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

1/5/26
DIVISIONS

11 Australian Division
Adjutant General
Quartermaster General
Branch - Milne Force (11 Aust Div AQ Branch - Milne Force)

November 1942

1/5/26-0045

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit HQ MILNE FORCE *Date and Time.—From* 31 Oct 42 *To* 30 Nov 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MILNE BAY	1 Nov		(a) "MATOMA" departed 0400 hrs for WEDAU and Drakeforce with 60 tons of supplies and stores. Captured Jap barge No 1 dispatched to Drakeforce on loan to that force.	
			(b) 7 small craft departed GILI GILI to be based at HATFORCE 18 tons native rations in 3 luggers dispatched to "	
			(c) ADOS reports shortage of trained personnel is seriously affecting the efficient working of 4 AOD and 23 FAD	
			(d) "BOWEN" and "KELTON" reported arrived at HATFORCE from MILNE BAY.	
			(e) CRE, COSC and AQ visit BUBULETTA inspecting felling of mangrove trees for piles and organising transport of same to new wharf.	
			LILLIPUT : Conference with Comd Milne Force and AQ as to Lilliput move as outlined in LANDOPS Movement Orders No 16 of 24 Oct 42 and No 17 of 24s Oct 42. Comd Milne Force has no knowledge of such move nor of the ultimate destination of the troops. He will request information from HQ G. Force	
" "	2 Nov		(a) Cap Jap Barge No 2 departed 1300 hrs for PONDANI carrying MARMON-HARRINGTON Fd Arty tractor.	Appx 2
			(b) Working parties supplied by inf units are now working 24 hrs daily in shifts loading and unloading ammunition. This is necessary in absence of adequate labour Coys.	
			(c) Lt-Col COWARD, Aust Comforts Fund Commissioner, arrives on visit to this area.	
			(d) "E" Tp 55 Bty 2/5 Aust Fd Regt -2/17 Lt AA Bty- "J" Tp 8 Bty 2/2 Aust A/Tk Regt embarked on SS "KOORAKI" and SS "ASAYA" for transhipment to HATFORCE.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			(e) Col Litchfield AA & QMG, Milne Force and Col Burns, COSC, Milne Bay, travel to HATFORCE.	
Milne Bay	3 Nov		(a) 7 small craft despatched to HATFORCE on 1 Nov arrived at destination at 1500 hrs.	
			(b) Ammn dump at old canteen site practically cleared - Route 2 dump started - site for 2nd ammunition dump chosen at No 2 strip which is not to be used as A.L.G.	
			(c) Conference of C of E Chaplains and O.D. Chaplains held at HQ Milne Force. The conference decided that the area be divided into zones, each padre to be responsible for spiritual well-being of C of E and O D personnel in the zone allotted to him. Conference was also keen to institute and support Army Education Scheme.	
			(d) COL BURNS COSC and AQ at HATFORCE.	
	4 Nov		(a) Raining heavily - HAGITA and WAIGANI fords impassable for MT - Ammn being transported to No 2 camp is being stacked off main road near 83 FAD - This will necessitate double loading with consequent demands for extra labour from inf units.	
			(b) "MATOMA" arrived at DRAKEFORCE at 1300 hrs, unloaded and refuelled for return trip.	
			(c) "PACIFIC" arrived from MORESBY at 1900 hrs.	
			(d) Det of 1 Cpl and 5 O/Rs from 101 Aust Ind Bde Gp Ord W/shops is despatched to HATFORCE.	
			(e) COL BURNS COSC and AQ return from HATFORCE. Confce with Comd and GSO1 Arranging urgent despatch further stores, eqpt to HATFORCE.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			(f) LILLIPUT : Movement TOWNSVILLE message Q23931 of 5 Nov 42 received relative to loading on SS BANTAM - ship not yet sailed.	
Milne Bay	5 Nov		(a) Weather has now cleared - fords passable to MT and roads drying rapidly .	
			(b) Cartage of amn to No 2 dump recommences- No 2 Sub-depot 4 AOD move to new site.	
			(c) For week ending 5 Nov Force Concert Party gave performances to 8 units with an estimated grand total attendance of 5000 all ranks.	
			(d) AQ Milne Force attends conce with COSC and NOIC on method calling forward ships, despatching small ships and kindred matters. NOIC to attend COSC HQ daily at 1100 L.	
			(e) LILLIPUT: Receive NQ Force signal Q995 of 5 Nov 42 re transference rations etc. to SS BALIK PAPAN and SS BANTAM.	
	6 Nov		(a) SS "TASMAN" arrived from TOWNSVILLE with personnel as follows :- 5 Hvy Bty RAA - 2/1 and 10 OCS's - X list personnel - BIPOD - 2/6 Hy AA Bty, a total of 9 Offrs 145 O/Rs for AMF. 100 Sqn RAAF 7 Offrs 215 ORs . Grand total 16 Offrs 356 O/Rs . With the exception of 'E' Hvy Bty, all personnel disembarked at LYAL WHARF.	
			(b) Major Willis, DAAG MILNE FORCE, left on visit to DRAKEFORCE.	
			(c) SS "GENERAL VERSJPICK" arrived MILNE BAY with 511 tons of mixed cargo- no personnel arrived on this vessel.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			(d) Chaplain WOTTEN departed for duty with DRAKE FORCE (e) Senior Chaplain D. BLAKE (C of E and O.D.) Milne Force departed for visit to HATFORCE.	
MILNE BAY	7 Nov		(a) Unloading continued from SS "TASMAN"	
			(b) MILNE FORCE Routine Orders Serial 51 No. 351-368 issued The enforcing of saluting is directed in this order.	Appendix 9
			(c) Launch and supplies shipped on "TASMAN" for unloading at DOWA DOWA for "E" Hvy Bty.	
	8 Nov		(a) SS "TASMAN" sailed with personnel as follows - sick 4 Offrs 85 O/Rs - LEAVE 8 Offrs 10 ORs - prisoners 9 and escort of 10 O/Rs. The escort consisted of personnel unfit for duty in tropical areas. Major Rutledge and Capt Short, HQ MILNE FORCE, also sailed for return to Regt duties on mainland. Personnel of E Hy Bty were disembarked at DOWA DOWA on South shore en-voyage.	
			(b) SS "KARSIK" arrived from MORESBY with 9 Offrs & 58 O/Rs mainly from 2/5 Aust Fd Regt personnel and 10 Offrs 260 enlisted men of USA SOS mainly engineer Coy and Air Force personnel.	Appx 11
			(c) SS "KORRAKI" arrived from HAT and FISHFORCE with a few sick personnel both US and Aust. and was refuelled, loaded with a mixed cargo and sailed again for FISH and HAT FORCES at dusk that evening.	
			(d) Major Willis returned from visit to DRAKE FORCE.	
			(e) SS "GENERAL VERSJPICK" departed for Australia with mixed cargo including 2200 empty petrol drums, 390 cattle hides, 161 salvaged tyres, 40 bags mail.	
			(f) Lt Robinson to erect large store for ACF to hold comforts and stores coming forward.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MILNE Bay	9 Nov		(a) Maj-Gen Beavis MGO LHQ and Maj-Gen Cannon, QMG,LHQ, arrived on visit to MILNE FORCE.	
			(b) Three merchant marine members placed under protective custody ~~[illegible]~~ walking off their 'merican ship at present in MILNE BAY. This action was taken under National Security regulations.	
			(c) HQ MILNE FORCE Mov Order No 2 , with appendix , relative movement of 'F' Tp 55 Bty 215 Aust Fd Regt to HATFORCE issued by DAQMG	to Appx 13
			(d) Account of recent operation by 2/12 Bn on GOODENOUGH ISLAND is released. Embodied in NEWS BULLETIN	Appx 14
			(e) ADOS reports that units are still arriving from the mainland without tropical equipment, particularly mosquito nets and tentage. Progress in moving amn to 23 FAD and No 2 dump has slowed down due to lack of tpt. Lack of tpt is also holding up work at new site of 4 AOD - work on the depot road has been spasmodic also.	
			(f) Report by Major WILLIS DAAG, Milne Force, on visit to DRAKE FORCE.	APPX 15
			~~(g) Gold - AD~~ (h) AQ requestsvNOIC call forward "Port Pine" and "Larchbank."	
			(i) Comd MILNE FORCE and AQ have confce with QMG who takes notes of various requirements. QMG departs by air .	
			(j) MGO inspects area accompanied by ADOS. (k) Snr Chaplain BLAKE arrived at HATFORCE.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MILNE BAY	10 Nov		(a) SS "TAROONA" berthed and disembarked 25 Offrs and 662 ORs including "X" list personnel - 2/2 Aust Coy ASC - 17 Bde Sec 6 Div - Ord W/Shops - 2/2 Fd Amb - B Sqn 2/6 Armd Regt - 2 Armd Regt Ord Gp - 3 Bty 2/1 A/Tk Regt and small detachment from other units. In addition cargo included 812 bags of mail and bulk reserve rations.	Appx 16
			(b) SS "CHARON" arrived and disembarked 3 Offrs, 131 ORs, including Milne Force Prov Coy, Milne Force Postal Unit - concert party - Milne Force Provost Coy under comd Capt Rutledge. Cargo included 3600 cases of Ord stores, 500 tons 25 pdr amn and 994 live sheep.	Appx 16
		(c)	Gen Sir T.A. BLAMEY, C in C, AMF, appoints Maj-GEN C.A. CLOWES, Comd Milne Force an "authorised person" under Sec 4 of the National Security (Emergency Control) Regulations 1942. By this instrument of appointment COMD MILNE FORCE causes National Security (Emergency Control) Regulations Protective Custody (Milne Force) Order 1942 to be issued. This proclamation has been issued especially to cover control of civilians in an operations area.	Appx 17
			(d) Maj-Gen BEAVIS, MGO, visited area and expressed his understanding of the difficulties under which ORD operations are being conducted. A new proposed WE for ADOS staff was submitted to MGO and Comd Milne Force and approved.	
			(e) MGO has long conference with Comd Milne Force and AQ. MGO will send forward quickly new Ord units to strengthen service here. Will also send SIDNEY WILLIAM huts and ARMCO huts. MGO expresses appreciation of assistance given by staff to Ord service.	

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			(f) LILLIPUT: Col Burns, COSC MILNE FORCE, receives complete details LILLIPUT move from GHQ Brisbane through General Johns sub-base Port Moresby. Operation order and schedules of loading of ships handed to AQ Milne Force by Col Burns for perusal by Comd Milne Force. At a subsequent conference between Comd Milne Force and AQ, Comd advises that he was still without any direct orders or information from N.G. Force on this subject. He will make further inquiries.	
Milne Bay	11 Nov		(a) The weather remains fine - SS "TAROONA" sailed with personnel evacuated for medical reasons. Total evacuation, 3 Offrs 88 ORs AMF 1 Offr 16 E.M. USA SOS.	Appx 19
			(b) Recommendation for immediate award resulting from ops on GOODENOUGH ISLAND submitted by Comd MILNE FORCE to HQ N.G. FORCE.	Appx 20
			(c) LILLIPUT: AQ Milne Force returns documents referred to in yesterday's diary to Col Burns COSC and has long conference as to possible off-loading of troops, supplies, etc in this area. DAQMG, MILNE FORCE, instructed to confer with Quartermaster USA SOS as to locations for transit dumps and transit camps for troops.	
	12 Nov		(a) Confidential Circular received from NGF relative to S.I.W. and Milne Force Confidential Circular AQ1856 issued in reference to action be taken in such cases.	Appx 22

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			(b) Milne Force Concert Party for week ending 12 Nov have given 9 performances to an estimated total audience of 6500 all ranks.	
			(c) MGO departs by air. (d) LILLIPUT : Conference between AQ MILNE FORCE , COSC and Col Hamilton (G4 US HQ, Sydney). Col Hamilton advises that all arrangements for LILLIPUT have been made by GHQ BRISBANE but he expects that COSC MILNE should make final check on all vessels for forward move.	
MILNE BAY	13 Nov		(a) HQ Milne Force circular No AQ 1930 issued in reference to personnel selected as members of MARINE SEC- MILNE FORCE	Appx 24
			(b) Confce COSC, CRE and AQ ref opening new areas for dumps & pers. CRE will construct entrance roads to new areas off Route 8 and will extend that route.	
			(c) LILLIPUT: Receive MG Force memo Q251/12/2403 reference movement 1 M3 Tk to PONGANI. As Tk Sqn not yet arrived in this area , no further action.	
			Conference between COSC, CRE Milne Force and AQ Milne Force with reference to transit area when decided to allot large area to SW of old canteen for this purpose. CRE to build bridge over creek to give access to this area.	
" "	14 Nov		(a) SS "FORT PINE" arrived and disembarked 1 Offr ,10 ORs 2/2 Coy AASC, 1 Offr 5 ORs 2/25 Fd Pk Coy Bdg Sec, 2 ORs No 1 Mob Cinema Unit. Total 2 Offrs 17 ORs	Appx 26
			(b) Milne Force RO serial No 52 Nos 363-387 issued. Applications called for ANGAU vacancies.	Appx 27

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			(c) Capt HAWKESWOOD DAPM Milne Force weekly report informs that the additional personnel taken on strength on 10 Nov 42 will allow better policing of roads for traffic offences.	Appx 28
			(d) SS "LARCHBANK" arrived with mixed cargo of 445 tons deadweight not including MT as follows :- 20 M3 lt tks- 16 3 ton lorries - 6 15 cwt trucks 7 Jeeps and 1 water cart. No personnel arrived on this ship.	
			(e) New CASC (Lt Col TALBOT) arrived by air and takes up duty.	
			(f) Brig J. O'Brien Director artillery MGO arrives by air.	
			(g) LILLIPUT : Receive MG Force signal Q11.09 of 13 Nov 42 reference loading on SS MULIAMA for re-loading to first flight LILLIPUT .	
			Message to MG Force AQ 74 of 14 Nov 42 reference shipment of M3 tank to PONGANI.	Appx 29
			(h) Sen Chaplain BLAKE departs PONGANI by air for MORESBY.	
	15 Nov		(a) SS "MULIAMA" arrived from MORESBY and disembarked 7 Offrs and 112 ORs for ORD duties. This is the direct result of the visit paid this area by Maj-Gen BEAVIS MGO and will do much to alleviate the shortage of trained ORD personnel.	
			(b) SS "CHARON" departed for CAIRNS with a light mixed cargo, mainly empty petrol drums.	
			(c) Trouble with tps bathing above water points continues. AQ has conference with DAPM and OC Provost Coy. Provost are to take action to alleviate this evil. Advise CO US Forces and RAAF who concur.	

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			(e) LILLIPUT: Comd SINCLAIR,RAN, arrives in area with reference to this move. Has conference with Comd MILNE FORCE and AQ.	
			Comd Sinclair advises he has been told he will obtain here :-	
			(a) 3 motor launches	
			(b) 2 flat top barges, capacity 45 tons each, for unloading.	
			(c) All information as to onward move of ships from this port.	
			Comd Sinclair has documents showing that he has been appointed Beach Master BUNA for Lilliput move. Gen Clowes advises Comd	
			Sinclair that this HQ has no knowledge of move. Only information in our possession is contained in LANDOPS Movement	
			Orders Nos 16 & 17 and other information obtained from COSC. Gen Clowes instructs AQ to afford Comd Sinclair every	
			assistance in obtaining his requirements. Comd Sinclair states he has interviewed Col Burns COSC who is unable to	
			offer any assistance.	
			At 2000L conference between Maj-Gen C Steele (CE LHQ) , CRE MILNE FORCE, Comd Sinclair and AQ MILNE FORCE. At this conference it was decided :-	
			(a) That the 2 SBC's to be withdrawn from roads in MILNE BAY area and made available for forward move.	
			(b) One "Forward - Down" steel lighter now at MILNE BAY to be decked and forwarded to PORLOCK HARBOUR for onward move as required by Comd Sinclair ;	
			(c) One Section 2/4 Fd Coy to go forward on first flight to erect pier head using SBC's and steel lighter.	

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			Comd Sinclair emphasises the need for speed as he is of the opinion that ships of the first flight will arrive at MILNE BAY on 18 Nov 42 and will move forward at 0600 hrs on 19 Nov 42 which is D Day for the LILLIPUT operation. This conference considered all aspects of the situation and its decisions were conveyed to Comd Milne Force who concurred.	
			Conference terminated at 0100 16 Nov 42 when arrangements were made for Comd Sinclair and AQ Milne Force to confer with COSC at 1000 hrs 16 Nov 42.	
			In the meantime, CRE would arrange for work to proceed on decking in of steel barge and wit hdrawal of SEC's from existing locations.	
			As a result of conference to-day, Comd Sinclair advises that he will wire NOIC MORESBY to direct that all ships for LILLIPUT should rendezvous MILNE BAY for final check over of loading before onward move.	
	16 Nov		(a) SS "MAMENDA" arrived with Capt Melville and 9 ORs for 2/1 Aust CCS and Major TOWNLEY , a representative of the Medical Directorate ,LHQ.	Appx 32
			(b) LILLIPUT: Following signals received from MOVEMENTS	
			TOWNSVILLE in connection with movements LILLIPUT QM3552- CREMER; QM3553 -BENTEKOE; QM3560 BALIK PAPAN; QM3559 -	
			MARTSUCKER; QM3546 - JAPARA; QM3561- JOHN B WISE; QM3549- BANTAM; QM3565- JESSIE APPLEGATE.	
			Receive HQ M G Force Op Instn No 43 with reference to LILLIPUT move. Conference between Comd MILNE FORCE and AQ hereon and Comd suggests conference with COSC to decide on procedure.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			AQ MILNE FORCE confers with COSC as to re-loading and generally, method of dealing with convoy.	
			Comd Sinclair present at this conference. "Forward down" steel barge complete with decking and leaves in tow of 84 for PORLOCK.	
			Arrange with CRE for completion of two additional unloading barges to be made up from bridging pontoons now in this area.	
			AQ receives copy of US Advance Base 381 of 15 Nov 42 setting out work to be carried out at MILNE BAY.	Appx 33
			AQ MILNE FORCE arranges with COSC and Comd Sinclair for loading of 84 with certain urgent equipment etc required in advance of first flight. AQ advises Comd MILNE FORCE of all arrangements made. Comd confirms.	
			Receive copy of instructions from Deputy Commander COSC relative to three launches sailed from MORESBY to MILNE BAY on 13 Nov 42.	Appx 34
			MILNE FORCE signal AQ76 to NG Force reference NG Force memo Q241/42/2403 and MILNE FORCE signal AQ 74 of 14 Nov 42.	Appx 35
			Receive NG Force message G5349 and G5356 reference Engineer units for LILLIPUT and necessity for checking loading ships first flight.	
	17 Nov		(a) Rain commenced shortly after midday and continued through the night.	
			(b) SS "MANUNDA" sailed for Australia carrying 278 all ranks, evacuated for medical reasons.	Appx 37
			(c) CASC, with AQ, confers with Comd MILNE FORCE on matters arising out of assumption of Comd.	

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			(d) LILLIPUT: AQ, MILNE FORCE confers with General Johns, COSC, MORESBY, and General Riles 41 US Div on Lilliput move generally.	
			Milne Force message 01431 to NG Force reference forwarding tank by Jap barge to PONONI	Appx 38
			(e) Son Chaplain BLAKE arrives MILNE BAY from MORESBY after visits to WANIGELA, PONGANI, ORO BAY, MAKUWA and DOGURA.	
	18 Nov		(a) Another wet day with practically continuous rain. (b) Maj-Gen C.A. Clowes leaves by air for mainland. Brig.	
			G.F. WOOTTEN will administer Comd Milne Force during Gen Clowes' absence.	
			(c) LILLIPUT: Comd MILNE FORCE departs for mainland but before departure has conference with Brig Wootten, who is to	
			administer Comd, and AQ on Lilliput. General Clowes requests that Brig Wootten continue cooperation in this matter as at present [redacted].	
			NG Force message 05123 of 18 Nov advises LILLIPUT forward move likely to be delayed for several days but estimate as to actual date cannot be given.	
			NG Force message received in reply to 01431 of 17 Nov 42 requesting that movement of troop of tanks to PORLOCK be	
			expedited, using Jap barges. Further conference between COSC MILNE and AQ Milne Force	
			as to the procedure to be adopted on unloading of ships on arrival. NOIC advises that ships not expected to arrive this	
			port until a.m. on 19 Nov 42. Weather very wet.	

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	19 Nov		(a) It is advised by Lt-Col Talbot CASC Milne Force that the lack of suitable cover inthe BIPOD area is causing a serious deterioration of and depletion the stocks of POL held in these areas. The prevailing wet conditions are resulting in pitting and rusting of containers with a resultant loss contents and contamination of the contents due to the entry of moisture.	Appx 41
			(b) First performance of Milne Force Mobile Cinema. (c) SS "JAPARA" arrived with cargo. 15 ton DW consisting of 3 18 pdr guns and trailers - 18 pdr shells and 10 pontoons All cargo is consigned to LILLIPUT.	
			(d) SS "BANTAM" with 15 tons DW of rations- 13 tons DW of arty ordnance - 45 tons DW of arty arm - 6 pontoons.All cargo consigned to LILLIPUT.	
			(e) Milne Force Concert Party forweek ending 19 Nov gave 4 performances to separate units to an estimated total attendance of 2400 all ranks. Heavy rain prevented 3 other performances.	
			(f) Brig O'Brien to 2/1 CCS with malaria.	
			(g) LILLIPUT: Milne Force Op Instn No 13 issued with reference to transit one troop tanks to DUGANI.	Appx 42
			NOIC advises LILLIPUT convoy now divided and only BANTAM, BALIK PAPAN, JAPARA to enter this port. These ships subsequently arrived, with the JOHN B SHE. All troops taken off and placed in transit camps. Unloading completed at two wharves and by use of sloop BALLARAT as tender from ships in stream. By 2130 hrs manifests checked with Chief Officers and as a consequence certain re-loading and changes in loading still have to be made in accordance with Appx 7. Such re-loading	

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			will be necessary in order to give effective tactical loading.	
			Milne Force message AQ80 to NO Force despatched relative to 25 pdr and 18 pdr. guns on ships without personnel.	Appx 43
			Physical check of cargoes in relation to manifests to be made by representatives of COSC and Col Myers and Major Hansen.	
			(The former is to be COSC representative at BUNA and the latter was in charge of loading at TOWNSVILLE. Both of US Army and	
			arrived by air from mainland to-day) DAQMG, Milne Force, with staff, will check Australian portion of cargo.	
			JOHN B ASHE commences unloading at LYLE WHARF. Portion of cargo for Milne Force to respective dumps - balance	
			for transit on first flight to special dump on Route 2. Attempt was made to load M3 tank on Jap barge No 3 from	
			pontoon wharf but barge collapsed under the weight of the tank and both barge and tank sank. Gen Johns present when	Appx 44
			loading was attempted and signalled COSC MORESBY for other means to move tanks to WONGANI.	
			MILNE FORCE message 01971 to NGF on same subject. Sunken tank raised by using JAPARA's heavy lift derricks.	
			Sunken Jap barge raised by using Army recovery trucks and towed to shallow water for inspection and possible repair.	
	20 Nov		(a) The performance of Mobile Cinema cancelled owing to overcrowding of area by personnel and vehicles at showing on 19 Nov.	
			~~(b) SS "JOHN B ASHE" arrived MILNE BAY with 173 tons dead weight of cargo mainly RAAF unit equipment and MT with POL for Milne Force. No personnel on this ship.~~	

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			(c) Personnel for forward move of first flight LILLIPUT are disposed in area and allotted to shipping	Appx 46
			(d) LILLIPUT Physical check of cargo loaded in first three ships of flight show the supplies short shipped for US Forces by comparison with manifest in accordance with Appendix 47 USA SOS MILNE FORCE will make good the deficiencies.	Appx 47
			Following conference with COSC, Col Myers and Gen Johns it was decided that personnel should be re-loaded on ships of convoy when ordered forward in accordance with Appx 48.	Appx 48
			Gen Whitlock, G4, GHQ, BRISBANE, visited area and conferred with Gen Johns, COSC and AQ Milne Force. All steps taken to date were conveyed to him and he expressed approval thereof.	
			He will take up on his return to BRISBANE the question of incorrect tactical loading of ships at TOWNSVILLE.	
			Conference on HMAS STUART attended by Gen Johns, Col Burns, COSC, AQ Milne Force, Comdrs. of STUART, BALLARAT, KATOOMBA and NOIC MILNE. Comd Spurgeon "STUART" gave details of Navy's part in move and of his requirements. He also advised that	
			BALIK PAPAN and JAPARA would proceed direct to BUNA on D plus 1 The BANTAM would lie to in PORLOCK for 24 hours after D plus 1 awaiting call forward to BUNA. This will necessitate another alteration in loading of equipment, stores etc.	
			Check of ships of first flight reveals that there are not sufficient life belts on ships to enable each man to be embarked to have one life belt. Total shortage about 650. AQ MILNE FORCE takes up this matter with Gen Johns and COSC. They advise they have taking necessary action to obtain life belts. AQ confers with A/Comd and G1 and as a result Milne Force message 01493 is despatched to NOF (Appx [redacted])	Appx 49

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 Nov		(a) Milne Force RO Serial No 53 Nos 388-406 issued (b) Further to cancellation of Mobile Cinema performance	Appx 51
			on evening of 20 Nov 42 , the above RO contains Order 398 directing that (a) Troops from neighbouring units only	
			will attend (b) Motor tpt will NOT be used to convey personnel to and from performances.	
			(a) LILLIPUT MGF G5444 in answer to MILNE FORCE O1571 re shipping tanks advised that 1 Carrier P1 to be sent in	
			lieu of tanks.	
			After conference with A/Comd Milne Force and AQ Milne	Appx 52
			Force message C1497 was despatched to MGF as per appx 53	Appx 53
			Re-loading of ships at first flight to give satisfactory tactical loading being carried out.	
			Several conferences during day between Gen Johns, COSC, AQ Milne Force and Col Myers as to which stores equipment etc should be transferred from ship to ship.	
			2 SBG's loaded on JAPARA with additional pontoon equipment.	
			All pontoon equipment transferred from BANTAM and distributed between JAPARA and BALLIN PUN, owing to ad vice that BANTAM would not proceed beyond PORLOCK with first flight but would lie there for 24 hours.	
			Unloading JOHN B ASHE continues.	
			At 0400 hrs 21 Nov 42 MGF Emergency Ops message Q1219 is received by AQ Milne Force. This refers to despatch of aircraft with rations and ammo for dropping to troops in the BUNA area.	Appx 54

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			AQ Milne Force confers with Wing Commander Green RAAF who advises no aircraft available. Milne Force message AQ81 to NGF requests ETA of aircraft. AQ has conference with CASO and ADOS and arranges for rations and ammn required in NGF 01219 to be packed in suitable packages for dropping by plane pending advice from NGF as to when planes would be available. Later (0520) RAAF advises has received orders to despatch all HUDSON aircraft to MORESBY.	Appx 55
			NGF advised. See message AQ 82. No further advice received from NGF during day but four plane loads of ammand rations prepared ready for despatch.	Appx 56
	22 Nov		LILLIPUT: NGF message 05464 reads : "Send carrier 71 by most expeditious means at your discretion." This is in reply to MILNE FORCE 01497 of 21 Nov 42.	
			Conference between A/Comd Milne Force , G1 and AQ when decided to send carrier s of 2/12 Aust Inf Bn with personnel from 17 Aust Inf Bde. Preliminary instructions issued accordingly and respective Bde HQs warned to assemble carriers and fully equip same with all necessary guns, ammn and stores and have personnel to take over these carriers. Detailed instructions to follow. AQ Milne Force confers with CORD re transport to PORLOCK and arrangements made for HS KOORAKI to be made available.	
			NGF message 05465 is received with reference to life belts. This message instructs that troops will NOT embark without life belts.	Appx 58

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			At 0300 hrs 22 Nov MEF message Q1238 advises no immediate action now required for ration and ammn dropping but stores	
	23 Nov		to be held pending further advice. (a) The high casualty rate in 32 Aust Employ Coy has been	Appx 59
			responsible for the failure to relieve the inf units of the demands for working parties which are seriously affecting the	
			fighting efficiency of these units. The Comd Milne Force has been forced to forward a report	
			relative to the physical standard of personnel of the 32 Employ Coy and the manner in which this unit was outfitted	Appx 61
			prior to its embarkation for tropical service. Out of 5 offrs and 421 ORs disembarked at Milne Bay on 7 Oct 42, 4 offrs and 193	
			ORs only are available for duty, a wastage rate of nearly 50% in 46 days	
			(b) SS "JOHN B WHE" sailed for TOWNSVILLE with mixed cargo mainly empty petrol drums (676) and 164 bags of mail.	
			(c) LILLIPUT : KIKE FORCE Adm Instn AQ2275 issued with regard to transport of carrier Pl to FORLOCK	Appx 62
			MF Force message Q1257 of 22 Nov 42 received with reference to establishment of FORLOCK as a transit base.	Appx 63
			Conference between COSC and AQ respecting COSC taking necessary action on the establishment of base at FORLOCK and	
			stores to be transmitted. A/Comd KIKE FORCE directs that HATFORCE will supply Pl required at FORLOCK.	
			AK MATOKA loaded with essential stores and despatched for HATRACK.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
/(adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			Message AQ83 despatched to HATFORCE conveying necessary instructions to PL to go forward to KORIACK.	Appx 64
			At conference with Gen Johns, Col Burns and AQ Milne Force at 1530 L. Gen Johns advises that with reference to NGF message q1257 that he would arrange for rations etc to be supplied and shipped ex PORT MORESBY and unless further advised no further action thereon to be taken by MILNE FORCE.	
			NOIC requested to call forward JESSIE STUART from PORT MORESBY for unloading here.	
			Capt Robertson, Liaison Officer, leaves by "STUART" for PORT MORESBY and would endeavour to obtain particulars of the LILLIPUT move.	
	24 Nov		(a) In consequence of the disregard of previous orders to personnel and vehicles attending the Mobile Cinema performance, the Comd Milne Force issued circular No 2438 directing that until a personal assurance is received from the C O of each unit that MF RO 398 of 21 Nov will be adhered to, NO further pictures will be screened.	Appx 66
			(b) LILLIPUT: Carrier Pl, carriers and stores despatched by KORIAKI at 1230 L/ NGF advised by message 'A' 85.	Appx 67
			NGF message GM199 reference landing eqpt for Engr Coy on first flight requesting only sufficient eqpt be despatched to make up deficiencies in 18 Fd Coy	Appx 68
			After conference with A/Comd Milne Force message AQ86 despatched to NGF advising this HQ has no knowledge of deficiencies in eqpt of 18 Fd Coy but that complete MT less vehicles for 24 Fd Coy had been loaded and request advice as to what further action required.	Appx 69

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		25 Nov	(a) SS "MANUNDA" arrived ex Brisbane and anchored in the bay overnight.	
			(b) LILLIPUT: Despatch to NGF Milne Force message AQ2375 reference section 2/16 Fd Coy proceeding to PORLOCK	Appx 71
		26 Nov	(a) SS "JESSIE APPLEGATE" arrives ex TOWNSVILLE. Disembarked 20 Offrs - 61 ORs from various units. Main body 2 Offrs	
			56 ORs 2/16 Aust Fd Coy , remainder 'X' list personnel. In addition, 103 all ranks NGF disembark awaiting tptn for LILLIPUT.	Appx 73
			Mixed cargo including MT, rations, pontoon bridging eqpt and 40 bags mail.	
			(b) SS "MANUNDA" berthed 0730 hrs LYLE WHARF and proceeded to embark personnel for evacuation. By 1000 hrs 22 USA SOS and 253 NGF personnel had been embarked	Appx 74
			This was due to the excellent cooperation of all medical units, the administration order issued and the personel direction of Major Magary, DADMS,NGF, who acted as E.M.O.	Appx 75
			(c) To-day is American Thanksgiving Day and goodwill messages are exchanged between Brig G.F. Wootten, Adm/Comd Milne Force on behalf of Australian personnel in this area and Col Burns Comd US Inf Forces MILNE BAY, AQ and [redacted] attend Thanksgiving dinner at US HQ.	Appx 76
			(d) Milne Force Concert Party reports that 6 performances were given tonnits within Milne Bay area. Estimated total attendance 4950.	
			(e) LILLIPUT: NGF message SD220 received in reply to Milne Force AQ86 advising no further action required and in reply to AQ2375 advising that 24 Fd Coy complete to proceed on first	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
/(adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			flight and detachment 2/6 Fd Coy to proceed to PORLOCK JESSIE APPLEGATE arrives from PORT MORESBY loaded with	Appx 77
			personnel for Milne Force and for staging through to LILLIPUT. All Australian troops for staging and two officers and 69 US	
			ORs for Milne Bay. Commences unloading stores for Milne Bay and for transit to LILLIPUT to No 2 route.	
			Capt Robertson , Liaison Officer, returns from MOF. Advises has had interview with Brig Secombe and brings safe hand	
			letter to AQ Milne Force. Letter gives only information already in our possession.	
	27 Nov		(a) Showery all day. (b) LILLIPUT: Conference with COSC, Col Harold and AQ Milne	
			Force when it is agreed that all necessary reloading of ships of first flight has been done and no further action is	
			necessary. NOIC advises that ships are running short of water and some of coal. COSC will arrange with US Engrs to	
			confer with CRE and to have necessary pumps and pipe line made available to run water to LYAL Wharf from WEHURIA	
			CREEK - about 1400 yards will be necessary. Col Harold leaves for PORT MORESBY. AQ MILNE FORCE instructs CRE in accordance	
			with above decisions. Comd Branson , new NOIC, arrives by MULIAMA from Port	
			Moresby. Short conference with COSC and AQ and arrangements made for NOIC to attend on Comd Milne Force 0930 28 Nov 42	
			to discuss LILLIPUT move and all other matters. PIGMY: Capt Robertson, Liaison Officer, returns from MOF	
			with brief details of movement to be known as PIGMY relevant to Goodenough Island. Conference between A/Comd , Milne Force,	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			G1 and AQ with result Milne Force signal 01547 of 27 Nov sent NGF. COSC advises he has no knowledge of this move.	Appx 79
			(d) HANSOM : Receive NGF signal 05526 with reference to establishment FORLOCK as transhipping base as to supply	
	28 Nov		of additional troops from 2/10 Bn WANIGELA	Appx 80
			(a) SS "CANOBAR" arrived MILNE BAY with cargo of Ord supplies and 2254 bags of mail.	
			(b) HQ Milne Force RO 54 serial Nos 407 -419 issued	Appx 82
			Owing to the excessive prices paid by and bad bargaining abilities of the services in this area, it has been found	
			necessary to issue a trading price list for native produce and articles.	
			(c) The ADMS Milne Force is greatly perturbed at the incidence of malaria in this area, and has issued a memo	Appx 83
			relative to Malaria Control stores.	
			Statistics show that the patients evacuated to the	
			mainland monthly approx two (2) battalions, mainly from malaria. Col Maitland is also responsible for issue of memo	
			on "Effects of Malaria on effic ency of Milne Force". It discloses that the routine treatment of malaria in medical	
			units of malaria cases has been very effective as indicated by the low mortality, i.e. two (2) deaths in 4453 cases,	Appx 84
			(d) Brig J. O'Brien leaves for mainland by air.	
			(e) LILLIPUT: NOIC attends this HQ - long conference with	
			A/Comd, G1 and AQ. He raises the question of information in possession of various branches and services which should be	
			placed in a common pool. He has no instructions as to sailing at first flight of LILLIPUT. Arranged conference for 1430	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			29 Nov 42 of all Comds and heads of branches and services to be held at this HQ.	
			Later, detailed conference between NOIC, COSC, and AQ Milne Force when NOIC agrees that all ships of first convoy should remain in stream unless required alongside for loading and/or refuelling, watering, etc.	AJ
			COSC advises has received messages that JESSIE APPLEGATE is not to sail until arrival of S Jacob as latter ship	AJ
			loaded with heavy barges and own derricks unable to handle the weight.	
			HANSOM : Receive NGF message Q1318 with reference to method to be adopted to implement NGF Q5526	Appx 85 AJ
			Instructions contained in NGF Q5526 repeated to HATFORCE in Milne Force signal Q1555 of 28 Nov 42.	
	29 Nov		(a) HANSOM : Receive NGF Op Instn No 45 reference to above (Appx D)	Appx 88 AJ
			Milne Force Op Instn No 15 issued to Col Dobbs, 2/10 Bn ENGR Tpr for MILNE BAY. Receive CE NGF memo N3528 of 27	
			Nov 42 which clarifies position as to Engr units for MILNE FORCE, HANSOM, HAIROIL and PIGMY	Appx 89 AJ
	30 Nov		(a) At a conference presided over by Brig G.F. Wootten Adm/Comd MILNE FORCE and attended by C. O's of RAN RAAF US Air Corps US Army US Navy. The question of Christmas cheer for troops was discussed.	Appx 91 AJ
			(b) Conference is called by the CMMB to discuss the control of mosquito breeding and the disposal of garbage.	Appx 92 AJ
			Subject matters (a) Waste and garbage (b) anti-malarial control and measures to be taken.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit _____ *Date and Time.—From* _____ *To* _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			(c) HANSOM Receive HATFORCE signal 0208 advising portion of troops now at HANSOM from HATFORCE	Appx 93
			(d) HAIROIL Receive NGF Op Instn No 46 advising establishment of transit base at ORO BAY to be known as HAIROIL. Base	
			will be under command of 32 US Div and only troops from this	area is Appx 94
			one section of 2/4 Aust Fd Coy	
			(e) A report on the progress of the Milne Force vegetable garden undertaking is submitted to HQ NG Force	Appx 95
			(f) HQ Milne Force Adm Circular AQ 2640 issued relative to recommendation to substantive rank of Temporary Officers.	Appx 96
			(g) Monthly letter of AIMS to DDMS, NGF	Appx 97
			(h) NG Force Adm Instn No 38 received relative to provision of additional messing for Christmas Day 1942	Appx 98

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LOCAL NEWS TO 2000L/ 1 NOV

A report was received this morning of a suspected sub in MILNE BAY. Three Hudsons and two fighters searched for 30 minutes. Two oil drums locked together sighted at approx the position reported are thought to have caused the original report.

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 HRS 1 NOV 1942

SOLOMONS

Attacked by heavy bombers and torpedo planes off SANTA CRUZ ISLAND last Monday, an American aircraft carrier was sunk. Announcing this to-day, WASHINGTON discloses that America has lost four aircraft carriers since the SOLOMONS battle began, compared with six lost by Japan. The aircraft carrier survived one attack from the air and hopes were held that it would be salvaged. Heavy bombers made a second attack in the afternoon and the carrier sank quickly. Practically all the crew were saved.

A Japanese heavy battleship has been sunk by Flying Fortresses and an enemy light cruiser badly damaged. Eighteen tons of bombs were dropped. Other vessels are believed to have been hit. Medium bombers came in after the departure of the Flying Fortresses and inflicted considerable damage. Another heavy battleship was hit.

The Secretary for State (Col Knox) said last night that the first round of the SOLOMONS battle was over, with the Americans still in possession of the islands. The result of the battle would depend on the ability of the United States to continue to supply troops at GUADALCANAL. Japanese supply lines had to be smashed. Japanese naval units had returned to their bases.

NEW GUINEA

Our troops in the OWEN STANLEY RANGE have made slow, but steady, progress. Allied planes made a successful strafing attack on enemy positions.

Allied bombers attacked the runway at LAE and ground units were strafed at BUNA.

RABAUL

Twenty-one tons of bombs were dropped in a night attack on RABAUL. Cloud banks made observation difficult but the damage inflicted is believed to have been heavy.

An Allied plane on reconnaissance was attacked by 11 Zeros near RABAUL. Three of the enemy planes were shot down out of control, our plane returning safely.

The ABC correspondent states that the Allied attacking planes at RABAUL braved the AA barrage remarkably well. The only result of the enemy barrage was a bullet hole through one plane.

RAID ON CANTERBURY

Britain has experienced the heaviest daylight raid since the battle for Britain began. Fifty German planes swept out of the clouds over the Cathedral city of CANTERBURY, dropping many bombs and machine-gunning shoppers in the streets. Nine raiders were destroyed.

RUSSIA

The defenders are hitting with greater power in STALINGRAD. Russians have held ground in spite of attacks by tanks and strong German artillery units. In the CAUCASUS, the Russian counter-attacks have made some progress and have cleared up some dangerous territory. It is emphasised that the position is still grave.

MIDDLE EAST

The 8th Army has held all the ground gained in the last two days. The initiative has been maintained by the fine co-ordination between ground and air forces. Australians have repulsed four enemy attacks and taken 200 prisoners.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

The Minister for Munitions (Mr. Makin) warned the people of Australia that further restrictions might be necessary in order to keep the men in the fighting fronts well supplied. Rationing of goods would become more severe.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Fadden) said there should be a more realistic approach to the problems of the man on the land. A Commonwealth Director of Primary Production should be appointed.

(COPY)

SECRET

2

SAILING ORDERS

HQ MILNE FORCE

2 NOV 42

Pte H.D. Sauerbier,
i/c Jap Barge No 2
Sailing for first stage
Wanigela, second stage
Wanigela - Pongani

During the voyage you will carry out the following instructions:-

1. You will sail 1200 hrs L/2 Nov in comd Jap Barge No. 2, carrying cargo one tractor LF 3A direct to Wanigela.

2. At Wanigela you will report to Lt-Col Dobbs, Comd 2/10 Aust Inf Bn, whom you will request to advise HQ Milne Force of your arrival. Before departure for Pongani, you will again request Lt-Col Dobbs to signal your time of departure to HQ Milne Force.

3. You will be provided at Wanigela with a pilot to take you to Pongani.

4. On arrival at Pongani you will report to American HQ. You will request the officer-in-charge to signal your arrival to HQ Milne Force. You will deliver the tractor LF 3A to American HQ.

5. On completio n of your duty, you will return to Milne Bay. Under no circumstances will your vessel be allowed to remain at either Pongani or Wanigela. Prior to your departure you will request American HQ to signal HQ Milne Force your time of departure.

6. You will ensure before sailing on the forward journey or the return journey that your command is fully equipped and capable of performing the duty required of it.

(sgd) K.G. Bailey Maj
for AA & QMG MILNE FORCE

3

SOUTH PACIFIC AIR NEWS BULLETIN NO 64 8 NOV 43

SOUTH PACIFIC AIR NEWS BULLETIN 1900 HRS 2 NOV 43

There is nothing to report.

SOLOMONS

Fighting is still going on at GUADALCANAL. Washington announced that American warships had inflicted considerable damage in enemy installations on the island. American ground forces have made progress and have captured enemy tanks and equipment. This is the first news of the SOLOMONS battle since the announcement by the Secretary for State(Colonel Knox) that Japanese naval units had returned to their bases.

In two night raids on enemy shipping in the BUIN-FAISI area, our planes dropped 30 tons of bombs. Heavy and medium bombers participated. It is believed that seven vessels were badly damaged.

Details of the large-scale naval battle last Monday and Tuesday have been released by the US Navy. Two aircraft carriers (Japan's latest type), two battleships and two cruisers were badly damaged by American naval units. A huge Japanese armada limped away licking its wounds.

Domei radio last night stated that a new Japanese fleet including transports, had been sighted 600 miles from the SOLOMONS.

NEW GUINEA

Steady progress is being made by our troops. They are now within fighting distance of LAE.

One reconnaissance plane was attacked by seven Zeros near BUNA yesterday. Three enemy planes were shot down and our plane returned safely.

There was a small night raid on [illegible] Our troops suffered little damage was inflicted.

BURMA

The 14th Army has consolidated its position in Arakan. The battle is now on a larger scale. Australians have played a dashing role. [illegible] on the joint and supply attack westward. Under a heavy cover of a curtain of steaming, machine-gun bullets and shells, they drove a corridor through the Japanese lines. Japanese counter attacks were unsuccessful and the Australians have held their positions. A RAAF radio has described the conception which achieved by the Australians.

RUSSIA

The German attack on the factory area in STALINGRAD has slowed down. The Germans are giving greater attention to the [illegible] but they admit that the Soviet forces are establishing new positions.

The Soviet armies are preparing for a big winter attack on a 250 mile front.

A unit of the RAAF has its base in Russia. Its task was to assist in getting supplies to Russian troops. This is the first time an R.A.F unit has established a base in Russia but not the first time the R.A.F has co-operated with Soviet Air Forces.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

At a farewell to Australia's Minister to Russia (Mr. Slater), the N.S.W Premier (Mr. McKell) said Australia was anxious to be associated with Russia. Mr. Slater said the exchange of Ministers would produce the greatest possible good for both nations. The British-Soviet Pact provided the machinery for winning the war.

The £100,000,000 Austerity Loan will be opened by the Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) in PERTH at 1 o'clock to-morrow. The loan in the other States would be opened as follows :- [illegible], Wednesday; Sydney, Thursday; Melbourne, Friday

GENERAL

With reference to Mine Force News Bulletin No 63 of 1 Nov 42, it is now explained that the numbers of aircraft carriers sunk referred to total losses since outbreak of war in the PACIFIC and N.W.P in the SOLOMONS battle alone.

WAR DIARY

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 65 3 Nov 1942 4

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 HRS 3 NOV 1942 --

NEW GUINEA -

FALL OF KOKODA : Australian troops have captured KOKODA. This was announced in to-day's communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters.

It is three months since the Japanese forced our troops to retire from KOKODA. They landed at BUNA on 4 July and made swift advance towards KOKODA. The Japanese attack was made effective by outflanking and infiltrating tactics. After the capture of KOKODA, the Japanese advanced to within 50 miles of PORT MORESBY. Our planes harassed the Japanese and again and again destroyed the bridge over the WAIROPI RIVER. Australians brought 25-pdrs. into action and pursued the Japanese for a month without coming into contact with the main force. On October 14 the Japanese made their first determined stand at TEMPLETON'S CROSSING. Our men used the bayonet to eject the enemy from fox holes and well fortified positions. The Japanese defeat is due to the continued attacks by our planes on enemy supply lines.

The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said the capture of KOKODA was an important step in the defence of Australia. It showed that the Australians were better soldiers than the Japanese.

ATTEMPTED LANDING AT BUNA : Two large enemy transports of 15,000 and 10,000 tons attempted to land troops at BUNA. After fierce and sustained attacks from the air, the convoy retired north. One transport was seen burning near GASMATA. This is the first attempt by Japan to land reinforcements in New Guinea for months.

SOLOMONS

The latest news from the SOLOMONS is that the Japanese land forces are retreating slowly in GUADALCANAL. American medium and light bombers, supported by Flying Fortresses, attacked Japanese positions. American Wildcats inflicted damage on Japanese coastal installations. Six Zeros were intercepted by Wildcats; four were shot down. American Dauntless machines also made an attak.

It is explained that the withdrawal of the Japanese fleet was due to the immense loss sustained by Japan's air arm. The result of the battle will depend on the speed in which both sides can consolidate their forces .

EGYPT

Australians in the coastal sector of the Egyptian front have been fighting hard since Friday. They have held all the ground gained . Berlin admits they made new advances on Monday night. British artillery units have been pounding Axis positions.

RUSSIA

Heavy fighting is proceeding in STALINGRAD. Bitter fighting is also in progress in the Central Caucasus. The Russians repulsed ten enemy attacks. The German air force has been active over STALINGRAD.

Defenders of STALINGRAD, who had had no sleep for days, achieved yet another miracle in beating off attacks by large German forces and clouds of planes.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1900L/ 3

There is nothing to report

WAR DIARY

5

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 66 — 4 NOV 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 4

NEW GUINEA

Our troops are still pursuing the retreating enemy in the OWEN STANLEY RANGE. The next objective of the Australians may be the WAIROPI Bridge. The track leading from the bridge is in good condition to BUNA.

The Australians are moving fast but the Japanese are not falling back in disorder. No confusion is reported.

SOLOMONS

The Japanese have landed reinforcements to the north-east of American positions in GUADALCANAL. Japanese positions have been shelled by American warships and attacked by dive-bombers.

Allied bombers made a night attack on shipping in the BUIN-FAISI area. The burning hulk of one of the transports which attempted to land troops at BUNA has been sighted off NEW BRITAIN.

EGYPT

British and Dominion troops have secured a bridge-head through the enemy defences. British heavy artillery units have been engaged for two days in a "stand up" battle with two German Panzer divisions. One Britisher, back from the lines, summed it up when he said : "It is a slogging match, allright." Heavy casualties have been inflicted on the enemy and our prisoner of war cages are filling up. There is no doubt about the fact that both sides are fully extended. 100 tons of bombs daily have been dropped by our planes.

RUSSIA

Russian resistance in the CAUCASUS is stiffening. The Russians are fighting a fierce defensive battle and are not attempting a withdrawal. At the Black Sea end of the CAUCASUS the Russians are still on top/

In STALINGRAD the Russians have smashed more German attacks and have gained ground in one place. The Germans threw in two divisions and 40 tanks but the attack failed.

FRANCE

Several strange bomb explosions have taken place in Vichy France. It is stated that fragments from the bombs show they were not made in France.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

AUSTERITY LOAN : The Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) opened the Austerity loan in Brisbane to-day. He said that all people must answer the stirring appeal by the Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) at the official opening in PERTH. "Only by a supreme effort can we make ourselves worthy of those who are fighting in the cause of freedom," he added.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2000L/ 4

There is now operational news to report.

We have so far been unable to interrogate the JAP captured four days ago and now in hospital because he bit his tongue very severely on being captured and is unable to talk.

o ——— o

WAR DIARY

6

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 67 5 NOV 1942
SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/5

EGYPT

AXIS FORCES IN FULL RETREAT : The Axis forces in the WESTERN DESERT are in full retreat. We have taken more than 9000 prisoners, including the German Commander of the African Corps. The enemy losses in killed and wounded have been heavy. Up to date, we have destroyed more than 260 German and Italian tanks and captured or destroyed 250 guns. 300 enemy aircraft have been shot down or damaged. 50,000 tons of enemy shipping have been sunk. These figures were released in a communique from Cairo, just received.

The 8th Army continues to advance. The actual position of General Montgomery's advancing troops has not been disclosed. The pocket of resistance on the coast has now been wiped clear of the enemy. It is explained that some of the enemy may have escaped only to join others in flight.

Maj.-Gen Morshead has been congratulated on the magnificent work performed by the Australians. General Montgomery said the Australians had been splendid and he praised the efforts of the Division.

Italians in one sector have asked for an armistice so that they can bury their dead. All along the front the enemy defences have crumpled under the most savage land,sea and air drive African has ever seen. Since the battle began on Friday week, our planes made 8000 sorties. This is apart from attacks made by heavy bombers and torpedo planes.

Pictures taken of the battle show the Australians preparing smoke screens before hurling in force with fixed bayonets. They were seen assisting Germans to first aid posts.

King George VI has expressed the admiration and pride of the Empire in the Allied victory.

The London Daily Mail says : "We must expect Hitler to try and retrieve a desperate situation by bringing troops from Russia. We must destroy the whole of the Axis Army."

"The blow has landed," the New York Tribune states,"Allied forces have continued to advance with victory on their banners and freedom dn their hearts. "

NEW GUINEA

Japanese forces in the OWEN STANLEY RANGE have rallied for the first time since Australian bayonets drove them on. Advancing Australians have found the enemy well dug in. Fighting has become bitter again but the Allies are having the best of it. Allied attack planes are hammering enemy forces relentlessly.

RUSSIA

In spite of strong German pressure there is no news of Russians giving ground. The Russians have dislodged the enemy from a number of strongholds. Mass attacks by Germans on STALINGRAD have been repelled.

SOLOMONS : American forces in GUADALCANAL continue to make headway. There is no news of reinforcements landed by the Japs east of the airfield.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2200L/ 5

There is nothing to report .

AIR PLANE CRASHES -

o———o

Three men were killed in Victoria when an RAAF plane crashed while on a training flight. They were - Sgt R.V. Cassidy,31, Burwood; Sgt L. A. Jenkin,25, Bendigo,Q; Sgt J.H. Studio, Hawthorne,Vc.

o———o

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 4

NEW GUINEA

Our troops are still pursuing the retreating enemy in the OWEN STANLEY RANGE. The next objective of the Australians may be the WAIROPI Bridge. The track leading from the bridge is in good condition. to BUNA

The Australians are moving fast but the Japanese are not falling back in disorder. No confusion is reported.

SOLOMONS

The Japanese have landed reinforcements to the north-east of American positions in GUADALCANAL. Japanese positions have been shelled by American warships and attacked by dive-bombers.

Allied bombers made a night attack on shipping in the BUIN-FAISI area. The burning hulk of one of the transports which attempted to land troops at BUNA has been sighted off NEW BRITAIN.

EGYPT

British and Dominion troops have secured a bridge-head through the enemy defences. British heavy artillery units have been engaged for two days in a "stand up" battle with two German Panzer divisions. One Britisher, back from the lines, summed it up when he said : "It is a slogging match, alright." Heavy casualties have been inflicted on the enemy and our prisoner of war cages are filling up. There is no doubt about the fact that both sides are fully extended. 100 tons of bombs daily have been dropped by our planes.

RUSSIA

Russian resistance in the CAUCASUS is stiffening. The Russians are fighting a fierce defensive battle and are not attempting a withdrawal. At the Black Sea end of the CAUCASUS the Russians are still on top/

In STALINGRAD the Russians have smashed more German attacks and have gained ground in one place. The Germans threw in two divisions and 40 tanks but the attack failed.

FRANCE

Several strange bomb explosions have taken place in Vichy France. It is stated that fragments from the bombs show they were not made in France.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

AUSTERITY LOAN : The Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) opened the Austerity loan in Brisbane to-day. He said that all people must answer the stirring appeal by the Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) at the official opening in PERTH. "Only by a supreme effort can we make ourselves worthy of those who are fighting in the cause of freedom," he added.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2000L/ 4

There is non operational news to report.

We have so far been unable to interrogate the J&P captured four days ago and now in hospital because he bit his tongue very severely on being captured and is unable to talk.

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SUMMARY BY UNITS AND RANKS - DISEMBARKED EX 'TASMAN' 6 NOV 42

U N I T	OFFICERS	W.O'S	S/SGTS & SGTS	CPLS	PTES	TOTAL
E HVY BTY RAA	5	1	9	10	75	100
10 C.C.S	1					1
2/1 C.C.S	1					1
X List 2/5 Fd Amb					7	7
X List 25 Inf Bn	1		3		5	7
X List 61 Inf Bn	1		1		2	4
X List 2/12 Inf Bn		1		5	17	23
2/6 HY A.A Bty				1	5	6
BIPOD					3	3
T O T A L S:	9	2	13	16	112	152

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 68 6 Nov 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L / 6

EGYPT

There has been no hold-up in the advance of the 8th Army in the Western Desert. The enemy withdrawal to the west went on yesterday. Many prisoners were taken by our forces. How far the enemy has retreated or how much war material he has taken with him is not known.

General Montgomery has stated that it is his intention to clear North Africa of the Axis Forces. The road which is the only way for Rommel's retreat is packed to capacity and he cannot avoid the full effect of air bombing. There have been heavy Allied air raids against the retreating enemy. Scores of fires are merging into one flaming mass.

War correspondents suggest that Rommel has planned his withdrawal in stages to save his guns and tanks with the object of making a further stand elsewhere. Rommel carried out his withdrawal last year by similar methods. In view of the importance of North Africa , the Axis forces are sure to try desperately to retrieve the position.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill) has sent a congratulatory message to the Australian Government on the deeds of the Australians in Egypt. He said "The Division under Maj-Gen Morshead has done a splendid job." The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said to-day ; "The success of the Division has been a great tonic to the whole nation."

NEW GUINEA

Our advance in the OWEN STANLEY RANGE continues slowly. Our advancing troops come in contact with the enemy at the village of OIVI. The resistance of the enemy at a ridge near the village was overcome but a further stand is likely .

SOLOMONS

Further Japanese landings in GUADALCANAL have been followed by fighting east of the Henderson airfield. American warships shelled enemy positions. The Secretary for State (Mr. Cordell Hull) said to-day : "The Japanese are preparing a new attack against the American positions in the SOLOMONS. After the opening round the American fleet was where it began but the Japanese fleet has retired to lick its wounds. The Japanese are ready to come back."

RUSSIA

"Hitler is getting it hot and cold -- hot in the Western Desert and cold in Russia," says the Moscow radio. The Soviet troops are resisting fiercely . The enemy has made no further progress towards the GROZNI oilfield. All German mass attacks against STALINGRAD have failed and the Russians are advancing in some places.

NEW AMERICAN DIVISIONS : It is announced that five new American divisions are to be raised.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2300L/ 6

There is nothing to report.

"CONCERT PARTY FIXTURES"

6 Nov	8/1 CCS	1430 hrs	10 Nov	49th Serv Sqn(USA)	1930
	8/3 Bn	1930 hrs	11 Nov	2/1 Pioneers	1930 hrs
7 Nov	2/7 Bn	1930 hrs			
8 Nov	9 Bn	1930 hrs	12 Nov	11th ADS	1430 hrs
9 Nov	11 Fd Amb	1930 hrs	"	24th Fd Coy	1930 hrs

WAR DIARY

9

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

The information in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's or the United States Service.

Serial No 51
Nos 351-352

MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS
PART 1
BY
MAJOR-GENERAL C.A. CLOWES, D.S.O., M.C.
COMD, MILNE FORCE.

HQ,
MILNE FORCE,
AUSTRALIA.
7 JUL 42

GENERAL STAFF

351. RIFLE, MORTAR AND GRENADE RANGES

The following ranges have been approved. Ref map MILNE BAY (Prov) 2" to 1 mile.

(a) C31018: 2" Mortar and rifle grenade range. Target area 030021 Direction of fire 325° Mag.
(b) 029019 Hand Grenade Range
(c) C15963 Rifle range. Direction of firing 197° Mag. Distance of Firing mound to target 200 yards. Arc of fire 193° Mag - 207° Mag.

All ops must be warned of above ranges so that due care can be exercised by personnel in this area.

Col
A.A.G. MILNE FORCE

ADJUTANT & QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S BRANCH

352. SALUTING

(a) Attention is especially directed to QRC 1190 which reads as follows :-

"(1) W.O.s, N.C.Os and private soldiers in uniform shall salute an officer at all times except when passing or being passed by him :-
(i) in a crowded thoroughfare or assembly ; or
(ii) during an exercise in the field; or
(iii) when on parade under the immediate control of a superior
(iv) when precluded by the nature of their duties from so doing.

This amendment will be anticipated and effect given thereto forthwith. All ranks will be instructed accordingly.

2. In view of the number of officers who have been recently commissioned, care is to be taken to ensure that they fully understand the implications of the provisions concerning saluting.

All officers are to salute their seniors before addressing them on duty or on parade. When not on duty or parade officers under field rank are to salute all officers of field rank and upwards. General officers and field officers are to salute their superiors in rank.

3. Officers are to salute officers in any of His Majesty's Naval or Air Forces and of the Allied Naval, Military or Air Forces, in accordance with para 2."

352. SHELLING (cont.)

Comds will ensure that the provisions of the above G.R.O. are strictly policed and any breach thereof is dealt with by suitable disciplinary action.

353. STERILISATION OF WATER

It is the responsibility of the R.E to purify and provide water in sufficient quantities for the use of tps.

A.M.C personnel are NOT available for bulk sterilisation of water but the specialist facilities of the Medical Service are available at all times on application through normal channels.

354. PERSONAL KIT TO ACCOMPANY HOSPITAL PATIENTS NG NO 524/42

Personnel admitted to hospital MUST be in possession of either anklets web, gaiters S.D. or puttees short.

355. DUTIES OF BRIGADE AND UNIT HYGIENE PERSONNEL

Instructions with regard to the duties of Bde Hygiene Officers and Unit Sgts (Hygiene Inspectors) issued by A.D.M.S Milne Force on 1 Nov 42 (reference 42/08/88 and 42/08/89) will be taken into use as HQ Milne Force Instructions as from 1 Nov 42.

356. POSTAL

It has come under notice that in many instances matches are being included in parcels forwarded to troops. This is an infringement of Postal regulations and must cease forthwith. There is not only the danger of the bag of mail being destroyed but of causing a fire on board ship during voyage and endangering the lives of those on board.

The practice of forwarding green coconuts to Australia is forbidden. They are liable to break and the contents to run over other parcels in the mail bag causing damage.

357. AIRMAIL LETTER CARDS

Further supplies have been received and Units may requisition on the Base Post Office for fortnightly supplies on the basis of two per man per week.

358. TELEGRAMS

Complaints are being received regarding delays to telegrams. This matter has already been emphasised through R.Os that on account of strict censorship on the mainland, delays both to and from this Force are inevitable and , with heavy Christmas traffic considerable delays are expected.

359. ROADSIDE COFFEE STALLS, ETC.

Philanthropic representatives will NOT erect roadside coffee stalls etc without approval for the site being given by the D.A.P.M.

All existing sites will be immediately submitted to D.A.P.M. with a view to traffic control.

360 COURT MARTIAL - PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF TRIAL

NATURE OF COURT	Field General Court Martial
PLACE OF TRIAL	HQ MILNE FORCE

/over

360. COURT MARTIAL -PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF TRIAL (cont.)

MEMBER TRIED — VX 25304 Sgt Gilbert W.W. 235 Aust Lt AA Bty

CHARGE — Being a member of the Defence Force, communicating to a person otherwise than in the course of his official duty information relating to the defences of the Commonwealth in that he in a letter from TOWNSVILLE dated 10th May 42 addressed to Mr. D.P. McKinley, Atlantic Union Oil Company Ltd, P O. Box 1620 Q, Melbourne, C.1 stated : "We were allowed to deploy on the aerodrome where we now have dug in .. There is a lot of Yank stuff here on the drome (planes etc) and it is all first class equipment. I am satisfied they are doing a good job. Two Jap recce planes came over a few days ago but way too high for us. The Hvy AA had a go but they were bursting well below them. This is a bad gun drill and faulty fuse setting. They were AMF lads and had never fired their guns before. Our Bofors are 100% better than the Yank Lt AA Guns, even they admit it."
(Defence Act Sec 73A)

FINDING — Not guilty

The finding was announced in open Court and the accused was released.

(b) NATURE OF COURT — Field General Court Martial

PLACE OF TRIAL — HQ, MILNE FORCE

MEMBER TRIED — NP9676 GNR RIGBY T.P. A HY BTY RAA MILNE FORCE.

CHARGE — When a soldier acting as sentinel on active service sleeping on his post in that he at A Heavy Bty ,Milne Force, on 7 Oct 42, at approx 2345 hrs when sentry on No 2 gun was asleep (Army Act Sec 6 (2) (o).)

FINDING — Guilty

SENTENCE — To undergo detention for 9 months

DATE OF SENTENCE — 23 Oct 42

CONFIRMATION — Finding and sentence confirmed by Maj-Gen C A Clowes, D30,MC, Comd Milne Force.

DATE OF CONFIRMATION — 27 Oct 42

DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION — 30 Oct 42 . IN THE FIELD.

361. OVERLOADING M.T.

Bogging of vehs during the recent wet weather was caused principally by vehs being grossly overloaded.

Damage to both roads and vehs result, apart from hold-up to other traffic.

All loads in future will be restricted to the size and type of veh used.

382. A.A.O.C. PERSONNEL

1. A return of all A.A.O.C. personnel (Officers and O.Rs) as at 1200 hrs 7 Nov 42 will be submitted to A.D.O.S. Milne Force by 1200 hrs 9 Nov 42 as per the following pro forma.

NUMBER	NAME	RANK	DUTIES	TRADE GROUP (if any)	CIVIL OCCUPATION

..... C.O.

..... Unit

2. When personnel are "X" listed, copy of A A Form 5011 will be forwarded to A.D.O.S. Milne Force so that arrangements may be made for a suitable reinforcement.

Col
AA & (MG, MILNE FORCE.

NOTICES

LOST : 1 barrow, drum, Signallers, W.D. English Pattern Finish please return to HQ 2/6 Aust Hy AA Bty.

LOST : Italian Postal Box marked 'S Sup. O. Records' Serial No 61384. Any person or unit knowing the whereabouts will communicate with 3 Aust. Base Supply Depot.

O----------O

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 7

EGYPT

The Axis retreat in the Western Desert has become a rout of a 100,000 troops , states the latest message from CAIRO. The enemy has now retreated to the MERSA MATRU area . There has been terrific carnage.

In their retreat to the west , the Axis forces have taken a severe punishment. When not in contact with land forces they are being hit hard from the air. It is difficult to get an accurate picture of the progress of the battle from the messages coming from CAIRO.

It is believed that the enemy is preparing to make a stand near FUKA. The New Zealand Division is continuing its race for the LIBYAN frontier. Its task is to get there before the African Corps. Three British armoured columns are leading the pursuit of the fleeing Germans. Some commentators believe that the enemy will continue to the LIBYAN frontier before they hit back.

Remnants of German Panzer Divisions are strung out in pockets. Enemy losses have been heavy and many prisoners have been captured. 2000 enemy stragglers have been rounded up. 3000 Italians surrendered in one place. They were in a hopeless position, being 40 miles from water. Our losses have not been light.

Axis countries have expressed concern with the turn of events. There is a suggestion from ROME that the 8th Army has a greater ambition than victory in North Africa.

General Alexander has sent the following message to General Sir Thomas Blamey : "The magnificent fighting qualities of Australian troops have been proved again in battle. They have played a major part in our great victory."

NEW GUINEA

Our War Correspondent in NEW GUINEA states that Allied troops south-east of KOKODA are still attacking enemy forces in the OIVI area. The Japs are entrenched on high ground and have brought up a heavy mountain gun and mortars to try to stop the drive to BUNA.

The small airfield at KOKODA is in use again. The Australian flag is flying again on what was once the administrative building in KOKODA. The flag was dropped from an American plane. It is disclosed that the Japs made no attempt to hold KOKODA but withdrew before our advance to OIVI.

SOLOMONS

The enemy has attacked our forces in GUADALCANAL west of the Henderson airfield but there is no news of the activity east of the airfield. The Japanese losses in GUADALCANAL have been four times more than the American losses.

RUSSIA

Time and time again German mass attacks have been beaten back in the factory area of STALINGRAD. Russians are holding their ground in the CAUCASUS. Messages have been pouring into the Kremlin congratulating the Soviet Government on its 25th Anniversary.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

The Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) said in CANBERRA to-day that he was gratified with the war situation had moved recently ...

The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said a small group of soldiers somewhere in NEW GUINEA had subscribed an amount of £760 to the Austerity War Loan. "This was an incentive to the public to subscribe well," he added.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2200L/7

There is nothing to report.

SUMMARY BY UNITS AND RANKS - DISEMBARKED EX 'KARSIK' 8 NOV 42

dup 9/11

U N I T	OFFICERS	W.O'S	S/SGTS & SGTS	CPLS	PTES	TOTAL
2/5 Fd Regt	2	1	1	1	28	33
2/9 Inf Bn	1			1		2
9 Inf Bn			1			1
25 Inf Bn					2	2
3/9 Lt A.A Bty					1	1
HQ 17 Inf Bde	1					1
25 HY A.A Bty	2					2
DETAILS	3	1	3		9	16
T O T A L S	9	2	5	2	40	58

C R Evans Lieut.,
RECORDS LIAISON OFFICER
11/11

D A A G

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 70 8 NOV 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1500L/ 8

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

American troops, supported by British naval and air forces, have broken into French North and West Africa. Landings have been made on the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts. In the United States the news has received a dramatic response. It is hailed as a sign that the Allied Forces aim to drive the enemy out of North Africa.

The Americans landed in darkness. The successful landings were made in two vital coastal areas. A war correspondent with the American Expeditionary Forces revealed that a large number of American troops had landed. It was the largest movement of troops since the war began. There was perfect co-ordination between the various services. The American offensive was opened by a large armada. United States newspapers describe the offensive as the opening of a second front against the Axis powers.

The people of France have been told the reason for these operations. British and American aircraft have dropped leaflets giving the text of President Roosevelt's message to the people of France. A British Government spokesman has given his Government's support of America's move. President Roosevelt has told the French people that the American nation would help them to regain their faith in the three great ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity. The French have been asked to cooperate. The American Commander, in a message, said : "We call you comrades in the coming fight against the invaders of France."

NEW GUINEA

The landing of American troops in NEW GUINEA is revealed in a communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters. They were flown from Australia and are advancing towards BUNA. The American forces are in Central and Northern Papua.

Australian ground forces continue their pressure against the enemy at GIVI. Enemy forces have been forced from the high ground and fighting is proceeding in cleared spaces. The JAPS brought up heavy machine guns, one of which was captured.

Forces in the MILNE BAY area have now completed clearing out hostile troops and have occupied strategic positions in the islands north of MILNE BAY.

EGYPT

The 8th Army is driving Rommel back still further. General Montgomery has made an appeal to his men for a supreme effort in clearing Axis forces from North Africa. The fleeing enemy receives no respite from Allied air attacks by night or by day.

SOLOMONS

American forces in GUADALCANAL have advanced east of the HENDERSON airfield. They met little resistance. More than 5000 JAPS are known to have to have been killed in the TULAGI and GUADALCANAL conflicts.

RUSSIA

Russian forces in STALINGRAD have consolidated their positions. Similar news is given of the Russian forces in the CAUCASUS.

RAF OVER ITALY

The RAF was over Italy again last night. Results of the raids have not been disclosed.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2200K/ 8: There is nothing to report.

WAR DIARY

MOVEMENT ORDER NO 2

SECRET

COPY NO 16

HQ MILNE FORCE
9 NOV '42.

1. Appx 'A' sets out personnel and stores to embark for HATRACK at date to be specified. COSC will advise HQ MILNE FORCE, date and time shipping is available.

2. EMBARKATION

The following sub-unit will embark:-

'F' Tp 55 Bty
2/5 Fd Regt

Embarkation time will be notified later. 2/5 Fd Regt will be responsible for the provision of sufficient personnel to load stores and equipment, and will also be responsible for the embarkation of troops in co operation with COSC. All guns will be loaded under the supervision of CO 2/5 Fd Regt or his representative.

3. MESSING

To be carried by units - 3 day's travelling, and 3 day's emergency rations. Messing of personnel will be a unit responsibility.

4. AMN

Small arms amn will be available throughout the voyage.

5. MED

Units will ensure that sufficient medical stores are provided for the use of personnel.

6. GENERAL CARGO

Units and services despatching general cargo will ensure that loading lists, in quintuplicate, showing consignor, consignee, and tonnage are forwarded to HQ MILNE FORCE, before loading commences.

7. O.C. TROOPS

The senior combatant Officer will assume control of all military personnel, and will be responsible for such duties as he is called upon to perform, both during and at the conclusion of the voyage.

8. The necessity for maintaining the strictest security in connection with the movement will be impressed on all concerned.

[signature] Col
AA & QMG - MILNE FORCE

ACK
SIGNED AT [illegible]
TIME 1850

DISTRIBUTION

2/5 Aust Fd Regt (2)
USA SOS
CASC
File (2)
GI
COSC (2)
NOIC
ADMS
AQ
HQ MGF
CRE
HATFORCE
War Diary (2)

ITEM	TONS	CWT	QRS	LBS
4 - 25 Pdrs - dismantled				
4 - Sets of wheels & axles (4 Cwt ea)		16		
4 - cylinder blocks (6 cwt ea)	1	4		
4 - trails (12: 6 " x 6: 11" ea)	1	2		
4 - Saddles (2 cwt 2 qrs ea)		10		
4 - barrels (5 cwt 0 qrs ea)	1	1		
4 - Jackets (1 cwt 2 qrs ea)		18		
1 - Breech ring (3 cwt)		3		
4 - Shields (1 cwt ea)		4		
4 - cradles (3 cwt 1 qr ea)		13		
4 - Sight brackets (1 cwt ea)		4		
4 - breech blocks (3 cwt ea)		12		
4 - Firing Platforms (6 ft diam)		2	0	16
Gun Stores (4 Sets)		5	1	8
Sig Stores (101 sets)		2		
1 - Battery Charger (1 cwt)		1		
6 - Batteries			2	
6 - Phones DV			2	10
10 miles DS wire		5		
1 - half mile DS wire			2	
2 - hand cable layers 1/3 mile				6
2 - hand cable layers 1 mile				20
2 - lamps - signalling				10
36 - batteries x cells				12
12 - Torches				12
1 - Bottle Acid				3
SMALL ARMS				
2 - Bren Guns, with spare barrel			2	4
10 - Tommy Guns			3	6
2 - Magazines (pannier)			1	15
12 - Boxes Hand Grenades			6	
SUNDRY [illegible]				
1 - Director				16
1 - Director Stand				8
1 - Box artificers tools			2	22
1 - Pump air two stage horizontal No 5			1	
4 - Tins Buffer Oil			6	
1 - Tin Lubricating Oil				14
1 - Pump h and suction & force screw acting No 2				14
1 - Tyre pump				14
1 - Gauge pressure				4
4 - double - 4 triple - 4 snatch blocks			1	20
300 yards rope			5	16
Water Tins Empty			1	20
Cooking Gear			1	20
6 - Camouflage Nets		1	3	
8 - Tents (180 lbs ea)		4	1	24
10 - Picks				25
10 - Shovels			1	20
8 - Lamps				4
Sundries				20
4 fire Damper			1	12
AMMUNITION				
HE - 2,000 rounds	30	10		
Smoke - 500 rounds	4	10		
SA [illegible] - 4,000 rounds		2	3	4
SA [illegible] - 4,000 "		2	3	4
Personnel : 6/ all ranks 230 lbs ea 6		17	2	10
Rations (4 days) - 6/ personnel		4		
	51	8	0	19

14

JW.RR.

REPORT ON VISIT TO "DRAKE" FORCE - 7 NOV. '42

H.Q., MILNE FORCE.
9 Nov '42

AA & QMG.,

GENERAL:

1. Area in vicinity MUD BAY, occupied by Bn HQ and three Coys., was visited. Remainder of Force stated to be at Strip some five hrs march from MUD BAY.

2. Tps were in good heart, rations and accommodation satisfactory.

PORT FACILITIES:

3. MUD BAY is NOT considered suitable for use as a port should expansion of the Force be contemplated, owing to mud bank about two feet under water running 50 yards from shore to deep water. Immediate foreshore is swampy also rendering building of a road almost impracticable. It is understood that it is proposed to move this part of the Force to another area where it is stated that 26 feet of water is available up to shore.

COMMUNICATION:

4. CO Force complained that Wireless Sqpt for communication with MILNE was continually breaking down and asked that maintenance personnel be sent to rectify this. He is of the opinion that sets are NOT adequately tested at MILNE prior to despatch.

HAND WATER CARTS:

5. These were stated to be highly satisfactory and most useful in level country. CO asked that five (5) more be manufactured and despatched as soon as possible.

TRANSPORT:

6. Despatch of the following tpt was requested:-

6 M/Cycles
2 Vans 1 Ton (4 x 4, if possible).

It is understood that a Jeep track has been made from a suitable landing point to the Strip and that vehicles would be taken by this route. It is stated that a sufficient trafficable area is available at the Strip for use of tpt. POL would of course be required for these vehicles.

RATIONS:

7. Thirty two days rations were on hand as at 7 Nov. Considerable quantities of native fruits and vegetables are available and are being consumed. Fresh meat is particularly desired and it is suggested a few live sheep be sent as opportunity offers.

SALVAGE:

8. Four by 50 (4 x 50) Cal MG's were salvaged from a crashed Kittyhawk and have been handed over to 18 Bde LAD for fitting of trigger mechanisms. It is understood that CO "Drake" desires return of these weapons for defence of Strip.

(over)

STORES REQUIRED:

9. Despatch of the following items was requested:-

Grease for Jeep
Trade Tobacco - Emu Twist for preference
Typing paper 1 Rm
Duplicating paper 1 Rm
" Ink 1
Pencils 1
Message Forms 12 pads

12 NOV 1942

Maj
DAAG., MILNE FORCE

RECENT OPS - GOODENOUGH ISLAND

For reasons of security, mention of the recent action on GOODENOUGH ISLAND by units of MILNE FORCE has been forbidden until released through the ABC last night. A short resume of the operation is given here.

On 25 Aug - the day the main MILNE BAY ops commenced- 7 barges of JAPS on their way here from BUNA to secure the beachhead at RABI for the main force were marooned on GOODENOUGH ISLAND by our fighters, who destroyed all their barges.

Since then, the presence of these Japs on GOODENOUGH has been a constant source of nuisance to us and on the night 22/23 Oct a force from here was landed to deal with them. Our tps marched for eight hrs in driving rain and pitch darkness over a mountain range 1000' above sea level and attacked AM 23 Oct. Fighting continued for two days and on the night 24/25 the remnants of the JAPS succeeded in escaping in two large launches. These launches touched at FERGUSSON ISLAND and then departed northwards towards NEW BRITAIN.

Our cas during the whole op were approx 30. The enemy are known to have lost at least 39 killed , number wounded not known. One P/W was also captured - previously mentioned on this news sheet as the JAP who bit his tongue to prevent being questioned. He still maintains that he was attacked and captured by American tps.

SUMMARY OF ABD NEWS BULLETIN 1900Z/ 9

CAPTURE OF ALGIERS

ALGIERS, capital of ALGERIA, is in American hands. The capture was made within 24 hours of the landings of American troops. Hostilities have been suspended and the French garrison has surrendered. The majority of the French forces have been confined to barracks. Late on Sunday afternoon, a 35,000 ton American battleship, a cruiser and destroyers poured shells on the defences. Other points on the ALGERIAN coast are also in American hands. American landings have been effected between CASABLANCA and the capital of French Morocco. There was little resistance on some of the beaches.

VICHY radio has declared that the American Government, by its action in landing troops in French North and West Africa, had broken off relations with the French Government. Washington has made no comment.

EGYPT

In CAIRO it is stated that it is doubtful whether one Axis soldier remains in Egypt except Italians who are busy surrendering. The 8th Army continues its progress and has captured many prisoners, 500 tanks and nearly 1000 guns.

RAF OVER ITALY

RAF bombers have attacked Italy and occupied France. Extensive damage has been caused by the raids on GENOA. Buildings have been razed to the ground. Italy's war effort is in a bad way.

NEW GUINEA

There is no change in the position around OIVI. Allied planes are attacking enemy positions. The American troops in PAPUA have not been reported in action. JAPS at OIVI are using light field guns. Our forces have to rely on mortars because of the difficulty of transportation over the OWEN STANLEY RANGE.

SOLOMONS

American forces in GUADALCANAL have continued their progress east of the HENDERSON airfield. They met no opposition.

RUSSIA: Russians have repelled enemy attacks on STALINGRAD. Heavy losses have been inflicted on Germans in CAUCASUS.

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SUMMARY BY UNITS AND RANKS - DISEMBARKED EX TAROONA 10 Nov 42

UNIT	OFFICERS	W.Os	S/SGTS & SGTS	CPLS	PTES	TOTAL
X list 2/4 Fd Coy				1	4	5
X list 2/10 Bn				3	11	14
X List 2/9 Bn				2	8	10
X List 7 Bde	1					1
X List H Q Milne Fce	1					1
2/2 Aust Coy ASC	1	1	3	10	43	60
3 Aust Fd Survey Coy					2	2
Det Milne Fce Pro Coy				2	1	3
2/6 Coy ASC	1		1		29	31
17Bde Sec 6 Div Ord Fd Park	1		2	2	13	18
do. do. Fd Wkshps	3	2	12	17	64	98
Det 2/8 Fd Coy				1	9	10
2.2 Aust Fd AMB	1	1	2	4	26	34
2/7 Bn			1	1	17	19
2/6 Bn				[illegible]	12	13
2/3 Bn			1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
K Sec Sigs					1	1
2/46 L.A/D.					3	3
HQ 17 Bde	1	1		1	3	8
B Sqn 2/3 Armd Regt	6		9	17	136	168
2 Armd Regt Ord Gp.	2	1	3	3	24	33
3 Bty 2/1 Aust A/Tk Regt	6	1	12	17	102	138
TOTALS	23	8	48	85	523	687

DISEMBARKED EX 'CHARON' 10 Nov 42

Milne Force Pro Coy	2		5	69	12	88
Milne Force Postal Unit		1	2	4	8	15
Det Docks Control (V.C/			1			1
Det 4 Aust Horse Tp			1		5	6
Concert Party	1		5	6	12	24
	3	1	14	79	37	134
TOTALS Both Vessels	26	10	61	164	560	821

A.R. EWIN Lieut
Records Liaison Officer
11.11.42

War Diary

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COPY

HQ MC FORCE
10 NOV 42

I, THOMAS ALBERT BLAMEY, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.C., Commander-in-Chief Australian Military Forces, HEREBY, in pursuance of Section 4 of the National Security (Emergency Control) Regulations 1942, APPOINT CYRIL ALBERT CLOWES, D.S.C., M.C., to be an "Authorised person" in relation to that part of the Territory of Papua which lies to the East of longitude 150 degrees.

(Sgd) T.A. Blamey

General,

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

LSO:AL:RR.

NATIONAL SECURITY (EMERGENCY CONTROL) REGULATIONS
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (MILNE FORCE) ORDER 1942

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

N.G. FORCE.

17 Nov. '42.

1. It is desired to report that, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him under the abovenamed Regulations by Instrument of Appointment dated 10th November, 1942, COMMANDER, MILNE FORCE has made an Order known as PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (MILNE FORCE) ORDER 1942, dated 10th day of November, 1942.

2. Two copies of the abovenamed Order are forwarded herewith.

3. Attention is invited to the provisions of Section 48 of the Acts Interpretation Act (1901-1937) and to EX 24783 of the 30th April, 1940, which provides that copies of all Orders and By-Laws made under National Security Regulations under delegated authority should be transmitted to Army Headquarters without delay.

(Sgd) C. A Clowes.
Maj.-Gen.,
COMMANDING, MILNE FORCE.

ISO/AL/EM AQ 2115

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (HILNE FORCE) ORDER 1942

CREWS OF AMERICAN TRAWLERS

HQ HILNE FORCE
20 NOV 42

HQ NG FORCE

1. Further to this Hq memo 42/1370 of 30 Oct 42, it is desired to report that the above Order, copies of which have been forwarded to H NG Force under cover of Hilne Force AQ 2115 of 17 Nov 42, was designed to meet the circumstances arising out of the facts reported in para 1 of this Hq 42/1370 of 30 Oct.

2. In pursuance of para 5 of the above Order, Commander Hilne Force, appointed CO 2/5 Aust Inf Bn an Authorised Officer for the purpose of the Order. Attached hereto is a list of persons who were formerly employed by the Small Ships Section, Transportation Service of USA SOS, and who, having terminated their contracts under the provisions of their agreements (form of which is enclosed herewith for information), have been taken into Protective Custody by the CO 2/5 Aust Inf Bn.

3. It will be seen that the agreements entered into by these persons were terminated in circumstances which cast upon them the responsibility of providing their own passage back to Australia. In view of the fact that all aircraft and vessels leaving this area are either Service-owned or under charter to the Commonwealth or USA SOS, and the terms of such charters do NOT permit the Master of a vessel to sell passages, the view was taken by Commander Hilne Force that it was NOT competent to him to provide transportation from this Area without further authority.

4. The position then being that these men were, as civilians, in an Operational area, which they could not leave, and where they could NOT buy food, the Commander Hilne Force thought it desirable that they should be taken into Protective Custody pending instructions as to their disposal.

5. A direction as to the disposal of these persons is requested, please.

(sgd) J.G.L.
Maj-Gen.,
COMMANDING HILNE FORCE
AOD.

CO Y (AUSTRALIAN) TO:-
USA SOC

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (MILNE FORCE) ORDER 1942

LIST OF PERSONS DETAINED IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Allison Alexander MARKWELL

Master Mariner
Age: 54
Ship: Kooraka
Home Address: "Ocean View", Chatham-street, Margate Redcliffe Q'Land.

David Myer LAZARUS

Chief Officer
Age: 48
Ship: Kooraka
Home Address: 320 Burwood-road, Burwood, Sydney NSW.

William Thomas FRENCH

Skipper
Age: 35
Ship: Charles Cam
Home Address: 8 Byrnes-street, Rozelle, Sydney NSW.

George Ernest GLADDIS

Cook - deckhand
Age: 49
Ship: Two Freddies

William DENNIS

Engineer
Age: 22
Ship: Charles Cam
Home Address: 146 Willoughby-road, Crows Nest NSW.

NATIONAL SECURITY (EMERGENCY CONTROL) REGULATIONS
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (MILNE FORCE) ORDER 1942.

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

In pursuance of paragraph 6 of the Protective Custody Milne Force Order 1942, I hereby authorise Lt-Col P. STARR, Commanding 2/5 Aust Inf Bn AIF to detain in protective custody, in accordance with the provisions of the said Order, civilians who may from time to time be present in Milne Force Area.

DATED this tenth day of NOVEMBER, 1942.

Major-General
COMMANDING MILNE FORCE.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL SECURITY ACT 1939 - 1940

National Security (Emergency Control) Regulations

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (MILNE FORCE) ORDER 1942

WHEREAS by Regulation 3 of the National Security (Emergency Control) Regulations it is provided that where the Minister of State for the Army is of opinion that it is necessary or desirable for the purpose of meeting any emergency arising out of the war, that the said Regulations should apply to any part of Australia, he may, by notice published in the "Gazette", declare that the said Regulations shall apply to that part as on and from a date specified in the notice, and thereupon the said Regulations shall apply to that part accordingly.

AND WHEREAS the Minister of State for the Army by notice published in the "Gazette" on the twelfth day of February, 1942, has declared that the said Regulations shall apply to the Territory of PAPUA and Territory of NEW GUINEA from the said twelfth day of February, 1942.

AND WHEREAS by Regulation 4 of the said Regulations it is provided that in the said Regulations, unless the contrary intention appears, "authorised person", in relation to any part of Australia to which those Regulations apply or in any area thereof, means inter alia, a person appointed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces to be an authorised person for the purposes of those Regulations.

AND WHEREAS by Regulation 6 of the said Regulations it is provided inter alia that an authorised person in respect of any part of Australia to which the said Regulations apply or any area thereof may do, or may cause or direct to be done, any act or thing which he thinks necessary for the purpose of meeting any emergency arising in that part or area out of the war or for the purpose of providing for the defence of that part or area.

AND WHEREAS by Instrument of Appointment dated the tenth day of November, 1942, made in pursuance of Regulation 4 of the said Regulations the Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, appointed CYRIL ALBERT CLOWES, D.S.O., M.C., to be an authorised person in relation to that part of the Territory of PAPUA which lies to the East of longitude 150 degrees (hereinafter called MILNE FORCE AREA) for the purposes of the said Regulations.

AND WHEREAS, I, CYRIL ALBERT CLOWES, D.S.O., M.C., the Officer for the time being holding the appointment of Commander, Milne Force (hereinafter called COMMANDER, MILNE FORCE) am of the opinion that it is necessary for the purpose of providing for the defence of MILNE FORCE AREA to make provision for the protective custody and employment of civilians who may from time to time be present in MILNE FORCE AREA. NOW THEREFORE I, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by the said Regulations and Instrument of Appointment or otherwise HEREBY ORDER AS FOLLOWS:-

1. This Order may be cited as the Protective Custody (MILNE FORCE) Order, 1942.

2. In this Order, unless the contrary intention appears—

(over)

(sgd) C. A. Clowes
Maj-Gen

(3)

"CIVILIAN" means any person NOT being a member of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the Allied Forces.

"PROTECTIVE CUSTODY" means such form of custody or restraint as may be considered necessary or expedient by an Authorised Officer.

"AUTHORISED OFFICER" means any Officer of the Australian Military Forces authorised by the Commander, MILNE FORCE, to detain civilians in protective custody.

3. Any civilian who, on or after the date of this Order, is within MILNE FORCE AREA, shall, unless or until exempted in writing under para. 5 of this Order, be detained in protective custody by an Authorised Officer.

4. Commander, Milne Force may, in writing, authorise any Officer to detain civilians in protective custody.

5. Commander, Milne Force may, in writing, exempt any civilian from the operation of the provisions of this Order.

6. Any civilian who is detained in protective custody in pursuance of this Order may be employed on any work by and at the discretion of an Authorised Officer.

7. Any Officer of the Australian Military Forces may arrest or cause to be arrested, any civilian in MILNE FORCE AREA who does NOT on demand produce an exemption, in writing, under para. 5 of this Order.

DATED this twelfth day of NOVEMBER, 1942.

(Sgd) C. A. Clowes.
Maj-Gen.,
COMD., MILNE FORCE

JCL/EH

Copy

42/1370.

CREWS ON AMERICAN TRAWLERS

HQ MILNE FORCE
30 Oct 42

HQ FORCE
COPY TO COSC HQ FORCE

1. Col Burns, COSC, Sub-base Cond Milne Bay, has referred to this HQ the following questions.:-

(a) Crews of the trawlers now being used between Milne Bay and the North-West Coast are Australian citizens signed on under articles which provide that such personnel may give or be given a requisite notice terminating their engagement.

(b) On termination of employment the person tendering the notice must find his own passage back to Australia or home port.

(c) If his services are terminated by USA SOS, passage to his home port must be found by that organisation.

(d) Several members of the crews of these ships have already tendered such notice and some of the notices have expired and the men have left the ships and are ashore at this port.

2. As Cond Milne Force has not been delegated an "authorised person" for the purposes of the National Security (Emergency Control) Regulations, he cannot take any steps to deal with such personnel who have so terminated their employment and are now ashore at this port.

3. It would appear that the simplest method of dealing with these men is to have them placed on board the first outgoing ship for an Australian port, but, if this be done, it would create a precedent which may be dangerous in that members of the crews of the other trawlers, on learning of the treatment given to the delinquent employees, may follow suit with the result that most of the trawlers may be out of commission.

4. It would appear that this is a matter of higher policy, as it involves the principle of employment of civilians still retaining their full civilian rights in an operational zone. This is more serious, particularly in view of the fact that such civilians, by exercising their rights, may prejudice the supplies to operational troops in forward areas.

5. It is, therefore, requested please that a direction be given as to what steps should be taken by this HQ in relation to this matter. Further, it is respectfully suggested that representations should be made to the appropriate authority, that the crews of these trawlers, and any other vessels sent to this area, to operate forward to the operational areas, should be under either Naval or Military control, and should not be civilians still retaining their civil rights of termination of employment.

(Sgd) C. A. Clowes.
Maj-Gen.,
COMMANDING MILNE FORCE

COPY FOR INFM: Col Burns USA SOS MILNE BAY

UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICES OF SUPPLY
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, SMALL SHIPS SECTION
APO 927

A G R E E M E N T

The following agreement is hereby entered between the Small Ships Section, Transportation Service, of the United States Army Services of Supply, herein after referred to as the employer and..... .....
(NAME) (ADDRESS)

whose home port, hereinafter referred to as the Employee:

1. The employee agrees to work for the employer for a period of.....

In the capacity of .....
subject to the following conditions:

a. SALARY. The employer will pay the employee a flat monthly salary of .....which shall commence on..... In the event of partial months caused by the commencing date or termination date falling on other than the beginning or edding of a calendar month, the salary will be computed in accordance with the number of days worked multiplied by one-thirtieth of the monthly rate set forth above.

b. OVERTIME, HOLIDAY PAY ETC. No extra pay will be allowed for work performed on Sundays or holidays, or for extra hours during any day which is normally considered as overtime, since it is understood that the probable performance of such work by the employee has been taken into consideration in establishing salary indicated in a above.

c. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT. (1) Either the employer or employee may terminate this Agreement by the giving of fifteen days' notice in writing in the case of ships' officers, or twenty-four hours' notice in writing in the case of other than ships' officers, of their intention to do so. In case the termination notice is given by the employee to become effective in other than his home port, the employer assumes no responsibility for return passage from port of discharge to employee's home port. Should the termination notice be given by the employer to become effective in other than the employee's home port, the employer agrees to continue the salary of the employee during the period of time necessary for the employer to arrange for and secure transportation for the employee back to his home port and thereafter for the additional period of time required for such transportation. Such transportation shall be furnished by the employer at no expense to the employee. (2) Provided that if any employee be intoxicated or be guilty of misconduct, or refuses to obey a lawful order, the Master, or in his absence the Officer or Engineer on duty may dismiss him on arrival at the next port of call. In such cases, the provisions of paragraph (1) relating to free passage and continuation of salary to the employee's home port shall not apply.

d. SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT. Sickness and accident benefits shall be as set forth in Part VIII, pages 17 and 18 of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration Award for Seamen, dated 8th November, 1935.

f. PAYMENT OF SALARY. The salary of the employee will be paid to him on the first day of each month, provided the ship is in a port where there is a duly appointed fiscal agent of the employer, or if the ship is not in such a port on such dates, payment of all wages due, up to and including those due on the last regular pay day, will be made as soon as possible after the ship reaches a port where there is a duly appointed fiscal agent of the employer: provided however, that if the ship is in the Port of Sydney on the fifteenth of the month, or such other port as may hereafter be designated as the headquarters of the employer, he may be paid any salary due him for services between the first and fifteenth of the month which is in excess of his total monthly allotments.

g. SHORE LEAVE WHILE IN PORT. Shore leave while in a port may be granted at the discretion of the Master, without deduction from the pay of the employee provided that such leave in no way interferes with the operation or working of the ship, and that United States property is properly safeguarded at all times. Such leaves will be granted for periods not to exceed twenty-four hours at any one time and are revokable at the will of the master.

h. BED & BOARD. The employer shall furnish to the employee free of charge quarters and subsistence aboard the ship to which assigned. Such quarters shall be sanitary and reasonably comfortable, and subsistence shall be of a reasonable quality and quantity. In the event that while in any port the employee does not elect to take his meals and sleep aboard the ship, no allowance for bed and board ashore will be made. However, should for any reason the employer not be able to furnish quarters and/or subsistence to the employee aboard the ship, the following amounts in lieu thereof shall be allowed in addition to the monthly salary stipulated in a above:-

	Officers	Ratings
Victualling & accommodation	14/6 per day	7/6 per day
Accommodation Only	6/- do	3/- do
Victualling Only	8/6 do	4/6 do

i. ALLOTMENTS. The employer agrees to permit the employee to authorise the following allotments of his pay - such allotments to take priority over all other payments of salary in the order listed:
(1) For Insurance: The employee hereby authorises a deducation from his pay in the amount of .....from salary due on ..... (date)
and thereafter.....(Amount) per month until termination of his employment, which amount shall be paid to

....
(Name of Insurance Company) (Address)
for payment of monthly premium on £.....(Amount) of Personal Accident War Risk Insurance.
(2) For Dependents: The employee hereby authorises an allotment of his pay in the amount of .....from salary due on..... and thereafter.....permonth until termination of his employment to .....(Name of Allottee).....
.....(Address of Allottee).....
.....(Relationship)
TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALLOTMENTS AND DEDUCTIONS PER MONTH.....
j. SPECIAL CONDITIONS:
.....

2. OATH OF SECRECY. The signature of the employee hereon, properly witnessed by an officer of the United States Army shall, in addition to constituting agreement to the stipulations set forth in the preceding paragraphs, constitute execution of the following oath:

"I do solemnly swear that any information of any form or type that may become known to me, either by reading, hearing or any other form, while employed by the United States Army Forces in Australia, will not be divulged to any unauthorised person, either within the United States Army Forces or those not connected therewith by any means whatsoever. I do make this without any mental reservation whatever, So Help Me, God.

I acknowledge to have received a copy of Memorandum, Headquarters, USA FIA, dated February 16, 1942 (Secrecy Discipline) for my informationand compliance".

(Signed).....

Sworn and subscribed before me this.....day of.....
(Signature of officer administering Oath and witnessing this Agreement) .....
3. The stipulations set forth in Items 1. a to j inclusive are agreed to by me for and in the name of the Chief of Transportation Service, United States Army Services of Supply, and are effective as of.....

....
(Signature of Master of Ship to which assigned) (Signature of officer signing Agreement)

.....(Rank)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

WAR DIARY

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 72 10 Oct 42. hw. 18

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/ 10

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

Events are moving so quickly in FRENCH NORTH AFRICA that it is difficult to draw a true picture of the activity on land or sea. The progress made by Allied forces at all points is going according to plan.

The latest news tells of an attack by Allied forces on positions 60 miles from TUNISIAN border. The airfields in ALGIERS have been taken by Americans, supported by British reinforcements, and have been improved. Several points on the Atlantic Coast have been taken by the Americans. An early collapse in some towns which are now resisting is suggested in a bulletin from American Headquarters. French forces who are opposed to the Axis Powers are being rallied.

War correspondents suggest that progress in the next week will depend on the ability of the Vichy air forces to put up a fight. The air force comprises 500 planes. They may fight well for the first week but may peter out because of lack of supplies of petrol and pilots.

Riots have occurred in PARIS. 15,000,000 leaflets have been dropped over France explaining the reason for the operations in French North Africa.

United States, Canada and Mexico have broken off relations with the Vichy Government. All Vichy ships in American ports have been taken into protective custody.

A German spokesman in PARIS has announced that Admiral Darlan is a prisoner in the hands of the Americans.

EGYPT

Torrential rain has slowed up the progress of both armies but the 8th Army continues its move to squeeze Rommel's forces out of North Africa. British guns and planes have been pounding enemy positions relentlessly. When an airfield was captured, the Allies found a large collection of brass band instruments obviously intended for a victorious German entry into ALEXANDRIA. Now the instruments are going the other way.

RUSSIA

Germans in Russia are talking more about the weather than about the battle. New German challenges in the CAUCASUS have been beaten back. No progress has been made by the enemy in the STALINGRAD area.

NEW GUINEA

Fighting still goes on around OIVI and the enemy has lost heavily, it is reported in a communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters. In one place the enemy has suffered 100 casualties. At present the Japanese are sandwiched between two Australian forces. The second force got behind the enemy lines by making a wide sweep. A second Japanese force to the east is caught in the BUNA pocket. This force is menaced by the American troops advancing from the south.

SOLOMONS

American forces have advanced east of the HENDERSON airfield. American warships have shelled enemy positions.

- AUSTRALIAN NEWS -

x The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said that the Australian casualties in the fighting in Egypt had been relatively light. They had been lighter than expected.....

x Special services will be held throughout Australia to-morrow in commemoration of Armistice Day. French men and women have been asked to observe the two minutes' silence .....

x The Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) said the battle of the Atlantic was a tremendous problem and the Allies' greatest trouble was shipping.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2200L/10 :- Nothing to report.

War Diary

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MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL PER H.T. "TAROONA" - 11 NOV 42

HQ MILNE FORCE
24 NOV 42

It is advised that the following personnel were evacuated per Sea Ambulance Transport on 11 Nov 42, and will be placed on "X" List as from that date

J. W. Wales Maj
Col.
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ 2/5 AUST FD REGT.	(1)
HQ A HY BTY RAA	(1)
AADC	(4)
HQ RAE MILNE FORCE	(5)
HQ SIGS MILNE FORCE	(1)
HQ 7 AUST INF BDE	(5)
HQ 17 do	(5)
HQ 18 do	(5)
HQ 2/3 DOCKS OP COY	(1)
HQ GOLD ASC M. FORCE	(1)
HQ 32 AUST INF COY	(1)
DOS	(1)
AIMS	(2)
CAMP	(1)

COPIES TO

RLO	(1)
BASE POSTAL UNIT	(1)
WAR DIARY	(2)
FILE	(1)

PERSONNEL EVACUATED PER H.T. "TAROONA" 11 NOV 42

NO	RANK	NAME	UNIT
6970532	T/Sgt	SNOW C.A.	2nd Port Embarkation
6941817	S/Sgt	OAKS H.L.	8th Fighter HQ
20469301	Pte	MITCHELL E.R.	104 CA (AA)
17001358	Pte	PSIMOPULOS J.G.	8th Fighter HQ
37007767	Sgt	KING W.J.	43 Engrs Co F
6976868	Pte	DANAHY R.V.	8th Fighter HQ
6262048	Pte	BLACKBURN W.B.	43 Engrs Co F
37076836	Pte	BALLARD J.A.	43 Engrs Co D
38067225	Pte	HEARTSILL S.S.	46 Engrs Co E
0-726804	2/Lt	McLAUGHLIN J.E.	36 Fighter Sqn
36007991	T-4	EASLEY H.A.	39th QM Co A
37053890	Pte	DAVIS J.D.	39th QM Co A
20469242	Pte	HOLMES H.R.	104 CA (AA)
36110070	Pte	MORETTO A.L.	19th QM
6149415	Cpl	BURKE L.L.	605 Ordnance
16041600	Cpl	DORMAN J.D.	36 Fighter Sqn
38039982	T-5	HASKINS H.D.	39th QM Co A
NX 213132	Lieut	RICH C.	HQ Milne Force
QX 3[illegible]29	Cpl	BEAUMONT H.	A [illegible] Bty
QX 27517	Pte	PURCELL L.	61 Bn
NX 43917	Spr	BLANCH L.	2/3 Docks Oper Coy
QX 27834	Sgt	TAYLOR D.	2/5 Ind Coy
Q 22730	Pte	STEWART L.	25 Bn
Q 7572[illegible]	L/Sgt	JOHNS J.	2/5 Fd Regt
Q 108026	Pte	REID W.	61 Bn
NX 1266033	Dvr	ROBINSON W.	HQ HILNE FORCE
Q 45699	Pte	McCLUSKEY T.	25 Coy AASC
Q 17168	Pte	DEEKS R.	61 Bn
QX 35982	L/Cpl	WOODS W.	61 Bn
Q 23501	Cpl	FRASER F.	61 Bn
Q 102966	Pte	WILLIAMS W.	61 Bn
SX 1[illegible]05	L/Cpl	McINTYRE J.	2/10 Bn
NX 78215	Pte	BOURKE F.	2/6 Bn
VX 30576	Pte	FRASER A.	2/2 Fd Amb
SX 582	Pte	HILL W.	2/10 Bn
Q 146708	Pte	JUDGE L.	9 Bn
Q 113983	Pte	IRVING L.	9 Bn
VX55[illegible]47	Pte	BURGHER H.	2/6 Bn
Q 17072	Pte	JOHNSTON J.	9 Bn
NX 12377[illegible]7	Sgt	CALEY T.	HQ Milne Force
Q 22972	Pte	HAPLER W.	61 Bn
W 6150	Sig	MEAKIN L.	Sigs Milne Force
Q 103114	Pte	BOSTON C.	25 Bn
Q 125062	Pte	ALDRIDGE E.	61 Bn
NX 377[illegible]2	Pte	MURRAY A.	2/3 Fd Regt
VX[illegible] 21986	Cpl	COOPER J.	2/5 Fd Coy
Q 19[illegible]07	Pte	FOX P.	25 Bn
SX [illegible]026	Pte	CASHEN J.	2/12 Bn
QX [illegible]8490	Pte	KNIGHT M.	25 Bn
NX 1[illegible]862	Pte	IRWIN N.	2/5 Bn
Q 10[illegible]6	Pte	WEIZEL V.	9 Bn
N 156[illegible]03	Pte	BERNOT O.	2/6 Bn
NX 37982	Gnr	DALEY R.	2/3 Fd Regt
Q 165[illegible]18	Pte	[illegible]	9 Bn
QX [illegible]9089	Gnr	[illegible]	2/3 Fd Regt
NX 16[illegible]12	Gnr	PRINCE E.	2/9 Lt AA Regt
Q 102[illegible]79	Pte	APSDEN A.	25 Coy AASC
NX 10210	Pte	WATTS W.	2/1 Pnr Bn
SX 2[illegible]51	Pte	SHIBERT G.	2/3 COS
NX 48664	Gnr	FAH K.	2/3 AA Bty
QX 36359	Pte	COLLINS V.	61 Bn
NX 53197	Spr	BROMFIELD C.	2/4 Fd Coy
Q 22300	Pte	JOHNSON R.	25 Bn
NX 17780	Gnr	FRASER F.	2/9 Lt AA Bty
NXII 281078	Gnr	RAINEY R.	A Hy Bty

PERSONNEL EVACUATED ON H.T. "TAROOMA" 11 NOV 42
(SHEET 2)

QX 9089	L/Cpl	McGUIRE W.	2/9 Bn
V 13493	Gnr	ROBINS D.	23 AA Bty
NX 95737	Gnr	WALKER H.	2/5 Fd Regt
VX 77284	Spr	COOPER R.	2/3 Docks Oper Coy
NX 8[illegible]47	Spr	[illegible] H.	2/3 do
Q 1[illegible]75	Pte	[illegible] G.	25 Bn
VX 3[illegible]97	Pte	[illegible] A.	2/1 Bn
QX 21910	Pte	[illegible] S.	[illegible]
NX 72775	Spr	[illegible] J.J.	2/3 Docks Oper Coy
QX 29002	Spr	[illegible] S.	do
Q 100205	Pte	[illegible]	25 Bn
SX 607	WOI	[illegible] B.M.	~~Bde~~ 32 Aus Corps
Q 99[illegible]4	S/Sgt	[illegible] J.D.	25 Coy A.S.C.
NX 13[illegible]0	Gnr	[illegible] A.F.	2/5 Fd Regts
VX 1[illegible]3	Sig	[illegible] J.C.	7 Sec Sigs 13 Bde HQ
QX 12[illegible]4	Cpl	[illegible] C.M.	13 Bde W/Shops
QX 37918	Pte	INGRAM L.G.	9 Aust Inf Bn
NX 110987	Pte	[illegible] L.H.	Sigs Milne Force
QX 3[illegible]07	Pte	[illegible] D.J.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
QX 27291	Lieut	ULRICH E.F.J.	2/8 Aust Fd Coy
TX 9[illegible]7	Cpl	[illegible] C.R.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
QX 3[illegible]62	Pte	ROSE D.B.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
Q 2[illegible]266	Pte	CAMERON R.	61 Aust Inf Bn
V 90808	Bdr	GERARD R.	37 AA
QX 7953	Pte	[illegible] R.H.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
N 52[illegible]9	Cpl	[illegible] G.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
Q 102[illegible]5	Pte	BAILEY L/R	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q 121[illegible]5	Pte	DAY D.A.	9 Aust Inf Bn
VX 55[illegible]3	Gnr	[illegible] J.	6 Bty 2/2 AA Regt
Q 164[illegible]	Pte	GALLAGAN A.H.	9 Aust Inf Bn
N 251[illegible]2	Spr	[illegible]SON S.G.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
N 24[illegible]34	Pte	[illegible]CHAN T/R	32 Pnr Coy
NX 29[illegible]8	Sig	[illegible] G.	Sigs Milne Force
N 3[illegible]263	Pte	[illegible] E.J.	[illegible] Coy
VX [illegible]283	Pte	[illegible]WORTH A.E.T.	2/3 Aust Inf Bn
QX 28[illegible]8	Spr	[illegible]ANDER G.W.	9th Fd
S 3[illegible]62	Cpl	[illegible] W.F.	10 Aust CCS
VX [illegible]803	Sig	[illegible] J.	[illegible] Sigs
NX [illegible]5[illegible]5	Gnr	[illegible] B.E.	2/5 Fd Regt
N [illegible]21[illegible]7	Pte	[illegible] W.	[illegible] Coy
S 2[illegible]85	Cpl	[illegible] H.	[illegible] Aust Inf Bn
S [illegible]8[illegible]3	Gnr	[illegible] D.K.	[illegible] Fd Regt (att 10 Aust CCS)
VX [illegible]2[illegible]5	Pte	[illegible] R.S.	2/3 Fd Coy (att
NX 92[illegible]4	Sig	[illegible] L.	[illegible] Milne Force
VX 5[illegible]9	Pte	[illegible] R.	2/3 Bn
W 1[illegible]6	Pte	[illegible]	5 Indep Coy
W [illegible]122	Lieut	[illegible]TINGTON S.	Sigs Milne Force

19

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War Diary

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

20

CONFIDENTIAL

AQ1832

HQ MILNE FORCE.
11 Nov 42.

RECOMMENDATION FOR IMMEDIATE AWARD - QX2026 LIEUT. C.W. HOSKINGS. 2/12 AUST INF BN.

HQ
NG Force.

Forwarded herewith is a recommendation for Immediate Award of the M.C. to the abovementioned offr.

E.A. CLOWES Maj-Gen.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 73 11 Nov 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/ 11

NORTH AFRICA

An important announcement on the position in North Africa is expected from Downing-street late to-night. It is suggested that fighting may end at any moment. (It is not clear from the broadcast whether this applies to NORTH AFRICA or FRENCH NORTH AFRICA or both)

The 8th Army is moving steadily westwards , pursuing the remnants of the enemy. Fighters have not been out of action for a single day. King George has approved of the promotion of Lieut-General Montgomery to . General.

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

Less than two hours ago it was announced that French resistance in CASABLANCA had ceased. At ORAN in ALGERIA United States pilots flying British Spitfires did a great deal towards the occupation of the city by Allied forces. The American Commander-in-Chief stated that the fall of Oran may lead to the end of French resistance in French North Africa. He paid a tribute to the work of American troops who had occupied ORAN. "The French are our friends and we want to keep them as our friends," he said.

Resistance in ORAN, ALGIERS and other points in French North Africa has been inspired by sympathisers of the Vichy Government. The general French public is with the Allies.

There is no further news of Allied operations close to TUNIS. Reports that Laval is meeting Hitler and possibly Mussolini have not been confirmed. Marshal Petain has taken complete command of the Vichy Forces. He has appealed to his people to remain calm.

President Roosevelt has described the move in French North Africa as a second front. The idea of the offensive goes back to two weeks after PEARL HARBOUR. Churchill was invited to WASHINGTON to discuss a new drive by the Allies. By the end of June it was decided to start something in French North Africa. An approximate date for the move was determined late in August. "I warn the people of America not to become unduly optimistic about the turn of events," President Roosevelt said.

GERMANS IN UNOCCUPIED FRANCE

A German controlled radio in PARIS has announced that Hitler has ordered his troops to march into unoccupied France. The island of CORSICA is to be occupied. "These moves are designed to stop further British and American aggression," the announcer said.

RUSSIA

At STALINGRAD, the Russians are more than holding their own. The Germans have concentrated on small group attacks. In the CAUCASUS four German infantry attacks have been repulsed.

NEW GUINEA

Heavy fighting in dense jungle around GIVI is reported. A decisive stage in the battle is approaching. Extensive flanking movements in the foothills of the OWEN STANLEY RANGE are going on satisfactorily. The JAPS are keeping to their usual tactics of jungle warfare. They hit and run, find a new foxhole and hit again. There is every reason to be satisfied with the progress of the Australians.

ARMISTICE DAY IN AUSTRALIA

Armistice Day was celebrated quietly in all capital cities to-day. Wreaths were placed on the Cenotaph in MARTIN PLACE by the GOVERNOR (Lord Wakehurst)

LOST : Wristlet watch ("Cyma") with khaki band, between Force HQ and 7 Bde. Finder please return to A Branch, HQ, Milne Force.

WAR DIARY
CONFIDENTIAL

J.M/MB

42/1140 22

SUSPECTED S.I.H.

HQ
MILICE FORCE

CIRCULAR AQ1856

12 NOV '42

The following is a copy of HQ N.G. Force A/2264 dated 2 Nov '42 for information and necessary action:-

"Cases have been reported of wounds alleged to have been accidentally received under such circumstances as to rouse suspicions that such wounds were self-inflicted.

2. Where it is suspected that any wound is self-inflicted the MO who first examines the soldier will report his suspicions at the earliest possible moment to the CO of the soldier's Unit or to the nearest CO of a combatant Unit.

3. That Offr or some Offr detailed by him will make every effort to obtain all available evidence concerning the wound and of the circumstances in which the wound was received.

4. The evidence may be written on a message form or any other available piece of paper and will be signed by the person making the statement and witnessed if possible.

5. All such statements will be fwded to Formations HQ by the Offr together with a statement of whether the wound was in his opinion self-inflicted or not.

6. On receipt of such statements the Formation concerned will take any action considered necessary."

Col
AA & Q MILICE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:-

CALP
AADC - 2/5 Aust Fd Regt
RAE
SIGS
7 AUST IIF BDE
17 " " "
18 " " "
2/10 AUST IIF BN
2/12 " " "
AASC
ADMS
ADOS
WAR DIARY (2)
FILE
SPARES (5)

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/12

NEW GUINEA

Australian troops have occupied OIVI and the Japanese have retired towards the KUMUSI RIVER pursued by our forces. An enemy force south of GORARI has been wiped out. 300 Japanese have been killed in the last three days ; our losses have been much lighter.

GERMANS IN TUNISIA

Axis fighters, dive bombers and troop carriers have landed at airfields in TUNIS and another important town. A curfew has been proclaimed throughout TUNISIA. American forces advancing towards TUNISIA have reached a point 100 miles from the border. The British 1st Army, commanded by Lieut-General Anderson, is operating in this area with the American Forces.

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

The transport and landing of American expeditionary forces in French North Africa was the greatest amphibious feat in history. The number of vessels in the convoy was 500. They were accompanied by 360 warships.

After fighting ceased between American and French forces yesterday morning, the Americans were welcomed into ORAN. All prisoners have been exchanged. Darlan has instructed all French land,sea and air forces in North Africa to return to their barracks.

It is reported from WASHINGTON that the French fleet is still at its home base. The American Commander has made an appeal to the Commanders of units of the French fleet to join the Allied nations. He said "Hitler wants your ships. Do not let him take them." Captains of all French merchant ships have been asked to put their ships into ports or scuttle them.

GERMANS IN OCCUPIED FRANCE

German troops are expected to reach the French coast at MARSEILLES at the time this news is being broadcast. Italian troops have landed in CORSICA. All British and United States subjects in Vichy France have been interned. Marshal Petain has stated that Hitler's order to his troops to march into unoccupied France was contrary to the terms of the agreement.

WESTERN DESERT

British fighters are now patrolling over TOBRUK. The 8th Army is beginning its advance into CYRENAICA. Allied aircraft have created havoc among German transport units.

Correspondents believe that the greatest air battle of the war is looming over the Mediterranean between the cream of Anglo-American and Axis Air Forces. The sudden falling off in bombing activity in Russia has led to the belief that one half of the German air squadrons are moving southwards.

... NEWS IN BRIEF ...

Japanese have made no progress in SOLOMONS where the Americans are attacking from the east and west flanks of positions in GUADALCANAL .... Seven Zeros were shot down in the ALEUTIANS.... Germans have made small attacks on STALINGRAD; all have been repulsed.... Four Australian pilots have qualified to pilot Flying Fortresses.

- ARTICLES LOST -

Wallet brown swede containing private papers, photographs, continuation paybook (VX44763, H. Rogers) .

Wallet brown leather with initials GVC engraved in gold letters containing private papers, money, stamps & photographs.

Finders please return to A Branch, Force HQ.

MARINE SECTION - MILNE FORCE

MILNE FORCE
15 NOV 43

HQ 2/5 Aust Fd Regt	(2)
AADC	(2)
HQ RAN Milne Force	(2)
HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde	(3)
HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	(2)
HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde	(3)
HQ Comd ASC Milne Force	(4)
ADOS	(5)
ADMS	(4)
War Diary	(2)

WAR DIARY

1. Ref Milne Force RO Serial No. 50 Para No. 340.

2. The undernamed personnel have been selected as members of Marine Section Milne Force, to act in the capacities shown and will report to Capt N. WILSON, OC Marine Section, Milne Force, GILI GILI Wharf at the earliest possible date.

3. Personnel as shown will be, until further notice, DETACHED only, from their respective parent units.

4. GROUP I. Slip Workers

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME AND INITIALS	UNIT	REMARKS
VX32455	Pte	HOLMES, A.	2/6 ASC W/Shop	
QX35997	Pte	LOYE, H.	101 W/Shops	
QX24262	L/Cpl	WOODFORTH, S.C.	61 Aust Inf Bn	

5. GROUP II. - W/Shop Assistants or Emergency Boat Crew

VX42943	Gnr	BEATTIE, R.	2/6 Hy AA Bty	
VX32980	Gnr	Cook, S.	2/6 Hy AA Bty	

6. GROUP III. - Deisel Engine Operators on large craft.

VX18105	Pte	BERRIL, F.D.	2/6 ASC W/Shops	
VX17537	Pte	DAWE, S.R.	" " "	
VX5449	Sjt	TAYLOR, D.R.	2/7 Aust Inf Bn	

(OVER)

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME AND INITIALS	UNIT	REMARKS
7. GROUP IV. - Skippers of Emergency Boat Crew				
NX16178	Gnr	YOUNG, T.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt	Specially required
Q11859	Pte	LITTLE, A.A.	11 Aust Fd Amb	
QX2646	Pte	LARCHER, A.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn	
VX2517	Pte	MALCOLM, A.E.	2/8 Fd Amb	
QX4208	Pte	MELHUISH, G.F.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn	
VX18818	Pte	MITCHELL, J.W.	2/6 ASC	Also suitable slip.
QX15847	Pte	RYLE, W.A.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn	
8. Required to report for immediate duty.				
Q99995	Pte	DOBBINS, C.E.	9 Aust Inf Bn	
9. GROUP V. - Noted for future reference and may be required at a later date. To remain with unit until called forward for duty.				
VX19118	L/Cpl	ATTENBOROUGH, J.F.A.	2/6 ASC	
VX3668	Pte	BLACK, J.G.	" "	
NX29574	"	BERTRAM, S.	2/1 Pioneers	
VX18768	"	CAMERON, J.C.M.	2/6 ASC	
QX34121	"	CARLER, A.R.	35 AASC W/Shops	
VX19135	"	CRICHTORE, O.	2/6 ASC "	
VX19188	"	FRANCIS, C.P.	2/6 ASC	
VX36784	"	GAFF, E.E.	" "	
QX7489	"	GAGLER, E.K.	2/6 ASC W/Shops	
VX23051	Gnr	GODFREY, J.D.	2/6 AA Bty	
VX17489	Pte	HOOPER, R.G.	2/6 ASC	
VX22660	"	LANGFORD, R.J.	2/6 Aust Fd Amb	
VX15354	"	LANGFORD, R.L.	2/6 ASC W/Shops	
VX20227	"	LAYBOURNE, J.T.	" " "	
Q41794	Sjt	LORD, K.J.	25 ASC	
QX9946	Pte	McLAREN, J.L.K.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn	
SX9877	Pte	McMORLRIE, C.J.	2/10 " " "	
VX30664	Pte	ORCHARD, G.W.	2/6 ASC W/Shops	
VX4667	Cpl	ROSS, T.W.	2/7 Aust Inf Bn	
VX5719	Pte	SCARFFE, J.C.	" " "	
QX3053	"	VAVASOUR, P.H.B.	18 Bde W/Shops	
VX18100	"	WATSON, F.H.	2/6 ASC	
	Gnr	BLACK, M.L.	56 Bty 2/5 Regt	
	"	GRAHAM, C.A.	" " " "	

for A & Q'MG MILITE FORCE.

J W Wallis Maj Col

75 13/NOV 25

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/ 15

NEW GUINEA

Enemy resistance around GORARI has been overcome, it is stated in a communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters. Although not officially announced, it is believed that GORARI is now in our hands. It is clear that the Japanese have been routed in this section. Heavy casualties have been suffered by the enemy. Prisoners and field guns have been captured. The close cooperation between land and air forces is emphasised in the communique. Allied planes have destroyed valuable enemy installations in the area.

NORTH AFRICA

A London correspondent states that with two Allied armies converging towards one point in North Africa, the Axis powers are trying desperately to mass their forces to stem the advance. Rommel has established his Headquarters at TUNIS. It is thought that Rommel will remain in TUNIS until it becomes clear whether Hitler can reinforce his armies sufficiently to stop the advance of the 8th Army.

Allied forces in the Western Desert have penetrated into LIBYA. Our forces swept across the frontier two days ago. BARDIA has apparently been by-passed. Large fires have been seen in the TOBRUK area. It is suggested that the enemy is destroying stores. The CAIRO correspondent reveals that Axis ships are leaving BENGHAZI. It is not likely that they are withdrawing troops. Nine Italian Generals have been captured in the battle for Egypt.

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

Allied forces are pressing on towards TUNISIA. The German controlled radio in PARIS has announced that Allied troops are 50 miles from the TUNISIAN frontier. Civilians are being withdrawn from the city of TUNIS. It is estimated that there are 2000 German troops in TUNIS.

Darlan has ordered the French fleet to leave their base at TOULON and proceed to North Africa. With resistence having ceased, all is quiet in French North Africa. Americans are completing mopping up operations in areas where the opposing forces have not heard of the armistice.

From FRENCH MOROCCO comes a report of heavy gun fire from the direction of GIBRALTER. It is suggested that a big naval battle is going on but it is difficult to obtain authentic news.

It is now reported that the Allies lost only one ship from the huge convoy which transported the American Expeditionary Forces to French North Africa. It was sunk by a German U-boat.

NEW SHIPBUILDING RECORD

Henry Kaiser has created a new shipbuilding record. He has made a 10,000 ton liberty ship ready for the water after completing the construction of the keel last Sunday.

RUSSIA

Heavy fighting has broken out again in the STALINGRAD area. In spite of the intense cold, the Germans have launched mass attacks in attempts to smash the city's defences. A wedge has been driven into the Russian defences. Fighting is going on in the Central Caucasus and on the Black Sea coast. The Germans have been beaten back.

SOLOMONS

Allied fighters destroyed 17 Zeros during an attack by 52 Japanese aircraft over the SOLOMONS. Seven of our planes were shot down

MFLL

Date [illegible] 1942 26

[illegible]	1	3	8	10	11
[illegible]			5	5	6
[illegible]	1				
[illegible]		3		2	3
[illegible]	3	4	13	17	20

Carl Pierce

[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

The information in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's or the United States Service.

Serial No. 52
Nos. 363 - 380

MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS.
Part 1.
BY
MAJOR-GENERAL C.A. CLOWES, DSO, MC.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

HQ
MILNE FORCE
AUSTRALIA.
14 Nov '42.

GENERAL STAFF.

363. AERODROMES:

5th Air Force advises that as from 7 Nov '42, Milne Bay aerodromes are named as shown below:-

No. 1 Strip - GURNEY AERODROME
No. 3 Strip - TURNBULL AERODROME.

364. RIFLE RANGES:

49 Service Sqn is authorised to conduct test firing on approved range as under:-

Ref Map MILNE BAY 2" to ml (2nd Edition) M.R. 996009 - direction of firing 293° - 304° Magnetic.

Col
GS MILNE FORCE

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S STAFF

365. RECEPTION CAMP - MILNE FORCE (42/207):

The organisation previously known as Milne Force Staging Camp has been re-designated Milne Force Reception Camp and is directly under comd of HQ Milne Force.

No personnel will be marched out to or withdrawn from Reception Camp except by authority of this HQ.

In future, working parties will NOT be rationed by the Reception Camp.

OC Reception Camp will be responsible for accounting for rations drawn in the normal manner.

366. ROAD FROM ROUTE 4 TO DONA DONA (42/1168):

The road from Route 4 (Ref map Milne Bay Provisional 2" to 1 mile 984938) to Dona Dona is closed to all traffic except [illegible] Supply vehs for tps in that area.

3/9 Aust Inf Bn will be responsible for policing this order.

367. ROAD DISCIPLINE:

N.G. Force Order 453 sub-para 4 is repeated for action by all concerned:-

"Drivers of vehicles must carry Work Tickets or an authorisation from the Unit, showing the nature of duty & destination."

On and from 17 Nov '42 the driver of every vehicle will be required to be in possession of a Transport Work Ticket, (AAF G2, or similar pro-forma, properly completed in accordance with Standing Orders for the Operation & Maintenance of Mechanical Vehicles (Aust) Para 69.

G2's will in all cases be signed by the Tpt Offr or, where W.E. does not provide for such offr, the NCO in charge of tpt.

368. TRAFFIC ON ROAD NO. 3 STRIP-KILABO-RABI (42/1225):

Owing to the bad state of the road, normal traffic will NOT be permitted from No. 3 Strip towards Kilabo-Rabi until further notice.

Should travel over this road be essential, drivers will be instructed to obtain a permit from HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde.

369. WITHDRAWAL OF PAYBOOKS:

Milne Force RO 320 of 24 Oct '42 is repeated for action by ALL units within Milne Force area:-

"The practice of withdrawing paybooks, AF WF.5 from personnel being evacuated through medical channels is to cease.

"Men who arrive at hospitals without paybooks cause great inconvenience to hospital staff and there is a consequent delay in providing pay for such personnel.

"Paybooks should be carried by the man at all times and only withdrawn for specific purposes and returned as soon as possible thereafter."

370. UNIT NAMES ON PAY ACQUITTANCE ROLLS:

All units are reminded that the name of the member's unit must be shown clearly on all acquittances.

In the case of members attached from services such as AAMC, AAOC etc., this should be disclosed; e.g; AASC attached 11 Aust Fd Amb.

As acquittance rolls are frequently used by DFO's etc in tracing members, the importance of the above instructions will be appreciated.

371. REQUISITIONS FOR ADVANCES:

Books of Forms, WF 123, are available at Pay Office, Milne Force. Units not already in possession of a book of these revised forms will requisition for same to Paymaster under the hand of the CO.

The old type of requisition form will not be acceptable for future advances.

372. ALLOTMENT FORMS - CERTIFICATE OF RATES OF PAY-TAX DEDUCTIONS:

Units will ensure that when entering details of Allotments, drawing rates etc on Allotment Forms provision is made for the following notation regarding Taxation Deductions:-

"TAX NIL N.G.F."

Failure to ensure that this notation appears on all Allotment forms for Officers and WO I's may result in needless delay in payment.

373. PAYBOOKS:

Paybooks are continually coming under notice where entries on Page 2 covering promotions and reversions and debit and credit entries have not been signed.

Action is to be taken by units to have paybooks examined and all entries unsigned, signed by the members authorised.

374. PROMOTIONS:

Promotions are being entered in paybooks from Casualty Returns in a number of instances. Such practice is most irregular. The authority for entering promotions in paybooks is the Routine Order.

Action will be taken to ensure that the Routine Order is quoted for all future promotions and that Routine Orders are obtained to cover promotions already entered. Failure to obtain the necessary authority within a reasonable time may result in the entries being deleted from the paybooks.

375. SECURITY - LOCATION OF UNITS:

Units continue to indicate location on Allotment and other Pay Forms as Milne Bay or Milne Force. Such practice is a serious breach of Security Regulations and where any form provides for location to be shown the terms "In the Field" of "On Service" must be used.

376. CASH DEPOSITS IN PAY BOOKS:

Cash will only be accepted for depositing in paybooks on the Wednesday preceding pay days.

377. FIRE PREVENTION - PETROL DRUMS:

In order to reduce to a minimum the risk of fire all personnel will be instructed to ensure that petrol drums are completely empty of petrol and that plugs are securely screwed in to bungs before being loaded on trucks or ships.

378. ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE - SPECIAL ENTRY 1943:

Attention is directed to G.O. 54 dated 26 Oct '42.

Unit Comds will take suitable steps to promulgate the above Order within units.

Forms of application may be obtained from this HQ if required.

379. NATIVE LABOUR:

With a view to assisting ANGAU representatives in the

379. NATIVE LABOUR (Cont.)

control and distribution of native labour the following procedure will in future be adopted:-

(a) The natives in Native Labour Camps will be lined up at 0700 hrs daily.
(b) Units allotted natives or units having work done by natives under direct Force control, will send a representative to the Native Labour Camp each morning at 0700 hrs where the natives will be counted and handed over.
(c) Natives NOT picked up or collected by 0730 hrs will be re-allotted to other duties.
(d) Where necessary units will provide tpt.

380. SUPPLY DUMPS. (42/381).

AASC dumps and depots are out of bounds to all personnel not on duty and disciplinary action will be taken against any person or persons found within the bounds of these dumps without authority.

The substance of this Order will be repeated in all unit R.O's.

381. OFFENCE REPORTS - B.2069:

Milne Force R.O.306 is hereby cancelled. Results of trials by Court-Martial will in future be included in B.2069's.

382. REQUISITIONS FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES:

(a) Expendable medical supplies will be demanded on a weekly basis, requisitions being legibly written on AA Form D.50 or similar pro forma. Units other than Medical Units will submit demands to the Fd Amb or det of Fd Amb which evacuates their casualties. Medical Units will submit consolidated demands to reach Adv Depot Med Stores by Saturday of each week.

(b) Requisitions will be filled as far as stocks permit and Medical Supplies will be delivered to units and sub-units. Indenting Medical Units will collect supplies from Adv Depot Medical Stores each Tuesday.

(c) Demands for non-expendable medical supplies will be submitted separately to ADMS.

(d) Medical supplies will NOT be demanded except as above, provided that in the case of emergency, requisitions accompanied by a statement setting out reasons for urgency, signed by an officer, may be submitted through normal channels.

(e) ALL requisitions from units having a medical officer on strength will be signed by the MO. Requisitions from other units will in all cases be signed by an officer.

(f) Demands not complying with this order will NOT be fulfilled.

(g) For instructions referring to the issue of quinine see Milne Force R.O. 307 of 17 Oct '42.

383. ANGAU (42/1104):

Vacancies exist in the Aust New Guinea Adm Unit for the following:-

Patrol Officers:- Applicants must hold the Intermediate or higher Certificate. Successful applicants will be granted WO.II rank after training. Can rise to A.D.O. (Lieut) and D.O. (Capts and

303. AIGAU (42/1184) (Cont.)

Majors). Must be willing to serve in administration after the war.

Storeman and Q.M:- Applicant to have a knowledge of issues and receipt of stores, and ASC and if possible ACC indents. Would start at Staff Sergeant, rising to WO.II, and possibly later on to a commission.

Storemen Clerks:- Two required. Applicants would receive NCOs rank if successful.

Native Labour Overseers:- Six required. Must have a certain amount of clerical knowledge and be able to work native labour after a period of training. Successful applicants would be given rank of Sergeant or rank held by them at time of transfer. Can rise to WO.II.

All applicants who transfer to AIGAU retain all privileges of the AIF if they were in an AIF unit before transfer.

Applications for any of the above positions should be forwarded by units to District Offr., No. 2 House, direct.

304. COURTS MARTIAL - PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF TRIALS:

(a)

NATURE OF COURT	Field General Court Martial.
PLACE OF TRIAL	HQ MILNE FORCE.
MEMBER TRIED	W.6420 Lieut LEWIS-DRIVER, R., Signals, MILNE FORCE.
CHARGE	Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that he at HQ MILNE FORCE on or about 14 Oct '42 in a written application to OC HQ Coy Sigs Milne Force, for a transfer from his unit, used offensive language, to wit: "I am also extremely dissatisfied to work under the conditions and disgusting methods which have been used to secure and justify the repeated supersession of Western Australian officers....". (Army Act Sec. 40).
FINDING	Guilty.
SENTENCE	To be severely reprimanded.
DATE OF SENTENCE	9 November, 1942.
CONFIRMATION	Finding and sentence confirmed by Maj-Gen C.A. CLOWES, DSO, MC., Comd Milne Force.
DATE OF CONFIRMATION	12 November, 1942.
DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION	14 November, 1942. HQ Signals, Milne Force.

(b)

NATURE OF COURT	Field General Court Martial.
PLACE OF TRIAL	HQ MILNE FORCE.
MEMBER TRIED	QX.5032 Cpl OLIVER, F.H., 2/9 Aust Inf Bn.
CHARGE	Absenting himself from his unit without leave from 0930 hrs on 17 Jun '42 until

304. COURTS MARTIAL - PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF TRIALS (Cont.)

(b) (Cont.)

CHARGE (Cont.)	2230 hrs on 8 Jul '42. (Army Act Sec 15 (1)).
FINDING	Guilty.
SENTENCE	To be reduced to the rank of private.
DATE OF SENTENCE	23 October, 1942.
CONFIRMATION	Finding and sentence confirmed by Maj-Gen C.A. CLOWES, DSO, MC, Comd Milne Force.
DATE OF CONFIRMATION	27 October, 1942.
DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION	1 November, 1942, Hagita.

305. VEHICLE TAIL BOARDS (NGF O 534/42):

(a) Vehicles frequently travel with tail boards swinging free. This results in distortion of bodywork and damage to hinges and tail boards, and the practice will be discontinued.

(b) Should a load be such as to prevent the closing up of the tailboard, the latter must be secured in a horizontal position with the chains provided or by ropes.
(To be repeated in all Unit Orders.)

306. MONTHLY CENSUS OF WARLIKE STORES AND M.T:

Units and detached Sections are reminded that Monthly Census Returns of Warlike Stores and M.T. for the month of November are to be prepared as at 1400 hrs on 20th Nov, and despatched to ADOS HQ Milne Force before 0900 hrs 21st Nov.

Commanding Officers are responsible for the accuracy and prompt rendering of these returns. Any Units not familiar with the procedure as laid down in GROs 318 & 379 should have any queries clarified by their Ordnance Warrant Officer.

307. MONTHLY TENTAGE RETURN:

The following return as shown below will be submitted to HQ Milne Force by all Aust Units as at 25th day of each month, commencing 25 Nov '42:-

FORMATION OR UNIT..... DATE.....

Type of Tent	Entitlement	On Issue Complete (X)	On Issue Incomplete (X)	In Ord re-Store pair	Under repair	Unserviceable.	TOT.
12 x 14 oblong							
U.S. pattern (pyramid)							
R.D. large							
R.D. small							
100 lb.							
160 lb.							
E.P.I.P.							
Store 30 x 20							
Store U.S. Pattern							
Marquee single							
Marquee double							

387. MONTHLY TENTAGE RETURN (Cont.)

Operating
Wireless Station
Scoutette
Bivouac
Bell
Railway
(quote sizes)
Auto Impressed
(quote sizes)
Miscellaneous
(quote details)

(X) "Complete" includes fly (where supplied), ridgings and poles. Where "Incomplete" shows nature of shortages.

.....
Signature of CO

Col
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE.

NOTICES

LOST:-

1. Description: (a) Wooden Box branded BOX 2.
(b) " " " BOX 5.
(c) " " " BOX 11.

2. Contents: (a) 4 Lanterns Oil, 1 chest accessories, 1 Flux Aluminium.
(b) 2 Lenses green for lights aiming post.
2 Lights aiming post.
1 chest small stores.
(c) 1 Locks travelling.

Lost between Pontoon Wharf and Stores Dumps, OLD CANTEEN SITE, on 20 Oct '42. Finders please notify 'A' Hy Bty.

War Diary - DAPM for weekending 14 Nov 42

Two officers and 86 O.R.s arrived 9 Nov 42 thus completing a full strength Milne Force Pro Coy under cmd Captain H . Rutledge.

Additional strength will permit of proper policing of roads for traffic offences (speeding, personnel riding outside vehicles etc.)bathing patrols, control of traffic

7 Bde and 18 Bde Pro sections will remain attached to HQ for duty.

Capt
DAPM HQ Milne Force.

13.11.42

COPY

APPX 29

TO NGF, rptd COSC, NGF

FROM MILNE FORCE A474 14 Nov

SECRET (.) Ref NGF memo Q251/12/2403 of 11 Nov (.)

NO ship incl MULIAMA available here capable of lifting 12 tons (.) Para 3 of above-quoted memo (.)

Is it intended these two tanks should also be shipped ex MILNE (.) Jap barge position one at PONGANI(.) One at GOODENOUGH where required for movement troops and stores (.) One at MILNE with unreliable engine (.)

Suggest consideration be given ship tanks supplies and personnel ex MORESBY and off load at PONGANI by Jap barge already there or alternatively make available suitable ship to MILNE to carry out similar operation

BURNS concurs

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 76 14 Nov 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/14

NEW GUINEA

Our troops in New Guinea were away to a good start since wiping out enemy forces in the OIVI-GORARI area. The Japanese lost between 700 and800 men in the OIVI-GORARI battle. Only a remnant of the Japanese forces in the GORARI sector escaped. They had to hack their way through rugged jungle to join other Japanese units.

SOLOMONS

A sweeping American victory over Japanese air forces in GUADALCANAL is reported. American warships were shelling shore batteries when 31 enemy planes swept suddenly from the sky. Thirty of the 31 enemy aircraft were brought down. After the air battle, the warships continued pounding enemy positions.

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

British and American forces are driving speedily towards the Tunisian frontier. Latest reports suggest that some of the troops have already crossed the frontier at several points. Garrisons in TUNIS and other parts of the country are fighting the Germans. German paratroops are reported to be in control of the airfield outside TUNIS. Allied troops have taken measures to meet the threat of the Axis paratroops in TUNIS.

The whereabouts of the French fleet is a matter for speculation. Darlan has broadcast a special message to the French fleet asking it to leave for Allied ports. There is some doubt as to the locality of the main part of the French fleet. There is reason to believe that the most powerful part of the fleet is in Algerian ports under the command of Darlan.

While the British-American forces have made swift progress towards the TUNISIAN frontier, the 8th Army has been driving Rommel hard into to CYRENAICA. After the capture of TOBRUK, the Allied forces continued their advance.

Stalin has paid a tribute to British and American leadership in the battle for North Africa.

RUSSIA

Heavy fighting continues in the three main battle areas in Russia. At STALINGRAD, three enemy attacks were driven off with heavy losses to the enemy.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2200L/14

There is nothing to report.

CONCERT PARTIES: FIXTURES

MILNE FORCE CONCERT PARTY

Nov 15	25 Bn	1930 hrs	Nov 20	6 AA (Target Hill)	1930
"	16 2/3 CCS	1430 hrs	Nov 21	9 Bn	1930 hrs
	7 Bde HQ	1930 hrs	Nov 22	2/5 Fd Regt	1930 hrs
"	17 25 Bn	1930 hrs			
"	18 25 Bn	1930 hrs			
"	19 ———				

NEW GUINEA CONCERT PARTY

Nov	15	2/5 Bn	1930 hrs
"	17	2/9 Bn	1930 hrs
"	18	2/7 Bn	1930 hrs
"	19	Force HQ	1930 hrs

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/ 16

NEW GUINEA

Australian columns advancing eastward have driven the enemy from WAIROPI. American columns are closing in from the south. The capture of WAIROPI paves the way for the advance into BUNA. Australians found no signs of organised enemy resistance around the WAIROPI RIVER. For the first time, the Japanese have left their seriously wounded behind. From the air, the victorious Australian troops were seen swimming in the clear water of the WAIROPI RIVER. The Japanese had slaved to keep the bridge over the WAIROPI RIVER intact but they could not succeed.

It is reported that when the Japanese dead are counted, the figure will be well over the 1000 mark. The Japanese fought it out to the finish at GIVI and GORARI and only a few prisoners were captured. The Australians are now pressing on towards BUNA, the main Japanese base in PAPUA. The Commander of the Australian forces has stated : "It is now BUNA or bust and we will not bust."

There is no news of a clash between American and Japanese forces in the BUNA area but it is known that the Americans are moving to attack.

SOLOMONS

News of a large naval battle in the SOLOMONS is being awaited in Britain and the United States. Axis powers reported that the battle took place off GUADALCANAL last Thursday. No news has been released of the result of the battle but it is known that there are heavy losses on both sides. The Japanese admit the loss of two destroyers and damage to one battleship.

NORTH AFRICA

The fight for TUNISIA is becoming the most serious phase of the NORTH AFRICAN campaign. The Allied movement eastward is continuing. Operations are shrouded in secrecy. Fairly heavy forces of Italians have landed in TUNIS by sea and air convoys. The Germans are trying hard to drive a wedge between the Allied armies moving from the Colonies to the east and other Allied armies moving from the east through LIBYA. The aerodrome at BONA has been occupied by Anglo-American paratroops.

The 8th Army has now driven 100 miles or more into enemy territory. It is still sweeping on and is capturing many prisoners.

The defeat of the German-Italian troops in Egypt has caused deep concern in Italy. Demands have been made in some quarters for the withdrawal of Italy from the war.

General Franco has informed President Roosevelt that Spain did not wish to break present Spanish-American relations.

RUSSIA

From Russia comes news of bitter fighting in STALINGRAD. Correspondents have been talking of a possible early Russian offensive. The enemy has thrown its forces against the factory area of STALINGRAD and large battles have taken place in the last three days. In the CAUCASUS reinforcements have been thrown back by the Russians.

The war correspondent of the London "Times" predicts a big Russian offensive in the winter. He says "The Russian house is in order in spite of insistent enemy attacks."

LOCAL NEWS TO 2200 L/15

There is nothing to report.

MF217

-32

SUMMARY BY UNITS AND RANKS OF PERSONNEL
DISEMBARKED EX HOSPITAL SHIP KANANDA 16 NOV 49

UNIT	OFFR	W.O'S	SGTS	CPLS	PTES	TOTAL O.R'S	TOTAL ALL RANKS
VOYAGE ONLY							
LtCol McDONALD R.H) LtCol FORD E)	2						2
Med Directorate							
L.H.Q	1						1
ARMY DENTAL	1				1	1	2
2/1 AUST CCS					9	9	9
TOTAL	4				10	10	14

D Brain Lieut.,
RECORDS LIAISON OFFICER

DISTRIBUTION:
D.R.O WARWICK
A BRANCH H.Q MILNE FORCE ✓
G BRANCH " " "
POSTAL
FILE

COPY

APPX 33

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
U/S/ ARMY ADVANCE BASE
NEW GUINEA

A.P.O. 929
15 November, 1942

381 L-GSNG

SUBJECT: LILLIPUT

TO : Commanding Officer, US Troops , Fall River

1. The following additional changes are directed with respect to the LILLIPUT move.

a. Place aboard all ships of first flight at MILNE BAY 30 tons steel plank landing mat from any available MILNE BAY taking from stocks at Strip 3, if necessary.

b. Place aboard ships of first flight at MILNE BAY one field company, RAE from MILNE FORCE in the event the 2/16 Field Coy is not aboard from TOWNSVILLE. Instructions to this end will be issued by New Guinea Force to GOC, Milne Force.

c. Place aboard ships of first flight five officers and ninety other ranks , Australian Ordnance personnel ship to MILNE BAY from Maple on "MULIAMA"

d. Place aboard ships of first flight thirteen Australian spotters and three teleradio sets now at MILNE BAY to be contacted through Movement Control Officer there

e. Transfer cargo of "John Ashe" and "Jessie Applegate" to first flight ships of Lilliput upon their return to MILNE BAY from their destination. It is possible that some other ships may be substituted for these, in which event you will be informed.

Brigadier General,
US Army Commanding.

COPY

APPX 34

1st Australian Water Transportation Service

Lt. Western will proceed on 13 November with the following launches to MILNE BAY :- MOOLOOLAN, ATHLE, CUTTY SARK

On arrival at MILNE BAY he will report to Col Burns Milne Bay Sub base.
Launches will be thoroughly overhauled at MILNE BAY and native crews and pilots for trip north of MILNE BAY will be obtained.
As soon as launches are fit for onward voyage they will proceed to PONGANI and report to Captain Keegan representative of COSC at that place.
It is intended that they should be used for tasks during the advance of 128 Regt.
On capture of BUNA, they remain there for such tasks as may be required by N GF. One launch will be required by Beach Master.

On departure of launches from MILNE BAY Lt Western will return to PORT MORESBY.
On departure of launches from MI LNE BAY Lt Western will return to PORT MORESBY.
It is desired that if Lt H enderson can be spared that he g oes North from MI LNE BAY in command of these three launches.
If his services are not available, Lt Henderson will recommend a commander for this group of launches in conjunction with Lt Western.

COPIES
NGF, MILNE FORCE, MILNE SUB-AREA

APPX 35

COPY

TO NGF

FROM MILNE FORCE AQ 76 16

Ref NGF memo Q251/12/2403 of 11 Nov and MILNE AQ 74 of 14 Nov (.) Please advise if any further action required by MILNE FORCE

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 78 16 Nov 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/ 16

NEW GUINEA

The Japanese are in a desperate position in PAPUA. The final battle for BUNA is drawing near. To-day's communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters states that the Australian and American columns had met and were moving in to attack. The Japanese Commander has the sea at his back and the jungle to his right. Allied planes are harassing the enemy without respite.

The KUMUSI RIVER is in flood. Australian engineers have supervised the construction of a temporary bridge across the river and men are crossing without seeing any signs of the enemy.

At RABAUL Allied bombers attacked enemy shipping at night and scored hits on two ships. At BUIN our planes destroyed eight enemy planes on the ground. Flying Fortresses made the raid on RABAUL and Catalinas raided BUIN.

SOLOMONS

News is still awaited of the outcome of the naval engagement in the SOLOMONS. The Japanese have claimed that America has lost one battleship, five aircraft carriers, five cruisers and five destroyers. An American naval spokesman has stated that the Japanese claims are exaggerated. "The fate of the SOLOMONS hangs in the balance," he said. "The side which gains a naval victory can quickly take control of GUADALCANAL. The fighting in the SOLOMONS is not a stand-up engagement. The enemy is being fought at all points they are met."

NORTH AFRICA

British and American troops crossed the TUNISIAN frontier on Saturday night. Reinforcements have been landed and the 1st Army continues its progress. Allied paratroops have also been landed. Reports from Allied sources suggest that the troops were well inside TUNISIA and had received a great welcome by the French. The French are still opposing the Axis troops in TUNISIA. The enemy has landed more reinforcements. Neither British nor American circles have commented on Axis reports of a naval battle off the North African coast. There has been much air activity in the past few days.

Our long-range fighters have attacked columns of the enemy near BENGHAZI. BENGHAZI has been bombed at night. The 8th Army has now pushed forward to a point 75 miles west of TOBRUK.

RUSSIA

The Germans have made no headway in Russia. Violent snow storms and severe frosts have hampered operations. Fighting is still going on in the factory area of STALINGRAD.

... NEWS IN BRIEF ...

There is no confirmation of a report that General Weygand has been arrested by the Germans ... Ankara radio reports that train loads of Germans, brought from Russia, are arriving in Italy ... This year the Australian wool crop was handled by 22,000 men instead of 30,000 last year; there was no shortage of shearers ... There will be a full supply of potatoes for all in Australia within the next few weeks... Experts are now drafting regulations to standardise the quality of boots and shoes.

- MILNE BAY ENTERTAINMENT -

Pictures will be shown by the Mobile Cinema Unit as follows:-

Wed 18 Nov at Sigs Milne Force .. 1930 hrs
Thur 19 Nov " " " .. 1930 hrs

The programme of films is :-

"News from Home" (newsreel)
"Carnival in Paris" (musical 2-reel)
Wallace Beery in "Old Hutch" (Length of programme-1hr,45m)

WAR DIARY

RM/WB

MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL - S.S. "MANUNDA".

HQ
MILNE FORCE
22 NOV '42.

Aq.2345.

It is advised that the following personnel were evacuated per S.S. "MANUNDA" on 17 Nov '42, and will be placed on the "X" List as from that date.

J.J. Wallace Col
for A & QMG MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:-

HQ 2/5 Aust Fd Regt	1.
HQ "A" Hy Bty RAA	1.
HQ "E" Hy Bty RAA	1.
ADC	5.
HQ RAE Milne Force	5.
HQ Sigs Milne Force	1.
HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde	5.
HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	5.
HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde	5.
HQ 2/3 Docks Op Coy	1.
HQ Comd ASC Milne Force	4.
32 Aust Employ Coy	1.
ADOS	6.
ADMS	6.
Cash Office Milne Force	1.
ANGAU	1.
Comd	1.

Copies to:-

R.L.O. Milne Force	1.
Base Postal Unit	1.
War Diary	2.
File.	1.

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
VX1145294	Gnr	HARTELL, R.G.	33 AA Bty
VX17470	Spr	PARKER, R.H.	2/8 Fd Coy
N150465	"	BLAIKIE, J.B.	" " "
S9715	Pte	SWIETLAN, A.V.	32 Emp Coy
N286635	"	HUGHES, J.	" " "
VX46303	"	PACKER, J.C.	2/5 Aust Fd Amb
VX37383	Gnr	KARLSSON, R.	2/9 Lt AA
Q122553	Spr	ALLEN, J.	24 Aust Fd Coy
QX2741	Pte	LALLY, J.J.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
Q12140	"	WILLIAMSON, J.M.	9 Aust Inf Bn
VX16001	"	MADDOX, J.	2/5 Aust Fd Amb.
WX28950	Sigmn	BARNSHAW, W.T.	Sigs Milne Force
VX19657	Pte	JONES, W.P.	2/7 Aust Inf Bn
NX6011	Sjt	PRATT, R.E.	" " " "
VX55525	Pte	KING, J.P.	" " " "
VX4726	Sjt	McGINTY, J.W.	" " " "
NX41609	Gnr	GREEN, E.R.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt.
NX20737	L/Bdr	WATT, J.J.	" " " "
Q32324	Pte	CUDDY, A.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q55019	Cpl	CLARKE, G.	32 Aust Employ Coy
N165183	Pte	BARRATT, J.C.	" " " "
N282171	"	SUMMERS, D.	" " " "

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
N157309	Pte	MARSHDEN, R.A.	32 Aust Employ Coy
N23[illegible]5	"	-BRUCE, A.W.	" " " "
VX51120	"	SUTTON, A.F.	2/3 Dock Op Coy
QX15952	Cpl	-PINE, P.W.A.	" " " "
QX25053	Pte	ANDERSON, H.A.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
Q17194	"	-PEUTH, H.G.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q15730	Sjt	BILDEN, R.L.	" " " "
Q106861	Pte	-WILSON, T.P.	" " " "
V70504	Gnr	KINSOP, T.D.	25 A.A. Bty
VX55226	Sjt	-MINAGH, R.A.	33 A.A. Bty
VX32357	Gnr	COGHLAN, D.A.	2/9 Aust Lt AA
Q15647	Pte	-HUNTRY, B.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q16196	C/Cpl	MOORE, A.	" " " "
Q[illegible]3	Pte	-KNIGHT, L.J.G.	61 " " "
N[illegible]9	"	PHILLIPS, H.J.	32 Aust Employ Coy
Q121[illegible]0	"	-CLIFTON, J.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q15494	Cpl	-JONY, F.G.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q16905	Sjt	-DAVIS, C.W.	" " " "
Q120937	Pte	FISHER, F.J.	25 " " "
N[illegible]6	"	-[illegible]ER, H.	2/3 L.D.
Q100007	"	CLARK, [illegible]	9 Aust Inf Bn
S7760	"	-MAHEY, T.J.	32 Aust Employ Coy
S564	Cpl	MARSHALL, C.	" " " "
Q15633	"	-BOARDMAN, L.B.	HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde
VX76157	Spr	GREGORY, G.L.	2/3 Dock Op Coy
NX54452	"	-SACKER, J.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy R.E
Q126045	Pte	GREY, H.J.F.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QX31048	"	-HENNAH, L.J.	9 Aust Inf Bn
NX[illegible]1664	Gnr	MARTIN, R.L.	"A" Fy Bty R.A.
NX4[illegible]2	"	-COONEY, W.N.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt.
QX[illegible]6	Pte	POTTER, M.H.	11 Aust Fd Amb
NX[illegible]4	Spr	-DOWD, T.J.	2/6 Aust Fd Coy R.E
N77741	Pte	EDELSTEIN, F.L.	23 F.A.D.
NX32355	Sjt	-SAGE, [illegible]	2/6 A/A Sigs.
Q103896	Signm	LANE, N.B.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q22663	Cpl	-FOGARTY, F.M.	" " " "
Q125568	Gnr	WAIN, E.J.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
VX56055	Pte	-LEMMING, J.C.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
QX3567	"	HENDERSON, J.	2/12 " " "
VX56459	"	-MORRIS, F.K.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt
NX15512	Gnr	ASHTON, J.H.	" " " "
Q75689	Bdr	-ARNO, C.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
VX2896	Pte	ANDERSON, A.A.	2/3 Aust Inf Bn
Q103357	"	-BRANDENBURG, A.W.	61 " " "
Q100607	"	BROWN, C.W.	9 " " "
WA15809	"	-BROWN, C.	2/5 " " "
VX50923	"	BRADLEY, W.	" " " "
NX56199	L/Cpl	-DEIFIELD, S.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy R.E
QX[illegible]07	Pte	BERGDEN, H.J.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
VX[illegible]0	"	-BARTLEY, G.F.	2/3 " " "
SX[illegible]106	Gnr	COOK, H.R.	"A" Fy Bty R.A.
5[illegible]5	Signm	-CRAWFORD, R.	Sigs Milne Force
S44[illegible]3	Pte	COX, P.W.	32 Aust Employ Coy
N[illegible]9	"	-CAMPBELL, A.E.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
Q10[illegible]4	L/Cpl	CHADWICK, P.C.	9 " " "
Q10[illegible]19	Pte	-C[illegible]S, C.	25 " " "
N[illegible]7	WO.II	[illegible], H.	"A" Fy Bty.
QX[illegible]455	Pte	-DODD, T.W.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q3[illegible]6	"	DUNN, W.C.	Trans Tool
VX[illegible]0	"	-[illegible]S, W.G.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
Q10[illegible]96	Gnr	[illegible], A.C.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
Q1053[illegible]1	Signm	[illegible], J.S.	[illegible] Aust Inf Bn

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ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
VX5552	Lieut	EDWARDS, A.	2/7 Aust Inf Bn
VX4247	Cpl	EVANS, A.	2/5 " " "
NX66705	Gnr	SAVAGE, G.S.	2/6 Aust Fd Regt
NX72339	"	FINCH, C.G.	2/17 Lt AA
VX66075	Sigmn	FRANKLIN, H.	ANGAU
VX32049	Pte	FRANCIS, E.J.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
N155057	"	FOOTE, R.J.	2/2 Aust Fd Amb
QX20094	Dvr	FITZGERALD, E.G.	2/6 Aust Inf Bn
VX21808	Cpl	FRY, L.J.	2/3 Hy AA
WX13349	Pte	GROVES, L.M.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
VX54714	Cpl	HAWKING, G.W.	" " " "
QX6996	Lieut	HARTLEY, A.M.	2/9 " " "
SX2764	Pte	HENLEY, R.F.	2/10 " " "
Q121423	"	JACKSON, A.J.	61 " " "
QX3659	Cpl	JENKINS, H.G.	2/12 " " "
Q28098	Pte	KITZELMAN, H.E.	61 " " "
NX29939	L/Cpl	LAWLOR, A.H.	2/1 Aust Pion Bn
N256450	Pte	LASHATELLE, N.	32 Aust Employ Coy
Q105524	"	LEWIS, B.F.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QX23537	"	LANNION, T.J.	2/9 " " "
WX14159	"	McQUEEN, T.F.	2/5 " " "
Q101157	"	MADDOCK, W.C.	61 " " "
NX78368	Spr	MARSHALL, J.T.	2/4 R&E
Q28065	Pte	MULCAHY, J.F.	61 Aust Inf Bn
VX13764	"	McLENNAN, H.B.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
QX18569	Gnr	MOLLER, W.H.	2/12 " " "
Q44879	Pte	MILLER, N.F.	25 Coy ASC
VX41805	Cpl	MARTIN, R.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
Q128337	Spr	McCOMBES, M.J.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy R&E
WX13166	Pte	MORRIS, E.F.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
S52318	"	MAHER, T.E.	32 Aust Employ Coy
N175540	Sigmn	NICHOLAS, R.L.	ANGAU
S58588	Pte	OTTEWELL, C.D.	32 Aust Employ Coy
W15440	Sigmn	PATERSON, D.	Sigs Milne Force
VX45953	Gnr	PETERSON, K.F.	2/2 Hy AA
VX1592	Pte	PARSONS, J.G.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
Q22363	"	POSTLE, W.A.	25 " " "
VX54015	Cpl	PARSONS, C.R.	2/5 " " "
VX41691	Pte	PACKER, D.W.	17 Aust Inf Bde
NX76103	"	PRICE, J.F.	2/1 Aust Pion
Q10621	"	HEMS, C.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q107142	"	HIGGS, A.R.	25 " " "
Q20640	Cpl	RUSSELL, J.A.	61 " " "
VX11405	Pte	PITSON, L.	2/5 " " "
QX20157	Cpl	SLATER, H.	HQ Milne Force
QX210	Pte	SMITH, A.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
Q127569	"	SIMONS, J.	31 " " "
NX107957	"	SIMPSON, F.B.	2/5 " " "
VX5033	"	SAGAR, A.E.	" " " "
VX15716	Gnr	SMITH, T.A.	2/3 Aust Fd Regt
VX24932	"	SALEM, J.G.	2/9 Lt AA
Q122858	Pte	TAYLOR, D.W.	2/1 Aust Fd Butchery
NX12961	"	TOOHEY, M.J.	2/6 Aust Inf Bn
VX19231	"	TAYLOR, E.T.	" " " "
QX31029	Gnr	WOLF, R.H.	235 Lt AA
VX7159	Pte	WILLMOTT, C.W.	2/7 Aust Inf Bn
Q32406	Cpl	WILSON, J.J.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QX23706	Sgt	WAKE, J.	ADJ3
VX4858	Cpl	WILSON, A.D.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
NX30784	"	WAGHORN, R.	2/1 R&E

61

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
N196190	Pte	WALSH, K.J.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
QX121227	"	ATKINSON, J.	25 " " "
NX3755	Gnr	BRAWSON, E.R.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt
VX34127	Pte	HANLEY, C.W.	2/6 Aust Inf Bn
Q28023	"	HOULT, R.K.	25 " " "
QX9330	Cpl	KENN, E.J.	18 Aust Inf Bde W/Shop
Q121392	Pte	KERRIDGE, S.R.	9 Aust Inf Bn
QX25095	"	LARSEN, H.A.	1 Aust B. Disp.
Q17075	"	MAHER, J.J.	9 Aust Inf Bn
VX6224	Cpl	McCALLUM, W.D.	2/6 Aust Inf Bn
VX21098	L/Bdr	WESCOTT, R.J.	2/9 Lt A/A.
Q140012	Pte	COLBURN, E.W.	101 Aust Ind Bde Gp Ord W/Shops.
Q103534	"	FLETCHER, V.H.	61 Aust Inf Bn
VX19968	Dvr	KING, B.J.	2/6 Aust Coy ASC
VX3550	Sjt	FULLER, G.C.	2/6 Aust. Inf Bn
QX1791	Pte	MURRAY, E.P.	2/9 " " "
QX3051	"	WARRELL, M.	" " " "
QX3907	"	WINSOR, C.	" " " "
Q82373	"	ROBERTSON, J.	25 " " "
Q49491	"	MUIR, T.	25 Aust Coy ASC
Q46517	"	McLOUGHLIN, F.	" " " "
Q103155	"	NEWLEY, R.	" " " "
QX21337	"	INGRAM, J.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QX34155	"	GLEESON, S.	" " " "
QX1314	"	AYTON, B.	2/9 " " "
Q50993	"	COLLINGWOOD, A.	" " " "
NX16058	Gnr	AYLING, R.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt
NX22254	Bdr	MORRIS, R.	" " " "
Q42794	Sjt	LORD, C.	25 Aust Coy ASC
QX31423	Spr	EVANS, E.	2/3 Aust Cook Op Coy
Q95791	Pte	CARTER, R.	61 Aust Inf Bn
Q32353	"	ISON, W.	" " " "
Q138688	"	BLAND, F.	" " " "
Q90851	"	O'CONNOR, J.	" " " "
Q120826	"	BARRON, K.	" " " "
Q130607	"	RONALD, J.	" " " "
Q45982	"	RUTLEDGE, D.	" " " "
WA16424	Cpl	CROOKS, M.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy R.E
SX1010	Pte	LAWSON, E.	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
SX[illegible]	"	GEAR, J.	" " " "
SX1509	"	FLOYD, G.	" " " "
SX[illegible]	"	SYLVIA, [illegible]	" " " "
SX[illegible]	"	[illegible], [illegible]	" " " "
SX[illegible]	"	PILOT, N.	" " " "
Q[illegible]	"	GREEN, [illegible]	2/2 P.A.D.
NX[illegible]	Lt-Col	GRUCHY[illegible], J.	2/5 Aust Fd Amb
NX[illegible]	Pte	HUNT, F.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
VX[illegible]	"	[illegible], J.	Pack Dpt
NX[illegible]	"	MILLS, G.	2/6 Aust Inf Bn
VX[illegible]	"	BRAMER, J.	88 Lt A/A Bty
QX[illegible]	Sjt	[illegible], B.	15 Aust Inf Bde Gp W/Shps
NX[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
N[illegible]	"	WEBB, K.	52 Aust Employ Coy
VX[illegible]	"	HORN, H.	2/7 Aust Inf Bn
QX[illegible]	"	[illegible], F.	17 Reinforce
Q[illegible]	"	SMITH, F.	25 Aust Inf Bn
VX[illegible]	Gnr	QUILTY, [illegible]	2/9 Lt A/A Btry
VX[illegible]	"	BUDD, H.	2/6 Lt A/A Btry
NX111754	Pte	ROLLINS, J.	2/7 Aust Inf Bn
V[illegible]	Gnr	DENSON, N.	23 L/A A/Tk

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
Q104593	Pte.	TAYLOR, H.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q103265	Cpl	McINNES, J.	" " " "
Q103953	Pte	[illegible], P.	9 " " "
NX50237	Cpl	COLSON, C.	HQ Prov Gov Milne Force
QX4514	Pte	STRINGALL, W.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
QX5702	Cpl	THOMSON, A.	HQ 2/2 Fd Bakery
QX16660	Pte	HENNINGSEN, P.	1 R.D. Coy
Q102559	"	KNIGHT, S.	61 Aust Inf Bn
Q23932	"	TUCKER, H.	" " " "
NX71150	Gnr	McMATTON, N.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt
NX105074	Pte	DOWLING, G.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
NX15725	Sjt	BRISS, J.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
QX363	Pte	MORAN, A.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
QX2581	"	HERMOFF, P.	2/9 " " "
VX58923	"	RAMER, R.	2/5 " " "
NX19341	Spr	WAREHOUSE, P.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
VX62925	Capt	GOTHAM, C.	HQ Milne Force
NX10870	L/Cpl	McKENNAN, S.	D.S. Depot
NX120350	Pte	HERRLIH, A.	HQ Milne Force
VX17166	Dvr	COLTON, L.	2/3 A.S.C.
QX16361	Pte	BRESON, J.	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
QX27357	Gnr	RATTLY, C.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
NX6093	Capt	WUNDERLICH, R.	HQ Milne Force
VX58544	Pte	IRVIN, A.	2/4 Aust Inf Bn
QX3950	"	STOUT, D.J.	2/9 " " "
VX54407	"	BOILEN, H.V.	2/2 Aust Fd Bakery
Q104762	L/Cpl	VON-HOFF, L.	61 Aust Inf Bn
Q22521	Pte	COOK, A.	25 " " "
Q103363	"	TALBUT, P.	" " " "
Q107709	"	ANDERSON, C.	61 " " "
QX35551	"	STEPHENS, F.	" " " "
Q20885	"	WILLIAMS, M.	" " " "
Q131310	"	BACHLAM, N.	9 " " "
QX106513	"	WATSON, R.	" " " "
Q155750	"	BARRETT, T.	61 " " "
QX226	Cpl	ALLAD, H.	2/9 " " "
TX5027	Pte	RIDGERS, T.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
Q101161	Cpl	WISE, R.	25 F.A.D.
QX2900	Pte	YOUNG, W.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
V870741	"	COUSSDINE, B.	25 F.A.D.
QX2457	"	GRIFFITHS, S.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
Q105084	"	HILTON, J.	25 " " "
Q121631	"	ROSE, S.	9 " " "
Q1990	"	GRIFFITH, S.	2/9 " " "
QX12750	"	McDONALD, P.L.	" " " "
QX8715	"	MULLAVEY, J.	2/12 " " "
W4940	L/Cpl	McGILVRAY, K.	2/9 Lt AA Bty
NX21105	Spr	JOHNSTONE, J.	3/4 Aust Fd Coy
VX7722	L/Sjt	MOORE, M.	25 F.A.D.
Q16553	Pte	HALL, T.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
Q121591	"	KERR, T.	9 Aust Inf Bn
NX16652	Spr	CALAHAN, H.	3/4 Aust Fd Coy
NX69634	Pte	ROBINSON, T.	4 A.O.D.
Q7990	"	GREY, J.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
Q20682	"	FRIER, K.	25 " " "
Q22400	Cpl	SULLIVAN, S.	" " " "
Q103417	Pte	TWIGG, S.	" " " "
Q105237	"	RIES, A.	" " " "
Q104214	"	LOCHEL, T.	" " " "
QX55972	Cpl	McAULIFFE, C.	61 " " "
Q20779	Pte	WILSON, R.	32 Aust Employ Coy

61

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
QX16037	Gnr	FLOWS, J.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
QX22257	Pte	HART, H.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
Q121558	"	EVANS, N.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q114790	Gnr	LEARMONT, J.	101 A/Tk. Regt
NX16418	Cpl	McRAE. C.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
VX55250	Bdr	MALONE, C.	2/3 Lt A/A Bty
NX52424	Pte	KEEBLE, H.	2/2 L.A.D.
QX32234	"	KENT, P.	61 Aust Inf Bn
Q55547	Cpl	SHIELS, S.	5 Prov Coy att 7 Bde
VX5240	WO.II	JENKINS, R.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
VX12406	Spr	WILLIAMS, H.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy

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COPY

APPX 36

T O N G Force, Copy Q

FROM MILNE FORCE 01431 17

Your G5306 of 13 Nov recd 17 repeat 17 Nov (.)
Refer our AQ 74 of 14 Nov in reply to y our Q231/12/2403 (.)
On e u nreliable Jap barge here ,one at G OODENOUGH , one at PONGANI. Can attempt move one tk immediately and recall barge from Goodenough but in view time required complete move three tks await you further orders . Ack.

WAR DIARY

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 79 17 Nov 42

39

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/17

MAJOR VICTORY IN SOLOMONS

The smashing of the Japanese armada which tried to gain control of the Solomons is described as a major victory. United States Naval forces and the United States aircraft sunk a total of 11 enemy warships and 12 transports. Washington estimates that between 20,000 and 40,000 Japanese were drowned.

The Japanese ships sunk were - One battleship, two heavy cruisers, three light cruisers, five destroyers and 12 transports. One enemy battleship and six cruisers were damaged. The United States lost two cruisers and six destroyers.

Admiral Nimitz, the American Naval Commander in Chief, said that the largest attempt made by the Japanese to capture GUADALCANAL had been frustrated. The Americans had almost annihilated the Japanese forces. In the official announcement of the success from WASHINGTON it was stated thatreece planes had observed the large gathering of transports. Part of the Japanese naval force approached from the north and other vessels moved from the south east. General MacArthur's aircraft greatly helped the American naval forces before and after the Japanese naval action.

The spearhead of the Japanese attack comprised two battleships of 30,000 tons. The large naval force approached GUADALCANAL early last Friday with the intention of heavily bombing the area before the transports came in. The battle was fought at close range. The Japanese bombed the American positions in the early hours of Saturday morning.. The attacking force was struck heavily by the American air force ehich sank at least 8 of the transports. On Sunday morning (15 Nov) four enemy cargo transports were found beached. These were destroyed by American planes and naval gunfire. On Sunday morning the aircraft reported that the remaining Japanese fleet was withdrawing.

The position at GUADALCANAL is now described as well in hand.

The AUstralian Prime Minister (Mr. J/ Curtin) said that operations in the SOLOMONS were vital to Australia. They followed logically on the Coral Sea and Midway battles It was clear that the enemy was prepared to pay a very heavy price. " The battle is not over" Mr. Curtin added but the enemy knows he has been fighting"

The Minister for the Navy (Mr. Makin) said the American victory in the SOlomons was the most conclusive since Japan onotered the war.

NEW GUINEA

At noon to-day the following communique was received from Allied Headquarters. ' It can now be revealed that General Macarthur with General Sir Thomas Blamey and other high officers, is now personally conducting the activity in the field'

The ABC war correspondent says that this announcement is taken to mean that the final blow against the Japanese in NEW GUINEA is being planned.

Japanese resistance in the BUNA area seems to be crumbling The enemy continues to fall back under incessant attacks from our aircraft The Japanese retreat is disorganised. It reveals the decisive defeat suffered by the enemy in the WAIROP battle. Forward Allied troops are now within 30 miles of BUNA. They have not yet contacted the main enemy force

NORTH AFRICA

British and American troops in North Africa continue their advance against the enemy forces. A clash between German and Frenc troops is reported between BISERTA and TUNIS. Britain's Navy continues to control the Western Mediterranean. Mobile American forces have reinforced the 1st Army moving eastward.

The American Consul at Tunis has stated that soon after the French heard the Germans were coming they scuttled ships and destroyed supplies. There is no official comment on Darlan's position in North Africa. It is known that General De Gaulle has refused to associate with Darlan or any representatives of the Vichy Government.

RUSSIA

The German attacks on the whole of the Eastern front have slowed down and fighting is now on a reduced scale. North west of STALINGRAD the Red Army is strengthening its positions. The Russians have made slight advances in the CAUCASUS.

8th ARMY IN LIBYA

The 8th Army is continuing its steady advance in LIBYA Unofficial reports say that the Axis forces have been cleared out of Derna. The R/A/F/ is pounding the remnants of Rommel's Army as they retreat. BBC correspondent says that German Air Force has been cleared out of CYRENAICA altogether.

VICTORY IN CHINA

From CHUNGKING comes news of a big Chinese victory over Japanese forces. More than 5000 Japanese were killed.

NOTICES

HEALTH A large number of troops in this area are developing infected ears. Most of these infections can be prevented by carefully drying each ear after washing to remove any water that may be left in the canal After swimming in the sea troops should wash with fresh water as soon as possible to remove salt water from their ears.

NEW GUINEA AND MILNE FORCE CONCERT PARTIES/

Owing to inclement weather concert party fixtures have been pos -tponed. They will be resumed as weather permits. The dates will be notified in this publication.

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/ 18

NEW GUINEA

To-day's communique from General Macarthur's Headquarters reveals that enemy bombers from LAE made an attack on our troops nearing BUNA and sank two trawlers off the coast. The Allied planes made a swift reply. In an attack on the aerodrome at LAE, Allied medium bombers destroyed 13 enemy planes on the ground. It is evident that the enemy may be prepared to use LAE as a defence base against Allied attacks.

Our Air Force continues to attack the retreating enemy in the GONA area, where the advance of Allied ground forces is proceeding. Our troops are 34 miles from the coast. The hammering of supply lines from the air has put the Japanese in a desperate position.

"All forces, air, land and sea, both American and Australian, share the credit for this victorious thrust against the Japanese," the Australian Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) said to-day.

DUTIES OF MILITIA

The question of extending the area of operations for members of the militia was the main subject discussed at the conference of the Australian Labour Party to-day. The conference considered Mr. Curtin's recommendations relating to the Defence Act. The main point of the Prime Minister's recommendations was that the Act should be changed so that militiamen could be sent to areas involved in the defence of Australia. This means sending militiamen away from Australian territories. The conference gave Mr. Curtin leave to introduce his proposals at the next parliamentary session.

SOLOMONS

Washington announced to-night that 23 Japanese ships had been destroyed in the naval battle off the SOLOMONS. The total losses are now :- One battleship, 2 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, five destroyers and 12 transports.

The magnificent feat of the United States cruiser, SAN FRANCISCO was described. The San Francisco went straight into the Japanese convoy and crippled the Japanese battleship. The battleship was so disabled that torpedo planes had an easy task in sinking her. The San Francisco sank three other Japanese ships. She was badly damaged but is still usable. The Commander of the San Francisco was killed.

United States aircraft sank two transports in the ALEUTIANS. One vessel was sunk before she was able to land any cargo.

"The major victory in the SOLOMONS is the turning point of the war," President Roosevelt said. "But the Japanese are not beaten yet. We must not shirk our duties now. The men in the munitions factories of America are doing a magnificent job and must keep up the volume of mass production."

NORTH AFRICA

British paratroops have landed in TUNISIA but no news has been received of any clash with German forces. An unconfirmed report states that Allied forces have reached ODESSA. The 8th Army has pushed the enemy almost to BENGHAZI.

RUSSIA

Despite heavy attacks by the Germans, the defenders of STALINGRAD are holding out. Germans have made no progress in the CAUCASUS.

TELEPHONE 41

Australian Military Forces

JLHJF.

Registry

42 | 1430 | Ltd 20/11.

Please quote this Number when Replying

ST.	111.	42.

Address H.Q. C.A.S.C. HILLS FORCE.

19 Nov. 42.

SUBJECT. P.O.L. STOCKS - [illegible] SHEDS.

H.Q.
HILLS FORCE.

1. Herewith copy of a report by O.C. D.I.F.C.D. on storage of P.O.L. stocks.

2. In order to prevent serious deterioration in the P.O.L. supplies, and further depletion in the small stocks of containers in the area it is recommended that the covered sheds be constructed as soon as possible.

(J.H.ELLIOT) Lieut-Col. C.A.S.C. HILLS FORCE.

Packet-DARG
HQB 20/11/42

Capt A B
Calls for investigation
& return W 21/11

B.I.P.O.D.
HILLS FORCE.
18 Nov. 42.

C.A.S.C.
HILLS FORCE.

SUBJECT. P.O.L. STORES. NATIVE COVERED SHEDS.

1. Due to the wet conditions prevailing in this area also the wet season near at hand, I recommend that (5) five 'Native covered' sheds 30 x 15' be built as soon as possible.

2. I recommend that(4) four be built in this area and (1) one East of the Ford. The one East of Ford to store reserve stocks, in case the Ford becomes impassable.

3. The 4-gal or smaller packs of P.O.L. are rusting very quickly and the contents are being contaminated due to water.

4. A recent decanting of 111 x 5 (American gl s) tins equalling 462 gals. (Imp) gals. a loss of 54 gals. Lubg. Oil occurred. These tins were taken from wooden cases and they were completely pitted with rust, due entirely to being constantly out in the weather, as this work progresses in clearing stocks, I know from inspection the loss of Oil and grease will be considerable.

5. Stocks of Petrol, Kerosene and Lubg. Oils arecarriving in 4 gal Drums and if such containers stand in the open for any length of time, water must find its way through the bung to the contents.

6. If we covered all the small containers with galvanised iron the quantity required would be hundreds of square feet, and no doubt this iron is more urgently required for other purposes.

Other duties of the Unit are:-
(a) Clean and repair dirty, rusty or leaking containers.
(b) Blend aviation fuel with Army octane if such Aviation fuel has lost its flashpoint.

7. For these operations it is necessary to have a "Workshop" so that the work can be carried out under cover.

8. I am now preparing the floor for the shed and suggest it be covered by the native labour, thus saving iron and timber.I to complete the 'native' roofing I apply for 20 (twenty) natives for approximately three weeks to assist in building.

G.J. Rice. Lieut.

O.C. B. I. P. O. D.

Appx 42

COPY

SECRET

H Q
MILNE FORCE

19 Nov 42

MILNE FORCE OP INSTN N O 13

To Major Tye
O C 'B' Sqn,
2/6 Armd Regt

REF MAPS ½ sheets SAMARAI, TUFI

1. You will prepare to send, in accordance with dates indicated in para 2 below, one tp of your Sqn to PON GANI. Such tp to be restricted to :-

Three tks with crews (incl replacements)
P O.L. for 200 m iles for each tk.
Five refills amn for each tank
N ecessary spares.

2. Captured Jap landing barges will be used. One barge is available at MILNE BAY for departure 19 Nov; ONE BARGE IS being recalled to M ILNE BAY from GOODEN OUGH IS and is expected to be available for departure on 21 Nov. Further barge t pt is dependent upon time of t urn around from PONGANI.

3. Each barge will, if poss ble, comprise a complete operational unit and tp comd will travel with first barge.

4. On a rival at PONGANI, tp will come under comd 32 US Div.

5. AA Gp HQ will make available one .50 calibre AA Gun with 2000 rounds amn for AA protection on barge and will also supply instructor to teach tk crews use of gun. AA Gun Crews will N OT be supplied by AA Gp HQ. You will inform this HQ when such instn is desired.

6. Each replacement of tk crews will be armed with rifle and 200 rounds SAA in addition to personel weapons already carried. ADOS, MILNE FORCE, will arrange issue of rifles and amn,

7. Sup (incl water) and quinine for seven and fourteen days respectively, together with necessary med kit , will be taken.

8. Personal gear will include mosquito net.

9. "Q" MILNE FORCE will arrange barges and is responsible for provision of capable crews and suitable pilots. Barge Capts will be instructed to return to MILNE BAY as soon as possible.

10. Ack.

Col
GS, MILNE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION
B Sqn, 2/6 Armd Reg
32 US Div (per T p Comd)
AQ
DA&MG
ADOS
WAR DIARY
FILE

PERSONNEL FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT WITH FIRST FLIGHT LILLIPUT AS AT 20 NOV. '42.

ALLOTMENT

JAPARA

UNIT	NO	DISEMBARKED FROM	PRESENT LOCATION	UNIT	JAPARA Offs	JAPARA O/Rs
2/4 Fd Coy	156	Stationed MILNE BAY	Route 7	2/4 Fd Coy	2	50
A A O C	95	Mullama Ex P M	4 A C D	A A O C	-	-
HQ Sigs MILNE FORCE	10	do do	HQ Sigs MILNE FORCE	HQ Sigs MILNE FORCE	-	-
A B C	4	Service Aircraft Ex PM	HQ MILNE FORCE	A B C	-	-
208 C A A	144	John, [redacted] MILNE	Route 8	208 C A A	3	62
387 AM DET	103	do do	do	387 AM DET	1	34
Port Det "E"	96	do do	do	Port Det "E"	4	41
43 Eng.,	225	do do	do	43 Eng.,	6	132
T O T A L:	833	———	—	T O T A L S:	16	319

SECRET URGENT SECRET 44

TO Brig Secombe,COSC, MORESBY

FROM COMMANDING GENERAL,USA SOS,FALL RIVER

ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER PD 394 T.O.O. 192100z

MILNE FORCE REQUESTS SUITABLE MEANS TO MOVE THREE TANKS CMA AMMUNITION AND PERSONNEL FORWARD STOP JAP BARGE HERE BROKE AND SANK UNDER LOAD OF ONE STOP LIFT OF THIRTEEN TONS REQUIRED STOP HAVE YOU ANYTHING AVAILABLE THERE END SIGNED JOHNS

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MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 81 19 Nov 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/ 19

NEW GUINEA

Widespread air attacks on areas north of Australia were described in a communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters to-day. Allied bombers raided TIMOR, SALAMAUA LAE and GASMATA. Heavy bombers also attacked TIMOR in a night raid.

Recce planes sighted eight enemy destroyers heading for BUNA. Apparently they are in support of the ground forces. Our heavy bombers are out after them. The Australians are now 22 miles from BUNA. The Americans are only a few miles from the Japanese beach head. The two forces are in close touch with each other.

NORTH AFRICA

The battle for TUNISIA has gathered greater momentum in the last 24 hours. There is evidence that a great air battle may take place shortly. The 8th Army is swooping closer to BENGHAZI from two directions. British and American troops have clashed with German patrols and the Germans have been driven back. British and American troops have been transported by air to act as the spearhead of the attack. British paratroops have captured an aerodrome of major importance in TUNISIA. Germans are pouring Air Force squadrons into TUNISIA.

BERLIN radio announces that German air squadrons have been attacking the Allied advancing columns. BERLIN says our forces are in 3 columns: one on coast road, one moving towards SFAX and one in S. TUNIS.

It has been announced that French support for the Allied cause has grown stronger. More French garrisons have been brought over to the Allied cause. Thousands of French North Africans from MOROCCO and ALGERIA have joined in the great march towards TUNIS.

From CAIRO comes a report that British advance units are already in BENGHAZI. MOROCCO radio has announced that another Allied column is moving from LAKE CHAD. This force could outflank Rommel's troops.

Italian opinion is that the Allies have planned a three-point victory programme :- (1) Driving the Italians from the Mediterranean; (2) Mass attacks against the German forces and (3) Smashing of Japanese power in the Pacific.

LAVAL - DICTATOR OF FRANCE

Marshal Petain has appointed Laval dictator of France and he named him as his successor. Laval has organised his party on Pro-Fascist lines. General Weygand has disappeared from Vichy. He has not been heard of for five days.

RUSSIA

The weather is having a great influence on the battle for STALINGRAD. Fierce local battles are still raging in the factory area. The Germans have lost 600 killed and wounded in the latest attack on STALINGRAD. The Russians have driven back German attacks in the CAUCASUS

NOTICES

HAVERSACK LOST: Lost on Friday, 6 Nov 42, from truck evacuating patients from 10 CCS, one haversack containing pay book, bank book, letters, etc., property of NX1274469, RUSHTON, R.E., A Branch, HQ, MILNE FORCE.

COPY

APPX 46

TO N G F

FROM MILNE FORCE 1230 19

SECRET (.) On ships of first flight LILLIPUT arrived here to-day are 25 pdr and 18 pdr guns (.) There are NO repeat NO personnelfor these guns on these ships (.) It is understood that pers. are in ships on second and third flights now at MORESBY (.) May an urgent direction be given please as to whether such guns are to go forward with first flight without pers

APPX 47

"JAPARA"

Short 20 ton 50 calibre
Short 38 tons of rations
Short 10 tons of barb wire
Over 10 vehicles
No anti-tank mines
No medical supplies

"BALIK PAPAN"

Short 10 ton of 50 calibre
Short 7 tons of oil and grease
No anti-tank mines
No medical supplies
Eighteen barges over

"BANTAM

Petrol and oil over 4 tons
Eight tons 50 calibre over
Seven tons of small ammo over
Eleven tons of rations over
Two vehicles over
Twenty two pontoons over
No medical supplies

COPY APPX 46

"JAPARA"

	Offrs	O/Rs	Total
208 C.A.	3	62	
387 Q.M. Det	1	34	
Pt Det "E"	4	41	
43 Engrs	6	132	
2/4 Fd Coy	2	50	
	16	319	- 335

"BALIK PAPAN"

208 C.A.	2	42	
387 Q.M.	1	33	
43 Engrs	2	45	
Pt Det "E"	4	45	
2/4 Fd Coy	4	100	
Sigs		10	
	13	275	288

"BANTAM"

208 C.A.	2	33	
1 Pt Det	1	-	
Pt Det "E"	1	-	
387 Q.M.	-	34	
43 Engrs	1	39	
A A O C	-	95	
A B C	-	4	
	5	205	210
			833

COPY

APPX 49

TO N G FORCE , Copy Q

FROM MILNE FORCE 01483 20 Nov

Ref COSC signal PD393 of 19 Nov to you (.) Total shortage ~~in~~ life belts for first flt LILLIPUT incl tps to be embarked from MILNE BAY in 659 (.) Can these be supplied (.) If NOT, are tps to embark without life belts

50

[redacted] NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/ 20

NEW GUINEA

The battle for BUNA, the last Japanese beach head in PAPUA, is fast approaching a crisis. The Japanese are in a desperate position. Our forces are rapidly closing in. The enemy is pinned in a narrow strip between BUNA and GONA. The enemy failed in attempts to relieve the troops by sea and air.

An enemy air attack was beaten off; three Zeros were shot down. A light cruiser and a destroyer were sunk and another destroyer damaged. The cruiser was hit first by a 500lb bomb from a Flying Fortress and sank after another attack. One destroyer was attacked after the cruiser was sunk and managed to limp away. A second destroyer was hit amidships. She was split apart and sank immediately.

NORTH AFRICA

All reports from NORTH AFRICA suggest that there has been no major clash in TUNISIA and that major operations may begin at any moment. Heavily armoured British forces are pushing into TUNISIA, following the trail of paratroop patrols. The Germans have lost many aircraft in air attacks. The Italian air force has been having a rough time. Spitfires shot down five Italian torpedo planes within a minute. Not one of the enemy torpedo planes had time to fire a torpedo.

British paratroops landed inside the TUNISIAN frontier but did not come in contact with the enemy until Tuesday. The main British force is not far away. An American officer said that the Germans were in greater force at BIZERTA than at TUNIS.

DARLAN has broadcast as the High Commissioner for NORTH AFRICA. He said he was acting on Petain's behalf.

Franco has informed President Roosevelt that Spain would remain absolutely neutral in the present conflict.

The 8th Army advance elements have forced enemy troops into action on an escarpment 60 miles south of BENGHAZI.

RUSSIA

The powerful army which tried to capture the GROZNI oilfields has been defeated after two days' intense fighting. 5000 Germans were killed and many tanks, guns and other equipment were captured. Yesterday 1000 Germans were killed in the factory area of STALINGRAD. It is pointed out that the enemy is suffering severe loss every day.

SOLOMONS

The American light cruiser, BOISE, has arrived at a United States eastern coast port. She emerged safely from a battle with six enemy warships. The battle was close range and lasted two hours. Complete figures of Japanese losses in the SOLOMONS are awaited. On Saturday night, the Japanese lost five ships - 1 battleship, 3 heavy cruisers and 1 destroyer. (These may or may not be additional to losses already announced)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Instead of receiving the usual Gold Cup, the owner of the winner of the Melbourne Cup, to be run to-morrow, will receive £300 worth of Austerity Loan bonds ... Russia and Mexico have resumed diplomatic relations after a period of 31 years... The Minister for Air (Mr. Drakeford) said to-day that men on service in NEW GUINEA were fighting in conditions of great discomfort.

LOST

Belt web with holster containing 9 mm "Luger" automatic pistol loaded with 8 rounds. Finder please return to Force HQ.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

The information in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's or the United States Service.

Serial No. 38
Nos. 588 to 624.

MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS
Part I.
BY
MAJOR-GENERAL C.A. CLOWES, DSO, MC.
COMD MILNE FORCE

HQ
MILNE FORCE
AUSTRALIA.
21 NOV 42.

GENERAL STAFF.

588. A/GAS TNG. (Aust Units only):

A high standard of A/Gas tng must be maintained in all units to ensure fighting efficiency in the presence of gas.

All units other than those engaged in ops will provide, whenever possible for A/Gas tng, such tng to be at least two hrs weekly.

All units holding A/Gas eqpt will ensure that it is inspected fortnightly.

Results of TOET (Secs 102, 103, 104 Pam 1 PAG) will be fwded to this HQ every three (3) months - the first report to be rendered by 21 Dec 42.

Unit Gas Offr or NCO (GHQ G.535) (Aust Units only).

A unit gas officer will be appointed in all units of total strength of or above 200. A unit gas NCO will be appointed in all units of total strength between 50 and 200, if it is not practicable to appoint a unit gas officer in such units. In units below a total strength of 50, a gas officer or NCO will not be appointed.

Where possible, unit gas officers and NCO's should have qualified at an LHQ, Army or Corps gas school. Being responsible to their commanders for advice on all chemical warfare matters and for supervision of unit anti-gas training they should, if practicable, be relieved of a proportion of their regimental duties.

The appointment of unit gas officers and NCO's will not be grounds for application for increase in establishment.

[signature]
Lt-Col
A/A.A.G.
HQ MILNE FORCE

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S BRANCH.

589. TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL:

AF W5011 Casualty Returns are being submitted regarding transfer of personnel to Organisations (vide [illegible])

389. TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL (Cont.):

are not shown on Order of Battle.

Movement of personnel to organisations not shown on Order of Battle will be recorded as "Detached" and will be recorded [illegible] by parent unit on AF W5006 under heading "G". Parent unit will remain responsible for submission of Cas. Returns.

Personnel attending Schools & Courses within Milne Force Area will be shown under "C" on W5006 of parent unit, which will be responsible for submission of Cas. Returns.

The foregoing will include Staff of such Schools.

390. TRADING WITH NATIVES (NGF O 540):

Natives have been brought before the District Court on charges of [illegible] reasonably suspected of being stolen or [illegible].

On investigation it has been found that the goods were given them by soldiers in exchange for beads, etc.

Trading with Army Rations is an offence (A... Sec. 24, D.A. 79) and will cease forthwith.

391. ISSUE OF ANTI MOSQUITO CREAM (NGF O 550):

When indenting on D.I.D's for Anti Mosquito Cream, Units will endorse on AB.55 whether it is for an initial issue in 1½ oz. tins or a bulk replenishment for 1½ oz. tins already in Unit's possession.

392. MALARIA CONTROL:

The following additional Malaria Control measures will be put into effect forthwith:-

(a) All swimming or bathing is prohibited after 1600 hrs.
(b) Protective measures, that is, wearing of slacks, gaiters or equivalent, shirts with sleeves rolled down and use of [illegible] cream, will be [illegible].
(c) Each major unit which has not already done so will form a Unit Anti-Malaria Control Squad of one NCO and 3 OR's per Inf Bn or similar unit. Training of these Squads will be mutually arranged between Units and S Anti-Malaria Control Unit.

393. STERILIZATION OF WATER:

With the present types of water storage tanks adequate purification of water cannot take place by chlorinating the water in the storage tanks with the result that water is being delivered to units inadequately treated and therefore unsafe.

The following procedure will be adopted in future:-

All water will be chlorinated at the water point by adding NSP to the water trucks or tanks in the quantities dictated by the tests at that W.P.

The water so treated will not be used [illegible] hours.

Detesting tablets are available as an [illegible] issue.

394. DROPPINGS FROM CATTLE:

It is observed that the droppings from cattle in vicinity of unit lines are providing breeding grounds for flies.

Units will take necessary steps to keep their areas clear of droppings.

395. "SOLDIERING ON":

Units who have not received supplies of order forms for the Military History Section Christmas Book are advised to communicate at once with Military History Section, No. 2 Aust Base Post Office.

Any Units who have order forms but have not received a copy of the procedure relative to completion of the order forms are advised to refer to Paymaster Milne Force without delay.

396. PAY ACQUITTANCE ROLLS:

Units are advised that when entering the amount of pay on Acquittance Rolls, the first column only, i.e., the column headed "Total Pay" need be utilised.

397. COMFORTS:

All Units are advised that a further A.C.F. issue is available and can be obtained on application to the A.C.F. Tent at Force HQ. Applications must be accompanied by a written authority certifying to the ration strength of the Unit signed personally by the CO.

398. MOBILE CINEMA UNIT (42/1245):

The showing of pictures on the evening of 20 Nov by the above unit was cancelled owing to the following incidents which arose during the previous evening's programme:-

(a) Approx. 3500 tps attended, of whom nearly half came in trucks.
(b) Approx. 70 trucks were parked in the area during the programme.

These vehicles caused serious dislocation of ordinary traffic and did considerable damage to road shoulders and side drains in what was already a bad area, apart from the matter of unauthorised use of M.T.

It should NOT be necessary to draw attention to the grave danger arising from such concentration of personnel & vehicles in the event of an air raid.

To prevent recurrence it is directed that Cmds of all units bring the following instructions to the notice of all members.

(a) Troops from neighbouring units CAN will attend.
(b) Motor Transport will NOT be used.

Units are reminded that the cinema unit is mobile and will visit each locality in turn so that all troops will have the opportunity of seeing such programmes.

[illegible]

399. DISPOSAL OF KITS AND/OR EFFECTS (42/1272):

Kits and/or effects of deceased personnel, or of casualties evacuated from MILNE FORCE Area, will be deposited with 2/2 Sec Aust Kit Store, Milne Force Det., located opposite BASE POST OFFICE.

All such kits will be securely packed, labelled with W5307 and delivered to the Det together with A.F.'s K54 in accordance with GRO Q.178 of 10 Jul 42.

Kits and/or effects of all other personnel will be disposed of by the units concerned in accordance with the above GRO.

Advice on such disposal is available from MILNE FORCE Kit Store Det.

400. CONTROL OF WHARVES & DOCK AREA:

As from 23 Nov 42 no person will be permitted to enter any Wharf or Dock Area controlled by Milne Force unless in possession of written authority in the form of a pass, or unless forming part of an organised working party whose duty it is to be in such area.

Passes will be issued by HQ Milne Force for Aust personnel and by HQ USA SOS for U.S. personnel.

A sample pass will be sent to all concerned by this HQ.

Milne Force Provost Coy will be responsible for policing this Order.

401. SUPPLY ACCOUNTANCY:

Attention of all Units is directed to Appendix B of HQ Milne Force Admin instruction No. 1.

Part 2 (c) is repeated for general information.

"Reserve Ration (N.G. Scale):

As per Milne Force Op. Instn. No. 6 para 6 (b), units will submit indent for seven days Reserve Ration to be stored and held as instructed.

CO's units will be held personally responsible for proper protection and storage. Certificate to this effect will be endorsed on each form A.F W.5010 submitted.

Reserve Ration which is somewhat similar to normal ration will be consumed under CO unit's instruction, when circumstances such as flood or enemy action prohibit the delivery or receipt of normal rations. In such cases a certificate of consumption will accompany an indent to replenish rations consumed."

CO's must, in view of the climatic condition, pay particular attention to the problem of protection and storage and must ensure the regular turnover of the stocks.

Some units are failing to endorse form A.F W.5010 as required. The certificate will be insisted on in future.

Part 2 (f) accommodation is amended to conform (except as mentioned hereunder) to the instructions laid down in G.S. No. 101 dated 27 Oct 42.

401. SUPPLY ACCOUNTANCY (Cont.):

Attention of CO's is drawn particularly to para 8 and 9 of this GRO.

Form AF W.3810 will be submitted by 1600 hrs each SUNDAY (not as stated in GRO) to the respective B.ASCO, in the case of Australian Forces, and to Capt Morebach, USA SOS GH Staff, in the case of USA Forces.

Attached to each AF W.3810 submitted will be:-

(a) One copy of each daily AF W.3809.
(b) Duplicate copy of each AB.55.

NOTE: This may necessitate an additional copy of each AB.55 being prepared, e.g., a Unit which draws supplies each Wednesday for consumption from the following Friday to Thursday will need to submit one copy of the AB.55 with one AF W3810 (Friday and Saturday consumption) and the extra copy with the following week's AF W3810 (Sunday to Thursday consumption).

As stated in para 9 of GRO 9.501 CO's of units are liable to be charged for overdrawn rations.

CO's will personally check the present position and where a Unit is overdrawn will arrange for a sufficiently large underdrawal to satisfactorily adjust the position.

Copy of daily AF W3006 will not be required to be submitted with AF W3810 in future.

402. RETURNABLE CONTAINERS:

The following are returnable containers and after initial issue must be returned to Petrol Point when obtaining a new issue:-

4 gal. Ord Oil tins.
4 gal. Opaline Oil cans.
36 lb. Grease tins.
1 gal. Oil tins.
4 gal. Opaline tins.
35 1 lb. } Grease Pails.
55 1 lb. }

403. COURTS MARTIAL - PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF TRIALS:

(a)

NATURE OF COURT	Field General Court Martial.
PLACE OF TRIAL	HQ MILNE FORCE.
NAME AND UNIT	SX.9530 Pte J.ASSON, J.L. 2/6 Aust Inf Bn.
CHARGE	Absenting himself from his unit without leave from 1100 hrs on 3 Oct 42 until 0030 hrs on 5 Oct 42. (Army Act Sec. 15 (2)).
FINDING	Guilty.
SENTENCE	To suffer Field punishment for 90 days and to forfeit all pay during the said period.
DATE OF SENTENCE	2 November, 1942.

405. COURTS-MARTIAL - PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF TRIALS: (Cont.)

(a) (Cont.)

CONFIRMATION	Finding and sentence confirmed, but sentence reduced to 28 days Field Punishment with forfeiture of ordinary pay during such period by Maj-Gen C.A. Clowes, DSO, MC, Comd Milne Force.
DATE OF CONFIRMATION	10 November, 1942.
DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION:	15 November, 1942. In the Field.

(b)

NATURE OF COURT	Field General Court Martial.
PLACE OF TRIAL	HQ MILNE FORCE.
NUMBER TRIED	VX.53894 Pte [illegible], A.J. 2/6 Aust Inf Bn.
CHARGE	Absenting himself from his unit without leave from 1400 hrs on 29 [illegible] 42 until 1200 hrs on 5 Oct 42. (Army Act Sec. 15 (1)).
FINDING	Guilty.
SENTENCE	To suffer Field Punishment for a period of 90 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay during such period.
DATE OF SENTENCE	2 November, 1942.
CONFIRMATION	Finding and sentence confirmed by Maj-Gen C.A. Clowes, DSO, MC, Comd Milne Force.
DATE OF CONFIRMATION	8 November, 1942.
DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION	15 November, 1942. In the Field.

(c)

NATURE OF COURT	Field General Court Martial.
PLACE OF TRIAL	HQ MILNE FORCE.
[illegible]	VX.54503 Pte SMITH, [illegible]J. - 2/3 Aust Inf Bn.
CHARGE	Absenting himself from his unit without leave from 1300 hrs on [illegible] until 1350 hrs on 5 Oct 42. (Army Act Sec 15 (1)).
FINDING	Guilty.
SENTENCE	To suffer Field Punishment for a period of 40 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay during such period.
DATE OF SENTENCE	2 November, 1942.
[illegible]TION	Finding and sentence confirmed by Maj-Gen C.A. Clowes, DSO, MC, Comd Milne Force.

405. COURTS-MARTIAL - PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF TRIALS (Cont.)

(c) (Cont.)

DATE OF CONFIRMATION	8 November, 1942.
DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION	15 November, 1942. In the Field.

(d)

NATURE OF COURT	Field General Court Martial.
PLACE OF TRIAL	NO MILNE FORCE.
MEMBER TRIED	SX.5394 Pte W.HD, R.A. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn.
CHARGE	Absenting himself from his unit without leave from 1510 hrs on 3 Oct 42 until 0830 hrs on 8 Oct 42. (Army Act Sec. 15 (1)).
FINDING	Guilty.
SENTENCE	To suffer Field Punishment for a period of 14 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay during such period.
DATE OF SENTENCE	2 November, 1942.
CONFIRMATION	8 November, 1942.
DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION	15 November, 1942. In the Field.

404. ELECTROLYTE FOR BATTERIES:

Complaints have been received that Lead-acid Battery Electrolyte on issue has been low in specific gravity. All electrolyte supplied for tropical conditions is at 1.250 S.G. Care will be exercised to ensure that all jars containing electrolyte are air tight, as under tropical conditions electrolyte rapidly absorbs water when exposed.

405. REPLACEMENT OF ORD (CONTROLLED) STORES:

N.G. Force Order 475 is repeated for information of all concerned:-

"The procedure set out below will be adopted forthwith in reporting wastage of warlike stores of the type listed on Order Cards (ie Form E51 to 8).

When a casualty occurs to such a store the Unit will report immediately by signal to ADOS or D.DOS etc., of their formation giving Serial No., together with the following particulars:-

(a) Causes:
i.e., Completely destroyed (or seriously damaged) by enemy action, accident, sabotage, or worn out with use (fair wear).

(b) Disposal:
Abandoned as total loss or being evacuated to workshops, Base, etc., for repair.

(c) Identification:
Maker's name and registered numbers of guns, carriages, trailers, predictors, height finders, range finders, etc., type and power A.C. sets, make, type and M.V. Nos of vehicles and cycles.

Serial No. 0/0/0.

405. REPLACEMENT OF CED (CASUALTY) STORES:

In all cases the Unit must make clear what item (by use of correct Demand No. from Master Card) is involved and what has happened to it. Failure to do this will seriously prejudice the provision and replacement as well as adding unnecessarily to the burden of the signal system.

Replacements of many essential items of controlled stores are not always available, and the utmost care must be taken at all times to ensure that equipment is not unnecessarily damaged or destroyed.

The attention of C.O.O's and O.O's is directed to para 11 of D.O.S. Routine Instn No. 62 of 5th June, 1942.

406. DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL EQUIPMENT OF CASUALTIES:

1. Personal Equipment (i.e. clothing, necessaries, tents mosquito, blankets, Respirators, arms, web equipment, Helmet steel, etc, of casualties will be disposed of as follows:

Personnel evacuated from Units to Field Ambulances, CCS's, etc:-

ALL clothing, necessaries, helmets steel, blankets, Tents Mosquito and Respirators will accompany the man to the Medical Unit and during the whole period he is away from his Unit.

2. Ammunition on Personal Issue will be withdrawn from the man's possession before leaving Unit R.A.P.

3. Web Equipment and Arms will accompany the soldier to the Medical Unit and will be disposed of as follows:-

(a) Arms and Web Equipt of personnel rejoining Unit will be handed to them prior to evacuation from Medical Unit.
(b) Arms, Web Equipt, tents mosquito and blankets of personnel being evacuated to mainland by Hospital Ship will be held at Medical Unit.
(c) Equipt of personnel to be evacuated by S.A.T. will be treated as in (b) above except that blankets will NOT be held.
(d) ADOS will organise the collection of arms and web equipt as in (b) and (c) from Medical Units WEEKLY.

4. Arms and Web Equipt now held by Units which are surplus to present requirements (i.e. in excess of present strength) will be returned to 4 Adv Ord Depot forthwith.

5. Stores returned in accordance with paras (c) and (d) and 4 will be accompanied by AF C.1065 or A.F.F.5 in quadruplicate. Two copies will be retained by 4 Adv Ord Depot, 1 copy will be forwarded to ADOS Mine Force and 1 copy will be retained by Unit as receipt.

6. A.J. personnel will be accompanied by their paybooks at all times.

This cancels all previous instructions.

[signature]
Lt Col
A.A.G.

COPY

APPX 52

TO MILNE FORCE, rptd 32 US DIV

FROM N.G. FORCE G5444 21 Nov

Agree M3 tanks beyond capacity barges (.) In lieu of these 1 pl carriers to be sent from your resources (.) To be moved in Jap barge to PORLOCK for onward move as ordered by 32 US Div (.) One sec move earliest followed by remainder pl as barges available (.) Pn passes to command 32 US DIV on arrival PORLOCK (.) Barges return MILNE BAY on completion of advance (.) My G5306 to both addressees refers

COPY

TO N G FORCE

FROM MILNE FORCE 01497 21 Nov

ONLY One JAP barge possibly avilable now en route to MILNE from GOODENOUGH (.) Barge will only take one repeat one carrier each trip (.) Approx time round trip eight days (.) To shift carrier pl with 13 carriers would therefore take 10~~6~~ repeat 104 days (.) Ship S4 available here and can take 10 repeat 10 carriers with all pers and equipment (.) Understand~~&~~ from COSC suitable barges available PORLOCK for unloading (.) Understand from COSC suitable barges available PORLOCK for unloading (.) Can equip carriers with two Bren guns each (.) Your further instns awaited.

Appx 54

COPY

TO MILNE FORCE
FROM N G FORCE Q1219 21 Nov

MOST URGENT for Col Litchfield (.) Following in 2 parts PART 1 (.) Message begins (.) 1st (.) Operations BUNA area held up for amn and supplies (.) 2nd (.) Air Force have made 2 transports A/C now MILNE BAY available assist (.) 3rd(.) Prepare immediately for dropping and load amn and supplies as under (.) Plane loading 5000 repeat 5000 lbs gross per A/C (.) Wrap in bundles using blankets and similar material (.) Weights packages wrapped should NOT exceed following (.) Tea 28 Lbs (.) biscuits, cheese, sugar, dried fruits 36 to 38 lbs (.) meat and rice in double bag 56 lbs (.) milk in double bag 50 lbs(.) 4th(.) Amn in boxes normal pack (.) 5th (.) Proportion 3 repeat 3 supplies 2 repeat 2 amn (.) 6th (.) Ration scale equivalent at dropping
(end part 1 part 11 follows)

PART 11 Biscuits,6 ounce preserved 16 ounces, 1 oz milk,FC 2 oz rice,3 oz tea, 1 oz sugar, 3 oz salt, ½oz,fruit dried 2 oz (.) 7th (.) Amn scale all small arms particularly .303 and T.S.M.G. plus type 36 repeat 36 gronades (4 & 7seconds) (.) Contact Lieut Maclean 23 FAD for guidance packing amn for drop (.) 8th (.) location dropping plane advised ref map BUNA (revised) 1 inch to 4 miles (.) SOPUTA QD1817 rptd QD1817 JUMBERU QD1318 repeat QD1318 (.) ground marked by light coloured blankets and possibly smoke signal (.) 9th(.) speed vital planes must report , must leave earliest possible (.) Message ends.

CC COPY

Appx 55

TO NGF
FROM MILNE FORCE AQ 81 21

ACK (.) NO repeat NO A/C here(.) Advice E.T.A.

COPY

Appx. 56

TO NGF

From MILNE FORCE AQ82 21 Nov

RAAF advise have just received signal to send ALL repeat ALL Hudson A/C to MORESBY for urgent ration dropping mission (.) If for same job why not load here as NO repeat NO other A/C available here.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BULLETIN NO.65 [illegible]

SUPPLEMENT TO BBC NEWS BULLETIN 2200 1/2

NEW GUINEA:

The heaviest fighting so far is going on in BUNA-GONA area. The Australians are advancing from the west and the Americans from the east, closing in on the enemy. The Australian and American are fighting shoulder to shoulder against strong Japanese forces.

Allied 'planes made night attacks on Japanese bases on all the NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND.

SOLOMONS:

United States Naval spokesman has reported that during the SOLOMONS BATTLE about 1500 American tps were put ashore at GUADALCANAL. These troops were reinforcements for tps already there. It is announced that most of the JAPANESE force at GUADALCANAL has been killed. The remainder have been driven into the jungle. Colonel KNOX states that he believes the Japanese will make attempts to take back their holding in the SOLOMONS.

In air fighting on SUN 10 Zeros and two other enemy 'planes were destroyed.

The number of Japanese warships, transports and other vessels destroyed or damaged in the SOLOMONS NAVAL BATTLE is now estimated at 30. American losses were two light cruisers and six destroyers. (JAP losses - Sunk: 1 battleship,1hy cr.,6 hy crs,2 lt crs,3 destroyers,12 tpts.Damaged:1 b'tleship,2 crs,7 destroyers.

NORTH AFRICA:

The Germans have evacuated BENGHAZI. All military installations in BENGHAZI were destroyed before the evacuation began.

ITALIAN reinforcements are reported to have landed in TUNISIA. The Axis Powers are preparing to make a strong attempt to hold SOUTHERN TUNISIA. All the enemy efforts to seize control of [illegible] from TUNIS to TRIPOLI have failed. British and American bombers have attacked air fields in TUNIS. The German Air Force lost 17 'planes on Wednesday. The BBC Correspondent in ALGIERS states experienced another enemy raid the night before last. The raid was NOT severe. All the fighting is taking place 400 miles east of ALGIERS. In the port of ALGIERS the Royal Engineers are working overtime to get the equipment up to the troops.

The 8th ARMY is continuing to harass ROMMEL's retreating forces inflicting heavy damage.

RAIDS ON ITALY:

ITALY had its biggest blitz of the war last night. Many British 'planes took part and they were helped by good flying conditions. TURIN, which is bristling with good targets including large munition works, was heavily bombed. Northern Italy has been bombed 10 times. Last night we lost three 'planes. Only one 'plane has been lost in previous raids.

Like the Italians, the Germans are being told by their Ministers that they have a hard time ahead. GOERING has quoted the words of Lieutenant "Schlageter, Hero of Ruhr" used by the late Nazi leader Minister Mr. Churchill on the first day of 1940.

RUSSIA:

The Russians have driven back the Germans in the [illegible] with heavy losses to the enemy. Many planes [illegible] have landed and made successful raids on the [illegible] GERMANS.

COPY

APPX 58

TO MILNE FORCE

FROM N.G. FORCE 05465 22 Nov

Troops NOT to embark without life belts (.) Deficiencies being provided for and will be despatched earliest.

COPY Appx 59

TO MILNE FORCE
FROM N G FORCE Q1238 21

Developments and adequate air deliveries 21st Nov now preclude necessity loading aircraft MILNE BAY for an maintenance BUNA area (.) Hold all stores already wrapped pending possible later requirements (.) Refer our Q1219 of 20 Nov.

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 84 22 Nov 42 60

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 L/22

NEW GUINEA

Heavy fighting continues in the BUNA- GONA Area. The enemy positions were bombed and strafed by our planes during the day. The enemy frontier is gradually being squeezed in towards the coast. At one point the Americans are only one mile from Buna

They are also fighting around an aerodrome 2½ miles from the village. The Japanese are subject to continual bombing and machine gunning from the air.

The ABC correspondent states that four enemy destroyers are manoeuvring between NEW IRELAND and NEW GUINEA. Bad visibility due chiefly to rain squalls and storms, have hampered air attacks.

SOLOMONS/

The Navy Department in Washington reports renewed land activity by the American Forces following the great victory in the Solomons naval battle. The Americans have gone well into the territory formerly held by the Japanese. American patrols have advanced killing 35 Japanese with only a few casualties to themselves. Our aircraft have made constant attacks on the enemy. Three more enemy planes have been destroyed in the BUIN area.

NORTH AFRICA

British, American, and French troops are advancing in the face of intense air attacks. Violent fighting is occurring over the battle area. A large scale battle is expected in the TUNIS area. At TUNIS the enemy has dug in well. Their main positions are in the hill country around TUNIS. French units attacked Nazi positions at one point but the outcome of this conflict is not known.

ALGIERS was raided again last night. In the first week of the North African operations, 50 Axis planes have been shot down or damaged. The Commander of the Naval forces (Admiral Cunningham) stated that the Allied losses in the early part of the campaign had been lower than expected. It was known that 50 U boats were still operating off GIBRALTAR. 2,000,000 tons of shipping could be saved by the re-opening of the Mediterranean. It was doubtful if the French fleet would leave Toulon, he said.

The 8th Army has advanced further south to threaten the German forces trying to make a stand. For the next few days the news a out LIBYA is likely to concer n the air forces.

POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO INVADE BRITAIN/

The London ABC correspondent says that Hitler may develop air attacks and attempt an invasion of Britain as a counter-offensive to the North African campaign. There are signs that the Germans are running short of oil. It is thought likely that the Germans will occupy Italy if Tunis is captured. The fact that the Germans in Russia are still wearing summer clothing shows that there must be an acute shortage of wool in Germany.

RUSSIA

A German spokesman states that the Red Army is ready to begin a full scale attack from the Don to the Caucasus. The Russians have made further advances in other areas. En emy attacks on STALINGRAD are still on a small scale.

JWW/WB

AG 2289

61

WAR DIARY

PERSONNEL - 32 AUST EMP COY

HQ
MILNE FORCE
23 NOV '42

HQ N.G. FORCE (2).

1. In response to a request from this HQ the above unit was sent to this area to relieve to some extent Inf and other fighting units from supplying continuous, large working parties for unloading ships, as this duty was seriously interfering with training and reducing the fighting efficiency of such units.

2. However, the casualty rate in 32 Aust Emp Coy has been so high as to almost entirely defeat this object. In this regard the following figures are submitted:-

		OFFRS	O/R's.
(a)	Strength on Disembarkation (7 Oct '42)	5	421
(b)	Returned to Mainland unfit for tropical service on 8 Nov '42.....	-	10
(c)	Evacuated for medical reasons.....	1	39
(d)	In hospital as at 22 Nov.....	-	76
(e)	To be evacuated by first means as unfit for tropical service.....	-	101
(f)	Under 19 yrs of age (pending decision re disposal).....	-	15
	Total Casualties	1	228
	Balance available for duty as as 22 Nov '42, incl (f).....	4	193

3. It is considered that this high casualty rate is due to two main causes:-

(a) Personnel NOT Fit Class I are unable to withstand the climatic conditions in this area.
(b) This unit arrived WITHOUT Tents Mosquito and NONE were available here. As a result malaria incidence has naturally been high.

4. In view of the foregoing it is strongly recommended that reinforcements to bring 32 Aust Emp Coy to full strength be despatched fully equipped from the Mainland at an early date, such reinforcements to be Medically Fit Class I.

5. It is also recommended that steps be taken to ensure that personnel for the further Emp Coy proposed to be despatched to this area should be Medically Fit Class I for Tropical Service and completely equipped prior to despatch.

G Wootten

.....Brig
(G.F. WOOTTEN)
ADM COMD MILNE FORCE.

KGB/GLG

SECRET

62

WAR DIARY

HQ MILNE FORCE
2 Nov 42

COPY NO ..10....

ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTION NO AQ 2275

1. One Pl Carriers will embark on SS KOORAKI 23 Nov 42 for PORLOCK HARBOUR. Time of embarkation will be notified later. On arrival at PORLOCK HARBOUR, carrier Pl will come under command 32 US Div.
Pl will be made up as follows :-

(a) 13 carriers - supplied by 18 Aust Inf Bde.

(b) Personnel on basis of W/E for one carrier Pl less MC section - supplied by 17 Aust Inf Bde.

(c) All carriers will be serviced and must be in first class condition before shipment.

2. Personnel and carriers will concentrate in 2/9 Bn area not later than 1200L 23 Nov 42, at which time Carrier Pl comes under command HQ, Milne Force. Prior to embarkation, further orders will be issued.

3. Each carrier will be equipped with 2 LMGs supplied as follows :-

(a) 17 Aust Inf Bde will provide 13 LMGs, complete with spare parts and an additional 800 rounds SAA per carrier

(b) 17 Aust Inf Bde will supply 1 A/A rifle per section, complete with ammn.

(c) HQ Milne Force will supply 13 LMGs, complete with spare parts - 15 magazines per gun only - balance to bring holdings up to W/E to be supplied by 17 Aust Inf Bde.

(d) P.O.L. sufficient for 200 miles per carrier will be drawn by 17 Aust Inf Bde. In addition, a reserve of P.O.L. sufficient for a further 200 miles will be taken.

(e) Rations and quinine for 7 and 14 days respectively, together with medical kit, will be carried.

4. Messing while at sea will be a unit responsibility.

5. O.C. Carrier Pl will act as O.C. Tps and will be responsible for AA protection during the voyage.

6. C.O.S.C. will be responsible for loading of all stores and equipment.

7. THE NECESSITY FOR MAINTAINING THE STRICTEST SECRECY IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MOVEMENT MUST BE IMPRESSED ON ALL CONCERNED.

8. Ack.

Col
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION

NGF		(2)	War Diary	(2)
C.O.S.C.		(2)	File	(2)
DAQMG		(2)	Copy to	G
17 Aust	Inf Bde	(2)		AQ
18 Aust	Inf Bde	(1)	2 copies to 32 US Div for infm.	

APPX 63

TO COSC, MILNE FORCE, 32 US DIVN.

FROM N G FORCE Q 1257 22 Nov

COSC will establish and maintain at both ORO BAY and PORLOCK HARBOUR 10 days' rations for 10,000 repeat 10,000 repeat 10,000 and 2 units of FIRE for 32 US Div (.) 120 tons rations now at PORLOCK HARBOUR (.) MILNE FORCE will provide 1 platoon to move to PORLOCK HARBOUR to establish maximum possible landing facilities (.) COSC will arrange sea transport (.) This platoon will come under comd of COSC PORLOCK HARBOUR (.) 32 US Div reception Camp responsible onward move rations and ammunition from ORO BAY (.) MILNE FORCE pass to Gen JOHNS (.) COSC advise action to NGF and 32 US DIV (.) ACK

IMMEDIATE

COPY

TO HATFORCE (Copy COSC MILNE for infm)

FROM MILNE FORCE AQ83 23 Nov

MATOMA will arrive HATRACK 1000L/25 (.) Expedite unloading and despatch earliest to PORLOCK with one repeat one platoon your force which is required off load supplies and comes under comd COSC PORLOCK (.)
MATOMA WILL RETURN MILNE on disembarkation PORLOCK

NEW GUINEA

Our troops are steadily closing in from both sides in the BUNA-GONA area. The collapse of the enemy defence at GONA may be expected soon. The enemy is putting up a strong resistance. The ground held by the enemy is growing smaller. It is not expected that the reinforcements landed by the enemy will delay the final decision. 25-pdrs have been brought up in support of the Australian infantry and the Japanese are gradually giving way.

The Allied forces are getting more air support than ever before in NEW GUINEA. The enemy positions are being shot up every day. An enemy air force of 12 dive bombers and several Zeros was driven back. Our bombers followed the enemy planes to LAE and destroyed seven Zeros on the ground. During the day, 19 enemy aircraft were destroyed. We lost only one plane.

RUSSIA'S COUNTER OFFENSIVE

Moscow has announced that during the last three days enemy resistance SW and NW of STALINGRAD has been broken down. Since the beginning of the great winter offensive, the Red Army has advanced 50 miles and has captured important localities. They have taken vital villages and railway stations. To the SW of the city, one Nazi Division was routed. Sixty German planes have been shot down in the past week for the loss of 34 Russian planes.

The Russians have caught the Germans unprepared. Timoshenko has won a great strategic victory. If the Russian pincer movement succeeds, it will threaten the wiping out of the whole German force now surrounded. The NW offensive was developed on a front of 80 miles wide and the SW drive on a front 50 miles wide. In the combined operations, 6 enemy divisions have been routed and several other divisions are in danger. 14,000 Germans have been killed and many captured.

BERLIN has expressed concern at the situation. The Russians have thrown back counter attacks in the CAUCASUS.

NORTH AFRICA

British troops have advanced to a point 30 miles south of BIZERTA. Reinforcements for the 1st Army are streaming in. It is reported that an agreement has been reached to allow the uniting of the French North African army with the Allied forces. In TUNISIA , French forces have successfully resisted German attacks, although the French losses were relatively severe. The Germans are well entrenched in TUNISIA.

RAIDS ON GERMANY

British aircraft again raided Germany last night. Details of damage inflicted are awaited.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Federal Cabinet has agreed to an amendment of the Defence Act to allow members of the Militia to serve in areas in the SW Pacific considered vital to the defence of Australia. The proposal was made by the Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) Only 3 of the 19 Ministers dissented, including the Minister for Labour (Mr. Ward). Mr. Curtin said that Australia had accepted the responsibility for the defence of the Pacific long before General MacArthur came to Australia from BATAAN.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sir Stafford Cripps has resigned from the British Cabinet and has accepted the minor post of Minister for Aircraft Production ...In a message to President Roosevelt, Mr. Curtin said the cooperation between the American and Australian troops had been complete; President Roosevelt in reply said: "I am grateful for your congratulations on the SOLOMONS victory; I am delighted that our forces are doing so well in NEW GUINEA."

JW/GLG

WAR DIARY

42/1343

66

MOBILE CINEMA UNIT

HQ
MILNE FORCE
28 Nov 42

Circular No 2348

1. Attention is directed to Milne Force Routine Order No 398 of 21 Nov 42.

2. On the night of 23/24 Nov 42, pictures were screened by the above unit in the vicinity of RAAF O.B. and Pro personnel reported that the following vehicles were parked in the area and left at the conclusion of the programme :-

US Forces	.....	35 vehs (approx)
Jeeps	.....	8 " "
Aust Forces	.....	20 "
	Total	63

3. In view of this apparently flagrant disregard of orders, the Force Comd has directed that NO further pictures be screened until such time as a personal assurance is received from the C O of every unit that Milne Force Routine Order No 398 and the contents of this circular have been promulgated to all troops under command and that steps have been taken to ensure that the instructions contained therein will be obeyed.

4. All troops are to be advised that the Cinema Unit is MOBILE , that it will visit EACH locality in turn and that the SAME PROGRAMME will be presented every night until ALL units have had at least one opportunity of seeing it without having to travel any distance.

5. All the foregoing instructions will also apply to Concert Party performances.

Col.
~~AA & QMG~~, MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION

CAMP	...	1	17 Aust Inf Bde	...	5
2/5 Fd Regt	...	1	18 Aust Inf Bde	...	4
"A"-My Bty RAA	...	1	AASC	...	8
"B" " "	...	1	ADMS	...	9
3 Bty 2/1 A/Tk Regt	...	1	ADOS	...	15
4 B ty 101 A/Tk Regt	...	1	Comd	...	1
A Tp 4 Bty 101 A/Tk Regt.		1	AQ	...	1
RAE	...	6	A	...	1
Sigs	...	3	War Diary	...	2
7 Aust Inf Bde	...	6	File	...	2

COPY

TO NGF

FROM MILNE FORCE AQ 85 24 Nov

13 repeat 13 carriers 2 Offrs 54 ORs total 56 despatched PORLOCK by KOORAKI sailed MILNE 1230L/24 (.) E.T.A. PORLOCK 0600L/26 (.) Will you advise 32 US Div and arrange any air cover necessary PORLOCK please

COPY

TO MILNE FORCE

FROM N G F SD 199 24 Nov

2/4 Fd Coy take on LILLIPUT only sufficient war eqpt to make up deficiencies in 18 Fd Coy war eqpt (.) remainder 2/4 Fd Coy war eqpt to) remain MILNE for 2/16 Fd Coy (.) 2/16 Fd Coy to disembark from second flight LILLIPUT at MORESBY with all war eqpt immediately available and to move by sea to MILNE indepently of LILLIPUT (.) COSC to arrange movement (.) ACK

COPY

69

to NGF

From MILNE FORCE AQ 86 24 Nov.

As this HQ has no repeat NO knowledge of what war eqpt was loaded for 18 Fd Coy we have landed here on first flight LILLIPUT complete W.E.T. for 2/4 Fd Coy less ALL repeat ALL vehs (.) Considered this necessary to ensure Coy position to operate immediately on disembarkation (.) Is any further action required please.

/GLG

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 86 24 NOV 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 24

NEW GUINEA

Our troops met with little resistance when they entered GONA on Sunday afternoon. They are pushing on towards SANANDUDA, states a communique issued to-day from General MacArthur's Headquarters. One pocket of Japanese and other Japanese troops have been left behind the Australians. A good deal of mopping up will be necessary before SANANDUDA can be reached. The combined American and Australian columns in front of SANANDUDA are bearing down on the enemy.

It appears likely that the enemy will put up a bitter fight for SANANDUDA in the hope of saving the remainder of the retreating force. The fiercest fighting is going on on the right flank where the Americans are nearing BUNA.

There is news of air raids by our bombers on parts of Portuguese Timor recently occupied by the Japanese.

RUSSIA

The Russians advanced a further 12 miles on the north-western front of STALINGRAD. 11,000 more Germans have been captured bringing the total up to 24,000. An advance by the south arm of the Russian pincer led to the occupation of a town 50 miles south of STALINGRAD. The Red Army has accounted for 50,000 killed and captured German troops. The enemy left 12,000 corpses on one battlefield, with many lorries and tanks. In yesterday's fighting the enemy lost 70 planes, 157 tanks and 186 guns.

The threat of encirclement of the great German army near STALINGRADis growing more serious hourly. Stubborn German resistance has been overcome and key points captured.

There is fierce fighting in the CAUCASUS. Two German infantry companies have been wiped out.

NORTH AFRICA

A MOROCCO Radio reports that the Allied forces were assaulting the defences of BIZERTA. This has been denied. The ABC London Correspondent has learned that the MOROCCO radio is unreliable. He states that this headlol is trying to cause confusion in North Africa. There is no big engagement yet but dispatches suggest that the fighting is increasing in fierceness.

French West Africa has joined the Allies, including DAKAR. This means that French warships at DAKAR now come under Allied control. They include the battleship, Richelieu, three cruisers, destroyers and submarines. The Allied relationship with Darlan gives cause for disquiet. President Roosevelt has stated that the association with Darlan was only a temporary military expedient.

A formal declaration of war is expected as a result of a conference between Laval and Nazi leaders. A correspondent says that such a declaration will have the same effect as one made by a Nazi quisling.

An announcement comes from CAIRO that Rommel's rearguard has been routed. British commandos have been landed at the rear of the enemy lines.

SOLOMONS

The United States Navy Department has announced that the American drive against the Japanese west flank at GUADALCANAL is advancing in the face of stubborn resistance. American planes are constantly attacking Japanese positions.

COPY

TO NGF

FROM Milne Force AQ2375 25 Nov

Ref COSC signal RX1567 of 24 Nov addressed CO US Tps FALL RIVER (.) Refers to 1 Offr and 12 O/Rs of 2/16 Fd Coy proceeding per MULIAMA to PORLOCK (.) In view NGF signal G5356 of 16 Nov it intended that detachment referred to in COSC signal will proceed PORLOCK or be replaced by similar det of 2/4 Fd Coy from MILNE.

72

/GIG/

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 87 25 NOV 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/25

THREE GERMAN DIVISIONS SURRENDER

Three German Divisions, with their Generals and complete staffs, have surrendered to the Red Army. In five days of the great winter offensive , the Russians have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and have captured a large number of prisoners. The Northern army has advanced 90 miles and the Southern army 75 miles. 41,000 Germans were killed, 80,000 wounded and 36,000 captured.

The surrender of the three German divisions can be taken as evidence of the speed with which the Russians have streamed forward. Moscow radio announces the capture of 431 tanks(many undamaged), 1164 guns, 88 aircraft,3940 lorries, ammunition dumps and food stores. The Soviet forces are spread over a wide area.

The gap between the Southern and Northern armies has narrowed to less than 40 miles. The position of the enemy forces before the city of STALINGRAD is extremely perilous. This force numbers between 300,000 and 400,000 and faces disaster.

A report has been received that the Soviet forces pressing on STALINGRAD from the north have joined up with the defenders of the city. It is regarded as significant that inside STALINGRAD the Soviet troops have made advances. A number of strongholds have been taken and heavy losses have been suffered by the enemy. In the CAUCASUS, fighting in the main sector has died down.

The "Red Star" says : "Not very long ago , Hitler said the Red Army had been so badly mauled that it could not attempt an offensive again. Hitler has had his answer now." BERLIN admits the Russian advances.

In a message to the Foreign Secretary (Mr. Anthony Eden), M. Molotov said: "The recent Allied victories on other fronts, combined with the success of the Red Army, has hastened the defeat of Hitlerism. The military alliance between our nations will bring victory in the end."

NEW GUINEA

The few square miles occupied by the Japanese in PAPUA were battered in the heaviest air attack of the NEW GUINEA campaign. It was a day long attack. Over 100 separate air sorties were made. Some 500lb bombs were dropped on areas occupied by the Japanese. The Japanese defensive triangle on the coast is quickly collapsing. Heavy fighting broke out in GONA yesterday and followed the easy entry into the settlement on Sunday. Some of the rivers are in flood but the Allied forces have managed to bring up heavy equipment.

/ over

The Japanese have had time to build up a strong defence. Every strongpoint is prepared to hold out to the last man. Raids were made on LAE and KAVIENG.

18 PLANES OVER DARWIN

On Monday morning 18 enemy planes raided DARWIN, causing no damage. One bomber was destroyed. The bombers came over in six waves. The burning plane fell like a red ball of fire. It exploded before hitting the ground.

SOLOMONS

From PEARL HARBOUR, Admiral Nimitz has disclaimed any news of a large naval battle in the SOLOMONS, as announced by TOKIO. The Naval Secretary (Col Knox) has stated that the Japanese have been cut off from reinforcements and supplies and probably face extinction. in GUADALCANAL.

The Navy Department announces that the Americans in GUADALCANAL had advanced further to the west. The Japanese were reported to be active in the mountains south-west of the Henderson Airfield.

NORTH AFRICA

The Allied forces in TUNISIA continue to make progress. Only skirmishes are reported. Allied aircraft raided BIZERTA and TUNIS.

In LIBYA , unfavourable weather has brought air activity almost to a standstill. The progress of the 8th Army has been slowed down. Stores and equipment have been brought up and the army is prepared to strike if Rommel decides to make a stand.

The Allied offensive in French North Africa has meant the release of many prisoners of war. These include 500 survivors from the LANCASTER.

F O U N D

Wallet, brown leather, containing private papers and pay book (No 24236) in favour of VX3339 Pte A.S. Towgood has been found and may be collected at Force HQ.

Identity discs as under have been found and may be collected at Force HQ :-

QX17186	.. A. Pelethorp
SX1612	.. T.C.Adams
QX19335	.. A.G. Mackie
QX31145	.. A.D. Martin.

SUMMARY BM UNITS AND RANKS DISEMBARKED
EX 'JESSE APPLEGATE' 26 NOV 42

U N I T	OFFRS	W.O	SGTS	CPLS	PTES	TOTAL O.R'S	TOTAL all RANKS
2/16 FD COY	2		1	5	48	54	56
HQ MILNE FORCE	2				1	1	3
RAE	2						2
2/1 AUST PNR BN	2						2
2/5 AUST INF BN	1						1
2/6 AUST INF BN	3				1	1	4
2/9 AUST INF BN	1				1	1	2
2/10 AUST INF BN	2						2
2/12 AUST INF BN	1						1
10 AUST CCS	2						2
25 AUST INF BN	1						1
SIGS H.Q FORCE					2	2	2
2/5 FD REGT					1	1	1
A.H.Q.A.	1						1
A.A.D.C		1				1	1
T O T A L	20	1	1	5	54	61	81

Lieut.,
RECORDS LIAISON OFFICER

DISTRIBUTION:
D.R.O WARWICK
D.A.A.G
G BRANCH
POSTAL
FILE

RV/WB

WAR DIARY

74
49/915

PERSONNEL EVACUATED S.S. "MAUNGA".

AQ2592

HQ
MILNE FORCE

29 NOV '43.

The following personnel were evacuated to the mainland per S.S. "MAUNGA" on 26 Nov '43 and will be placed on "X" List as from that date.

J. W. Wells Lt-Col
for A.A. & Q.M.G. MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:-

HQ 2/5 Aust Fd Regt	(1)
"A" Fd Bty	(1)
ADC	(3)
HQ 2AD Milne Force	(4)
HQ Sigs Milne Force	(1)
HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde	(5)
HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	(5)
HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde	(5)
HQ Comd A&Q Milne Force	(3)
HQ 2/5 Aust Docks Op Coy	(1)
ADOS	(1)
ADMS	(1)
HQ 58 Aust Lge Coy	(1)
Copy to:-	
LO	(1)
WD Diary	(2)

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
VX33825	Spr	DAVIS, L.J.	2/5 Aust Fd Coy
VX62353	Pte	[illegible], J.R.	18 Bde Fd Pk
VX28985	Signalman	[illegible], C.D.	Sigs Milne Force
VX19684	Pte	[illegible], C.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
VX50875	"	[illegible], J.C.	" " "
VX57197	Spr	[illegible], J.C.	2/5 Aust Lt Aid Bty
NX55599	Pte	[illegible], E.J.L.	58 Aust Lge Coy
VX1595	Sgt	[illegible], I.D.	[illegible]
VX25533	Spr	[illegible], [illegible]	2/5 Aust Coy [illegible]
[illegible]	Gnr	[illegible], [illegible]	[illegible]
VX3384	Cpl	[illegible], [illegible]	2/5 Aust Inf Bn

[illegible]	Gnr	[illegible]	4 Div 101 Aust A/Tk Regt
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	HQ, Line Force
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	22 Aust Inf Coy
[illegible]	Spr	[illegible]	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	Sig/m	[illegible]	2/2 Sig
[illegible]	Dvr	[illegible]	4 Div 101 A/Tk Regt
[illegible]	S/Sjt	[illegible]	2/2 Aust M Bn/Coy
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2/6 Aust M Bn
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	" " " "
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/2 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/7 " " "
[illegible]	Spr	[illegible]	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
[illegible]	Dvr	[illegible]	2/6 Aust M Bn
[illegible]	Opl	[illegible]	2 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	" " " "
[illegible]	Sig/m	[illegible]	2/2 Sig
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2/6 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	22 Aust Inf Coy
[illegible]	Spr	[illegible]	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	22 Aust Inf Coy
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	Gnr	[illegible]	2/3 Aust Lt Bn
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	Gnr	[illegible]	2/5 Aust Fd Regt
[illegible]	Gnr	[illegible]	2/6 Aust M Coy RAA
[illegible]	Gnr	[illegible]	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
[illegible]	Sig/m	[illegible]	Line Force
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/1 Coy 2/2 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	Sgt	[illegible]	22 Aust Inf Coy
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2/2 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/2 2 Aust Inf Bde
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/ " " "
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	3 [illegible]
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/2 17 Aust Inf Bde
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/4 Aust Inf Coy
[illegible]	Gnr	[illegible]	2/5 Aust AA Regt
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2/2 Aust Inf Bn
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	" " " "
[illegible]	Opl	[illegible]	9 " " "
[illegible]	Pte	[illegible]	2/2 " " "
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/3 " " "
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/ " " "
[illegible]	"	[illegible]	2/10 " " "

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
Q28818	Pte	BARTON, H.C.	61 Aust Inf Bn
NX111773	"	BURTON, S.C.	2/7 " " "
QX9951	"	BREEN, D.A.	2/12 " " "
VX22020	Gnr	BLAKEMAN, E.D.	2/6 Aust AA Bty
S61292	Pte	CHITTLEBOROUGH, D.A.	32 Aust Emp Coy
VX14503	"	CURRAN, H.B.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
QX37467	"	CLOEY, G.W.	25 " " "
VX53902	"	CLIFFORD, A.S.	2/5 " " "
N340715	Spr	CARRAGHER, J.H.	2/8 Aust Fd Coy
NB1744	Cpl	COWBORN, J.	32 Aust Emp Coy
QX156[illegible]1	Pte	CIFUENTES, G.	61 Aust Inf Bn
VX[illegible]88	"	CAMERON, R.	2/6 Aust Inf Bn
Q[illegible]328	"	DORAN, L.B.	9 " " "
[illegible]8030	"	DROUGHT, R.	61 " " "
NX31918	"	DINGWALL, D.C.	2/9 " " "
Q28924	"	DILLON, C.N.	61 " " "
Q21638	Dvr	DORAN, K.P.	25 " " "
QX208	Pte	DAVIES, S.	2/9 " " "
TX2884	"	DUGGAN, J.J.	2/6 " " "
NX83717	Cpl	FOGGARTY, J.W.	Sigs Milne Force
TX962	Pte	FOGGO, W.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
V265513	"	FORSYTHE, D.	32 Aust Emp Coy
Q102847	"	FLETCHER, R.B.	61 Aust Inf Bn
N382266	"	GRAVES, W.	32 Aust Emp Coy
NX15722	Gnr	GILLESPIE, K.D.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt
TX38	Sjt	GORDON, N.J.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
Q28876	Pte	GIBSON, W.E.	61 " " "
Q27700	S/Sjt	HARDING, R.W.	" " " "
Q21973	WO.II	HILTON, R.C.	25 " " "
NX22507	Spr	HORNELL, J.V.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt
N443	Pte	HARVEY, W.R.	32 Aust Emp Coy
QX3503	"	HOUSTON, P.	HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde
N170832	Sjt	HEDGE, J.N.	ADCS
QX40243	Pte	HINZE, E.R.	61 Aust Inf Bn
QX17775	Cpl	HI[illegible]AN, C.T.	18 Aust Inf Bde W/Shops
QX38063	Pte	HOLBUT, S.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q213806	Spr	HORNE, A.J.	24 Aust Fd Coy RAE
Q107936	Pte	ISAACS, E.	61 Aust Inf Bn
N268396	"	INGRAM, R.C.	2/5 " " "
Q28557	"	KING, J.	61 " " "
QX35537	Sjt	LOWNDES, D.S.	" " " "
QX3745	Pte	LEES, H.E.	2/12 " " "
VX72159	Spr	LOCKHART, T.	2/3 Aust Docks Cp Coy
Q33136	Pte	LUCAS, E.W.	61 Aust Inf Bn

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
Q88801	Pte	LOWE, M.G.	61 Aust Inf Bn
Q102398	"	LAYFIELD, T.S.	" " " "
Q88965	"	LEVINGE, J.	" " " "
QX1537	"	LIDSTER, A.	8/12 " " "
Q81911	Sjt	MEHARG, A.A.	26 " " "
Q76438	Spr	McGRATH, J.P.	1 Bomb Dis Sqd
N17370	Pte	MAY, H.G.	8/7 Aust Inf Bn
V880994	"	MARTIN, G.	20 A.A.D.
VX88947	Sigmn	MILLS, J.R.	Sigs Milne Force
N15438	Pte	McNAMARA, J.	8/1 Aust Pnr Bn
NX38387	"	NEWBURY, K.W.	" " " "
QX34441	"	NILAN, B.P.	26 Aust Inf Bn
Q183868	"	NENTON, J.L.	" " " "
VX3753	"	NELSON, J.H.	8/9 " " "
NX15704	Sjt	PIAHOS, J.	8/5 Aust Fd Regt
N128012	Pte	PALMER, C.S.	8/7 Aust Inf Bn
Q108013	Cpl	PEDLEY, F.J.	61 " " "
NX83895	Spr	PYMBLE, J.A.	8/3 Aust Works Co Engr
S34209	Pte	ROSE, H.M.	10 Aust MGS
Q104249	"	RAE, G.R.	26 Aust Inf Bn
QX31819	"	ROLFE, K.O.	8/10 " " "
Q128892	"	ROUGHEAD, B.A.	26 " " "
QX27458	"	RAY, N.P.	" " " "
VX35252	"	RITCHIE, J.	8/5 " " "
Q104264	"	STEELE, A.E.	2/6 " " "
Q149449	"	SHAW, P.	1 AGC
Q107663	"	SCHULTZ, H.L.	25 AGC
Q103361	"	SPERLING, L.R.	2/8 Aust Inf Bn
VX3762	Cpl	SAUNDERS, A.E.	8/5 Aust Fd Regt
VX60957	Pte	SINCLAIR, C.A.	8/10 Aust Liaison
QX37995	"	STAMFORD, L.H.	2 Aust Inf Bn
N110868	L/Cpl	STAPLES, J.	20 Mobile Force
NX13975	Spr	SCOTT, C.E.	8/5 Aust Fd Regt
VX26772	Cpl	STEWART, J.L.	8/5 Aust Inf Bn
Q88236	"	STONE, W.	20 Tk Aust Inf Bde
QX32060	Pte	THOMPSON, K.J.	26 Aust Inf Bn
Q103320	"	TWIGG, E.	" " " "
Q100068	"	WHITE, J.J.	8 " " "
Q25652	Cpl	WILKS, W.J.	61 " " "
QX34427	Lieut	WOODROW, D.E.	26 " " "
N195978	Pte	WILSON, W.A.	Pack S/School 17 Bde
QX16306	"	WATERS, A.O.W.	8/9 Aust Inf Bn
NX16347	Gnr	WILSON, V.C.	8/5 Aust Fd Regt

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
N166963	Pte	WALSH, F.G.	32 Aust Emp Coy
WX1024954	Signmn	WELLES, A.F.	Sigs Milne Force
Q121513	Spr	WHITE, D.B.	24 Aust Fd Coy
Q108656	"	YATES, C.N.	" " " "
Q22522	Pte	DUFFUS, F.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QX3049	Signmn	SUTHERLAND, L.	J Sec Sigs att HQ 18 Bde
QX30961	Pte	BOGE, P.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QX38043	"	WALTON, S.	9 " " "
Q125244	Spr	HOWARTH, L.	24 Aust Fd Coy
Q16930	Pte	BRUNSKILL, A.	9 Aust Inf Bn
NX233854	Gnr	HAWKINS, G.	"A" Hvy Bty
WX38912	Signmn	SMITH, G.	Sigs Milne Force
Q121390	Pte	JONES, A.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q121309	"	HALE, G.	" " " "
NX95448	Gnr	McCORMACK, A.	2/4 Aust Fd Coy
QX87440	Gnr	MERCER, G.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
Q127180	Pte	O'CONNOR, M.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q103603	"	MASON, M.	25 Aust Coy AASC
QX38035	"	DOWNES, V.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q16981	L/Cpl	REID, B.	" " " "
S47586	Pte	MILLER, W.	32 Aust Emp Coy
Q100843	Gnr	MATTHEWS, H.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
Q17152	Cpl	BLACKLAW, P.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q103003	Pte	BRIESE, F.	25 " " "
QX1196	"	MORGAN, W.	2/9 " " "
QX35540	"	CAMERON, W.	61 " " "
Q106635	"	BROWN, A.	" " " "
QX37934	"	O'NEILL, F.	9 " " "
QX34488	Sjt	WILLEY, J.	25 " " "
QX38020	Pte	GLEAHY, S.	9 " " "
Q28754	"	HAWKSWOOD, J.	61 " " "
QX28317	"	DUCK, C.	" " " "
Q27735	Cpl	COLLINS, W.	" " " "
Q148117	Pte	FOLLETT, H.	" " " "
NX30567	Spr	NORRIS, L.	2/8 Aust Fd Coy
QX37923	Pte	HOLMES, C.	9 Aust Inf Bn
QX119148	"	BACKHAUS, S.	25 " " "
QX13856	"	NEILSEN, A.	2/3 Aust Fd Bakery
SX10905	"	HUNT, H.	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
VX1558	Signmn	HARDY, L.	J Sec Sigs att HQ 18
QX38008	Pte	RUSSELL, M.	9 Aust Inf Bn
SX1698	"	SINGH, V.	2/10 " " "
QX31035	"	CLEWES, N.	25 " " "
V157664	"	CAMERON, W.	32 Aust Emp Coy
WX13517	Signmn	RICHARDSON, R.	Sigs Milne Force
NX17147	Gnr	ROBERTSON, C.	2/5 Aust Fd Regt.

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
NX1839[illegible]	Sigmn	CHAPMAN, B.	J Sec Sigs
QX34[illegible]5	Pte	IRWIN, K.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q[illegible]10	"	TORPEY, F.	9 " " "
QX21886	"	DALLAS, C.	HQ Gd Bn att HQ 18 Bde
Q22312	"	KEEN, K.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QX38065	"	HEALEY, J.	9 " " "
Q100337	"	BARTLETT, A.	" " " "
VX28974	Sigmn	HOEY, J.	AA Sigs Milne Force
VX44958	Gnr	TURNER, L.	2/9 Aust Lt AA Bty
Q15964	Pte	EATON, S.	9 Aust Inf Bn
QX32235	"	SMITH, M.	61 " " "
Q128067	Spr	LLEWELLYN, J.	24 Aust Fd Coy
Q27819	Pte	FLAHERTY, J.	61 Aust Inf Bn
QX37470	"	MASON, J.	25 " " "
Q113551	"	FORBES, W.	9 " " "
Q129497	"	HENTON, R.	241 L.A.D.
V200696	"	RUSSELL, A.	33 Aust Emp Coy
N[illegible]189	"	WRIGHT, C.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
Q108113	"	ZUPP, I.	61 " " "
VX20299	Dvr	HART, R.	2/6 Aust Coy AASC
Q107344	Spr	WATSON, S.	24 Aust Fd Coy
NX71077	Capt	DAVIDSON, J.	LHQ
Q108331	Cpl	McCOURT, A.	61 Aust Inf Bn
Q107982	Pte	McCARTHY, H.	" " " "
TX5174	"	BARNE, E.	2/9 " " "
Q128949	"	MIDDLETON, W.	61 " " "
SX11512	"	HOWE, W.	2/10 " " "
QX27472	"	WILSON, H.	25 " " "
Q32056	L/Cpl	STEELE, R.	" " " "
QX28615	Pte	ASH, H.	9 " " "
Q45559	Dvr	SMITH, A.	Supply Coy AASC
Q32591	Sgt	URQUHART, R.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q103101	L/Cpl	PRICE, E.	" " " "
QX29355	Pte	HOOK, W.	" " " "
VX32134	Gnr	HANCOCK, J.	2/6 Hvy AA Bty
Q75701	Sgt	WILSON, R.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
Q128467	Pte	CASTLE, D.	9 Aust Inf Bn
Q108997	"	HARDY, J.	" " " "
WX11506	"	O'CALLAGHAN, L.	2/6 Aust Inf Bn
N203863	"	MILTON, B.	2/5 " " "
VX33918	"	SMITH, L.	" " " "
Q103474	"	BREMER, G.	25 " " "
NX46553	"	JACKSON, J.	2/3 Aust Fd Bakery
NX117534	"	GUIDICE, W.	2/2 Aust Fd Amb
TX869	Cpl	RANSON, G.	2/7 Aust Inf Bn
QX21858	Pte	DAVIS, D.	2/1 Aust Fd Bakery

ARMY NO.	RANK	NAME	UNIT
VX3641	L/Cpl	RODGERS, W.	2/5 Aust Inf Bn
Q108502	Gnr	RAYMOND, W.	101 Aust A/Tk Regt
VX17066	Pte	WESTWOOD, W.	2/1 CCS
VX3553	Sjt	BLIZZARD, A.	" "
QX35163	L/Cpl	HINES, G.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q128885	Pte	DOOLAN, D.	" " " "
Q17189	"	LENZ, H.	9 " " "
Q100184	"	WILKES, H.	" " " "
Q100114	"	HELMORE, G.	" " " "
Q104103	"	BROWN, E.	25 " " "
Q103477	"	DOWNES, S.	" " " "
Q121624	"	BUCKLEY, W.	" " " "
Q104506	"	OSBORN, G.	23 F.&.D.

Ref 42/35/204

HQ MILNE FORCE

25 Nov. '42.

2/2 Aust Fd Amb.
2/5 Aust Fd Amb.
11 Aust Fd Amb.
2/1 Aust C.C.S.
10 Aust C.C.S.
E. M. O.
File
War Diary
D.A.Q.M.G. (2)
D.A.P.M.
O.C. Hosp Ship
} For infm.

EMBARKATION OF PATIENTS ON M.V. "MANUNDA", 26 NOV.

1. For the purpose of the above embarkation only, 11 Aust Fd Amb and 2/5 Aust Fd Amb will be regarded as one Unit, under the command of Lt. Col. J.M. Blair.

2. Vehicles will be distributed according to Table 1.

3. Patients will be moved in accordance with Table 2.

4. Drivers of all vehicles other than Motor Ambs., will report to Lieut. Eastmuir, O.C. Adv Dep Med Stores, who will be at the wharf, before leaving the wharf area. If NOT required for carrying Medical Stores, they will return to their original units.

5. All patients will have breakfasted before arrival at Wharf.

6. Nominal Rolls in triplicate will be taken to the wharf, by an Officer or W.O., in the first vehicle from each unit, and handed by him to the E.M.O. who will be the D.A.D.M.S.

7. At the time of signature, embarkation is expected to commence at 0800.

8. Ack.

Sgd. Col
A/D.M.S., Milne Force

Time of Signature 2045

Copy/RER.

DISTRIBUTION OF VEHICLES

TABLE 1

(1) UNIT	(2) VEHICLE	(3) REMARKS	(4) TIME OF REPORTING
2/5 Fd Amb)	M/Amb	On Strength	
11 Fd Amb)	M/Amb	" "	
	Lorry 3-ton	" "	
	Lorry 3-ton	" "	
	Lorry 3-ton		
2/1 CCS	M/Amb	On Strength	
	M/Amb	From 2/5 Fd Amb	0530
	M/Amb	" 2/5 Fd Amb	0530
	Lorry 3-ton	On Strength	
	Lorry 30-cwt	" "	
	Lorry 3-ton	From 2/5 Fd Amb)	
	Lorry 3-ton	" 2/2 Fd Amb)	0530
	Lorry 3-ton	" 2/2 Fd Amb)	
	Lorry 3-ton	" 2/2 Fd Amb)	
	Lorry 3-ton	" 2/2 Fd Amb)	
10 CCS	M/Amb	On Strength	
	M/Amb	From 2/2 Fd Amb)	0600
	M/Amb	" 2/5 Fd Amb)	0600
	Lorry 3-ton	On Strength	
	Lorry 30-cwt	" "	
	Lorry 30-cwt	From Adv Depot Med Stores	0600
	Lorry 3-ton	From 2/8 AMCU	0600
	Lorry 3-ton	" 11 Fd Amb	0600
	Lorry 3-ton	" 2/5 Fd Amb)	
	Lorry 30-cwt	" 2/5 Fd Amb)	
	Lorry 30-cwt	" 2/5 Fd Amb)	0600

COLUMN 1: Unit to which the vehicle will report.

COLUMN 2: Type of vehicle.

COLUMN 3: Unit supplying the vehicle.

COLUMN 4: Time by which vehicle will report to Unit in Col. 1.

Commanders of units shown in Column 3 will ensure that their vehicles reach units shown in Col. 1 by the time shown in Column 4.

In addition to above one (1) van will report to 2/1 CCS, from 11 Fd Amb., and one (1) van to 10 CCS, from 2/2 Fd Amb., for duty in CCS lines, between the hrs of 0600 and 1500

TABLE II

EMBARKATION TIME TABLE - 26/11/42

(1)	(2) Number of Patients LYING	WALKING	TOTAL	(3) Time due at Wharf	(4) Estimated time to embark
2/1 Aust CCS	25	79	104	Z	50 mins
10 " CCS	33	67	100	Z (plus 45 mins)	60 mins
2/5)	4	21	25	Z (plus 100 ")	25 mins
11) Fd Amb	1	20	21		
USA			23	Z (plus 120 ")	15 mins

1. Zero Hour (Z) will be notified later.

2. Commanders of units shown in Column 1 will ensure that the first of their patients reach the New Wharf at the time shown in Column 3, and that the remainder follow continuously.

3. Arrangements have been made for the policing of the route, and priority is to be given to vehicles displaying the Red Crosses as ordered by ADMS Signal M.253 of 23 November, '42.

Sgd. Col
A D M S MILNE FORCE

COPY

MESSAGE TO COMD USA SOS; COMD 8 FIGHTER GP

FROM COMD MILNE FORCE 26 Nov 42

On the occasion of American Thanksgiving Day, the Comd and staff Milne Force send heartiest greetings to all US Forces in this area. It is confidently expected that the present United Nations' offensive will result in the complete defeat of our common enemies, and thus permit of the speedy return to their respective native shores of all troops and the continuance in peace and comfort of national celebrations and family reunions such as is customary throughout the USA on 26 November each year.

(Sgd) G.F. WOOTTEN Brig
ADMN COMD MILNE FORCE

HEADQUARTERS
USA SOS
FALL RIVER

APO 928,
27 November 1942.

The G.O.C.
Headquarters, Milne Force.

My Dear General:

I wish to take this opportunity to express the deepest appreciation of all officers and enlisted personnel of this station for your very kind expression and Thanksgiving greetings to the U.S.Forces. Thanksgiving Day is one of our National Holidays at home, and is one day that we all unite in giving thanksgiving to our Lord for all favors and blessings received during the year. We of the United States Forces feel that in Australia we have an excellent Ally, and with the co-operation that has existed in Australia and Milne Bay between the two forces, there is no question of the ultimate outcome of this war, and it is the wish of all officers and men that the fighting men of the Australian Army both at home and abroad will soon be able to join their families in reunion, and that closer ties will be established between our two great countries after the war.

FRANK L. [illegible]
Colonel, Infantry.
Commanding.

COPY

TO MILNE FORCE

FROM N G FORCE

SD220 26

No further action required (.) In reply to AQ 2375 2/4 Fd Coy complete repeat complete are to proceed boat first flight LILLIPUT (.) Detachment 2/16 Aust Fd Coy has been allotted PORLOCK .

/GLG

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 88 26 Nov 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 26

GERMANS' DANGEROUS POSITION

The Germans are in danger of being enveloped not only before STALINGRAD but in the whole ofthe DON bend. This is the text of a message just received from MOSCOW.

The great Russian winter offensive continues to sweep forward. The Germans are fighting back in fierce desperation south of STALINGRAD. They tried six successive counter attacks but all failed. Both armies of the Russian pincer movement made further gains yesterday. The Soviet armies are spread over a wide area.

The Red Army fighting south of STALINGRAD threw back strong German opposition. A war correspondent reports that the original wedge driven by the Russians into the German flanks has been widened and deepened. The BBC states that the gap between the two armies must be less than 40 miles. London commentators agree that, even assuming the gap is only 40 miles, the German Army of 300,000 to 400,000 before STALINGRAD is in an increasingly perilous position.

The STALINGRAD garrison is taking part in the fighting. The Germans were cleard out of one street . The Russians have begun a winter offensive farther north. Russia still holds the initiative in the Central and Western CAUCASUS. Soviet troops are pressing home their advantage. Moscow gives the total number of prisoners captured since the offensive began as 51,000. When the Red Army routed the 32nd German Armoured Division NW of STALINGRAD,15,000 prisoners were taken. These are included in the 51,000.

NEW GUINEA

The fourth Japanese attempt to land reinforcements at BUNA was frustrated. A light cruiser and three destroyers made the attempt. Two destroyers were sunk and the other damaged. The troops on the destroyers must have been drowned . A number were seen struggling in the water. The light cruiser and third destroyer made off north. In the four unsuccessful attempts to land troops the Japanese have lost the following- SUNK: Four destroyers; PROBABLY SUNK: One destroyer; ALSO SUNK One light cruiser DAMAGED: Onedestroyer. Many 100's of trained men have been lost by the Japanese in their useless attempts to relieve their forces in PAPUA. Heavy fighting continues around BUNA. The Japanese have made their positions like fortresses and are hard to dislodge.

NORTH AFRICA

The advance of the 1st Army in TUNISIA and the 8th Army in LIBYA has reached a stage when a decisive battle may be expected. The air activity around BIZERTA and TUNIS is working up to a terrific climax. The Allied ground forces are now 25 miles from TUNIS.

NEWS IN BRIEF

In GUADALCANAL (SOLOMONS), an American marine patrol advanced and killed 70 Japanese, capturing five machine guns ...Enemy installations on NORTH GEORGIA ISLAND were attacked by Allied aircraft ...The minesweeper, BENGAL, of the Indian Navy, with a Dutch ship, had a surprise encounter with two armed Japanese merchant ships, of 10,000 and 6000 tons respectively. The BENGAL steamed for the larger Japanese ship firing repeatedly. After close range firing,the 10,000 ship was sunk.The other merchant ship was frightened off after seriously damaging the Dutch ship ... The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said that every effort was being made to give troops in NEW GUINEA and other areas outside AUSTRALIA the best Christmas possible. The Comforts Fund would distribute hampers and it was possible that the amount allotted per man per day for the ration scale would be increased by 1/ on Christmas Day... Returned Soldiers' League Congress wants a permanent standing army in Australia of 300,000 men and the complete conscription of manpower, wealth and nation-

Sheet No._____

D (4)

Proceedings on Plea of Not Guilty

(Continued)

*Strike out inappropriate words.

The prosecutor [by leave of the court] calls [and] [recalls] the following witnesses [to prove (a previous conviction) (and) (entries in the conduct sheet against the accused.)] [in reply].*

COPY

79

TO NG FORCE

FROM MILNE FORCE 01547 27 Nov

MOST SECRET (.) PIGMY (.) Ref infm given ourr L.O. by B GS (.) Please advise (.) 1(.) ETA MILNE BAY and whether Force in one flight (.) 2 (.) Is advance party to precede convoy (.) 3 (.) Whether PIGMY comes under Comd MILNE FORCE (.) 4 (.) will CO 2/12 Bn Comd force (.) 5 (.) Can we advise C.O. 2/12 Bn of details enable him to make preliminary arrangements.

COPY

Appx 80

MESSAGE

TO MILNE FORCE
FROM NGF 05526 27 Nov

PORLOOK HARBOUR is to be developed as transhipping port (.) Defence WANIGELA will continue on reduced scale (.) MILNE FORCE will be responsible for defence of PORLOCK HARBOUR (.) Garrison to be provided as far as possible from WANIGELA to consist as suggested Bde Sigs, 1 Bn , 1 Tp Lt AA Arty, CADRE 25 pdrs less 1 section (.) 1 sub-section 2/16 Fd Coy make necessary arrangements from M A T on MULIAMA (.) Move to be by land and sea (.) Arrange direct BDFSC (.) Op Instn 45 follows by air safe hand.

/GLG

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No 89 27 Nov 42 81

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 27

JAP REINFORCEMENTS AT BUNA

It is now known that the Japanese managed to land reinforcements at BUNA from the warships successfully attacked by our planes. Insignia captured indicate that the troops landed are special shock troops from the YOKOSUKA Depot.

Yesterday the battle for the beach head at BUNA was carried on mostly in the air. Fighting on the ground was less intense. Our bombers and fighters shuffled backwards and forwards during the day. The Japanese positions received a severe battering. Six enemy planes and three of our aircraft were shot down. There were no further Allied advances on the enemy beach head.

RAID ON DARWIN

Four flights of three bombers were over Darwin but no damage resulted from the raid. The enemy planes came over at a height which made accurate bombing impossible. The 50 bombs which were dropped fell into the bush. The A/A fire was accurate but the bombers were too high.

RUSSIA

The latest Soviet communique describes how the Russian forces within STALINGRAD have broken down German resistance. More than 800 Germans were killed when the Russians recaptured several streets. In the Northern sector the Russians have captured enemy held sections of the workers' quarters.

North-west of STALINGRAD the Germans are trying to bring their troops out of the cap made by the great Russian pincer movement. The Soviet shock troops and artillery are steadily wiping out enemy manpower and making the way for advances.

Moscow announces the capture of a further 12,000 prisoners, making a total of 65,000 captured in eight days. The Soviet armies have also captured :- 2500 guns, 1500 tanks, 4000 machine guns, 50000 rifles and an enormous quantity of ammunition, food and equipment.

NORTH AFRICA

The 1st Army has occupied a town 40 miles south-west of TUNIS, overcoming stubborn resistance. Our forces were well supported by Allied aircraft.

/over

An enemy aerodrome near TUNIS was bombed and 10 enemy planes were destroyed on the ground. Our aircraft encountered strong machine-gun fire from the ground but no fighter opposition.

The London correspondent states that French Headquarters in North Africa have announced that the French troops in Northern TUNISIA had joined the Allies and had made some advances against the enemy. An appeal was made to the Legionaires to join the Allies. Advance elements of the 1st Army may be only 20 miles from TUNIS. The Germans say they have attacked the Allied forces 15 miles from BIZERTA. It is recognised that a major battle cannot be delayed much longer. The supply problems of the 1st Army are difficult.

The 8th Army remains a very powerful force and may catch up with Rommel sooner than expected.

SOLOMONS

A solitary Japanese plane dropped bombs south of the Henderson airfield to-day. There were some American casualties. The US Navy Department has announced that the casualties suffered from November 1 to 16 amounted to 737 killed and wounded.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) has announced that a few names of Australian soldiers who were prisoners in the hands of the Japanese had reached the Government. The next-of-kin would be informed as more names came in.

LOCAL NEWS TO 2200L/ 27

JAPANESE CAPTURED BY NATIVES

A Japanese marine was captured by natives in the vicinity of AWICHA this morning. He was handed over to AFCAM and is at present undergoing interrogation. He was in excellent physical condition. He was apparently a member of one of the special landing parties.

SALVAGE DUMP

A salvage dump has now been established on Route 8.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

The information in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's or the United States Service.

Serial No 54
Nos 407-419

War Diary

MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS
PART 1
By

Brigadier G.F. WOOTTEN
ADM/COMD MILNE FORCE

HQ
MILNE FORCE
28 Nov 43

GENERAL STAFF

407. SECURITY OF INFORMATION (G.R.O. 561).

The attention of all units is drawn to this order which will be repeated in all unit orders.

Col.
G.S., MILNE FORCE.

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S STAFF

408. DISCONTINUANCE OF USE OF LETTERS SIGNIFYING THE AWARD OF ORDERS, DECORATIONS, MEDALS - MEMBERS OF A.I.F. (G.R.O. A545) (AUST ARMY ONLY)

The attention of all units is directed to the above-mentioned G.R.O.

409. PRE-EMBARKATION KIT INSPECTION

Steps will be taken to ensure that kits of all personnel being embarked for evacuation to the Mainland are inspected immediately prior to embarkation.

Instances have occurred recently of personnel having valuable unit equipment (e.g. a telescopic sight) in their kits.

410. TRADING WITH NATIVES

The sub-joined list shows the maximum prices to be paid to natives for produce and curios.

PRODUCE, etc.	PRICE
Bananas	1/6 to 2/6 per bunch according to size
Eggs	2/ per doz.
Fowls	2/6 each
Mandarins	9d per doz.
Mangoes	1/6 per doz.
Oranges	1/ per doz.
Paw Paws	3 or 4 per 1/ according to size.
Pineapples	3 or 4 per 1/ " " "
Potatoes (sweet)	½d per lb.

/over

410. TRADING WITH NATIVES (cont.)

Pumpkins	6d each
Skeins (lines)	3d per doz
Beads (strings)	1/ to 2/ each
Baskets	5/ to 8/ each
Bows	3/ to 4/ each
Arrows	2 for 1/
Canoes (models)	2/ to 3/ each
Combs (wooden)	2/ to 3/ "
Ganas (arm bands-wide)	1/ to 1/6 "
Ramies (grass skirts coarse)	3/ each
Ramies(grass skirts fine coloured	5/ each
Spoons	6d each
Sticks (Halila walking)	5/ to 15/ each

411. NATIVE SKIRTS,COMBS,ETC

Second hand articles of native clothing - grass skirts,combs, etc.- may be infested with the organisms that cause skin diseases, tinea , leprosy, scabies, etc., and should not be sent overseas unless they are effectively sterilized.

412. BATHING IN WATER SUPPLY

Bathing and washing of clothes in WEHUARA CREEK upstream from the water point situated on Route 5 in the vicinity of map reference GILI GILI map 1 inch to 1 mile 055007 is prohibited.

413. HYGIENE RE-ORGANISATION

A number of vacancies for Sergeant Hygiene Inspectors exist in PILLI FORCE

It would be appreciated if units would call for and submit to this HQ nominations from personnel with hygiene qualifications for these vacancies, stating qualifications.

414. CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR LOANS

When remittances are forwarded to Australia for purchase of War Bonds or War Savings Certificates a schedule must be attached to the relative WT15A or WT15AA giving particulars of the purchase.

Particulars to be Scheduled :-

AMOUNT	PAYABLE TO NO,RANK,NAME OF PAYEE	PARTICULARS OF MATTER	DIRECTIONS FOR PURCHASE	DISPOSAL

415. CANTEEN SERVICE

The following hours will in future be observed for trading at Canteen Issuing Points :-

Monday to Saturday (incl.)
0830 hrs to 1200 hrs
1300 " " 1700 "

The following list of days is set aside as purchasing days, etc. and will be strictly observed by units. Failure to do so will mean waiting until the following week :-

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Bde	17 Bde	13 Bde	AFU	USA	A/A Groups
2/3 Fd Amb			RAAF		11 Fd Amb
Adv Dep Med Sts.					2/5 "
					10 CCS
					2/1 "

416. COURT-MARTIAL- PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF TRIAL

(a) NATURE OF COURT: Field General Court Martial

PLACE OF TRIAL: HQ MILNE FORCE

MEMBER TRIED: NZ16661 Gnr EDWARDS,J.O.,2/5 Aust Fd Regt

CHARGE: Absenting himself from his unit without leave from 0900 hrs on 10 May 42 until 2200 hrs on 6 Jul 42 (Army Act Sec 15 (1)).

FINDING: Guilty

SENTENCE: To suffer Field Punishment for a period of 90 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay during such period.

DATE OF SENTENCE: 3 November , 1942

CONFIRMATION: Finding and sentence confirmed by Maj-Gen C.A. CLOWES,Comd MILNE FORCE.

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: 10 November, 1942

DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION: 16 November, 1942, IN THE FIELD.

(b) NATURE OF COURT: Field General Court-Martial

PLACE OF TRIAL: HQ MILNE FORCE

MEMBER TRIED: NZ47[illegible]3 Gnr CAMPBELL,R.A.
2/5 Aust Fd Regt.

CHARGE:
FIRST CHARGE
Absenting himself from his unit without leave from 0600 hrs on 9 May 42 until 1200 hrs on 24 Jun 42 (Army Act Sec 15 (1)).
SECOND CHARGE
When under open arrest absenting himself from his unit without leave from 0700 hrs on 23 Aug 42 until 2000 hrs on 2 Sep 42. (Army Act Sec 15 (1)).

FINDING: Guilty on both charges.

PAGE (4)

SENTENCE	To suffer Field punishment for 80 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay during such period.
DATE OF SENTENCE	3 November 1942
CONFIRMATION	Finding and sentence confirmed by Maj-Gen C.A. Clowes, Comd Milne Force.
DATE OF CONFIRMATION	8 November , 1942.
DATE & PLACE OF PROMULGATION	16 November, 1942. IN THE FIELD.

417. M.T. CASUALTY RETURNS A.A.F. C. 52

Many units are not complying with GRO 18 para 7 in respect of the submission of these returns. They must be submitted in duplicate to ADOS MILNE FORCE immediately after receipt or transfer of a vehicle.

418. DUNNAGE

In future all dunnage unloaded from shipping will be controlled by C.R.E., MILNE FORCE.

Units will requisition by normal indent (318) for all requirements

Officers in charge of wharves will ensure that ALL dunnage is despatched to RAE Dump, Koitaki No 1.

419. MONTHLY CENSUS OF WARLIKE STORES - BINOCULARS

In accordance with GRO 0 857 the following item will be added to Master Card MD-5 and will be marked with an asterisk "For information only" in accordance with the provisions of GRO 0134

SCHEDULE	SERIAL NO	ITEM
G	000	Binoculars all types (privately owned)

Action will be taken immediately by all concerned to amend the relevant Mastercard. Future returns will be made in accordance with the amended schedule.

This order applies only to these binoculars held in lieu of service issue.

Lt Col
A.A. & Q.M.G. MILNE FORCE

CORRIGENDA

Paras 374 and [illegible] of Milne Force R.O. 83/42 of 14 Nov 1942 are hereby cancelled.

NOTICES

FOUND : The following identification discs have been found and may be collected as under :-

WX 15304 R GREGORY at 2/3 Aust Coy AASC
QX 84172 J.F.DAVIS " FORCE HQ

LOST: Unit cash requisition book on 21 Nov 42 between M.F. Cash Office and 'Old Canteen.' Finder please return to 2/3 Aust Fy AA Bty.

Watch,chromium plated,leather covered VYMA wristlet, between 2/3 D.O.C. Camp site and Lyell Wharf on 19/11/42.Inscribed to "Jim from Alice and Mother." Finder please return to C Group,2/3 Aust Docks Operating Coy.

Ref 42/63/217

H Q MILNE FORCE 83

28 Nov. '42.

DDMS HQ NGF (2)
HQ MILNE FORCE (2)
CASC Milne Force for infm.
ADOS Milne Force for infm.
War Diary.
File.

MALARIA CONTROL STORES

1. The incidence of Malaria in Milne Force is still increasing. Figures already submitted show that it has now become necessary to evacuated to the mainland a number of patients approaching to the strength of two (2) battalions per month. This high figure is due partly to lack of medical accommodation in the area (1376 beds equipped) but principally to the high rate of infection.

2. The high incidence rate of malaria is due to the fact that the Force is located in one of the most highly infected areas in the South West Pacific and to the prolonged lack of malaria control stores in adequate quantities.

3. CASC Milne Force submitted indents between 12 and 17 August and again on 16 Oct. '42 for:-

Malariol	26,800 gals.
Flyspray	6,552 "

and ADOS Milne Force submitted indents for malaria control stores on the scale laid down. CASC advises that less than twenty (20) drums of malariol and NO Flyspray has come forward NO Malariol at all during the past thirty (30) days.

..... See details of Malaria Control Stores in Appendix 'A' attached.

Handling of these stores on arrival at Milne Bay would be facilitated and expedited if advice could be forwarded showing on which ships they might be expected and how the packages are marked.

2/8 Aust AMCU marched in on 7 Sep. '42 without any unit stores. The OC had not been acquainted with his WET and this unit has NOT yet, ten (10) weeks later, received its complete unit equipment nor even the essentials necessary to function efficiently.

Twelve (12) sprays were received from New Guinea Force and a small number of knapsack sprays have been borrowed. Unit anti-malaria squads were formed and the personnel instructed in its duties by 2/8 Aust AMCU but lack of equipment has hampered the functioning of these squads.

It is certain that the lack of malaria control stores has reacted adversely on the "malaria conscience" of the force, which has been lectured and instructed by MMO's and others on malaria and its control. But the continued absence of the promised stores has produced a lack of interest in some units. Repeated situation reports by ADMS Milne Force have NOT produced the required stores.

Measures for personal protection against mosquito bites are bei policed by units and the Provost Coy., but the collective contr of mosquito breeding is still in its infancy - four (4) months after the arrival of the Force.

It was primarily the responsibility of the Medical Services to advise on the health aspect of Milne Bay. This was done but when the force was definitely committed to this area it was still the role of the medical service to safeguard the health of the Force.

Although malaria control stores are AASC and ADOS issues, it is considered that the medical service has the moral responsibility of ensuring the supply of such stores as may be necessary in one of the most heavily malaria infected areas to which an Australian Force has been committed.

Sgd. Colonel.

A.D.M.S. MILNE FORCE

Appendix 'A'.

MILNE FORCE

MALARIA CONTROL STORES

17th November, 1942.

STORES	Authorised Scale C.R.O. A 308 of 14 Aug '42 For 1000 men per month	Entitlement Milne Force — Average strength each Month Aug 10617	Sep 10617	Oct 13296	Nov 16277	TOTAL ENTITLEMENT	Quantities Received
1. AASC ISSUE. Mosquito Cream	375 lbs	3937	3937	4875	6000	18745	8907 lbs bulk 2411 lbs tins 11318 lbs Total
Malariol	400 gals	4200	4200	5200	6400	20000	776 gals.
Fly Spray	91 gals	935.5	935.5	1183	1456	4550	Nil lbs
Paris Green	56 lbs	588	588	728	950	2060	Nil lbs
2. AAOS ISSUE.	Scale per Coy or equivalent Unit						
Sprays hand REGA brass continuous	1	88.4	88.4	110.8	135.5	135	30
Ladles white enamel	1	88.4	88.4	110.8	135.5	135	7
Dust Blowers	Not shown on scale					Estimated Quantity required 10	9
Knapsack Sprays						50	16
Anti Mosquito Veils						1000	Nil
Anti Mosquito Gloves						1600	1300
Nets Mosquito Spares						1600	700

SECRET

Ref 42/72/212:

HQ
MILNE FORCE

28 Nov. '42.

HQ MILNE FORCE (2)
DDMS HQ New Guinea Force (2)
War Diary,
File.

EFFECT OF MALARIA ON EFFICIENCY OF MILNE FORCE

In Malaria surveys of Milne Bay area prior to and during the war, the splenic index is given at 92%, the highest rate in the South West Pacific.

The institution of 10 Grains of Quinine daily as suppressive treatment has been effective and the routine treatment in Medical Units of cases of malaria has been very effective as is indicated by the low mortality, i.e., two (2) deaths in 4453 cases.

It is reported from the mainland that a high percentage of personnel evacuated from Milne Bay develop malaria after stopping suppressive treatment, and it is considered that the majority of Milne Force is infected with malaria, either malignant Tertian or Benign Tertian types or with a combination of both.

This means that although the strength of a unit may be shown as 68% effective, the efficiency of this 68% in unit lines is not as great as it was before the unit became malarialised. Such personnel are not as likely to stand up to prolonged fatigue and physical effort as they were, and suffering from the effects of supressed malaria they are more prone to infection with intercurrent diseases.

There is evidence to show that the units of 7 Aust Inf Bde are affected to a greater degree than the units that have arrived at a later date.

It is considered that the incidence of malaria could be reduced by:-

1. Greater attention to the individual protection against mosquito bites by:-

   (a) Training of personnel in malaria control discipline prior to arrival in Milne Bay
   (b) Ensuring that every individual has protective clothing and a net mosquito as a personal issue prior to disembarkation.
   (c) Maintaining a high standard of discipline in the use of items quoted in para. (b).

2. Co-ordinated control of mosquito breeding in the area by:-

   (a) Issuing of malaria control stores on an adequate scale.
   (b) Providing sufficient adequately trained personnel to control labour to use effectively the malaria control stores.
   (c) Providing R.E. Services with the special task of drainage and maintenance of drainage of those areas that cannot otherwise be dealt with.

It is considered that even with the provision of items in (2) above at the present juncture the number of admissions to hospital would not decline for several months, because such a high percentage of the Force is already infected.

Medical Statistics
Appendix 'A'.

A.D.M.S. MILNE FORCE Col.

SECRET

APPENDIX 'A'

1. Daily average percentage of personnel on NO DUTY in unit lines:-

Unit	Present Strength	Average Ineffective
9 Aust Inf Bn	86%	2.85
25 " " "	82%	2.3
61 " " "	82%	3.66
2/9 " " "	77%	2.2
2/10 " "	85%	.55
2/12 " "	78%	1.4
2/5 " "	86%	.4
2/6 " "	90%	.15
2/7 " "	89%	.29
HQ Milne Force	68%	.2
A A S C	96%	.75
A A D C	85%	1.
2/5 Aust Fd Regt	89%	.7
2/1 Aust CCS	77%	.2
10 Aust CCS	91%	.95
2/2 Aust Fd Amb	95%	.3
2/5 " " "	88%	.25
11 " " "	88%	.2
HQ Sigs Milne Force	89%	.4

2. Admissions to medical units Milne Force up to 17 Nov '42.

Malaria	4453
Tropical Typhus	99
Dysentery (Clinical)	50
Dengue	5
Battle Casualties	197
Other Diseases	6193
Total Admissions:	10,997

S E C R E T

APPENDIX
'A'

3. Evacuations to Mainland up to 17 November, 1942.

Officers	35.	Other Ranks	1692

Total: 1727

4. Total Hospital beds equipped.

2/1 Aust CCS	400
10 Aust CCS	450
2/5 Aust Fd Amb	196
11 Aust Fd Amb	330
Total ...	1376

5. Beds occupied 15 November '42 1300

6. Excess of admissions over discharged -

(Figure is increasing) Daily average 40

To keep within limits of Hospital bed accommodation - evacuation to mainland is necessary at rate of not less than 1200 personnel per month.

Colonel
A D M S MILNE FORCE

COPY

85

MESSAGE

TO MILNE FORCE,rptd HATFORCE

FROM N G FORCE

Q1318 27 Nov 42

Further to our 05526 of 27 Nov NOT all addressees (.) Vessel KURI MARUA will embark guns, equpt and asmany personnel as possiblo for PORLOCK HARBOUR (.) Surplus personnel of units concerned to proceed on foot (.) MILNE FORCE arrange vessel load all surplus rations and stores for transit PORLOCK (.) N G FORCE operations instruction 45 of 27th refers .

COPY Appx C 1 80

TO HATFORCE

FROM MILNE FORCE 01563 28

Ref our 01555 (.) Arrange move Bn HQ one additional rifle Coy and proportion HQ Coy to PORLOCK by KURIMARAU at earliest (.) Movement further tps awaits result Lt-Col DOBES' recce (.) Apppint senior officer comd at WANIGELA (.) NOT more than 150 men to travel each shipload (.) 21 days' supplies and at least 1st line amn to accompany tps (.) Later build up holdings at PORLOCK to proportion total stocks held WANIGELA (.) Medical light sec being despatched MILNE BAY to PORLOCK and sec now WANIGELA to remain (.) Code name PORLOCK HARBOUR follows (.) ACK

FRENCH WARSHIPS SCUTTLED

There is still no official information as to whether the entire French fleet was scuttled yesterday in the heroic effort by the French to prevent the fleet falling into German hands. The Germans have claimed the capture of part of the fleet.

An official statement from VICHY tells how every ship in the port of TOULON was blown up and scuttled as the German Panzer Unit swept into the base. The Panzer unit entered the area at 5 a.m. yesterday. The German Commander issued an order for the surrender of the fleet. In reply, the French Admiral ordered the Captains to scuttle their vessels. In a message to Marshal Petain later, the French Admiral said that the entire French fleet was no longer in existence. Thick clouds of smoke were seen last night over TOULON.

Before the Germans marched into TOULON, they sent waves of bombers over to drop flares. German armoured units came in later. Many French Commanders went down with their vessels.

A report from the U S Navy Department states that there were 64 French warships at TOULON. General de Gaulle said the French Navy had scuttled the fleet to save French shame. Darlan said the German promise not to occupy TOULON was made to keep the fleet at the base. It was clear that Germany wanted to smash France entirely.

A London correspondent says that the Germans occupied TOULON, not only with the aim of securing the French fleet, but to find a base to replace GENOA. Intensification of U-boat warfare in the Mediterranean can be expected.

FIERCE FIGHTING AT BUNA

Artillery and trench mortars are being used by both sides in the fighting in the BUNA-GONA area. The fighting is the heaviest of the New Guinea campaign. Our troops are slowly driving the enemy back to the coast. Allied planes were over enemy strongpoints all day, inflicting considerable damage.

An enemy air raid was made on PORT MORESBY. The Japanese bombers scored direct hits on the bush.

NORTH AFRICA

The 1st Army has reached a point 15 miles due west of TUNIS. In North-eastern TUNISIA, 11 enemy planes were shot down for the loss of two Allied aircraft. The most acute phase of the battle for TUNISIA has begun.

In LIBYA , the 8th Army is preparing for an attack on the Axis forces.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces that the Red Army continues its offensive on the STALINGRAD front. NW of the city enemy resistance was overcome and in the south-western sector the enemy was beaten back when attempting to break through. A report says that two Russian armies are pushing north from the Don bend at a point 200 miles west of STALINGRAD.

SOLOMONS

There has been no major ground activity on GUADALCANAL for some days. The US Army and Marine Coys are mopping up. The Naval Secretary (Col Knox) said the position on GUADALCANAL looked very well but he expected the Japanese to try and regain the territory lost.

AUSTERITY LOAN : A total of £43,700,000 has been contributed in Austerity loan bonds and War Savings Certificates.

COPY

APPX (D) 88

SECRET

Copy No 1
27 Nov 42

NG FORCE OP INSTN NO 45

1. PORLOCK HARBOUR is to be developed as a transhipping port for supplying troops in the BUNA-GONA area and will be taken into use at the earliest possible moment vide NGF Signal Q1257 of 22 Nov 42.

2. The use of PORLOCK for transhippment will reduce the administrative importance of WANIGELA where transhipment and air landings may become occasional only. WANIGELA, however, remains of considerable tactical and potential value owing to the natural sea and land obstacles surrounding it and the existence of a landing strip. In the event of an enemy attempt to occupy TUFI peninsula, WANIGELA must be made available for landing reinforcements and supplies either by air or sea. The defence of WANIGELA will therefore continue to be maintained, although on a reduced scale. A proportion of Fd and AA Arty will remain at WANIGELA.

3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENCE

MILNE FORCE will be responsible for the defence of PORLOCK HARBOUR

4. SCALE OF ATTACK

The scale of attack envisaged is bombing and strafing by aircraft and raids by small landing parties from destroyers probably supported by gunfire from such vessels. Protection of installations against sabotage will be required.

5. (a) The garrison is to be provided as far as possible from WANIGELA and will consist of the greater portion of one Bn, one tp Lt AA (Bofors) with .50 cal MGs, one tp 25 pdrs (Less one sec) and dets as required.

(b) One sub sec 2/16 A Fd Coy is being despatched to PORLOCK HARBOUR from MORESBY to come under comd MILNE FORCE

6. Movt will be carried out by land and sea , the latter by direct arrangement with COSC.

7. CODE NAME

PORLOCK HARBOUR will be referred to in future as HANSON.

8. ACK.

(Sgd) HOPKINS, Brig
GS N G FORCE

COPY /GIG

CE/N3523

MOST SECRET

89

HQ N G FORCE
CE's Branch
27 Nov 42

CRE
MILNE FORCE

The following points are notified to you to clarify the present situation.

1. One Officer and a sub-sec of 2/16 A Fd Coy was transhipped here into the "MULIAMA" which sailed 26 Nov. They are proceeding to PORLOCK HARBOUR where they will come under COSC who are forming a transhipping point there. This area will be under the control of MILNE FORCE so reports and demands should be sent to you.

2. A detachment (probably one sec. strength) from 2/4 Fd Coy is being ordered to ORO BAY by N.G.F. for work on improvement of the PORT area there. 2/4 Fd Coy was selected as this area is regarded as an integral part of the BUNA supply system for which this Coy is already allotted.

3. A Fd Coy will probably be allotted to PIGMY which is within MILNE FORCE sphere of responsibility and so this Coy will be supplied by CRE MILNE FORCE. 2/16 A. Fd Coy is suggested for this task.

4. To make up deficiencies the following units have been put on the priority list to Adv L.H.Q. for movement to you :-

51 Fd Pk Coy Priority 6 (a) for MILNE
One A. Tps Coy " 12 (a) " "
One Pnr & Labour Coy " 14 (a) " "
(for dilution of A Tps Coy)
73 D.C.R.E. (Wks) and staff.

Brig
CE N.G. FORCE

/GLG

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 91 28 NOV 42 90

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 29

GERMANS ENCIRCLED

The great Russian pincer movement on the Southern front has now been completed and the 200,000 to 250,000 German troops before STALINGRAD have been completely encircled. The Germans are trying desperately to relieve the situation and have brought up reinforcements. The "Red Star" says that the Germans are trying to break through the encirclement. They are being supplied from the air.

An official Soviet communique states that the new Russian offensive on the Central front has resulted in the liberation of 300 localities. Since the offensive began, four German infantry divisions and one tank division have been routed. The enemy launched strong counter attacks but they were smashed. The enemy left 10,000 dead on the battlefield. The new Soviet offensive is taking place on a 120-mile front. 800 Germans were killed in the fighting within STALINGRAD itself.

In the Central Caucasus , the Russians have broken through in an important centre.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN NEW GUINEA

Heavy fighting is still going on in NEW GUINEA. Allied forces have smashed Japanese counter attacks. They are fighting their way through a net of fortifications. Our positions are being strengthened. American and Australian troops are driving down to SANANANDA itself. It was on the SANANANDA track that a large Japanese counter-attack was smashed. Both sides are using artillery and trench mortars. There is hard fighting ahead and much depends on the strength of the fresh enemy naval units manouevring off the coast.

RAID ON DARWIN

Twelve enemy planes raided DARWIN, causing no damage. The planes came in three's and made four flights. Their bombs fell in the bush. They flew at a height of 28,000 feet, too high for effective A/A fire.

1st ARMY ADVANCES

In TUNISIA, the British 1st Army continues to advance towards TUNIS and BIZERTA. An enemy counter attack was beaten off 15 miles from TUNIS .Allied forces are attacking on the whole front from BIZERTA to TUNIS. The enemy is on the defensive and is destroying railway lines. The 8th Army is opposing the rearguard of Rommel's army in LIBYA.

It has been announced in France that British forces have landed on the French island of REUNION, in the Indian Ocean. REUNION was the last remaining island under Vichy control.

SOLOMONS

US patrols on GUADALCANAL killed 15 Japanese and captured machine guns. Our planes wiped out several enemy installations.

AUSTRALIAN AUSTERITY LOAN : Nearly 200,000 people have contributed to the Austerity Loan.

MILNE BAY AIR RAID NO 9

Enemy planes were over this area early this morning. The alert was given at 0230 hrs and the all clear at 0345 hrs.

Approximately 31 bombs were dropped. There were no casualties or damage.

NOTICE

The following paybooks are held by the Paymaster, MILNE FORCE, awaiting collection :- MX111754, ROLLINGS, F.T.;V312059 WOOLLEY,C.W.

GFW/RER. Wardinary

91

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR TROOPS

URGENT

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

30 Nov. '42.

N.G. FORCE.
Copies to:-
NOIC
COSC
RAAF
49 SER. SQD. US AIR CORPS.

1. At a Conference held at these HQ on 29 Nov. '42, presided over by A/Comd. Milne Force, the following were represented by Commanding Officers:-

RAN
RAAF
US AIR CORPS
US ARMY
US NAVY

2. This Conference was called by me to discuss various operational and administrative matters, and the question of Christmas Cheer for troops was raised.

3. It was the unanimous wish of all the above that URGENT representations be made to N.G. Force with a view to ensuring that steps be taken to provide additional Christmas Cheer, in the form of beer, for all tps in this area: supply to be on repayment in the usual manner through ADCS.

It was pointed out by all CO's that such a step would contribute materially to the uplift of morale.

4. To supply each of the serving personnel with two (2) bottles of beer would require a shipment of 1000 cases each of four dozen bottles (allowing for a reasonable percentage for breakages, ullage etc.).

5. It was also suggested that permission should be given for the following wines and spirits to be also brought into the area at the same time:-

50 Cases of Whisky
50 " " Gin
50 " " Sherry
50 " " Port

Such a consignment would be distributed pro rata through ALL Officers' Messes in area.

6. The above quantities, both as to beer and wines and spirits are in accordance with the previous recommendations of Maj.-Gen., CLOWES as being the quantities he considered should be permitted to enter the area each month.

7. If permission is granted, may necessary instructions be issued, please, to ADCS to ship the consignment and to Movements to ensure its early arrival, so that transhipment forward to detached units may be effected in time to enable ALL to share in this Christmas Cheer.

8. I concur in all above suggestions.

Brig.

(G.F. WOOTTEN)
ADM. COMD., MILNE FORCE

92

HQ MILNE FORCE

30 Nov. '42.

CONTROL OF MOSQUITO BREEDING & DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE

Herewith report of Conference held, to discuss the above subject, on 30 November, 1942.

In Attendance:-

Capt. McQueen	DADH	Aust Army
Major Hay 2/8 Aust Fd Coy	DAPM	" "
Capt. Hawkeswood		" "
Lieut. Allman 2/8 Aust AMCU	US Hygiene	US Army
Lieut. Fricasse		

1. WASTE & GARBAGE: Resolved that the basic principle be immediate incineration by units.

In special cases, where, for instance, units are in congested areas and the smallness of units warrants it, central incineration may be permitted, provided that the Adm Cond concerned arranges necessary personnel and transport.

RAE will provide, as soon as possible, a design for a central incinerator.

If units are unable to find a satisfactory incinerator, reference should be made to Hygiene or Medical Services.

Tins must be burned, and subsequently flattened and buried.

2. ANTI MALARIAL CONTROL: Definition of malarial-control areas. Each individual unit to be responsible for the anti-malarial measures within its own area - PLUS half-a-mile around its boundary. Where such areas overlap, line of demarcation to be determined and fixed by the unit's higher Cond.

Measures to be taken:-

1. All wheel tracks, puddles, pools of casual water, etc., to be drained and/or filled in.
2. Thorough examination of all unit areas to be systematically made after each and every rain storm to implement (1).
3. Where special areas exist presenting major difficulties, of drainage, units to consult RAE to get them drained.
4. After the foregoing and all casual water remaining within unit lines, to be sprayed weekly with malarial or approved substitute.
5. It is strongly recommended that ALL slit trenches in the whole area be filled in. If this recommendation is unacceptable to HQ, all slit trenches should be drained and sprayed daily with Fly-spray.
6. Anti-malarial measures of main roadside drains to be the responsibility of RAE.
7. All existing drains, now overgrown, to be cleaned out and made to function.
8. Any units now encamped in low lying ground difficult of drainage, to be moved to higher ground - if tactical situation permits.
9. Commencing 3 Dec. '42 a three hour course of instruction for anti-malarial squads will be held by Lieut. Allman, at ADS "B" Coy, 11 Aust Fd Amb.

0900 hrs to 1200 hrs - for Australian units.
1400 " " 1700 " - for US units.

Force HQ and US HQ to detail two units (each unit 1 Sgt. and 3 OR's) to attend one three hour course, and to inform Lieut. Allman which units will attend daily, until all units have received such instruction.

10. Personnel anti-malarial precautions relating to dress to be specially enforced prior to 0645 hrs and after 1800 hrs.

Measures to be taken: (Contd).

11. All unit Comds will spread the belief throughout personnel of each unit, that where mosquitos are prevalent their breeding places must be looked for in their own areas, and the breeding places exterminated.

Capt
DAD of H., MILNE FORCE

Distribution, copies to:-

AA & QMG (3)
ADMS
OC 2/8 Aust Fd Coy RAE
DAPM
DADH
OC 2/8 Aust AMCU
USA SOS Sanitary Offr.
War Diary (2).
File.

COPY

MESSAGE

Appx 93

0208 30 Nov

TO MILNE FORCE , rptd NGF

FROM HATFORCE

Ref MILNE FORCE signals 01555 and 01563 (.) Have recced HANSOM (.) One Pl A Coy two bofors and one tp 25 prs less one sec now there.) Comd SINCLAIR placing KOORAKI at our disposal move Bn HQ A Coy less one Pl and HQ Coy a.m. 1 Dec (.) D Coy and details follow in KURIMARAU on return this trip HATRACK (.) Maj MIETNKE remaining as C.O. HATRACK with B and C Coys one sec 25-prs one tp BOFORS, six MMG , two detachments mortars 3-inch (.) Consider inf Bn each HATRACK and HANSOM minimum secure force .

Appx 94

SECRET

Copy No 5
28 Nov 42

NG FORCE INSTN OP NO 46

1. ORO BAY is to be developed forthwith as a supply pt for troops in the BUNA area. Administrative instns have been issued by HQ N G Force and COSC to all concerned.

2. 32 US Div will be responsible for its defence.

3. SCALE OF ATTACK The scale of attacks expected is bombing and strafing by aircraft and raids by small landing parties supported by fire from light naval vessels. Defensive arrangements will include protection against sabotage.

4. ALLOTMENT OF TROOPS

(a) Troops for this task including guns for AA and beach defence will be provided from the present resources of 32 US Div in the BUNA area.

(b) In addition the following are allotted :-
One tp 2/17 Aust Lt AA Bty - ex LILLIPUT - from MORESBY.
One sec 2/4 Aust Fd Coy - from MILNE BAY.

These units will come under command 32 US Div on arrival at ORO BAY. NGF will arrange the necessary movement by sea, to be completed as early as possible.

5. CODE NAME - "HAIROIL"

6. ACK

D.WHITE Col
for Brig
GS, NG FORCE

JWW:RER.

95

FARM SUPPLIES - MILNE BAY

War Diary

AQ2456

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

30 Nov. '42.

H.Q.,
N.G. FORCE.

Ref. H.Q. N.G. FORCE message Q 1299 of 26 Nov. '42, and DDST Adv. LHQ memo 13283 of 20 Nov. '42.

2. In terms of the above NGF message the following reply is submitted:-

(a) Copy of required list which was forwarded to HQ Q'land L. of C. Area under cover of Milne Force AQ 984 of 18 Oct. is attached. A further demand for three bushels bean seed was submitted on 17 Nov. '42, vide Milne Force message AQ 2057 (NGF Q 1150 of 16 Nov. refers).

(b) Farming equipment consists of a two furrow disc plough and tractor which are diverted from road work when required and various assorted hand tools such as axes, knives, picks, shovels, etc.

(c) Fifty acres of cultivation is the ultimate aim, the bulk of this area having been cleared and partly cultivated.

(d) The farm was planned, work commenced and order for seeds placed under the direction of Lieut. W.A. Mossman of ANGAU, who, it is understood, was an officer of the Department of Agriculture, under the Civil Administration in NEW GUINEA for many years. A copy of Lieut. Mossman's report dated 7 Oct. is attached. Sixty natives are at present employed on this work.

(e) With regard to Lieut. Mossman's qualifications please see above. This Offr has since been called away on other duty and the work is being carried on, in accordance with his instructions, by a W.O. loaned by ANGAU who is assisted by a Cpl. and 1 O/R detached from an AASC unit of MILNE FORCE. Each of these latter is an experienced practical farmer and volunteered for this work.

3. The D.O. SAMARAI has stated that ANGAU would supply a trained Tropical Agriculturalist (vice Lieut. Mossman det. for other duty) and it is believed that Adm HQ ANGAU has arranged his early despatch to this area.

4. It is submitted that the best available local advice (Lieut. Mossman) was obtained and much valuable work has been done towards the provision of the farm. The necessity for fresh vegetables is strongly emphasised by the Medical Services here, as a step towards reduction of the present sickness rate.

5. In addition to the above, and under the same direction, a smaller experimental farm of three acres has been cleared, fenced and cultivated entirely by native labour. The first crop of beans will be harvested in approximately two weeks. The seeds for this farm were provided by Offrs of this HQ.

6. All the foregoing has been discussed with QMG, DA & QMG (Landops) and DA & QMG (NGF) on the occasions of their various visits to this HQ.

G.F.W. Brig.
(G.F. WOTTEN)
ADM COMD MILNE FORCE.

JWR/MB

OFFRS A/F - SUBSTANTIVE RANK.

HQ
MILNE FORCE

CIRCULAR No. AQ2640. 30 NOV '42.

1. Ref GRO A566 of 20 Nov '42.

2. Recommendations of CO's to give effect to the provisions of the above GRO will be submitted to this HQ in triplicate on the attached pro-forma on or before 12 Dec '42 through normal channels.

3. Separate schedules in order of Regtl seniority will be submitted as follows:-

(a) For offrs on Regimental Lists now serving with the unit.

(b) For offrs on Regimental Lists seconded for extra regimental duty.

4. In the case of seconded offrs serving on HQ's in this area, a recommendation may be submitted by the Comd of the HQ concerned if the offrs parent unit is NOT in this area.

5. In the case of dets from units NOT in this area, recommendations should NOT be forwarded through this HQ, but through Unit HQ.

6. With regard to the definition of "unit" attention is directed to GRO A397/42.

7. Particular attention is directed to the certificate with regard to supersession referred to in GRO A566 para 3 (g).

8. AAMC and AAOC schedules will be submitted in accordance with instns issued by the Heads of these Services.

J. W. Webb Maj Col
for A/A & QMG MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:-

2/5 Aust Fd Regt	1.
AADC	2.
AAMC	3.
Sigs	8.
7 Aust Inf Bde	4.
17 " " "	6.
16 " " "	5.
HQ Comd AA'D	8.
32 Aust Res Coy	1.
Milne Force Cust. Office	1.
Milne Force Provost Coy	1.
War Diary	2.
File	1.
Copies for info:-	
ADMS	1.
AOS	1.

.....UNIT .....DATE

SCHEDULE OF OFFRS REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED EXTRA-REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED FOR CONVERSION TO SUBSTANTIVE RANK.

PERSONAL NUMBER	NAME IN FULL	PRESENT SUBSTANTIVE RANK		PRESENT TEMP RANK		TEMP RANK TO BE CONVERTED		DATE OF EFFECT	REMARKS, TO INCLUDE POSTING IF EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED
		RANK	DATE OF AUTHORITY	RANK	DATE OF AUTHORITY	RANK	DATE OF AUTHORITY		
SX0000	SMITH, John William	Lieut	21/6/41 CAG 15/41	Maj	5/6/42 CAG 6/42	Capt	7/12/41 CAG 26/41	7/12/41	B.H. 95 Aust Inf Bde

96

SECRET

97

Ref. 42/72/230

HQ MILNE FORCE

30 Nov. '42.

DDMS., NGF
War Diary,
File.

MONTHLY LETTER TO DDMS NGF

NOVEMBER, 1942

1. Anti Malarial Drugs.

Following is a list of drugs held on 28 Nov. '42.

Quin Bisulph Tabs	458,630
Quin pro inject	7,916
Quin Sulphate ozs	68
Quinicrine amps	375
Atebrin Tabs	307,340
Plasmoquin Tabs	54,560

Further requisitions for Quinine have not been met and the stock as quoted will have been consumed by 15 Dec. '42. The rate of consumption here is 1-1/3 million tabs per month.

Request was made that one month's reserve quinine should be held by Milne Force, and one month's supply for current issues, but this state has not been obtained.

Attached is copy of an analysis of Quinine tabs.

2. Malaria.

Admissions now total - 5080 cases - and the average daily admission of new cases has risen to - 62.7.

The type is still in the main M.T. but more cases of B.T. are being seen than formerly.

3. Bed State.

On 25 Nov. '42 there were 1411 patients in medical units all of which have expanded to the utmost capacity with the staff and equipment available.

As the excess of admissions over discharges exceeds 40 per day now, evacuation to the mainland is necessary at rate of not less than 280 per week.

The arrival of 2/3 Conv Depot will, I hope, relieve the strain of personnel in medical units, who have been "carrying on", at a peak period for several weeks without any rest.

4. Medical Officers.

The position of MO's in Milne Force is not good at present.

2/1 Aust CCS:- C.O., Senior Physician and Maj Lowenthal have malaria at present. This leaves the unit, which is nursing some 420 cases, very short handed. Maj Douglas is transferred to 2/3 Conv Depot: will need replacing in 2/1 Aust CCS.

10 Aust CCS:- Maj Holder has been transferred and Maj Lowenthal is to be transferred from 2/1 Aust CCS when he recovers.

11 Aust Fd Amb:- Maj Butcher and Capt Hooper have both had one or two attacks of malaria.

(over)

Medical Officers: (Contd). Nov '42.

2/5 Aust Fd Amb: This unit is at present nursing 250 cases in the MDS. There are now four (4) light Sections detached and three (3) of these light Sections have MO's with them: MATFORCE, DRAKEFORCE, and MANSOM. The CO has been evacuated to General Hospital and Capt. King with his recurrent dislocation of the right shoulder is not 100% efficient. Capt. Verco who is still acting as RMO 2/10 Aust Inf Bn., is awaiting the arrival of the RMO whoever it may be.

R.E. Services:- NO RMO yet available.

Force HQ:- Medical units under command - 2/2 Aust Fd Amb, 2/5 Aust Fd Amb, 11 Aust Fd Amb, 2/1 Aust CCS, 10 Aust CCS, Adv Depot Med Stores, 2/8 Aust AMCU.

The administration of these units doubles the work of the ADMS staff and the Fd Ambs and RMO's are not being trained as they should be by ADMS and his staff. The Fd Ambs cannot be considered as Fit for WAR at present and ADMS is very anxious to start a comprehensive training programme for these units and for the RMO's, some of whom are quite new at their task.

It is felt that the volume of work in the ADMS office, particularly with evacuation problems and the task of servicing the "small ship fleet" operating on the North Coast, warrants the appointment of a DADMS Learner.

The alternative is to establish an L. of C. area here which would take over the CCS' and other Corps troops.

5. Disinfector - Mobile Laundry:

There is urgent need for the disinfestation of clothing particularly blankets - hundreds of which become "Fly blown", also cases of scabies need treatment for their clothes. Ringworm is prevalent.

A mobile laundry is required. The hospital washing for 1400 patients is a big task to be carried out by the Medical Units in addition to the normal nursing duties.

6. Hygiene and Sanitation:

To-day a committee was formed with the task of:-

(i) Supervising disposal of garbage.
(ii) Control of mosquito breeding.

The committee consists of -

DAD of H
DAPM
OC 2/8 AUST AMCU.
DAD of H USA,
CRE Representative.

This should produce better co-ordination and results.

7. Letters were written on 28 Nov. '42.

(i) Effect of Malaria on Efficiency of Milne Force.
(ii) Malaria Control Stores.

These have been already submitted to you.

(over)

SECRET

Nov '42.

Ref 42/72/230.

8. Notification of Infectious Diseases:

Is the Daily Signal ref the new cases of Malaria, Scrub Typhus, Dysentery and Dengue still required now these diseases are being tabulated each week and forwarded to you?

9. The visit of Lt Col Ford, Lt Col MacDonald and Major Townley proved of great value here. The Depot of Medical Stores particularly benefited while the AMCU - ADMS benefited from the knowledge of Ford.

10. Rations.

Still shortage of fresh fruit and vegetables although for one week the issue was liberal.

Vitamin tabs asked for have not yet come forward for general issue.

11. Samarai.

Recce of Samarai was made by ADMS ref possible establishment of Conv Depot and/or General Hospital.

12. Expansion of 2/1 CCS and 10 CCS to 500 and 600 beds.

Has any decision been reached on this point? Requirements of Medical and Ordnance equipment and of additional personnel have been prepared by the units concerned.

13. Ref your 42/71/26 of 9 Nov '42.

This memo has just arrived at Milne Force from Adv LHQ where it was despatched in error from NGF.

At present AAF W 3034 is NOT being returned by CCS' or Fd Ambs in this area. As FSR Vol I shows it to be a return rendered by General Hospitals, medical units have not been instructed by me to render same.

Fd Ambs and CCS' in this area are performing the same medical tasks. Is it required that both Fd Ambs and CCS' render this return?

There is the difficulty at present that NO AAF W.3034 are available and some units have not the foolscap necessary to make pro formas, being now reduced to "second hand" paper for normal correspondence.

14. Brigade Hygiene Officer.

17 Aust Inf Bde is deficient one Lieut Hygiene Duties. No suitable personnel can be found in Milne Force with qualifications to fill this appointment.

It would be appreciated if an Officer could be found from NGF to fill this position.

Sgd. Col

A D M S MILNE FORCE

WAR DIARY

98

0167/9/3152
GBS.

Copy No 151

30 NOV 42

NEW GUINEA FORCE ADM INSTN No 38.

PROVISION OF EXTRA MESSING - CHRISTMAS DAY 1942

1. GENERAL.- This instruction deals with the provision of extra messing for AUST personnel of NEW GUINEA FORCE on CHRISTMAS DAY 1942.

2. EXPENDITURE.-

(a) It is advised that approval has been given for the expenditure from public funds of an amount not exceeding 1/- per member, additional to the normal ration scale, to provide extra messing etc on Christmas Day 1942.

(b) In order to implement this, the amount of 1/- will be treated as a special additional to the normal 1½d. per day per man Supplementary Rations, and will therefore be dealt with in accordance with G.R.O. F.160, i.e., purchases will be made by Units from Canteens wherever possible and the money will be accounted for in the normal way.

3. PROVISION OF SUPPLIES.-

Subject to availability of supplies, Canteen Services are making special arrangements for provision of suitable items to meet anticipated requirements by Units.

4. DELIVERY OF SUPPLIES.-

Arrangements for delivery of supplies to Units will be covered by separate instn to issue at earliest possible date.

5. ACF HAMPERS.-

It is understood that AUST COMFORTS FUND intends to issue hampers to troops serving in N.G. In order that duplication of commodities may be avoided, the proposed food content of these hampers is set out hereunder :-

¼ lb. Dried Fruit
1 tin Preserved Fruit
1 tin Nestles' Cream
1 Plum pudding
1 Christmas Cake
½ lb. Chocolate

6. REGIMENTAL FUNDS.-

Consideration might also be given to the suggestion that, if it is desired to augment the Christmas ration still further, Commanding Officers might expend some portion of the amount standing to the credit of the Regimental Funds on extra commodities to be obtained from the Canteens Service.

7. DISTRIBUTION.-

Sufficient copies of this circular are forwarded to enable distribution down to Units.

Lindy Webster Lt Col.

Brigadier,
DA & QMG, NEW GUINEA FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION (See over)

DISTRIBUTION:-

6 AUST DIV	1 - 40
Rear 7 AUST DIV	41 - 100
MILNE FORCE	101 - 160
WANGA FORCE	161 - 166
COSC	167 - 191
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55 AUST SPEC W/T SEC	196
9 AUST FD CENSORSHIP SEC	197
DET 2/1 AUST AIL SEC	198
9 AUST AIL SEC	199
1 AUST CORPS FD CASH OFFICE	200
HQF PRO COY	201
1 AUST CORPS PRO COY	202
1 AUST CORPS FD FUN CENTRE	203
HQF POSTAL UNIT	204
1 AUST CORPS POSTAL UNIT	205
1 AUST CORPS SALVAGE UNIT	206
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3 AUST HQF CINEMA UNIT	209
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1 AUST CORPS HQF BATH UNIT	213
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/GLG

WAR DIARY

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 92 30 NOV 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900Z/ 30

GERMAN SHIP SCUTTLED OFF AUSTRALIA

A communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters to-day gives a brief report of the scuttling of a German auxiliary vessel off the coast of Australia. The ship, which was of 8000 tons, was scuttled by the crew after she had been damaged. 73 Germans were captured. The place of engagement is not known but one correspondent says it was probably off the coast of Western Australia.

TWO JAP DESTROYERS PROBABLY SUNK

Two Japanese destroyers were set on fire and probably sunk between NEW GUINEA and NEW BRITAIN. Four destroyers were trying to reinforce Japanese troops at BUNA. Our planes scored direct hits on two destroyers which were seen burning and the other two made off north. This is the fifth attempt made by the enemy to reinforce troops at BUNA. Enemy ships sunk off BUNA are 1 light cruiser, four destroyers, one 12,000 ton transport and other light vessels; all in the five attempts to relieve the enemy troops at BUNA.

Land fighting continued around BUNA. Artillery and mortar fire was harassing the enemy. Our planes made a night attack on the aerodrome at LAE. Five enemy planes were destroyed on the ground.

Enemy aircraft made a night raid on MILNE BAY, causing no damage.

RUSSIANS MAKE FURTHER ADVANCES

In yesterday's fighting on the STALINGRAD front, the Russians made further advances in the northern factory area. A German counter-attack was thrown back. A STOCKHOLM message states that Russian troops are pouring through gaps in the German lines. A Soviet bulletin says that the Red armies have widened the gaps in the German lines and have gained more ground. Yesterday the Russians destroyed 49 tanks and killed 4600 Germans. In the NW offensive, the enemy dead total 15,000. Five Axis divisions have been smashed. 300 places have been occupied. On the Southern front, the Russians have captured 86,000 prisoners, 2000 guns, 4000 machine guns, 1400 tanks and 6000 lorries.

NORTH AFRICA

A total of 115 Axis planes have been shot down in NORTH AFRICA. In addition, 100 aircraft have been destroyed on German airfields in TUNISIA.

The 1st Army has occupied a town 12 miles from TUNIS. In LIBYA Allied bombers have kept up their stern assault against Rommel's forces. There is no news of the ground fighting.

There has been no confirmation from LONDON regarding Vichy's report of the British occupation of the island of REUNION. Yesterday Vichy said that British and South African troops had captured the capital.

OVERSEAS NEWS IN BRIEF

Mr. Churchill's warning to Italy has made a profound impression. One newspaper says that the only sensible thing Italy can do is to make a separate peace... US aircraft have raided enemy shipping NW of GUADALCANAL US marines carried out minor patrol activity on GUADALCANAL ...During the German "blitz" London experienced 54 consecutive raids in which 13,000 civilians were killed; more than 1,000,000 homes were destroyed.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

The Post-office and the Army are working together to ensure that parcels for troops or service will reach them by Xmas Day. People should post parcels immediately.
