 SEAFORTH, 5 SEAFORTH, and 5 CAMERONS (affiliated units of 2/23, 2/24 and 2/48 Aust Inf Bns) arrived at their affiliated Bns for attachment for battle experience.
- Addendum to 24 Sep. 42.  
In the morning, a Warning Order from 9 Aust Div was received ordering the relief of 20 Aust Inf Bde by 26 Aust Inf Bde during nights 22/23 and 23/24 Sep. 26 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 16 ordering relief to take place was received.
- Addendum to 25 Sep. 42.  
From 2030 hrs to 2045 hrs, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn bombarded CLOVER LEAF feature.(874304) with 120 3" mortar bombs. Observers in outpost 87513041 report all bombs straddled the target.
26. During the day, The DMT GHQ, MEF, visited this HQ and conversed with the Comd. The G I and GS I, Eighth Army, also visited Bde HQ. At 2230 hrs 1 EA dropped 2 Butterfly bombs 87553008 causing no damage or casualties.
27. The day was quiet, with only 16 shells and 7 mortar bombs falling in the Bde area during the afternoon. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn patrol made contact with the enemy, capturing 1 PW from 382 Inf Regt at cost of 1 offr and 2 ORs missing.
28. Hy duststorm in the area restricted visibility during almost the entire day. In the Coastal sector, advantage was taken to send out fighting and salvage patrols. Toward late afternoon, there was increased enemy air activity over the Bde area, although there was no hostile act committed in the sector. Light shelling in posn of the FDLs at intervals throughout the day; no damage or casualties being reported.
29. With the exception of light shelling in the Bde area, the day was very quiet. The Bde Comd proceeded to ALEXANDRIA in order to draw winter kit.
30. Bde area was lightly shelled at intervals throughout the day. At midday, 1 ME109 and an unidentified twin engined recon plane



Sep 42.

30. Cont. crashed in enemy lines - 1 apparently being brought down by enemy AA.  
During the afternoon, the Bde Comd made a thorough recce of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn area.  
During night 30 sep/1 Oct, normal patrols were carried out, but no contact was made with the enemy.  
A Valentine tk was recovered by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn and driven in.

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