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

1/4/1 CORPS

1 Australian Corps General Branch (1 Aust Corps 'G' Branch)

September 1941, part 1



1/4/1-011

HQ ATIST CORPS DTARY PERIOD - 1 Sen 30 11.1 Ç 🖗 - -----

report. * * reserved)

Signal from Force HQ advised that the move of 6 British most unlikely. (Appz "B")

A circular received from Force HQ stated that HQ
 Northern L of C District would take over by 1200 hrs 6 Sep from
 10 Area Div the comd of 84 and 85 L of C Sub-Areas, HAIFA
 Fortriss Area, 5 Cav Bde and the Desert L of C, and in addition
 in the civil districts of G', HEE and SAMARIA, and that part
 of HAIFA civil district not included in HAIFA Fortress Area.
 The administrative responsibility and operational comd
 of HO Worthern L of C District ware also laid down.

of HQ Northern L of C District were also laid down. (Appx "B")

Nil report. (Appx "C" reserved).

1 Aust; Corps Op Instn No. 33 laid down that for the (2) defence of the SUEZ Canal and our main base in the Middle East defensive localities had been selected in the LEBANON and NORTHERN PALESTINE with a view to :-

(i) Forcing the enemy to attack our posn in the LEBANON (ii) or if enemy bypassed this posn, attacking the enemy in the flank or severing his comns.

Localities elected were:

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DIMAS - QATANA DJEDBIDE-TRIPOLI

for two divs for one div, for one div,

Each of these localities was to be considered a part of the whole posn. In the construction of Gefences, priority was to be:

A Tk defences (1)

Observation posts and MG posns (11)

Inf localities. (111)

Divs were ordered to submit their plans showing the number of A Tk mines, dannert wire, pill boxes and defensive stores required for each locality (<u>Appx "D</u>")

(a) 6 Div requested approval so move 16 Inf Ede to the area of the defensive posn (DJEDEIDE) which it would be taking up. 5 Sep (a) This request was consequent upon the advice from Force HQ that the move of 6 Div was most unlikely.

A recommendation for the introduction of an air letter 6 Sep (a) service in SYRIA. The route suggested was BEYROUTH - TRIPOLI -LATTAQUIE - ALEPPO - DEIR EZ ZOR - PALMYRA - HOMS - RAYAK -DAMASCUS - JENIN - BEYROUTH. (Appx "F" - G.863)

(b) A letter was sent to Force HQ stating that the Senior Naval Officer in charge (Syria) had -

(1) Asked to be informed of the army proposals for the AA defence of EL MINA port 4 28 Nor 41

that the Army should consider the extent ition, in defending the harbour against "E" boats or other types of small craft,

that 7 Aust Div had been advised that their ie temporary allotment of one tp of ATk guns, irs and one pl of inf for ground defence of the red, but that the Naval authorities had been a sked ap i: the c ist stion of AA defence with Force HQ direct.

- G.851)

(c)? Allocation statement of 1 Aust Corps and att tps was issued. N ., ۰,

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(Appx "EE")

6 Div reported a civil disturbance at HAMA, the cause (a) being the food crisis. Two coys of 2 Leicesters at HAMA had been called out but up to the present there had been no firing. At 1300 hrs it was reported that all was quiet at HAMA. (Appx "G"- 0 405) 2

(b) From many sources it was becoming apparent that the popular feeling of all classes was growing more and more anti-British. Although the administration of SYRIA and the LEBANON was in the hands of the Free French, it appeared impossible to convince the local inhabitants that the British were not really the masters behind the scene. ÷.,

Force HQ advised : (c)

That the proposed move of 16 Inf Bde to IRAQ would not -. (1) take place

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That it had been decided to exchange British units in 6 Div with Indian units from IRAQ in two stages -(2)

(i) Five British bns to be replaced by six Indian bns, the change to be completed by 15 Oct. 6 Diy was to re-organize on the basis of one British and two Indian bns per inf bde.

(ii) Orders regarding adm units would be issued later.

Force HQ asked that the five British bns be selected immediately. As far as possible those retained were to have completed their peace time foreign tour. $(\underline{Appx \ ^{H}G^{H}} - SD/143)$

Consequent upon reports being received from 6 Div and (d) 7 Aust Div that the state of tng was satisfactory, these reports were forwarded to Force HQ P & TJ with a covering letter stating GOC 1 Aust Corps concurred generally but considered that neither formation had yet had sufficient tng to classify them fit for mountain warfare, especially under winter conditions. (<u>Appx "G</u>" - G.867)

A letter giving the main engr tasks in connection with (e) defensive works and the engr assistance required was sent to Force HQ.

(Appx "G" - G.871)

An Order of Battle for 1 Aust Corps and att tps was

issued.

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Nil report. (<u>Appx "H</u>" reserved)

(<u>Appx "FF</u>")

plaining the organization of the Free French NON was received from the SPEARS Mission. The lgated to all concerned. "I" - G.902)

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ress report on the preparation of defensive sent to Force HQ P & TJ. DTOPTH - G.903)

Corps and the latter was informed that :-

Regarding the food riots, it was a Free French responsibility to maintain order, but our duty to support the Free French.

(11) 6 Aust Div were to come to DJEDELDE. No date given.

- responsibility for X Corps sector. 6 Div to come under X Corps. (111) HQ X Corps to come to SAFAD (no date given) to assume
- 18 Aust Inf Ede (recently relieved in TOBRUK) to relieve 17 Aust Inf Ede (less 2/2 Aust Pnr En). (iv)

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- The utmost secrecy was to be preserved in regard to any projected plans for the Border. For the present (v) 1 Aust Corps responsibility was to be restricted to SYRIAN territory.
- That it was proposed to move Force HQ to SYRIA, (vi) probably to an area on the coast to the south of BEYROUTH. (Appx "I" - Notes on conference)

(a) The Commission of Control advised that having completed its work, it would close down shortly after the sailing of the 10 Sep (a) last, Vichy French convoy on 12 Sep 41. (<u>Appx "J</u>")

Word was received from the Folitical Offr at LATTAQUIE that discontent was general in the town owing to the high price of food. As in the case of HAMA, the British were blamed for this state of affairs. (Ъ)

(c) A circular was issued to all concerned stating that regular tng for personnel of HQ 1 Aust Corps in use of weapons, drill, and route marching, etc, would commence 13 Sep 41. (<u>Appx "J</u>" - G.915)

A proposed new WE for HQ of an Aust Corps was sent to (đ) HQ AIF (ME). (<u>Appx "J</u>")

Consequent upon 2/9 Aust A Fd Coy being instructed by (e) CE 1 Aust Corps to carry out a very discreet recce of the railway bridge at DJERABLOUS and the ra route from ALEPPO, the BGS sent a letter to the CE stating that he had been instructed personally by BGS Force on 9 Sep that our activities were to be confined to our side of the TURKISH border and that GHQ were responsible for anything beyond. Whilst appreciative of the action we have taken Force HQ desired us to restrict our activity there and to maintain

the utmost secrecy. (<u>Appx "J</u>" - G.917)

(f) 14 Inf Bde Gp commenced to move to its winter location in the QATANA defensive locality.

Aust Corps GS Instn No 3 stressed the necessity, for esons, of all offrs and men being able to establish tw at any moment. This was in order that enemy agents associateding in British, Australian and other Allied and be quickly apprehended. (Appr "K")

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Force HQ issued a circular pointing out that it was rolal that good relations be maintained between the Free French ne carselves. All enemy propaganda aimed at causing bad feeling fould be effectively countered. (Appx "K")

(ĕ)'j A tng instn for sig units was sent out with the object of raising the efficiency of comns within the Corps. (<u>Appx "K"</u> - G.934)

7 Aust Div commenced to concentrate in the TRIPOLI (\mathbf{a}) area in order to : $(\overline{\chi}_{ij}^{2})$

(a) Complete all preliminary preparations and construct the defences of TRIPOLI fortress.

Prepare for delaying action in the area between the TURKISH frontier and TRIPOLI fortress (as far east as, but excl the rd ALEPPO - HAMA - HOMS). (Ъ)

The last regular evacuation convoy for Vichy French 12 Sep (a) sailed from BEIRUT.

(a) In 1 Aust Corps Op Instn No. 34, formations were ordered to forward definite recommendations as to delaying posns between the SYRIAN border and the LEBANON posns so that demolition plans can be co-ordinated and work commenced. The boundary between 6 Div and 7 Aust Div was also 13 Sep

altered slightly.

Recommendations for delaying posns were to be based on the following main considerations :-

- (i) Approx strength of delaying force from each div one inf bde gp.
- (11) An even withdrawal on both div fronts would not be necessary owing to the variation in the suitability of the country for delay on 6 Div and 7 Aust Div fronts. (<u>Appx "M</u>")

It was decided that Corps HQ would remain at ALEY for (b) the winter, and that plans were to be prepared for a greater measure of dispersion. These plans were to include measures for protection against bombing, and also for heating and lighting.

(c) A letter to 6 Div and 7 Aust Div advised that in the LEBANON posn the point of junc (incluto 7 Aust Div) vide 1 Aust Corps Op Instn No. 33 was QORNETT AL ACHRA, and that Div Comds would arrange mutually the co-ordination of their FDLs in this. area.

(<u>Appx "M</u>" - G.954)

(d) A letter was sent to Force HQ advising that the supplies of explosives in the Corps area were dangerously low and requesting that a reserve of 2CO tons be built up forward of, and at ARHs, from which supplies for demolition programmes could be drawn as required.

(Appx "M" - G.966)

(e) A letter was sent to Force HQ requesting that the question of permitting offrs to proceed on leave to TUPKEY in plain clothes be considered. It was stated that previous recce would

yeine and it was recommended that specially selected be granted the necessary facilities. not "M" - G.953)

QHG and CE 1 Aust Corps were advised that the present accommodation were to be continued, but that consideration by given to an extension of these plans on the basis of the incidispositions :

One bde gp ALEPPO Two bde gps QATANA & DILAS

6 Aust Div -Two bde gps DJEDEIDE, BAALBEK, RAYAK and one bde gp MERDJAYOUN, TYR.

Alternatively, three bde gps DJEDEIDE, BAALBEK, RAYAK. (Appx "M" - G.956)

(g) Location statement of 1 Aust Corps and att tps was issued.

(<u>Appx "EE</u>")

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14 Sep (a) 7 Aust Div advised that its HQ would move to TRIPOLI on 18 Sep. (<u>Appx "N</u>")

(b) Signal SD/233 from Force HQ advised that 5 Ind Inf Bde Gp would move to EGYFT to rejoin 10 Ind Div, and that it would be replaced by 3 Ind Motor Bde. Details of the move were given. (<u>Appx "N"</u>)

(c) Force HQ signalled the names of the first three Ind inf bns selected for exchange of British bns in 6 Div. These were from 8 Ind Div. 6 Div were asked to select and report by signal which three British bns were to move and the location for the three Ind bns. (<u>Appx "N</u>")

(d) An amendment to Order of Battle for 1 Aust Corps and att tps was issued. (<u>Appx "FF</u>")

15 Sep (a) 6 Div advised Force HQ that the three British bns to move would be - 2 Queens, 4 Border, 2 Y & L. The three Indian bns would be stationed one at QATANA, one at BAALBEK and one at ALEPPO.

 $(\underline{Appx "0"})$

(b) A blackout was instituted in ALEY.

(c) A message from Force advised that methods of recovery of illicit arms was under review on the highest level. In the meantime no pressure should be used for this purpose. The latter did not preclude voluntary or peaceful surrender of arms. (<u>Appx "0</u>")

16 Sep (a) Force SD/143 of 7 Sep, giving outline plans for the Indianization of 6 Div was cancelled. The following were placed at 12 hrs notice to move :-Adv HQ 6 Div

Adv HQ 6 Div One inf Bde (NOT 23 Inf Bde) HQ & 1 Coy Div Sigs) & LAD 14th Sig Sec)

One fd amb Force HQ suggested that 16 Inf Bde be selected to facilitate the handing over of the defensive plan. 6 Div were ordered to signal immediately which inf bde and fd amb would move. from 6 Div was ordered to report to Force HQ at 1400 for details of the move. **\$**

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Terming order from Force - 4 Aust Hy AA Bty to move to Figurelief by 242 Hy AA Bty. (Appx *P" - SD/256)

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Force HQ advised that the following units were also and by at 12 hrs motice to move :-

One fd coy 219 Fd'Pk Coy 33 Fd Hyg Sec One bde gp coy RASC (Appx "Q")

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(b)% Early in the morning 6 Div signalled that 16 Inf Bde and 173 Fd Amb had been selected to move. (<u>Appx "Q</u>" - 6 Div 40/4)

GOC 1 Aust Corps and GOC 6 Div attended a conference (c) at Force HQ JERUSALEM regarding the move of 16 Bde and other units in 6 Div. At this conference Comd 6 Aust Div said he desired to have 17 Aust Inf Bde at TRIFOLI pending the fwd movt of the remainder of the div.

Message 0/04210 received from MIDEAST advising that -(d)

6 Aust Div Sigs (less 2 & 3 coys) to move to SYRIA (1)to relieve 6 Div Sigs.

18 Aust Inf Bde Gp to move to SYRIA in relief of (ii) 16 Bde Gp.

(iii) 17 Aust Inf Bde (less 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn) to move earliest possible to join 6 Aust Div re-forming in PALESTINE. (Appx "Q")

(e) HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde closed at TRIPOLI and opened at KFAR AKKA 161262. (Appx "Q")

A recce party from 17 Aust Inf Bde was ordered to (f) proceed to contact 16 Inf Ede earliest possible and recce DJEDEIDZ posn.

(<u>Appx "Q"</u> - 0474)

Force HQ HP/SD/284 : (g)

Reps from 18 Aust Inf Ede Gp to report 16 Inf Ede at RAS BAALBEK 18 Sep. Adv parties 18 Aust Inf Bde Gp to arrive RAS BAALBEK (i) -

- (ii) 21 Sep.
- 18 Aust Inf Bde Gp to be ready to move from HADERA to (iii) RAS BAALBEK 23 Sep.
 - (<u>Appx "Q"</u>)

(a) 1 Aust Corps Op Instn No. 35 was issued containing orders to 6 Div for the security of demolition preparations at: 18 Sep (a)

The tunnel 460 ft long near KARA BAHA 237534 Ry viaduct 1000 ft long near HOURA DARA 237528. (i)

(ii) (<u>Appx "R</u>")

CR/PAL/17814/23/SD of 17 Sep contained minutes of the (b) meeting at Force HQ at 1400 hrs 17 Sep.

6 Div was to relieve another div in two stages between-17 to 27 Sep (1) 16 to 26 Oct

* it at present under 6 Div was to move.

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98 copt and vehs was to remain at present location anded over to the incoming div by unit rear .

st to move (to destination "A") was 16 Inf Ede Gp. e parties of this gp to be prepared to move by

Adv parties of 14 & 23 Thf Bde Gps were to commence move to destination "B" on 19 Sep. They were to entrain at HADERA on 21 Sep for "B".

(vi) GII 6 Div to move to "A" on 19 Sep. GOC, ADC, GSO3(I) Rep AQ to proceed with adv parties to "B". Remainder 6 Div HQ to proceed at a later date approx 16 Oct.

(vii) HQ RA 6 Div not to proceed. On departure of GOC 6 Div, CRA to assume comd of all units not proceeding and to hand over the defence plans to the incoming div.

Signal 03484 from Force HQ stated

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Essential that advance parties for destination "A" (1)

embark in 1 ship

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(c)

Every effort to be made to complete embarkation by (11)1200 hrs 19 Sep.

(iii) No ordnance units except LADs to move.

Force signal HP/SD/286 gave ports of embarkation for (d) 👌 destinations "A" and "B" as follows : . . . "A"

BEIRUT	
ALEXANDRIA	

Force HP/SD/294 advised advance parties 6 Aust Div Sigs mov 18 Sep. Advance parties 18 Aust Inf Bde were to include AASC fd park coy and fd amb. (<u>Appx "R</u>")

(f) Force SD/298 advised that as discussed with Gen LAVARACK 10 Corps staff would be located at ALEY under arrangements to be made by 1 Aust Corps. 10 Corps staff would probably arrive about 22 Sep.

1 Aust Corps GS Instn No. 4 was issued on "Camouflage . (g) of Defensive Posns" (Appx "R")

1 Aust Corps G.7 gave the 0 of B for the move of (h)

(<u>Appx "R</u>")

6 Div.

16 InftBde:Gp embarked at BEIRUT for destination "A".

19 Sep (a) 7 Aust Div advised that the frontier control had been taken over by FFL at 1430 hrs 18 Sep. (Appx "S")

A request was sent to 6 Aust Div that Comd 6 Aust Div or the most senior rep visit DJEDEIDE at once to decide boundaries and co-ordinate tentative plans on which decisions were urgently required and which would later be unalterable. 20 Sep (a) (<u>Appx "T"</u> - 0 508)

Force HQ issued orders that 18 Aust Inf Ede Gp would move from PALESTINE to RAS BAALBEK on 22 Sep, arriving on 24 Sep. (Appx "T")

Urt. ort. Treserved)

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Aust Corps left ALEY for CAIRO to attend a

first estimate of the number of pillboxes which uired for defensive posses was sent to Force HQ. <u>ppx "W</u>" - G.1049)

(c) A letter was received from Force HQ P & TJ advising that HQ 10 Corps (less comd) was expected to arrive at ALEY about 26 Sep and that this staff would temporarily be att to HQ 1 Aust Corps. The staff of 10 Corps was to be employed to assist in recce and planning within the area which 10 Corps was likely to

take over. (<u>Appx "W</u>")

(d) A location statement of 1 Aust Corps and attached tps was issued. (<u>Appx "EE</u>")

24 Sep (a)

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(a) A reply was received from Force HQ in answer to the request that offrs be permitted to proceed to TURKEY on leave in plain clothes. Force HQ considered that this would be inadvisable at the present time. (<u>Appx "X</u>" - G.1065)

(b) An Order of Battle for 1 Aust Corps and att tps was issued.

(Appx "FF")

25 Sep (a) A "gleaner" ship sailed from BEIRUT with remnants of the Vichist occupation, both military and civilian. Direct comms between SYRIA and Metropolitan FRANCE were then closed down for the first time since the last war.

> (b) 1 Aust Corps GS Instn No. 5 was issued with reference to duties in aid of civil power. (<u>Appx "Y</u>" - G.1068)

(c) A summary of tng programmes to be undertaken by 6 Div and 7 Aust Div during the period 29 Sep to 12 Oct 41 was sent to Force HQ.

(<u>Appx "Y</u>" - G.1090)

(d) Progress reports on preparations for the defence of SYRIA were sent to Force HQ. (<u>Appx "Y</u>" - G.1080)

26 Sep (a) A progress report on PAD measures throughout 1 Aust Corps area was sent to Force HQ. (<u>Appx "Z"</u> - G.1109)

27 Sep (a) A signal was received from AUSFORCE advising that the comd of all Corps units now in PALESTINE under 6 Aust Div would be passed to AUSBASE. 6 Aust Div were to advise the date and time at which this comd was passed to AUSBASE. (<u>Appx "AA</u>" - Ausforce AD3121G)

(b) 1 Aust Corps G.1112 advised that the GOC AIF (ME) had approved of Aust MG Bns being allotted to Aust Divs, and that as from 22 Sep 41, Aust MG Bns ceased to be Corps Tps. (<u>Appx "AA</u>")

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(c) Our G.1118 to Force HQ gave a brief outline of the progress of defensive works. (Appx "AA")

al to Force HQ advised that Brig C.A. Clowes, would assume temporary comd of 6 Div vice

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BB^H - Austcorps 0 565)

HQ advised that HQ RA 6 Div were now to move to c and advised that he has o biv were now to move to was also to move. I Aust Corps was ordered to select to cond 6 Div and advised that there would be no objection st brigadier being appointed. (Appx "BB" - Force SD/445)

(Aust Div signalled that the comd of all corps units in PALESTINE would be handed over to AUSBASE at 0900 hrs 29 Sep. (<u>Appx "BB</u>" - 6 Aust Div 0/4803)

(d) A letter was sent to Force HQ advising that 18 Aust Inf Bde had completed taking over the equipment of 16 Inf Bde, and that on arrival, 16 and 19 Aust Inf Bdes were expected to relieve and take over the equipment of 14 and 23 Inf Bdes. . (Appx "BB" - G.1136)

(e) 6 Aust Div were advised that its earlier request that 17 Aust Inf Bde (less 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn) should return to PALESTINE had been considered but that it had been decided that it should remain in the LEBANON on account of the present large demands on tpt and the urgent operational necessity of expediting the defences of the LEBANON quadrilateral. (<u>Appx "BB</u>" - G.1129)

(f) A letter was sent to Force HQ urging that for the defence of the DJEDEIDE posn it was considered that four bde gps would be required.

 $(Appx "BB" - G_{1128})$

(g)

Our G.1126 to Force HQ advised

That it had been decided to use the circular design of pill box for fwd inf posts. (1)That work on the QATANA-DIMAS defences would commence (ii)

on 29 Sep. (<u>Appx "BB</u>")

1 Aust Corps issued "Driving points for Offrs and Dvrs". (<u>Appx "BB</u>") (h)

(a) A letter was sent to 6 Div and 7 Aust Div giving the policy for the allotment of the time available as between tng and 29 Sep (a) the construction of defences. Approx two thirds of the time available was to be allotted to the construction of defences so that a minimum of one third would be available for tng. (<u>Appx "CC</u>" - G.1143)

Force signal SD 480 contained a warning order that 23 30 Sep (a) Inf Bde Gp from ALEPPO were to be prepared to move on or after 5 Oct to ALEXANDRIA. Orders for the move of the remainder of 6 Div would be issued later. (<u>Appx "DD</u>")

(b) A letter was sent to 6 Div and 7 Aust Div advising that 18 Aust Inf Bde Gp would relieve 23 Inf Bde Gp in the ALEPPO area, and would take over the equipment of the latter formation. (<u>Appx "DD</u>" - G.1163)

An amendment to 0 of B of 1 Aust Corps and att tps was (c) (Appx "FF") issued.

(d) A location statement of 1 Aust Corps and att tps was (<u>Appx "EE</u>") issued. MULVise hij Ces





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USTCORPS rptd 6 Div MTLPAL HP/SD/86 2 **HOST** SECRET (.) MIDEAST 0/98535 of 1 Sep begins (.) move of 6 Div now most unlikely (.) A/Tk coys will therefore continue training (.) ends Distn by Gion 3 Sep to :-TOO 2015 THI 0020/3 System in - Cipher į IMPORTANT BGS G I AQ TOR 0900/3 4. ₹.

1. C. C. C.

Assumption of Command by HQ Northern L of C District

SECRET

HQ BF in P & TJ CR/PAL/17855/SD 2 Sep 41.

10 Armd Div Northern L of C District

GHQ MEF)
1 Aust Corps					5
5 Cav Bde	84 L	of	С	Sub-area	5
Lydda Area	85 L	of	С	Sub-area)
Jsm Area) for inf.
Haifa Fortress	Area)
All Branches F	orce H	ହ)
Chief Secretar	y, Gov	erni	neı	it of Palestine)
I.G. Police	•••			•)

1. HQ Northern L of C District, as soon as it is formed at ACRE, will take over from HQ 10 Armd Div comd of 84 and 85 L of C Sub-Areas Haifa Fortress Area, 5 Cav Ede and the Desert L of C, and in addition in the civil districts of GALILEE and SAMARIA, and that part of HAIFA Civil District not included in Haifa Fortress Area.

2. HQ 10 Armd Div will move to REHOVOTH, on completion of handing over of the above comd. HQ 10 Armd Div will make arrangements for accommodation of HQ Northern L of C District during the period of taking over.

Handing over will be completed by 1200 hrs 6 Sep.

3.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

HQ Northern L of C District will thereafter be responsible for all local administration in the District as defined in para 1 above.

Location administration covers generally the following:

- (a) Control of all rd movement of tps on the L of C as notified by Force HQ.
- (b) Control of all rd movement of ration and other convoys and of returning empty convoys.
- (c) Accommodation, rations, water and POL as may be necessary for rd convoys.
- (d) Local administration of units located in the

District, including those detailed in para 5 below. (e) Local RE, RASC, Medical and Ordnance Services in the District, as may be necessary for units located in this District, as well as services that may be delegated to the District. HQ, by Force HQ, for the general maintenance of tps in PALESTINE, SYRIA and TRANS-JORDAN.

Operational Comd and Comd of Tps.

(a)

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The OC Northern L of C District will be responsible for defence arrangements within his Bistrict against ground, sea and air attack and for internal security with the tps allotted to him and in accordance with the instructions issued to him from time to time by Force HQ. An exception to this is that within SYRIA and the LEBANON the Free French authorities are responsible for internal security.

- (b) He will assume the duty of Military Commander for GALILEE and SAMARIA Districts for the purposes of Military Control.
- (c) The tps at present lodated in the District are :-

BEIRUT) Bns allotted from 1 Aust Corps DAMASCUS) JEBEL DRUSE) LEBANON) 5 Cav Ede SOUTHERN SYRIA)

SAMARIA - 8 Armd Bde

Various small units

- (d) The Bns allotted from 1 Aust Corps are under the District Commander for all purposes, except general administration for which they remain under HQ 1 Aust Corps.
 HQ 1 Aust Corps will also exercise general supervision over the tng of these units, arranging with the District Commander the tng arrangements in order that they do not conflict with operational and local security requirements.
 (e) <u>5 Cav Bde</u>.
 - Comd 5 Cav Bde is the Commander in the JEBEL DRUSE, for which the District
- Commander has no operational responsibility.
 (f) The District Commander, while responsible for the discipline ot tps in his District will refer to and keep in close touch with formation commanders on general questions of discipline, in view of the close relationship of discipline with tng,
 (g) <u>8 Armd Bde</u>
- (g) <u>8 Armd Bde</u> 8 Armd Bde will remain under Comd of 10 Armd Div for all purposes and will not be called on by the District Comd for any duties without authority of this HQ. Matters of local administration other than discipline will be referred to by Comd 8 Armd Bde to the District Comd as necessary.

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POLITICAL AND CIVIL QUESTIONS

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The District Commander will refer any matter ting civil and political questions in SYRIA, including by or control of essential commodities for the civil pulation to Spears Mission SYRIA, who are responsible to Force HQ for Liaison with the French authorities. Copies of correspondence on these subjects will be sent to Force HQ.

It is important to bear in mind that the French authorities are entirely responsible for the civil administration, and through the French territorial commanders at DAMASCUS and BEIRUT for relations between civil and military authorities.

DELEGATION TO SUB-AREA COMMANDERS

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The district HQ will delegate responsibility to OsC 84 and 85 L of C Sub-Areas, Desert L of C and Town Majors, as the District Commander thinks fit.

(Sgd)	Col	for	
	BGS		

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MOST	SECRET

Copy No 15

4 Sep 41.

1 AUST CORPS OF INSTN No. 33

PREPARATION OF DEFENSIVE LOCALITIES

For the defence of the SUEZ CANAL and our main base in the Middle East defensive localities have been selected in the REBANON and NORTHERN PALESTINE with a view to :

(a) Forcing the enemy to attack our posn in the LEBANON,

(b) or if enemy bypasses this posn, attacking the enemy in flank or severing his comms.

The LEBANON posn offers excellent facilities for protection against AFVs and except for certain localities is "BLITZ" proof. By rendering these localities tank proof the whole posn can be made "BLITZ" proof.

(a)	Localities selected	are	; - .				
	DIMAS - QATANA			for	two	divs	
	DJEDEIDE			for	one	div	
1 - 2	TRIPOLI		·	for	one	div.	

Each of these localities is to be considered a part of the whole posn and in the construction of defences priority is to be given to the front of each locality and NOT to all round defence in the first instance. The posns in each locality will be chosen so that they can be held by the minimum number of A Tk weapons and personnel, thereby creating as big a reserve as possible.

(b) To create a reserve in the DIMAS - QATANA locality the defences on the DIMAS - JEBAL MAZAR posn will be made concurrently with the work in the QATANA GAP so that if necessary this locality can be held by one div.

3. Recent reports from RUSSIA indicate that the enemy is now more inclined to use his Panzer and Inf Divs in close cooperation. Consequently in selecting A Tk defences it is necessary to bear in mind that the object of an attack by AFVs may be to secure high ground for occupation by the inf and for establishment of observation. Hence if the A Tk defences are sited on a reverse slope measures should be taken to ensure that the enemy cannot hold the crest and use it for observation or to support further stages of his attack. Recent experience has shown the value of holding high ground and taught us that no ground is impassable to the enemy and, therefore, that observation of the enemy's movements must be sufficiently in advance of the high ground to permit reserves to forestall the enemy in such areas.

4. Defensive posns will be constructed on the basis that each div will have

(a) one MG Bn att.

2.

(b) one A Tk Regt of 48 guns or its equivalent. It is hoped that in the near future this will be increased to 64 guns. the construction of defences the priority should be -

K Tk defences.

Observation posts and MG posns.

c) Inf localities.

After the front and most likely flank approaches have been provided for attention should be given to approaches from the rear.

2

6. It is important that work on the defences should be commenced at once. This includes the preparation of A Tk obstacles, the laying of mine fds, construction of pill boxes, camouflage, preparation of demolitions and the improvement of comms within the posn. Divs will submit their plans showing the number of A Tk mines, dannert wire, pill boxes and defensive stores required for each locality and will include in the progress return due on the 9th and 25th of each month a statement showing :

(a) Work completed during the period.

(b) Percentage of each nature of work completed to date i.e. A Tk obstacles, mine fds, pill boxes, etc.

(c) Estimate of time required to complete.

H Wells Htel The Brig GS 1 Aust Corps.

ACK

Issued through sigs.

Time of signature <u>1235</u> hrs

DISTRIBUTION

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ISTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET HQ 1 Aust Corps. 5 Sep 41. G.851

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and a start

Defence of EL MINA (TRIFOLI) Harbour

SYRIA) hast Div report that the Senior Naval Cffr in charge

(a) asked to be informed of the (Army) proposals for AA defence of HL MINA port

(b) requested that the Army should consider the extent of co-operation in defending the herbour against attacks by 'E' boats or other types of small craft, and in mine watching.

2. The scale of attack considered by the RN authorities to be possible, is that air or light craft attack may be delivered at any time.

7 Aust Div have been advised that the temperary allotment of one tp of A Tk guns, one pl Bren carriers and one pl of inf for ground defence of the harbour is approved, but that defence by it AA guns, Hy AA guns, searchlights, etc, is the responsibility of HQ P & TJ at the moment and therefore the Maval authorities should take up this matter with HQ P & TJ direct.

(agd) F.E.E. Pris _t-Jen. Jond 1 Aust Corps.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

HQ 1 Aust Corps, 6 Sep 41. G.863

Air Letter Service - Syria.

The extent of the area covered by formations and units of 1 Aust Corps is such that come by DRLS are long and difficult, and in consequence despatches take considerable time to reach their destination. The only means of speeding up deliveries is by the use of an Air Letter Service.

The introduction of an Air Letter Service was discussed by the CSO with the RAF LO when HQ 1 Aust Corps was at SAFAD and the latter saw no difficulty in providing aircraft for a daily service.

The route suggested is -

EEYROUTH - TRIPOLI - LATTAQUIE - ALEPPO - DEIR EZ ZOE -PALMYRA - HOMS - RAYAK - DAMASCUS - JENIN - DEVROUTH

With the coming of the wet weather rd conditions will become more difficult and delays in deliveries, which already exist, will be increased.

For these reasons it is strongly recommended that steps be taken to organize and provide an ALS on the lines suggested.

> Lt-Gen. Comd 1 Aust Corps.

> > <u>(</u>, _____





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PLOOP STATES

MESSAGE IN

NV rptd AUSTCORPS

SD/143

7.

my SD/127 of 6 Sep (.) first (.) move of 16 Inf Bde will NOT repeat NOT take place (.) second (.) decided Indian exchange 6 Div by exchange of British units with Indian units of formation in IRAQ in 2 stages (.) (a) 5 British bns from 6 Div to be replaced by 6 Indian bns to be completed by 15 Oct (.) 6 Div to reorganize on basis of one British two Indian bns per inf bde (.) (b) administrative unit details later (.) 6 Div will NOT repeat NOT be required send any to IRAQ (.) third (.) 6th British bn is being found by GHQ (.) order about GZECH bn later (.) fourth (.) regarding selection 5 British bns consider (a) retention one British bn of each existing inf bde (b) retention if possible bns who have completed peace time (foreign service tour ?) (.) fifth (.) signal immediately bns selected (.) sixth (.) warning order AA & QMG 6 Div will be required short notice fly GHQ for conference (.) date later (.)/ACK seventh (.) TOO 1910

DISTRIBUTED by G on 8 Sep to -GOC BGS G I A Q CCRA CSO CE DDST DDMS ADOS

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MOST IMMEDIATE

SECRET

HQ 1 Aust Corps, 7 Sep 41. G.867

STATE OF TRAINING

Ref CR/PAL/16151 of 19 Aug 41.

The report on the state of tng of 6 Div and

7 Aust Div are att.

E TJ ATP (NB)

6 Div are well supplied with arms and equipment, having been built up recently for an operational task. :2.

3. 7 Aust Div report is divided into parts A & B. Part A covering units which normally form part of 7 Aust Div, Part B units under comd which do not normally form part of 7 Aust Div.

Att to the report are two appxs. Appx A shows major deficiencies in weapons, vehs, and other G 1098 items for 7. Aust Div (less tps det from cond) and Appx B gives similar infm in respect of the under comd 7 Aust Div.

5. I concur generally in the report as to the fitness of 6 Div and 7 Aust Div but I consider these formations have not had sufficient tng to classify them fit for mountain warfare, especially under winter conditions.

(Sgd) J.D. Lavarack Lt-Gen Cond 1 Aust Corps

Note-

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W.

7 Aust Div report only att to HQ AIF (ME) copy

AUSTRALIAN INFERIAL FORCE

HQ 1 Aust Corps, 7 Sep 41. G.871

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SECRET

(UE) De TJ (for infm)

DEFENSIVE WORKS & ENGR ASSISTANCE.

The main tasks for which 1 Aust Corps is responsible tion which engrs are already employed are :-

2.

(1) Road programme which includes all the main rds in. LEBANON and NORTH SYRIA.

(11) Reconstruction of bridges.

(111) Construction of camps for winter.

(1V) Preparation of demolition plans.

المبتائه بالمقدد أعدام أرفيا المستحق ألله المتأج المتحاج وصوبت أطيرتهم الأيتية ويستعرف وتقليك

In addition defensive and delaying posns have to be 2. constructed as follows :-• • • • . . 14

(a) DEFENSIVE

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3. 4

- QATANA DIL'AS JEBAL MAZAR for two divs (1)
- (11) DJEDEIDE
- (111) TRIPOLI

(b) DELAYING.

(1) ALEPPO line

(11) HAMA - BANIAS line.

It is estimated that provided extra engr assistance is provided six months will be required to complete these posns. Consequently it is suggested that when 17 Aust Inf Bde is releived by 18 Aust Inf Bde that 2/2 Phr Bn should remain and that further that another field company, preferably 2/2/ Fd Coy, should be made available.

Lt-Gen Cond 1 Aust Corps. 3 Ì,

- for one Div

- for one div

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1		AUSTRALIAN IMPERIA	AL FORCE	SECRET.	*. •
		AUDIMADIAN IMIMA	HI POROD	HQ 1 Aust Corps,	
				9 Sep 41. G. 902.	
	ORGANIZ	LATION OF FFF IN SY	RIA AND THE L		
	The fol	Llowing letter expla	aining the or	ganization of the	
	MISSION.	the LEBANON has been	I received i	H. Wells H.G.	,
X				GS 1 Aust Corps.	
	Distribution :		•	· · · ·	
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	Headqua rters, British Forces in	n Pelestine & TJ	• • ·	:	
	military organiza quarters have iss is the gist.	er to clarify the s ation of SYRIA and sued an explanatory	the LEBANON, note, of whi	Free French head- ich the following	
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14 (24) 14 (24	COLLET at BEYROUT	mmanders are Col CA TH, ALEPPO and DAMA ill be appointed sho	SCUS respecti	vely. It is likely	, JX•
: - 	zone commanders o zone commanders r	C-in-C, FFF will exp over French troops at now have troops at sibilities for the mary purposes.	and 'troupes their dispose	speciales", and that with which to ca	ne
•	Zone Cormander at	is already a liaison t ALEPPO, and if am re will also be lia:	endments to t	the war establishme	the ent
	Beyrouth 7/9/41.		(Sgd)	A.L. BARTER Lt-col Military Section	1 GS

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AUSTRAILAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

HQ 1 Aust Corps, 9 Sep 41. G. 903

PROGRESS REPORT - PREPARATION OF DEFENSIVE LOCALITIES

The following summarises the progress made to date.

2. QATANA

- (a) Location A Tk obstacles and A Tk guns decided.
- (b) Detailed recce by 14 Inf Bde commenced.
- (c) Arty svy has started.
- (d) Fd coys preparing tracks for bn camp sites.
- (e) Work on defence works has not commenced.

3. DJEDEIDE

- (a) Line of defence decided/
- (b) Detailed recce by 16 Inf Bde in progress.
- (c) Arty svy completed.
- (d) & (e) As in para 2.

TRIPOLI

5.

- (a) Div outline plan completed.
- (b) Inf Bde outline plans approved after adjustment.
- (c) Final racce now in progress.
- (d) Defence works due to commence 11 Sep 41.
- Frd delaying role.
- (a) 7 Aust Div outline plan for frontier area is complete.

(b) 7 Aust Div Eav Regt recce of this area in progress.

Lt-Gen Cond 1 Aust Corps.

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4. The utmost secrecy is to be preserved in regard to any projected plans for the Border. No trucks or transport are to be tied up and at present our responsibility is to be restricted to SYRIAN territory.

5. It is proposed to move Force HQ to SYRIA, but EGS said they will not go to BEYROUTE, but probably to an area on the coast to the South of BEYROUTH.



mission of Control - Closing down of

Commission of Control Aley

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10 Sep 41 Commission of Control has completed its work and the of the sub committees have been received, it will be down shortly after the sailing of Convoy Bl on 12 Sep 41.

No fresh business will be brought before the Commission of Control after 1800 hrs on 14 Sep 41.

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3. From 15 to 19 Sep 41, the office staff of the Commission of Control will check files and prepare records, this work being done in the present offices of the Commission.

4. Onl7 Sep 41, Capt Milner-Barry will be temporarily att to the Spears Mission, as liaison offr between the Spears Mission and the TFL. Capt Milner-Barry will have his office in H2 1 Aust Corps building at ALEY. Capitaine Magne will assist Capt Milner-Barry. Sgt Free will accompany Capt Milner-Barry.

5. Lt-Col Blackburn will keep in touch with Capt Milner-Barry in order to investigate any questions arising out of the repatriation of military personnel by the 'gleaner' boat, such as the opting of the Indo Chinese tps of the "Train de Baggage."

6. General Chrystall will leave on a tour of inspection on 15 Sep 41 and will return to ALEY on 19 Sep 41. He will be accompanied by Lt-Col Piennes. ι.

7. Gen Chrystall will visit the present offices of the Commission of Control on 20 Sep 41. in order to clear up any outstanding matters.

E. . Gen Chrystall, accompanied by Maj Hackett, will proceed to -JERUSALEM on 21 Sep 41.

9. Force HQ will arrange for three rooms to be put at Gen Chrystall's disposal from 21 Sep 41.

10. SQMS Humphrey and two clerks will proceed to JERUSALEM on 21 Sep 41. SQMS Humphrey will take with him all office equipment and stationery not required by Capt Milner-Barry. The 15 cwt truck allotted to the Commission of Control will be used for this purpose. On arrival in JERUSALEM the truck and driver will be returned to their unit.

11. Capt Milner-Barry will arrange for all OR personnel att to the Commission of Control, not mentioned in paras 4 and 10 to be returned to their units on 21 Sep 41. He will errange tpt and rations with HQ 84 L of C Sub Area.

12. The present offices of the Commission of Control and furniture (ground floor) will be handed over by Maj Talbot to the Hirings offr during the afternoon of 21 Sep 41. Maj Talbot will arrange for the return of typewriters and office furniture to the FF in the case of those articles which belong to them.

The offices on the second flowr of the present Commission of Control building will be vacated by sub committees by 18 Sep 41. Maj Talbot will arrange to hand back this accommodation to the Hirings offr on 19 Sep 41. He will hand over to the FF all furniture and offr on 19 Sep 41. He will hand over to the FF all furniture and eqpt belonging to them. The Naval Adviser's office will be handed over at the same time

as the above.

Maj Townsend will make arrangements with HQ 1 Aust Corps for an office to be placed at his disposal in HQ 1 Aust Corps building.

14. The Plymouth car allotted to the Commission of Control will be retained by Capt Milner-Barry, who will arrange with HQ 84 L of C Sub Area for a driver to replace Tpr Townsend. Tpr Townsend will be returned to his unit under arrangements made by Lt-Col Fiennes.

t's billet at AIN SOFAR will be handed back to the by Major Talbot on morning 22nd September, 1941.

committees who have not already done so will hand in their for Telbot at the Commission's present offices before magnight. Personnel of Sub committees will return to massas soon as reports have been handed in. Presidents of ties will inform Cantain Milner-Barry of their addresses cuestions should arise which require reference to them. esidents of sub committees will arrange for the return to their Tresidents of sub committees will arrange for them, as soon as their work is completed. Civilian clerks will be discharged. Sub committee

No. 13 (Fublic Utilities) will submit their report to General Chrystall in JERUSALEM after 21st September, 1941. · · ·

17. Major Talbot will be free to take up his duties as Town Major, BEIRUT, on 25th September, 1941.

18:- For the purpose of making all entarkation arrangements for the 'gleaner' boat and hospital ship on 24th and 25th September, 1941, the following skeleton staff will be maintained at the Base Militaire and Base Navalo :-

> Capitaine Rayssac Lieutenent Pinon Lieutenant Audimar Lieutenant de Vaisseau Burnand

Captain Salaman, Force H.Q. Lisison Officer, will supervise 11.1 work at the Ease Militaire.

During the period 12th to 22nd September, 1941, the offices of the Embarkation Board will only open during the morning.

The Emberkation Board have held their last meeting.

19. General Chrystall and Lieut Colcnel Fiennes will return to BEIRUT on 26th September, 1941, for a final meeting of the Commission of Control, which will be held at the Grand Hotel, AIN SOFAR, at 1500 hrs. Captain Milner-Barry will make the necessary arrangement for the meeting.

General Chrystall will be present at the sailing of the 'gleaner" boat on the evening of 27th September, 1941.

> (Sgd) R.T.W. FIENNES Lt-Col. For Major-General -President, Commission of Control.

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DBF. DISTRIBUTION Force HQ (2) HQ 1 Aust Corps (12) HQ 10 Armd Div DBF. HQ 10 Armd Div HQ 84 L of C Sub Area HQ 85 L of C Sub Area General de Verdilhac General de Larminat Naval Adviser President, Embarkation Board Lieut Colonel Blackburn, V.C. Major Townsend Major Talbot Hirings Officer Attd HQ 1 Aust Corps: Attd HQ 1 Aust Corps:
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

at gari

HQ 1 Aust Corps, behilton a 10 Sep 41.

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G. 915

HEDRE LOC CONKIE

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL - HQ 1 AUST CORPS

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It has been decided to onstitute regular the for Corps no personnel in use of weapons, drill, route marching etc.

So that tng may be thorough, 7 Aust Div is providing two sgt instructors from inf units for this purpose. These instructors will report to HQ 1 Aust Corps on 11 Sep.

3. Tmg will commence on Sat 13 Sep. 4. HOURS FOR TNG

- (a) 0800 0900 hrs.) (c) 11. 19505. 1115 - 1215 45)Every day except 11400 - 1500 16) SUNDAY. 1400 - 1500 16) SUNDAY. 1615 - 1715 16)
 - (b) 1930 2030 hrs Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays.
 - (c) Personnel must be on parade at the first mentioned tome for each tng hour
 - 5. PERSONNEL TO ATTEND is share and of acitles al soltoustant
 - All ORs (incl WOs) on strength of Corps HQ (incl those att) except gd pl, sigs personnel and cooks.
 - 6. SYSTEM OF THG

 (a) 25% of strength of each office, branch, service or subjunit/will attend each of the ples as set out in para 4 (a) above and each of the parades set out in 4 (b). Thus all personnel will receive one hrs instn each day; and one hours night instn oper week.

- 11 100 - 201 MILES

(b) Each office, branch, service and sub-unit etc will submit to Camp by 1700 hrs 12 Sep a roster showing which of their personnel will attend a particular pde (incl night parades). Ammendments will be notified to Camp as required. Mess Secs will make out the required roster for batmen of offrs in their mess, and will also include mess staffs other that cooks.

- (c) Personnel absent without an adequate excuse wilf be dealt with. (acidoo f) gass (200
- (d) It is the responsibility of each office, branch etc to see that their own personnel attend. It is emphasised that this tng will be successful only if full co-operation is received from all branches and services.

(e) The attendance of tpt personnel will be arranged by the Tpt Offr, who is not required to submit a roster. Numbers to attend will vary according to the number available on any particular day.

- 2 -CONCELLATION 7. PLACE OF PARADE Will be notified by Camp in ROs. Lignod daug. 1 SYLLABUS OF WORK 8. 3 m m 1977 (M. 1 Will be prepared weekly in advance and will published daily in Ros utidens company is sound is sound in the sound is sound in the sound is sound is an as is and is a sound is a **Eill** be notified in ROs in the second 6 T T 10. INSTRUCTORS Instructors available for various subjects are as follow : BUD SOE LIVER Weapon Tng) (a) Capts & Lieuts of Corps HQ Drill The state of Corps HQ PT when called upon. Route Marching) (b) Tow sgt instra from 7 Aust Div. (a) (b) Map reading for Dvrs - "I" Offrs 1.13 aurstall. Tech Offr CW (c) Anti-Gas Tng MAP READING FOR TPT PERSONNEL SC 32' Control to 1 101 11. In addition to the normal training for tpt personnel, instruction in map reading will take place as follows . . - 320, ¹⁴ (a) 2000 - 2100 hrs on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (To commence on Monday 15 Sep 41) Ċ., STERE (SP) HERELE **(b)** Place - Tpt billet. _ _ (c) Tpt Offr will arrange/one third of total tpt personnel to attend each lecture and will prepare a roster accordingly

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(d) Practical work during daylight hours will be

(d) Practical work during daylight hours will be provided for by arrangement between Tpt Offr and the instructor concerned. State from (d) of tellion of the structure of the concerned of the structure between of the structure (selence the ford) Brig. Bertweet of the structure shell to the structure of GS 1: Aust Corps. DISTRIBUTION For the tell to formate the structure of the structure of the structure structure structure of the structure of th

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HEADQUARTERS OF A CORPS

WAR ESTABLISHMENT

(1) <u>Personnel</u>

Vehicles Personnel Staff ser-geants and sergeants NOl-ton NOend. g Bicycles cycles ent ŝ 15 Officer Detail Motor f11 Total Varre off10 Rank Vans Ø Vans Vans Cers ut1 (j) (1) (ъ) (a) (f) (h) (1)(k) (a) (c) (e) (g) Commander (lieutenantgeneral) l 1 ŀ 2 2 Aides-de-camp (captains) ---STAFF GENERAL STAFF BRANCH 1 Brigadier 1 1 Operations General staff officers 2nd grade (lieutenant-Colonels)2 2) General staff officers 3rd 1 2) grade (majors) (a) 2 General staff officer 3rd grade (captain)(learner) 1 1 Clerks (trade group III) (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 7 10 5 Orderlies 5 5 Intelligence General staff officer 2nd grade (lieutenant-colonel) 1 General staff officer 3rd grade (major) 1) l 1) (c)2(e)3 Clerks (trade group III) 1 6 Draughtsmen (trade group I) (f)23 1 1 (c)1 1 Map Issuer BRANCH OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL AND QUARTER-MASTER-GENERAL Deputy adjutant quartermaster general (brigadier) 1 1 1

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	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(1)	(j)	(k)	(1)	
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MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS		1					ļ]]	
	1	1	1	.								
Lisison	ł	1		ļļ			ļ	ļ]	
General staff officer	_	1	1		-	,	1				ſ	
(lieutenant-colonel)	11	1			비	1	j				}	
General staff officers (majors)	2		ļ		2		2			1		
General staff officer 3rd	1	1	1		7		-			1	}	
grade (air liaison	l										ļ	
intelligence)	11	1	[1		ł			1	}	
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Legal staff officer (lieutenant-colonel)	1				ר					1		
Major (legal staff)	ĺi	1			1 1 2		ľ				Ì	
Clerks (trade group III)] _	1	(c)1	(e)1	2		ļ					
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Attached	1	1]		[1	Į	
Medical officers (one major	ŧ	1	[]	[_ [1	{	
two captains)	3)	~~ ~ ¹	3			3		1		
Medical officers' orderlies				(h) 3	3 3 2	2		[Į	[
Chaplains 3rd class (i)	2	1			~	4	1			}	ļ	
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(a)	(b)	- (c)	<u>3 -</u> (a)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h).	(1)	(j)	(k)	(1)	
SERVICES								<u> </u>		,,	<u> </u>	
Survey	·		Ì									
Assistant director of survey (lieutenant-colonel)			Į				_					
RAE) Captain, RAE			_		1		1					
Sergeant Sappers (technical) RAE			1	3	1 3							
Supplies and Transport Deputy director of supplies									ļ			
and transport (colonel) Deputy assistant director	1	j		ļ	1	1						
of supplies (lieutenant- colonel)]	ł	Į) 1)							-
Deputy assistant director of transport (lieutenant-			Ì			GI						
colonel) Major AASC (requisitioning	1				1))					_		
duties) Captain AASC (ammunition	1				Ŋ					1		
duties) Adjutant AASC (captain)	1	ļ		_	1 1 3					1		
Motorcyclists Clerks (trade group III)		1	l	3 (j)7						3		
Medical Deputy director of medical												
services (colonel) Deputy assistant director	1				1	1						
of medical services (major) Deputy assistant director	1				l							
of hygiene (major) Assistant director of	1				1							
dental services (lieutenant colonel)	1		-		1			1				
Clerks AAMC (trade group III)			(k) 2	(e)4	6							-
Dental personnel			1	(e) 2	3		-					
<u>DDOS Staff</u>										•		
Deputy director of ordnance services (colonel) Assistant director of	1				ı	1						
ordnance service (ordnance officer 2nd class)												
(lieutenant-colonel) Assistant director of	1				1							
ordnance services (OME lst class)(lieutenant-								·				
colonel) Ordnance officer (IOO)	1				l	1						
(captain) Ordnance officer 4th class	1				1		ļ			l		
(captain) Clerks (trade group III) Armament artificer	l	(1) 2 1	ا بـT(c)	(a) 8	1							
Ammunition examiner Draughtsman, mechanical		-	(c)1		1 1							
(trade group I)				ı	1							
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		- 4	<u> </u>									
(a)	(b)	(ā)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(1)	
DADOS Staff Deputy assistant director of ordnance services (00 3rd class)(major) Deputy assistant director of ordnance services	1				1	(g)l						
(OME 2nd class)(major) Ordnance officer, 4th class (captain) Clerks (trade group III) Storemen	1	(1) 3	(m) 2	(e) 5 (e) 4	1 10 4					3		and a selection of the second s
Provost Assistant provost marshal (major) Corps traffic officer (fmajor) Clerks Motor cyclist orderlies (AA-Pro Corps)	1			(n) 2 2	1 1 2 2	1 E`J				2		
<u>Postal</u> Deputy assistant director of postal services (major Clerk (postal) (trade group III)	1			1	1 1	1				-		
<u>Labour</u> Assistant director of labo (major) Staff captain Clerks (trade group III)	nur 1		(c) 1	2	1 1 3	(g)1						
<u>Salvage</u> Salvage control officer (captain) <u>Local administrative</u> appointments	Ĩ				1			1				
Camp commandant (major) Assistant camp commandant (captain) Quarter-master (captain) Transport officer (lieutenant AASC)	1 1 1 (0)	L			1 1 1			1		1		
Regimental sergeant-major (warrant officer class I) Regimental quarter-master sergeant Orderly room sergeant Pay sergeant (AAPC) Ration corporal Clerks (trade group III) Storeman Orderly		1	(c) J 1	1 (p)3 1 1	1 1 1 3 1					1		
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u> Batmen (q) Batmen-drivers (r) Butcher (trade group III)				67 2 1	67 2 1							
Cooks (q) 7 officers' messes 2 sergeants' messes Rank and file (s) Drivers MT AASC Drivers MT 1st class AASC			1	14 2 (e)7 (t)6	14 2 8 62	10		1		1		
			ł	6					!			. 2

- 5 -(g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (1)(b) (c) (d) (e) (f) General duty men - (q) (v)1 (w)13 14 7 officers messes 2 2 2 sergeants messes 5 5 Rank and file (9) 8 8 LMG detachments Orderlies (o) Sanitary duties (o) **(**x)40 40 40 4 4 2 2 Tater duties (q) č Total, headquarters of a (7) . . 49: 16 3 9 2 25 323 433 l 30 70 15 corps (including attached) ~ ~ ~ ~ (ii) <u>Transport</u> (z) 49 Bicycles 16 Motorcycles (EE) 26 Cars DS Cars Utility Vens 12-cwt 7 (aa) 3 9 Vans 15-cwt Vans 15-cwt water tank 1 2 Vans 1-ton (bb) Vens 1-ton for AA detachments 4 Lorry 30-cwt water tank 1 3 Lorries 3-ton GS (iii) Table of weapons and ammunition Ammunitions (rounds) Detail Number On man or In reserve Total with gun 12 Pistols .455 inch (cc)86 516 1548 334 Rifles .303 inch 20 7000 13,680 A Tk Rifles .55 inch 4 200 160 960 Light Machine Guns .303 inch 12 1000 6000 18,000 . . . Sub-machine Guns ,455 inch; ₫ ? ? ? **_**, н н<mark>ы</mark> н

n 1939- 194 · · · , 6 ludes one for chemical warfare harrant officers class I (b) (c) Includes or is a staff sergeant (d) Includes 2 corporals (e) Includes or is a corporal Corporals (f) (g) Car utility (h) Lance-corporals (i) Fool for allotment to the Corps area by the senior chaplains. Chaplains 4th class will be provided on the scale of one per 1000 in corps troops. The number in the establishment will be varied according to this scale. One car DS and batmandriver will be provided for every additional chaplain (j) Included 3 corporals (k) Includes 1 staff sergeant. 1 sgt is attached to (1): Warrant officers class I. Includes one conductor (j) (k) 1 sgt is attached to 2nd Echelon AIF (m) Includes one staff sergeant for MT census duties and one sorgeant for DADOS(E) (n) One corporal and one lance-corporal In charge of AASC drivers and vehicles at Corps HQ (0) Includes 2 corporals - one is attached to 2nd Echelon AIF (p) May be provided from personnel unfit for general service with (q) fighting units (r) For chaplains (s) Includes spare cooks for allotment within Corps HQ (t) Includes 4 corporals (u) (v) NOT for permanent allotment For GOC's mess (w) Corporals. 6 for duty as mess corporals and 7 for duty as NCOs 1/c mess batmen (x) 8 orderlies for allotment to each of five operating sections of Corps Signals. The number of orderlies includes 2 corporals and 3 lance-corporals (y). At least 12 men will be trained in anti-gas duties and 6 men in first eid (z) Affiliated to Corps Petrol Park AASCfor maintenance, repair and replacement (aa) Includes 20 (15 DS and 5 utility allotted to personnel Corps HQ and 10 (8 DS and 2 utility) as a pool. All to be fitted with sliding root (bb) Fitted with central Motley mountings 2 (cc) All officers, warrant officers class I, pay sergeant and personnel mounted on motorcycles are armed with pistols. The remainder less AAMC personnel and batmen-drivers are armed with rifles NOTE 1. Additional transport and drivers to move personnel and equipment of Corps HQ, will be provided by Reserve MT Company 2. Kessing facilities for HQ Corps Artillery, HQ Corps Troops Engineers and Corps Section Intelligence Corps are provided by Corps HQ NOTES ON FIRST REINFORCEMENTS AND ATTACHED PERSONNEL First reinforcements for this headquarters will be detailed under instructions from 2nd Echelon AIF Attached -Intelligence Corps - See WE of Intelligence Corps in Vol III

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G.917

BGS Force HQ instructed me personally on 9 Sep 41 that our activities were to be confined to our side of the border and that GHQ were responsible for anything beyond. Whilst appreciative of the action we have taken Force HQ desire us to restrict our activity there and to maintain the utmost secrecy.

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10 Sep 41.

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(sgd) F.H. BERRYMAN BOS



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

HQ 1 Aust Corps 11 Sep 41. G.932

1 Aust Corps GS Instn No 3

IDENTITY - MEANS OF ESTABLISHING

For Security Reasons every offr and man in the Middle East must be able to establish his identity at any moment so that enemy agents and others masquerading in British, Australian or other Allied uniforms may be quickly apprehended

2. Control posts on the SYRIAN/PALESTINE frontier and road controls on several roads in SYRIA and PALESTINE have been established to check up on passengers in military The FSS are in charge of this control which is a vehs. necessary security measure, and all ranks must give them every possible assistance in carrying out their duties.

3. British offer are required to have an identification card, British ORs their pay books (AB 64).

In the case of Australian offrs and ORs the pay book (Form WF5) 4. is sufficient provided that the pay book contains the offr's or man's photograph as a means of identification.

5. Official photographers of Military History and Infm Secs are now attached to each Australian Div and to 1 Aust Corps. All formations and units will arrange through these photographers to have photographs taken in order to complete all pay books in this respect, as early as possible.

Senior offrs over the rank of Colonel who wish to have 6. identity cards in addition to pay books should obtain two copies of their photographs and forward same to I Sec 1 Aust Corps who will arrange with Force HQ for the necessary Identity Cards to be completed and issued.

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DISTRIBUTION -
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HQ AIF Base Area HQ AIF Reinforcement Depot

GSI/B/P/4920.

NOTE ON CONDITIONS IN SYRIA

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G.S.I. <u>30/8/41.</u>

(Ref. para 2 CR/PAL/27689/A of 24th Aug)

1. Now that SYRIA and the LEBANON have been occupied by Allied and Imperial Forces, it is important that all ranks should be acquainted with conditions in the country.

2. The Civil Government and administration of the country are in the hands of the Free French. The subordinate administrative personnel, police and gendarmerie are mainly Syrians and Lebanese taken over from the Vichy French administration.

3. The British and Imperial forces in occupation of the country are generally in support of the Civil Power for internal security. In certain special areas, the local British Military Commander has overriding authority, in security matters, over the French administration.

A large section of the civilian population at first expected that the country would be administered by the British. Their disappointment is being thoroughly exploited by enemy propaganda in an attempt to cause bad feeling between the Free French and ourselves. In the interests of internal security, it is most important that this propaganda should be effectively countered. It is the duty of all ranks of the British and Imperial forces in SYRIA, whether on leave or duty, to do all in their power to this end. British visitors will probably be approached "confidentially" by local inhabitants, who will say how much they detest the French and how much they would prefer a British regime. Talk on these lines is, under existing circumstances, pure German propaganda and should therefore be scotched at once. It is the responsibility of everyone, British and French alike, to make it clear that we are allies and to discourage any attempt to divide us.

5. The Syrian is a born politician and will lose no opportunity of trying to interest outsiders in internal Syrian politics. Expressions of sympathy or the reverse should be avoided. Our only interest in Syrian politics is the guarantee of independence given by the British Government, which will in due course materialise by direct negotiations between the Free French Authorities and the Syrians and Lebanese themselves.

6. Officers on leave can do much to improve relations between ourselves and the Free French authorities. For many years, in spite of good Franco-British relations elsewhere, the French in SYRIA have suspected us of territorial ambitions there. Such suspicion dies hard, but can best be killed by personal and friendly contact between French and British individuals.

7. The official rate of exchange is 8.80 Syrian Pounds to the Pound Palestinian. This rate is obtainable at Banks and from the Command Paymaster on advances,

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

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TRAINING INSTRUCTION - SIGNALS

It is essential that every effort be made to raise the efficiency of comms within the Corps.

Formations will take action to implement the following recommended Signal activities within their comds:-

DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

(a) Offra Lectures:

Tactical, technical and - Night lectures administrative

(b) NCOs Lectures:

Lectures for NCOs on tactics and general educational subjects

(c) <u>NCO Course</u>:

Signals Specialist Refresher and uplift Course

(d) Trade Courses:

Signal specialist qualifying course

For potential NCOs. Continuous series of courses to be conducted

Night lectures

Continuous progressive syllabus to be prepared for each Trade, covering period found necessary to coach candidates to required standard. These courses may be interrupted, but must be resumed whenever possible.

SIGNAL SECTIONS - Nos 2 & 3 Coys

In addition to routine comm and other duties, Signal Section Offrs should conduct activities as under:-

(a) <u>UPLIFT COURSE</u>:

Maintain specialists up to standard. Improve technical education of all signalmen

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Duties to be arranged to relieve candidates for duration of the course

(b) <u>Refresher Course</u>:

Trade training for - Coaching candidates for Regimental Signallers Specialist qualifications REGIMENTAL SIGNALLERS

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3. It is the duty of Divisional Signals to assist in the tng of Regimental Signallers, and the following types of courses should be held directly under the supervision of Divisional Signals:-

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(a) Regt NCO Course:

Regt Sig Specialist Refresher and U-lift Course

N. 13.54-1

(Ъ) Regt Sig Course No 1 Signallers Specialist Qualifying Course ·

(c) Regt Sig Course No 2 Signallers Specialist Qualifying Course

For Inf candidates

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for its duration.

(d) <u>Signallers Course</u>

Basic Ing

4.

Course for potential signalmen C ndidates on scale of 4 per Bn Continuous courses for 6 weeks duration.

For potential NCOs of Cav, Arty and Inf Signallers who should be attached to the Course and

come under control of Div Sigs

For Cav and Arty candidates

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SIGNAL EXERCISES

(a) Divisional Signals should organize a Signals Field Exercise once a month, to last atleast 48 hrs. Such exercises should be confined to an area whichwill permit of ready supervision and inspection by Staff and Signal Offrs, yet must not be so cramped as to introduce unreal conditions, and should include comms down to Bn HQ.

(b) Fd Regt and Inf Bde Sig Sec offrs should also organise field Signal Exercises once a month for periods of not less than 48 hours. Such exercises should include communications from Fd Regts to 0 Ps; and from Inf Bdes to Coys.

(c) In both cases, all personnel who can be made available from normal communication and other essential routine duties must be released to attend these exercises.

GENERAL

5. Officers commanding divisional signals are responsible for the organisation and training of signals personnel throughout their Division. Unit HQ as well as Coy HQ, must give all possible support to Section Officers in the conduct of Regimental Courses 5. and Exercises.

Signals personnel must be freed from all but essential duties so that maximum time can be devoted to their training. In this respect attention is drawn to C.218 of 3 Jul 41. (Ing and employment of Sigs personnel).

Al Berequian Brig

GS 1 Aust Corps.

Copies for Infm HQ P & TJ HQ AIF (ME) 6 Aust Div

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8 Aust Div 2 HQ AIF(ME) Reinft 9 Aust Div 2 HQ AIF (HE) Base Area 2 Depot - 3



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13 Sep 41.

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Formations will fud definite recommendations as to delaying posns to be held between the SYRIAN border and the LEBANON posns so that demolition plans can be co-ordinated and work commenced.

Recommendations should be based on the considerations given below.

The inter-div boundary is altered to:-

All incl 7 Aust Div, RIVER KARA SOU and its tributary from ALAQUEUZ 2354 to ITCH ADA 2150 thence JISR EL HADID 2147 and RIVER ORONTE and its tributary to JEIR JEMLE 2035 thence rd MASSIAF 2034 - BARCHINE 2032 - CHINE 2131 thence KITZLAKER STA 2130 - trig 830 2129 - trig 1375 2028 - trig 2215 1927 - trig 2254 1927 - QORNETT EL ACHRA 1926 - trig ARASSIA 1825 thence SW along the watershed of the LEBANGE Range.

Pt of june on LEBANON posn incl 7 Aust Div QORNETT EL ACHRA 191266

Approx strength of delaying force from each div - one (a) fnf bde gp.

(b) The variation in the suitability of the country for delay on 6 Div and 7 Aust Div fronts is so great that an even withdrawal on both div fronts is NOT necessary. i.e. 7 Aust Div can withdraw with or after but NOT before 6 Div.

The principle to be followed is that advantage will be taken of every favourable posn so that delay and casualties may be inflicted on the enemy. In a number of defiles the following force should be sufficient for this purpose -

> one inf coy in MT / one tp 25 prs one sec A Tk guns det engrs

- (c) The country west of the RIVER ORONTE in 7 Aust Div area is suitable for delay action and except for rd entrances is practically tank proof; an enemy could be denied the use of the coastal rd, provided the few entrances to the coastal area from the east are held, even though 6 Div tps have had to withdraw further to the south.
- The coastal area held in this way will provide sally (d) ports from which small forces can issue and attack the enemy's comns in the HAMA-HOMS area and to the north of that area.
- To secure the flank of forces operating fwd in the (e): coastal area a posn, the defence of which would deny the enemy the use of the approach along the rd HOMS-TRIPOLI, must be held.
- 7 Aust Div will recce and report on suitable areas for (f) this task.

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Preparations for demolitions have been made on the ry -

(a) In the ry tunnel near KARA BAHA 237534

(b) Ry viaduct near HOURA DARA 237528

6 Div will provide guards to secure these preparations from interference and for the hut (mar the tunnel) in which the explosives for (a) are stored.

Further orders will be issued to 6 Div when the charges are laid.

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Issued through Sigs Time of signature (525 hrs

Berupuan Brig. GS 1 Aust Corps.

Distribution -

As for Op Instn No 33

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE SECRET HQ 1 Aust Corps 13 Sep 41. G.954 6 Div 7 Aust Div

Defence Policy

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Constant program

1 Aust Corps Op Instn No 33 laid down that in the construction of defences, priority is to be given to the front of each locality and not to all round defence in the first instance.

In the Lebanon posn the point if junction incl to 7 Aust Div is QORNETT AL ACHRA and Div Comds will arrange mutually the co-ordination of their FDLs in this area.

> Brig. GS 1 Aust Corps.

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USTRALIAN INPERIAL FORCE

SECRET HQ 1 Aust Corps 13 Sep 41. G.966

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Explosives Reserves

Bulk explosives at RHs on S Sep totalled only approx 10 tons, and as far as it is known, other explosive dumps in Syria do not hold any appreciable quantities.

It is considered that in view of possible requirements that the supplies of explosives in this area are dangerously low and it is asked that a reserve of 200 tons be built up fwd of, and atAREs from which supplies for demolition programmes can be drawn as required.

> Lt-Gen. Comd 1 Aust Corps.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

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Reconnaissance.

I should be glad if the question of permitting offrs to proceed on leave to TURKEY in plain clothes could be considered.

Until recently several British offrs went on leave to TURKEY and were able to obtain valuable information.

Previous recce would be of great value and I recommend that specially selected offrs should be given the necessary facilities.

> Lt-Gen. Comd 1 Aust Corps.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

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HQ 1 Aust Corps 13 Sep 41. G.956

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Accommodation

The present accomposition plans are to be continued, but consideration is to be given to an extension of these plans on the basis of the following dispositions:-

one bde gp MERDJAYOUN, TYR

8 Div	· •	one	bde	80	ALEPPO	
<u></u>		two	bde	gps	QATANA	and DIMAS

6 Aust Div

Alternatively three bde gps DJEDEIDE, BAALBEK, RAYAK

- two bde gps DJEDEIDE, BAALBEK, RAYAK

no date is known for the probable move of 6 Aust Div and it is desired that this question be kept secret.

> (sgd) F.H.B. Brig. GS 1 Aust Corps.



REGIACE TREASUS.

I Aust Corps 6 Div

Tros 7 Aust Div

Hef 7 Aust Div o 515 of 11 Sep (.) AQ branch leaves present location for TRIPOLI OSCO hrs 15 Sep (.) Coud and 5 branch remaining present location until 18 Sep (.) From OSCO hrs 15 Sep until arrival 6 branch TRIFOLI code mans HEJA refers to 6 branch and code mass TUTO refers to AQ branch and services (.) all informed

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EMST SHERET (.) my O 5964 of 14 Sep HOT to all addresses (.) lst (.) 5 Ind Inf Bde Gp less 1st Hn Essex Regt repeat 1st En BEREN Regt and less 12 Ind Staging Sec move to EGYPT to rejoin 4 Ind Div (.) End (.) Srd Inf motor bde less 1 regt move from HOYFT 17 Sep arriving about 24 Sep at DEIR EZ 208 in relief (.) S (.) (timing)? (.) Leave DEZ Thesday 16 Sep errive HAIFA 18 Sep (.) 4 (.) move in 55 reserve HT coy RASC less one section to HAIFA then road and rail to DEN'T (.) S (.) Ist En Essex Hegt with one sec 55 reserve HT coy RASC will remain (.) 6 (.) 5 Ind Inf Ede leave rear parties to hand over (.) Signal immediately MILFAL rotd 85 L of C strength rear parties (.) 65 L of C send sufficient MT of S reserve MT coy RASC on Thesday 16 Sep weekly convoy to lift these rear parties on return (.) composition weekly convoy to hift these rear parties for return (.) 7 (.) S3 eseriers will be provided at SAHAFAND for with move (.) 7 (.) S3 eseriers will be provided at SAHAFAND for set be less and in SACH will be sent to REYFT after repair (.) arrange lesse sufficient drivers SARAFAND to convey to EXPET (.) arrange less sufficient drivers SARAFAND to convey to EXPET (.) arrange less sufficient drivers SARAFAND to convey to EXPET (.) arrange less sufficient drivers starafe and one coy M Amb to DERE EZ COR as temporary measure to arrive 16 Sep (.) 10 (.) movement order follows for 5 Ind Inf Ede (.) 11 (.) it may be necessary move 3 Ind motor bde to PERSIA in relief 9 Arnd Ede (.) if so mo repeat no relief will be provided by EIDEAST

Dust by G on 15 Sep to -GOO BGS G AQ DDES CSO Wd(2) BB 700 1930 GMT THI 1650 System in Cipher 1920 Reached ops 2040





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of 14 Sep (.) MOST SECRET (.) Indian (British7Div) 6 Div British Hus to move 2nd Bn Queens Royal Regt repeat 2nd Bn Queens Royal Regt 4 Border Regt repeat Border Regt 2nd Bn York and Lancaster Regt repeat 2nd Bn York and Lancaster Regt (.) Locations for Indian Bns 1st Punjab Regt repeat 1st Punjab Regt QATAWA 183166 Srd Ba 10 BALWOH Regt BAS BAALBEOX 215262,5 En 18 Prontier Force Rifles ALEPPO 2847 (.) Reference map scale 1/200000 sheet DAMASCUS Hows ALEPPO

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SD 266 16

MOST SECRET (.) (1) (.) my SD143 of 7 Sep cancelled (.) Indianization of 6 Div cancelled (.) (2) warning order following units and formation 6 Div stand by at 12 hrs notice to move from receipt of this signal (.) adv HQ 6 Div, HQ and 1 coy div sigs, 1 4th sig sec, LAD, 1 fd amb (.) (3) signal immediately Force HQ inf bde and fd amb selected (.) do NOT repeat NOT select 23 Inf Bde (.) suggest select 16 inf Ede to facilitate hand over of defensive plan (.) (4) staff offr from 6 Div to report Force HQ 1400 hrs 17 Sep for details of move (.) (5) Lt-col KENNY arrive 1200 hrs Aust Corps 17 Sep (.) (6) code name follows

MOST INMEDIATE

TOO 1830 THI 2023 System in - Cipher Reached Ops 2200

MESSAGE INFARDS.

HATPA FORTRESS AREA 1 AUST AA EDE AUSTCORPS rptd NORTRERN

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Farming order (.) 4 Aust Hy AA Bty will move TRIPOLI earliest possible after relief by 242 Heavy AA bty as follows (.) Let (.) 243 heavy AA bty move from ROYPT to HAIFA approx 19 Sep under orders movements HIDDLE RAST and movements FORCE HQ (.) Hring 8 repeat 8 5.7 inch mobile AA guns 2 repeat 2 sets FC 1 8 tractors half other transport for horse dream 111/19 E/1 Ro repeat Ho annunition (.) Advance party 2 Officers 18 CR's due HAIFA 16 Sep (.) Rnd (.) 243 bty will take ever from 4 Anat bty all guns FCI gun stores and chemition and will head over in exchange all guns gun stores issued in ROYPT 2 sets FCI 8 tractors (.) Srd (.) Instructions later about ememition at TRIPOLI and remaining transport (.) 4th (.) 4 Aust heavy AA bty will move from HAIFA to TRIFOLI under orders myte HILPAL in consultation with 1 Aust AA bde and AUST CORPS (.) HAIFA fortress signal strengths and number of vehicles by read (.) Strengths and weight of baggage HOT repeat HOT 11fted in unit transport

Dist by "G" on 18 Sep to:-BOS, J, Q, DDSY, P110, WD(2) BB. System in Cypher TOH 1600





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COPY OF INWARDS MESSAGE

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MILPAL rptd AUSTCORPS

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IMPORTANT

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COPY- OF AMESSAGE INWARDS I Aust Corps 6 Div rotd HP/SD/284 17. SECRET (2) as arranged with A/Q 6 Aust Div 1st (.) send representatives to RAS repeat RAS BAALBEK 18 Sep report HQ 16 Inf Bde as follows :- 1 officer per bn 1 officer Bde HQ 1 RE officer all from 18 Aust Inf Bde Gp (.) 2nd (.) advance parties 18 Aust Inf Bde to arrive RAS BAALBEK 21 Sep (.) 3rd (.) 18 Aust Inf Bde Gp ready to move from HADERA by reserve motor transport coy to RAS BAALBEK 23 Sep (.) movement order follows TOO 2050 THI 2322 Distributed by G on 18 Sep to -7 Aust Div GOC EGS CCRA CSO CE G Q DDST DDMS ADOS Reached Cipher - 0050/18 I ٠, The Gerry ÷., 1 بقيد بريد سترتب فيترف منتد تعصيفا والمترج والمرابع المناري



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AUST CORPS OF INSTR No. 34

Ref Map 1:200,000 - ANYIO022

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Ref Pere 6 of 1 Aust Corps Op Insta Ho. 54.

The demolitions prepared at

(6) Ry tannol 460 feet long near KARA DAHA 837534, and

(b) By viscost 1000 feat long near HOURA DARA 257598

have been charged.

1.

S. It is probable that the finin that these preparations have been made will become known to the energy.

3. Ener piquete will be reduced from their present size to testing perties only.

4. It is essential that the energy or energy agents do NOT gain control of these denolitions, for two researce.

- (a) We may require to use this sy.
- (b) We may meed to deny the energy the use of the zy.

5. 6 Div will provide a det of sufficient strength to secure these denolition preparations from enery attack by land or air. Areas held should be wired in to prevent the defenders being rushes.

6. Should the situation verrant, orders regarding the blowing of the desolitions will be issued.

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Issued through sigs.

Time of eignature 1545 hrs.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

HQ 1 Aust Corps, 18 Sep 41. <u>G.4</u>

1 Aust Corps GS Instn No. 4

CAMOUFLAGE OF DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

The successful camouflage of a defensive posn depends on :-

1. Posn selected. 2. Camouflage sch

- Camouflage scheme selected.
- 3. Progressive camouflage.
 - Control of work.

. Selection of the Posn

4.

After the posn has been sited tactically it should be examined in detail and adjusted to meet camouflage requirements. The siting of a post a few yards away from its first selected posn may make all the difference between its successful or non-successful camouflage and may not effect its tactical employment. The best tactical posn may be of little value unless it can be successfully camouflaged, for, once located by the enemy it can be neutralized or destroyed; on the other hand a less perfect posn, which can be successfully camouflaged, may not be located and therefore be of infinitely greater tactical value. Good camouflage siting is most important as it is comparatively easy to conceal works sited in good not as from the camouflage angle, whereas it is almost impossible to conceal posts sited in difficult camouflage areas

For the purpose of concealment and ease of camouflage, eites should be selected where one of the following types of assistance is obtained :-

(a) In or adjoining shadow.

(b) Close to rocky outcrops, belts of timber, terraced stone walls, hedges or other local features of the countryside.

(c) At the junction of two different types or colours of ground i.e. the edge of ploughed and grassed land, or where the roughness or texture of the field alters.

Avoid sites in areas of open ground where all isolated objects are particularly noticeable.

2. Camouflage Scheme Selected.

Schemes of camouflage should be designed to blend into the surroundings of the particular area; for this purpose a study of the housing and habits of the lifeal inhabitants as well as the natural features of the area is necessary. Any construction which would conflict with local and natural features should be avoided.

When examining an area see how defences can be added to the existing pattern without being conspicuous; the best method is to conform to the existing pattern in shape and texture. If defence works are located near rectangular buildings, make them rectangular; to build round shaped emplacements in such areas invites attention owing to the contrast shown in air photos.

In a photograph natural shadow is the bl thing in the landscape; the primary task is to kill shadows; this is more important than the colour of pill the light colour of surfaces. Properly garnished nets stretched so as to throw no shadow are an effective means of killing shadows.

Attention to detail is most important for any minor neglect or oversight may mean the difference between success and failure.

The standard to be aimed at is that concealment should be obtained from ground observation at 300 yards and from air photography.

Suitable materials for use in the camouflage of PILLBOXES are discussed in Appx 'A' att hereto

3. Progressive Camouflage

The concealment of locations after an enemy recce plane has photographed them is of little value since once located on an air photo, location on the ground follows automatically; for this reason steps should be taken to hide the construction of important works from the air. A method of doing this is to use garnished nets on frames (such as the arty camouflage net frames) to cover the work from its commencement until the work is finished and the camouflage completed.

Control of Work

(a)

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For camouflage schemes to be success the permenent disfiguration of the ground must be provided

from the camera particular thought should be given to the following :--

> New tracks. As far as possible use existing tracks; if new tracks are essential make them 'through' track by joining them to existing tracks so that the dead ends of tracks do not act in air photos, as pointers to defence works.

Spoil from earthwork must be carefully disposed of to prevent the change of colour which shows up when spoil is spread over an area. (6)

(c) Where possible poinds should be used to prevent concrete marks disfiguring the ground surface.

Prevention is easier than cure; this is of particular application in camouflage, so permit only the necessary minimum disturbance of the earth, and the surroundings.

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	HQ AIF Reinforcement Depot (2), ne AIF Dase Area(2	1







LESSAGE IN -*MIGE 14 -*MIGE 15 -*MIGE 14 -*MIGE 15 -*MIGE 14 -*MIGE 15 -*MIGE 15 -*MIGE 16 -*MIGE 16 -*MIGE 16 -*MIGE 16 -*MIGE 16 -*MIGE 10 -*MIGE				én de la companya de
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Ref HP/8D/284 of 17 Sep not to all addressees (.) 18 Aust Inf Ede will move from present location to area RAS BAALBEK on 22 Sep as follows (.) first (.) unit baggage total weighs 154 tons will be loaded 21 Sep (.) second (.) MT approx total 170 will report proper proportions KILO 89 and HEIT URGA 1600 hrs 21 Sep with rations for onward journey (.) 6 Aust Div requested arrange guides and POL for 300 miles (.) third (.) convoy departs under arrangements Mov GAZA and Mov LYDDA and despatched carliest goods service under units escorts each offs 1 ORs 10 total offrs 7 ORs 70 (.) Hov HAIFA arrange transhipment 5 AIF and feed escorts (.) escort carry 6 days preserved rations D700 hrs 22 Sep (.) travel 15 MIH 15 VTM (.) stage AFFULE 22/3 Sep DAWASCUS 23/24 Sep arrive RAS BAALBEK 24 Sep (.) rations up to 2359 hrs 25 Sep and essential cooking utensils will be carried in MT (.) approx strangth 3250 all ranks (.) fourth (.) full details march and disposal MT on arrival follow

Dista by Gion 20 Sep to	TOO 1500 THI 1545
GOC 3 Q	TOO 1500 THI 1545 System IN - L - 1620 TOR 1910



£₽. Ę COPY AUSTRALIAN ILPERIAL FORCE <u>SECRET</u> HQ 1 Aust Corps 23 Sep 41 G. 1049. Force HQ P & TJ <u>Pillboxes for Defensive Localities - SYRIA</u> Ref Fara 6 of HQ P & TJ Op Instn No. 57 of 12 Aug 41. The following initial estimates have been received:-. (a) <u>6 Div</u> 3. A. A. F. " Number in each locality on hundred at present envisaged." <u>Aust Div</u> 2 Initial forecast only (subject review) of north and NE sectors of outer zone only 55 follow:- 🐤 Sector A Sector B Sector C 25 TOTAL 210, but this is estimate, not final, and represents part only of fortress." 2. This makes an immediate total of 400 with probable total of (say) 600. 4 CHL.E1140tt 4t-Col for Lt-Gen 🚽 Comd 1 Aust Corps. ÷., . • 1 -<u>1</u> . بر ۲۰۰۰ م 75-22

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MOST SECRET

Subject: Arrival of EQ 10 Corps

HQ BF in P & TJ CR/PAL/17783/G 23 Sep rl.

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1 Aust Corps

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HQ 10 Corps less Comdr is expected to arrive ALEY about 26 Sep.

Until the arrival of its Comdr., the Staff of HQ 10 Corps will be attached to HQ 1 Aust Corps.

The Staff of HQ 10 Corps will be employed, under your instructions, to assist in recce and planning within the area which 10 Corps is likely eventually to take over.

4. This area is likely to include all East of the line ALEPPO - HONS - watershed of ANTI-LEBANON - (incl) MERDJAYOUN -(incl) ROSH PINNA - (incl) SAMAKH and the JORDAN Valley.

Areas, which should be included in planning and recce are:-

(a) DIMAS - QATANA. Div 12 necessary. To include measures to harbour one Armd

- (b) MENDJAYOUN ROSH PINNA Area. Object is to prevent attack on the LEBANON quadrilateralifrom the South; to preserve intact rd MERDJAYOUN - CHTAURA; and to prevent the bye-passing of the ROSH PINNA defences to the North via rd JAHULA (2028 - SASA (1827).
- To block entry into PALESTINE via rd (c) SAMAKH - PIQ Area. QOUNEITRA - FIQ - SAMAKH. Recce has been carried out by 6 Aust Div and copy of their report is being fwded for infr.
- (d) The area DAMASCUS SOUEIDA ANNAN QOUNEITRA with the
 - object of employment of armoured forges.

(e) The LAVA area from the point of view of penetration by hostile armd forces

The Desert in general with the object of provision of protected bases for armoured forces up to one Armd Div which may be engaged in the support of forces withdrawing into the LEBANON muscuilletered (1) which may be engaged in the support of forces withdrawing into the LEBARON quadrilateral. Alternatively with object of Essistance to IRAQ by aread forces or co-operation in the desort with area forces from IRAQ. The latter alternative is being considered by GHQ, but will require the consideration of DEIR EZ ZOR and PALMYRA and possibly the JEBEL DRUZE as bases.

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14 . The IRBID defences with the object of providing a harbour (g) for armd forces operating in area DERAA - ANHAN or on the flank of a hostile force operating towards SAMAKH from this area. 1.43 24-1

The JORDAN Valley from SANAKH - DRAD SEA and hills to East of it. With object of blocking routes from JORDAN Valley (h) into PALESTINE.

Details of defences already constructed in areas HOSHPINHA, SAMAKH, and IRBID and map showing demolition scheme East of R. JORDAN are being fwded. It is considered that the above defences require improvement.

6 Div Dist - 10 Corps for AQ 'Sgd' **?**???????? G I Brigadier G.S.







FORCE AUSTKALIAN IEP KIAL

HQ:1 Aust Corps 25 Sep 41. G.1068

1:00

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1 Aust Corps GS Instn No 5

AID OF THE CIVIL POWER - TACTICAL NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the Manual of Military Law CH XIII (1929 edition, NOT AUST 1941) and "Duties in aid of the Civil Authorities for the maintenance of order in SYRIA and the LEBANON" issued by Force HQ and att as Appx 'A'.

REQUISITION FROM FRENCH MILITARY COM ANDER NORMAL BUT NOT NECESSARY

- 7 2 Thenever possible the British Cond should demand from the 2. local French Military comd a requisition in writing for military assistance in aid of the Civil Authorities, but see part 47of Appx 'A'. For the form of requisition see Appx 'B'. For the form of requisition see Appx 'B'.

OFFRS TO COLD DETS

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7.

Whorever possible mericient offrs should be included in the party called out detensure that an offr is available to comd each , body that may be required to operate separately.

SOLDIERS TO REMAIN A RMED AS SOLDIERS - NOT TO USE BATONS, ETC

4. If soldiers are used in aid of the civil power they must be used as a military body under cond of an offreor offrs. They must remain armed with their normal weapons (rifles, revolvers; etc) and must NEVER be armed with sticks, batons, pick helves and so on which are not part of their normal army fighting ogpt.

COED TO MOVE HIS FORCE WITH MILITARY PRECAUTIONS

The force sent will move with all military precautions necessary 5. for its own protection

6. Each offr in cond of a party vill detail a 'recorder' to accom-pany him closely, to note times, makes, orders given ste. The value of photographs is very great and whenever possible a man with a camera should also accompany each offr to record pictorially those scenes which are important, including those should be actions or behaviour of the growd, especially just before and should be put under is ordered. Interpreters will be required and should be put under the charge of the 'recorder' to prevent their slipping away from trouble.

FORCE TO BE TOLD OFF INTO SECS

7. The employed in aid of the civil power mustable told off into 'sections' of about 6 men, each with a comd.

TPS NOT TO EE DISPENSED NUT USED IN AS LEAD. reserve if the trouble is extensive. can defend themselves

HOW A SOLDIER HAY USE HIS ARMS

The soldier can use his pres in three ways; to fire with, 9. 6.3 a bayonet, or to strike with the butt. The law requires that the minimum force be used consistent with the necessity of quelling the

• 2 disturbance or preventing the damaging of life or property. Whonever possible the crowd should be warned to disperse before action is taken and time allowed for dispersion, but action must be taken at once at any time in an emergency. Warn the crowd be taken at once at any time in an emergency. that any fire will be effective fire. -CONSIDER INTENTION OF HOB 10. In assusting the degree of force to be used initially the Comd should be guided by the purpose of the mob he is to disperse. DANGER OF PHYSICAL CONT. CT WITH CROWD Allowing for their discipline and conesion a military force 11. must not be brought into physical contact with a croad that is likely to overpower it. 51 USE. OF BUTT AGATMST VOLEN AND PASSIVE RESISTERS In dealing with women or passive resisters the butt on the È 12. instop makes an effective impression. In other cases aboutt stroke to the body should be used in preference to the bayonet. WHO LAY CHDER OPENING OF FIRE 13. If possible the crowd should be warned before action is taken against it. No man may fire without a definite order to do so No man may fire without a definite order to do so . from his cond, but in an extreme case every man is justified in using sufficient force, or shooting if necessary, to save his own life or that of others. NOT TO FIRE VARMING SHOTS OVER HEADS OF CROWD. BLANK FORBIDDEN 14. If it is necessary to fire men <u>must NOT fire over the heads</u> of the crowd as this endangers innocent people and favours the boldest and guilty. Under NO circumstances may blank rounds be 71 39 2. P. SELECTARINGLEADERS AND AGCRESSIVE MEN AS TARGETS 15. (a) If the consider to fire he should select one or more ringleaders as targets and order one or two specified men to fire a liven number of rounds. Fire should only be dimented on the slate can be seen to be implicated in the directed on those who can be seen to be implicated in the disturbance 🚛 . (b) If further effort is is juired he will order a sec: ... to fire, naming the terget and the number of rounds. (c) If more than one sec to the to fire at one time the cond nust clearly insidate to the sec which subordinate comd will five it its orders ONLY MINIMUM FORCE THE USED 2. Neither fire nor action must continue armoment longer than is 16. necessary. مينة للجريسي MEDICAL ATTENTION NECES 評。 17. Hedical attention must be provided as soon as possible for any wounded or injured, including civiliane ACTION TO BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY 18. Every case of aid to the civil power must be reported by 'Immediate' signal or quickest means to HQ 1 Aust Corps. ÷., BRIEF TACTICAL HOTES IN TIMES OF INTERNAL TROUBLES

3

MOVEMENT IN VILLAGES AND TOWNS

19. Rioters have a habit of dropping paving stones, tiles etc from roof tops and windows. Then moving down a street keep half your men on each side of the rd close against the walls. The men on the right watch the houses, windows and roofs on the left side and vice versa.

TO ENTER A ROOM WHEN SDARCHING

20. Keep behind the wall and throw open the door suddenly without exposing yourself who with revolver leading come round the corner of the wall and view the whole room. In order to lead, the revolver must be held in the hand opposite to that nearer the wall. The door will be flung open with the hand nearer the wall.

TO DEAL WITH WIRES STRETCHED ACROSS RD TO DAMAGE VEHS

21. Tightly stretch a firmly anchored steel wire rope from the front bumper over the front of the bonnet and over the roof of the truck. This rope serves togeteflect the wire obstacle over the top of the truck and avoids shipped windscreens, and other damage.

TO CIRCUEVENT BOLDS, STONES ETC THEN IN VERSION THE MOVE

22. The windscreen should be protected by fine mesh wire. Open trucks should have a ridge fitted about 5 ft above the truck floor 22. - 2 level and in line with direction of move. Over this gable fit tightly small meshed rabbit netting with the bottom edges finishing outside the truck. Eorbs, etc, bounce or roll off this wire mesh covering.

SENTRIES IN WARTING WHEN NOT ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS

IMPLICATION OF POSTING ARMED SENTRY

23. If an armed sentry is posted it is to be assured that the senior offr ordering it did so because he anticipated that the use of armed force would be justified to enable the sentry to carry out his orders. 步

WHEN SENTRY SHOULD USE HIS WEAPONS

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- (a) An armed sentry is mastified infinity or using his rifle otherwise, either in defence of the or property; it is his duty to prevent a civilian committing a felony by using the <u>MINIMUN</u> of force necessary. He is therefore justified in firing on the civilian of if is can prevent the felony in no other way. He is also entry of to use any necessary force in self defence. Dynamiting in arson (setting fire to property) are felonies just as much as murdow maps, armed robbery, etc. 24. robbery, etc.

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(b) On the other hand are not the enemy, whether one op more, he must use <u>ALL</u> the fort the has to effect a till or capture.
(c) In case of 1-sitimate doubt it the be assumed that the person is an enemy, and notice civitation. A second se

25. Read Lord HALDAMES evidence in Manual of Military Law at end of CH XIII; it is most in gructive? 25.

26. Long experience, much of it bitter to the Army from whom scapecoats were found, that produced a golden enswer for offrs who take any action in aid of the civil power. Do not discuss what happened except when ALONE with the offr to whom you are responsible. Except Except as stated, answer all questions written or otherwise and official or not by saying:-"The responsibility for taking action rested solely"us me as the military comd. In my judgment the situation was such as called for action. I took the minimum action necessary to cope with the situation." The least said the soonest mended. As the responsible man on the spot you alone were in a posn to judge what was necessary. Stick to that; do NOT try to justify your opinions by explanations As the responsible man or arguments. : if well Bris. GS Aust Corps. DISTRIBUTION (full coy basis for 18 Augu Inf Ede) 6 Div (incl Corps Tps att) 60 7 Aust Div (incl Corps Tps att) Rear EQ 1 Aust Corps 20 * 2 CCRA 10 GRE Corps Tos 5 CS0 5 E' Coy Aust HQ Gd Bn 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn 4 5 1 Sust Corps Fd Cash Office 1 1 Aust Corps Reception Camp 1 Aust Corps Salvage Unit 4 ٦ 1217 Ind Labour Coy GOC BGS G Τ ĥ Q CE DDST. 15 DDMS : 5 ADOS 4 8 DADOS. 1 Camp 2 APM 4 1 DADPS File 10 War Diary 2 For Information Force HQ P & TJ HQ.AIF (ME) 6 Aust Div (less 18 Aust Inf Ede) HQ AIF (ME) Base Area HQ AIF (ME) Base Area 2 2 60 2 HQ AIF (ME) Reinft Depot 2 ÷3.

DUTIES IN AID OF THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER IN SYRIA AND THE LEBANON

APPX

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1. The general principles to be followed by military comds when the are called out in aid of the civil power are to be found in CH XELL of the Manual of Military Law, perticularly sections 3, 4, 5, 27, 28 and 34, and K.R. (1940) 1304-1323. These are applicable in Syria and the Lebanon in the same manner as in the United Mingdom, having regard to the differences both in the mational characteristics and temperament of the people, and in the nature of the governments and the means at their disposal for maintaining order.

2. The primary poligation for the preservation of order and for the suppression of disturbances roots with the civil authority that is to say, with the lawfully constituted governments of the countries.

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3. Then the civil authorities are of opinion that a situation has arisen an is likely to arise with which the civil police or gendarmerie cannot cope and that the intervention of the is necessary, application for military assistance will normally be made to or through the local or necess French Military Comd.

4. If there are no Prec. French Porces available, or if they are in insufficient numbers to render effective assistance, it may be the duty of the cond of the British Forces to intervence. Normally he would do so only when called upon by the Egench Military suthorities or, in their absence the civil actionities, but it will be his duty to take action even without being summoned, if in his opinion this were to be necessary to prevent serious disorder such as loss of life or destruction of property.

5. Then application for military intervention is made, the military cond has an absolute discretion to take any or no, action as in his opinion the circumstances require. In forming his conclusions he should be guided by his own observation of the facts of the situation rather than by reports from the local authorities, civil or military, whe may, for temperamental rangons, tend to take.

an unduly alarmist view of the posn. 6. Whether he is called on for assistance, or decides to intervenc, on his own initiative, the flustification of any action he may take is its NECESSITY for the quelling of disturbances and restoring order. He will be the sole judge of the time for action and of the degree of force to be used to attain these objects, and he may order fire to be opened if he deeps this hecessary.

7. If drastic action, such as opening fire is resorted to, the military comd is responsible that and is continued so long, and only so long, as may be necessary, a ffect the immediate objects of the protection of life and properties and the restoration of order. It must not be prolonged with a view to its determint effect elsewhere or in the future.

2

1. Where a body of British or Australian Tps is summoned in aid of the civil power it will normally be by the French Military Authorities - it may, however, be by a representative of the civilauthorities themselves. In either event, and before taking any action, the offr in charge of the party will, if possible, obtain from the summoning authority his signature to a document in the following or like form:-

(It must provider stood that the obtaining of this signature is a preceditionary measure only. If it is impracticable to obtain this signature the Offr will nevertheless act as the circumstances demand.)

To: Öffr in regrid of local British Forces called to the sid

1. I. certify that I have requested you, as cond of the local military authorities, to act in aid of the Civil Power, for without your assistance there is not the means available to preserve order.

2. The local civil and French military authorities (to whom I have applied) X are unable to provide adequate forces to maintain order.

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Date ...

A delote words to when I have applied if request is signed by a French Military Offr.

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....Signature Rank

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Appointment

AUSTRALIN IMPERIAL FORCE

HQ 1 Aust Corps 25 Sep 41 G. 1090.

3

TRAINING - Summary of Programmes

The following gives a summary of the tng to be undertaken by formations during the period 29 Sep - 12 Oct 41 ⁰ct 41.

Individual tng in A Gas

Pl fd firing exercises

Inf 6 Div

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HQ

Patrolling Pl and Coy exercises Route and flag marches Protection of mine fds and occupation of defended localities. Co-operation with Arcraft in close support

Individual tng Siting and construction of defence works Night occupation of posns and route marching

Approach and attack exercises during move to Cav ALEPPO.

7 Aust Div

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Pl and Coy exercises by day and night Siting and construction and concealment of sec posts, inf OPs and emplacements Recce and fighting patrols.

RAA Recce of defensive posns including pegging of gun posns, comd posts and OPs Preparation of visibility diagrams for all OPs. Individual tng Tp and Bty drill orders

Construction of fd defences including fd arty and A Tk gun emplacements Preparation of complicitions, rd construction and water supply RAE SA courses. 4

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Range and battle practices Withdrawal exercise under div control Cav

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Sgd. Brig for Comd ale Lt-Gen Comd 1 Aust Corps.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

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SECRET HQ 1 Aust Corps 26 Sep 41 0.1109.

in P & TJ

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Progress Reports - P.A.D.

Ref your CR/PAL/17946/G of 18 Sep 41.

Progress in military PAD schemes has been interrupted during the month of Sep, due to operational moves of both divs, and to the numerous moves of smaller units within Corps area. At the present time 7 Aust Div and units under coud have moved to their winter locabions; and 6 Div is in the process of moving from its present location.

2. In 7 Aust Div eres the Div PAD scheme has been enunciated. Points which should be noted are as follows:-

- In Tripoli fortress, as throughout Syria, the respon-sibility for civilian PAD remains with the FFF in charge **(a)** of local adm.
- (b)¹⁷ The system of air raid warning adopted consists in noti-fying the civil telephone exchange of the two warnings "Alarm" and "All Clear". This is additional to the sounding of local sirons.
- Co-ordination of responsibilities is being discussed by **(0)** 7 Aust Div and the FFF in Tripoli area.

5. In 6 Div area few opportunities to develop the Div PAD policy have presented themselves during Sep. Blackout regulations have been enforced here as in military occupied areas and establishments throughout SYRIA wef 15 Sep.

The enforcement of an effective blackout has been the first 4. step and main concern of HQ 1 Aust Corps during Sep. In this regard co-operation has been maintained with 84 L of C Base Sub-Area, and with civil suthorities per medium of the PF Liaison Offr att to 1 Aust Corps. 29 4

Better policing of the civil blackout is necessary, however. An orderly offr reports each night on the effectiveness of the blackout in ALEY.

5. In Force memo CR/PAL 17783/4/G of 13 Aug 41, it was stated that " the development of an air raid warning system will be taken up separately". It is requested that this system be notified to 1 Aust Corps as soon as possible, so that co-ordination with civil alarm posts may be arranged.

6. It is suggested that the divil air simplified as under:	raid warning system be
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	Warning	Method	Interpretation
1.	"Red"	by siren	Civil air raid warning that enemy, aircraft are in area
2.	a By Jim Crows		(take COVER)
3.	æ, tt st a	H H	(recommence work)
4.		by siren	PAD personnel will recce area to ascertain if the locality is safe.

"Local all 5. clear

by hand bells All danger has passed; safe to me 'e in area in which bells have been run s is essential as res may be local; so the danger of U)



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FORCE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL

MOST SECRET

HQ 1 Aust Cops 27 Sep 41 G. 1112.

Aust MG Ens - Allotment to Divs

GOC AIF (ME) has approved of Aust MG Bns being allotted Aust Divs as under:-

Div to which allotted Unit 2/1 Aust MG En 2/3 Aust MG En 2/2 Aust MG En 7 Aust Div 2/2 Aust MG En 9 Aust Div 6 Aust Div

As from 22 Sep 41, Aust MG Bns ceased to be Corps Tps.

H.Wells Lt-Col -For Brig GS 1 Aust Corps.

DISTRIB UTION Subordninate formations Branches and services.

Force HQ P & TJ ż

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

HQ 1 Aust Corps 27 Sep 41 G. 1118.

HQ P & TJ

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PREPARATION OF DEFENSIVE LOCALI

CR/PAL/17550/22/C of 20 Sep refers.)

The following information is submitted with reference to each paraghaph.

The situation was given in the return submitted on Para' 1r 25 Sep. . . .

An additional report from 6 Div is att.

Para 2.

Copy

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Work has commenced on the A Tk ditch at TRIPCLI. Similar work has commenced at DJEDEIDE.

At GATANA the recce is completed but peliminary recces only have been made of the Barada Gap and the Jabal MAZAR posns.

An application is being submitted for units of 6 Aust Div to be placed on priority and for their movement to SYRIA.

Para 3 Requirements of Engr Stores have been received from 7 Aust Div and an urgent recall has been sent to 6 Div for their estimates.

Based on 7 Aust Div figures and estimating 6 Div requirements, 1 Aust Corps demends were fwded through engr channels to HG P & TJ on 22 Sep 41.

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6 Div estimates will be fwaed when they come to hand.

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Sgd & Berrymant ErigLt-Gen Coma 1 Aust Corps.

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「「「「「「「「「「「」」」」」」 INWARDS MESSAGE AUSTFORCE HILPAL 1 AUST CORPS FROM 6 AUST DIV 0/4803 28 Austforce AD 3121 G of 27 Sep NOT to all addressees places all I Aust Corps units in PALESTINE under cond Aust Base 6 Aust Div relinguishes cond 0900 29 Sep ack (,) all informed Ĩ IMPORTANT 0 1445 4, THI 1455 TOR 1755 . . 11 and the second state of the second

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

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EQ 1 Aust Corps 28 Sep 41 G. 1156.

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18 Aust Inf Ede of 7 Aust Div has received 16 Inf Ede and taken over the squipment of 16 Inf Ede.

16 and 19 Aust Inf Bdes of 6 Aust Div are expected to relieve and take over the equipment of 14 and 25 Inf Bdes.

At present 17 Aust Ing Ede consists of two bus only so that a third bu for this bde has to be equipped.

In order that the following units will be ready to relieve similar units of 6 Div, application is made to have them placed on the Order of Battle and on priority for the issue of equipment.

943

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2/1 Aust BG Bn 6 Aust Div Car Regt 2/1, 2/2, and 2/3 Aust Fa Regts One bn

> Lt-Gen Comd 1 Aust Corps.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

HOST SECRET HQ 1 Aust Corps 28. Sep. 41 G. 1129.

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6 Aust Div

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2.

Relief of 6 Div by 6 Aust Div

Your request that 17 Aust Inf Eds (1655 2/2 Pnr Bn) should return to PALESTINE has been considered, but it has been decided to adhere to the decision reached at the recent conference at Force HQ that it should remain in the LEBANOH for the following reasons:-

At present there is a very big demend on tot due ·(a) <u>رد</u>.

- (1) programme involving movement of 250,000 tons
- (11) moves of many units
- (iii) withdrawal of tpt to EGYPT

The urgent operational necessity of expediting **(b)** defences in LEBAKON quadrilatoral.

2/1 Aust A Tk Regt is to return to PALESTINE.

5. Force EQ have been asked to approve of 7 Aust Div providing the inf bde at AIE PPO and thus allowing 6 Aust Div to have a bde gp at DJEDEIDE. à 3.

4. Application has been made for the following units to be placed on priority for issues:-

2/1 Aust Mg Bn 6 Aust Die Lav 2/1, 2/2 and 2/3 Fd Regts one inf bn

(sgd) F.H.B. Brig GS 1 Aust Corps.

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HQ P & TJ Copy to Aust Div 7

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FOROB

1 Aust Corps 28 Sep 41 G.1128.

BECRET

EQ P & ZJ

TERMON DEFENCES - DJEDRIDE POSH

1. This is an extensive posn and it is necessary that the flanks which rest in the hills should be strongly held. An inf bde will be required for each flank, whilst is third bde will be required for the centre. For a reserve an additional inf bde gp is required.

On the left flank there is a subsidiary valley between the crest of the LEBANON and the valley of the ORONTES R. Whilst on the right flank a number of tracks oross the ANTI-LEBANON, and to watch these flanks horsed cavalry will be most suitable. Consequently an extra inf bde gp and horsed cav regt will be required for the DJKDEIDE posn should it be attacked.

2. The boundary scross the ANTI-LEBANON between the DJEDEIDE and QATANA - DINAS posns has not yet been notified and it is suggested that both incl NEBER - BAALBER should be incluto the DJEDEIDE posn.

> D) J.D. LAVARACK Lt-Gen GOC 1 Aust Corps.

Copy to 6 Div

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