

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

Item number: 8/2/17

17 Infantry Brigade

January 1945

AITAPE
1 Jan

(1) At the beginning of Jan, D Coy 2/5 Bn, 2/6 Bn, 2/7 Bn plus 2 Coys 2/3 MG Bn were manning defences on MLR. 2/5 Bn occupied TONG-YAMBES area and were disposed as follows: Bn HQ B Coy YASUAR, A Coy DREKIKER, C Coy less 14 Pl YAMBES, 14 Pl LUAING. Standing patrol MUSINAU.

Patrolling was being carried out SE to MUSENDAI-MUSEING-TIMINGER-SERAMUTA, to determine extent of enemy penetration to SOUTH.

Left flank approaches were being guarded by post at LUAING, with further strengthening planned by establishment of post at recently cleared village of NEW SAHIK.

2/7 Aust Cav Cdo Sqn were maintaining section post at LAMBUAIN, and eastward along DANMAP River were patrolling in area WALUM-WOMISIS.

On the coast 19 Bde were operating in area EAST of DANMAP River to Cape DJEURAN.

The enemy had been driven eastwards from villages SOUTH of TONG and from the approaches to PEREMBIL.

Concentrations of enemy tps at PEREMBIL and villages to the EAST were being subjected to air attack and harassing patrols by our ground tps.

It was considered probable that 41 Jap Div defence perimeter extended from ASANAKOR to PEREMBIL to WOMSAK.

(2) Adm Appreciation.

Movement of our tps into TONG-YAMBES area, and number of tps which could remain in contact with the enemy, were determined by our ability to maintain supplies.

Supplies were being maintained by air dropping at TONG and YAMBES, and by native carriers from YAMBES to forward coys.

It was estimated that daily maintenance requirements as at 1 Jan 45 would be:

(i) Supplies

(a) European Rations	5040	Lbs
(b) Native Rations	700	"
(c) POL	56	"
(d) Expense	90	"
(ii) Medical Supplies	54	"
(iii) Ammunition	306	"
(iv) Ordnance	20	"
(v) Sundries	28	"

Total 6294 lbs or 2½ aircraft per day.

In addition, to build supplies to figures laid down in 6 Aust Div Adm Instr No 16, a further 21,200 lbs, TONG 16700 lbs, YAMBES 14,00 lbs, were necessary, i.e. 5½ aircraft loads.

Ammunition holdings were 10,000 lbs below 17 Bde target figure, i.e. 2½ aircraft loads.

It was considered that with the availability of aircraft limited to an average of 2 aircraft loads per day, a force of approx 600 could be maintained in the area, provided:

(i) that target of reserve for TONG and YAMBES be reduced to:

TONG	3 days SWPA for	130
	6 " Native "	200
YAMBES	3 " SWPA "	500
	6 " Native "	250

(ii) that ann target figure be reduced to normal first line holdings for all weapons.

(iii) that ops should NOT involve expenditure of large holdings of ann.

(iv) that average of NOT less than 2 aircraft loads per day be dropped.

(v) that dropping grounds forward of YAMBES be used as opportunity arose.

(3) Composition of Force as at 1 Jan:

- 2/5 Bn less 1 coy and dets
- Det 6 Aust Div Sigs (two Pigeon Secs)
- " 17 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec
- " 2/2 Aust Pd Amb
- " AASC 6 Aust Div
- " 2/46 Aust LAD
- " 6 Aust Div Postal Unit
- " ANGAU

Force represented a total strength of 610 (555 plus 55 en route). 300 natives estimated necessary for carrying forward.

(4) YAMBES AREA: Fighting patrol to PEREMBIL reported enemy strength 37 dug in with sentries posted overlooking track from SE. Approx 50 enemy occupying a ridge 500 yds to SE.

AITAPE
2 Jan

YAMBES AREA: Recce patrol DREKIKER-MUSIMBILIM-DUMAN-MUSENDAL-MOINYER-MUSENG-APER-TIMINGER reported NO enemy seen. Natives informed patrol that enemy in strength SAROM, SALATA, WAHUN.

(b) All AASC and Medical Dets on TONG L of C SOUTH and WEST of YAKAMUL in TONG area come under command 17 Bde as from today.

(c) Permission has been granted for Tac R pilots to bomb and strafe targets of opportunity area V5010 V5000 EAST to bomblines line ABAU, MIMA Creek V662251, V580170, SOUTH along grid 58 - until further notice.

2/5 Bn reported that ANGAU have warned that this act will result in natives becoming hostile. 2/5 Bn was informed that Tac R pilots were aware of the presence of friendly natives, and that they would NOT take offensive action where there was a possibility of hitting such natives or huts. Permission was given to pilots to fire only on enemy sighted during the Tac R missions. The present policy is that there will be NO prearranged strikes in the area defined.

AITAPE
Jan

YAMBES AREA: HQ 2/5 Bn plus B Coy arrived YAMBES ex TONG. C Coy moved forward from YAMBES and have established posn at NASALEM with 2 secs posted at LUAINING and 1 sec NEW SAHIK to guard left flank approaches.

A Coy less 9 pl moved from DREKIKER to MUSINAU. 9 Pl at DREKIKER joined by 4 Pl.

Following air strike and mortar concentrations, PEREMBIL occupied by 2 pls C Coy. Enemy made counterattack and were repulsed. A further 3 counterattacks co-ordinated from MUSINAU track on right flank and ASILING on left flank were repulsed during the night. Casualties enemy 19 killed, own one wounded.

Several huts were destroyed as the result of an air strike on ASILING.

(b) A review of ops in TONG area by Bde Comd is att as appx. A summary of infm collated from various sources giving disposns and strengths 41 Jap Div is also att as appx.

(c) BM recce site for 17 Bde JL School with CI Capt FEARSON 2/7 Bn.

(d) Comns with YAMBES, which had been out since 020800I, were re-established 031100I.

(e) Rear party Bde HQ arrived AITAPE. Old HQ camp site WONDECLA had been handed over to Camp Staff Officer on 27 Dec 44. Party embussed WONDECLA 28 Dec 44 and embarked at CAIRNS on "MEXICO" 29 Dec.

AITAPE YAMBES AREA: 11 Pl moved to NASALEM and Pl C Coy moved forward
4 Jan and joined C Coy at PEREMBIL. Post at LUAING withdrawn and standing
patrol at NEW SAHIK relieved by sec B Coy - 12 Pl moving OLD SAHIK.
Enemy were reported on ridge 700 yds SE of PEREMBIL.

(b) 2/5 Bn requested that D Coy be sent forward, but Bde advised that because of supply difficulties, force could NOT be increased till 10 Jan at earliest.

(c) Bde Comd inspected new site for Bde HQ and decided to move in Sunday 7 Jan 45.

(d) Instructions issued that use of all Bde transport, including Sigs and LAD, would in future be co-ordinated by Bde TO, and necessary recording done by him.

AITAPE YAMBES AREA: 2/5 Bn instructed that until such time as the
5 Jan supply position improves, the Bn will adopt defensive attitude with aggressive patrolling. Bn instructed to verify existence of enemy localities at SUMUL on left flank, and MALBUAIN on right flank. It was also suggested that post at NEW SAHIK be strengthened to guard approaches from NORTH.

A Coy at MUSINAU maintaining security patrols SW to NIGIRA and MIWHAK areas.

Patrol from C Coy at PEREMBIL to ASILING reported sentries posted on ridge 398077 SE of PEREMBIL. Following this report natives reported 60/70 enemy LOWER PEREMBIL, 60 ASILING, 30 SAMASAI. Air strikes on PELNANDU and SAMASAI reported accurate.

(b) 2/5 Bn advised that D Coy and other personnel totalling 115 depart YACAMUL 7 Jan. Expected time of arrival YAMBES 10 Jan. Details attas as appx.

(c) Maj McLEAN 2/5 Bn reported to Bde Comd to receive instrs ref move D Coy to YAMBES.

AITAPE YAMBES AREA: B Coy less 11 Pl moved NORTH over NANU River and
6 Jan established NEW SAHIK.

LOWER PEREMBIL evacuated by enemy and occupied by Pl of C Coy. Natives reported 30 enemy in occupation PELNANDU.

Patrol to GAMINI V398039 made NO contact with enemy. MALBUAIN reported clear.

2/5 Bn instructed to commence preparatory work on Cub Strip at DREKIKER, but owing to the problem of extra rationing for native labour, this order was cancelled 8 Jan till further instructions.

(b) Col GOWARD Chief Commissioner ACF called this HQ to visit Bde Comd.

AITAPE YAMBES AREA: Patrol to SUMUL with object of ascertaining
7 Jan whether enemy in area, reported area clear.

Air Strike on PELNANDU reported accurate.

Following receipt of infm that 41 Jap Div were in LUWAITE area, a Tac R was requested to ascertain any indication of movement in that area. Request was made for observation of ridge running NW from LUWAITE to PEREMBIL, object being to endeavour to locate any movement along ridge and in villages EMUL, PELMANDU, ALBULUM, SAMASAI, MUSU, ASILING. Tac R on 5 Jan was unsuccessful due to ground mist. Report on Tac R 7 Jan revealed that tracks appeared well worn, and that villages were in good condition with signs of recent constructions. trenches reported covering track at V46067.

2/5 Bn were informed 8 Jan that air strike could be arranged on area. 2/5 Bn replied that latest native reports stated that LUWAITE clear of enemy, and as natives patrolling villages on track to LUWAITE, air strike NOT required.

(b) Bde HQ closed old site 071200I, reopened same time new site V006489.

(c) Second W/T link opened to YAMBES.

(d) Joining instructions for 17 Bde JL School Course No 1 issued today. School to be held at area V055463 and to cover period 10-30 Jan inclusive.

Staff:	CI	Capt	PEARSON	2/7	Bn
	Adjnt	Lt	FLEET	2/5	Bn
	CSM	Sjt	ROBBINS	2/7	Bn
	Clerical	Sjt	MOSSCROP	2/7	Bn

Instructors:	Lt FAHL	2/6	Bn	Lt GERRARD	2/7	Bn
	Sjt HEDDERMAN	2/6	Bn	Sjt McNAUGHTON	2/6	Bn
	Sjt LEYFIELD	2/6	Bn	Sjt LAWSON	2/7	Bn
	Sjt MUDIE	2/6	Bn	Sjt HOLT	2/7	Bn

AITAPE
8 Jan

YAMBES AREA: Patrol through SUMUL contacted enemy at WALENDE killing 20. Own casualties one native sentry wounded. A further patrol to ASILING with object of reporting on air strike and to ambush enemy returning to village after their usual policy of evacuating on approach of planes. Patrol contacted enemy killing three. Results of air strike poor, 2 huts burnt. Natives reported villages EAST of B Coy posns at NEWSAHIK from SUMUL NORTH to AMUK River to SAMBUK to SUNGUENGIL clear of enemy. Further EAST large concentrations reported at NAHABINGI and EAST AMIL. SOUTH of NANU River natives killed 5 Japs clearing PELNANDU. LUWAITE again reported clear.

- (b) GOC called to see Bde Comd.
- (c) Problems of air maintenance summarized in 17 Bde Q801 of 8 Jan attas appx.

AITAPE
9 Jan

YAMBES AREA: NORTH of the NANU River, one pl moved forward and occupied SUMUL. 11 Pl joined B Coy at SAHIK. In the PEREMBIL area, Pl at LOWER PEREMBIL moved forward and occupied ASILING which had been earlier reported clear. Standing patrol established LOWER PEREMBIL. Patrol along LUWAITE track to point 900 yds past SELNI reported MISIM, MUSU, clear, and that SELNI showed signs of recent evacuation. Patrol from MUSINAU to PELNANDU to ALBANUM, with intention of exploiting to SAMASAI, contacted party of enemy at ALBANUM. Our patrol withdrew. Casualties, enemy one wounded, own one killed. This is the first fatal casualty sustained in action by the Bde. Total casualties known to be inflicted on the enemy from the time the Bde took over the area, to this date, are:

	<u>17 Bde.</u>	<u>Air Action.</u>
Killed	79	54
Wounded	3	17

D Coy arrived YASUAR en route YAMBES.

- (b) GOC, accompanied by Bde Comd, inspected MLR.
- (c) After discussion with Bde Comd, GOC placed A Coy 2/2 Bn at Comd's disposal to complete Eastern Sector of MLR.
- (d) R/T used successfully with YAMBES for first time today.

AITAPE
10 Jan

YAMBES AREA: NORTH of NANU River, patrol to BENGIL, to check native report that village clear of enemy, found 10 Japs in area. WAHALANGA, SUNGUENGIL, reported by our tps to be clear of enemy.

As the result of a native report that enemy concentrating in BOMBISIMA area V481079, air strike was carried out 1048 hrs. Strike reported accurate. Some huts destroyed and many damaged.

SOUTH of the NANU River, patrol to SAMASAI, with object of locating enemy posns, reported 80 enemy in area. Request was made for air strike on the villages 11 Jan.

Patrol from MUSINAU to EMUL via NIGERA-PELNANDU, contacted enemy at EMUL in recently constructed defence posns. Patrol engaged posn and inflicted casualties, 6 killed.

(b) Bde Comd gave opening address at JL School.

(c) Verbal instructions issued to Capt DARBYSHIRE OC A Coy 2/2 Bn to prepare Eastern Sector MLR as defensive posn, based on disposns outlined by 2/5 Bn. Bde Comd approved disposns and, accompanied by Capt DARBYSHIRE, made recce of the sector.

(d) BM visited G1 for co-ordination of MLR. While as 6 Div, G111(Air), ALO 4 Tac R Sqn, and BM prepared policy for Tac R in YAMBES area and method of ground to air communication by R/T, using map ref code and CCPB8 which will be secure.

(e) 2/7 Bn instructed to send recce patrol to report on suitability of an L of C route from BABIANG along DANDRIWAD River to House KIAP V392208, MIHET, YASUM, SAHIK, PEREMBIL. Details are att as appx.

(f) Bde Comd attended demonstration prepared by 2/6 Bn to show effectiveness of 2" Mortar flares and incendiary grenades for illuminating an area forward of def locality. Flares may be fired by electric contact in parallel or series, or by cord control on trip wire principle. Comd stated that flares were of value and could be gainfully used.

In the evening, Lt WALCH, recently returned from TONG, gave a lecture to officers of the Bde at Bde HQ. Subject of lecture - "Tactics employed, and topographical features TONG-YAMBES Area".

AITAPE
11 Jan

YAMBES AREA: Recce patrols to SAMBUK, YONGUAK, AMUK River, report area clear of enemy.

Natives reported TANUMBA clear.

Fighting patrol to SAMASAI found area clear of enemy. Village occupied by 14 Pl.

Further eastward, natives reported enemy mov along route AMI, WAMBAK, to MAPRIK.

(b) Lt-Col PARBURY visited Bde Comd to discuss proposed inter Bn relief.

(c) Lt-Col JABOOR, CO 2/2 Aust Fd Regt, visited Comd for finalization of DF tasks TADJI Defences (MLR).

(d) Lt WALCH, 2/7 Bn, gave lecture at JL School. Subject-"Ops YAMBES area, with particular reference to part plated be junior leaders."

AITAPE
12 Jan

YAMBES AREA: 2/5 Bn drive forward to secure areas cleared of enemy, resulted in following changes of disposns. On main axis of advance- A Coy plus sec 2 Pl less 9 Pl moved from MUSINAU and occupied SIHIM V430049. Security patrol established PELNANDU. 4Pl and 9 Pl moved to MUSINAU.

D Coy plus 2 dets 3 Pl i sec 2 Pl less 17 Pl relieved 14 Pl SAMASAI. 17 Pl established ALBANUM. 14 Pl returned ASILING. C Coy less 13 Pl moved to ASILING. 13 Pl plus 1 sec 11 Pl established at TANUMBA maintaining contact with left flank and main axis of advance.

Natives report EMUL clear and that enemy from ALBANUM moving towards LUWAITE.

On left flank, B Coy plus det 3 Pl less 10 Pl moved forward to SAMBUK. 10 Pl established ALNIUL.

Air strike requested on SELNAUA as result native report enemy concentrating there, unable to be carried out owing to ground

fog. Planes bombed secondary target, suspected HQ 237 Jap Regt, V733244.

(b) As a direct result of the fact that another plane has been made available for dropping in this area, the following message was sent to 2/5 Bn.: " From MOTEN to BUTTROSE (.) in view improved sup posn objectives extended to EAST to 50 vertical grid (.) Northern flank astride AMUK River and HIMALI River (.) Southern flank NOT generally SOUTH of O4 lateral grid but patrols may move to the deep SOUTH."

(c) Lt-Col PARBURY reported to Bde Comd to discuss relief of 2/5 Bn by 2/7 Bn.

(d) BM discussed with Adjut and IO 2/7 Bn air support, sitreps and "G" infm required by this HQ.

(e) Bde Comd visited GOC to discuss future ops.

(f) In the afternoon, Maj BURROUGHS, DAAG, recently arrived this area, paid respects to Bde Comd.

(g) Att as appx is report on TRENCODE cipher, summarizing difficulties attendant to its use.

AITAPE
13 JAN

YAMBES AREA: 2/5 Bn HQ established PEREMBIL.

On left flank, B Coy less 10 Pl moved to TANUMBA. 13 Pl came under comd. 1 sec 12 Pl remained SAMBUK. 10 Pl moved forward from ALNIUL to SEMINI. En route, B Coy contacted 30/40 enemy at BENGIL. 17 enemy were killed. Enemy evacuated village. Enemy reported in MAHARINGA V433105.

Air strike carried out on SELNAUA. NO report received as to damage done. Jap-type shelters reported in the area.

(b) Under direct instr from 6 Div, a recon patrol from 2/2 Bn, under command Capt A J MARSHALL, and known as JOCK FORCE, is to penetrate to deep SOUTH of 2/5 Bn right flank. what

Patrol reported to 2/5 Bn at YAMBES and received/assistance could be offered ref track infm, equipment etc.

Patrol is to proceed through MIWHAK to TURDUR, thence track to YUBANAKUOR and NANU River.

(c) 6 Div intimated that as 19 Bde NOT requesting many air strikes, additional aircraft therefore available could be utilized if required, 2/5 Bn were advised, and suggestion passed to them that strikes could be made on known disposns or concentrations further EAST than their immediate front.

(d) Review by Bde Comd of future ops forward of YAMBES is attas appx.

(e) 2/7 Bn band gave recital in Bde HQ area this evening. Selections from musical comedy, straight band pieces, and selection from "Pirates of PENZANCE" were played.

AITAPE
14 Jan

YAMBES AREA: Patrol from SIHIM to LUWAITE, with object of ascertaining which villages in the group are occupied by enemy, report NO advance made beyond ALUMI. Enemy reported to be occupying majority of villages.

NORTH of NANU River, patrol to ARISILI villages and to PBLNANGA NUNKUANIME area, report these areas clear of enemy. Sec at SAMBUK withdrawn.

Natives reported Japs in occupation of villages WALHETA, AROA, SELEMA, on B Coys front.

(b) BM went out on air strike by 7 Sqn RAAF on MAHARINGA. Planes could NOT get in owing to weather. Secondary targets huts near BUT drome were bombed. Strike carried out on MAHARINGA during the afternoon. B ombs reported on target.

(c) Bde Comd visited Div HQ and met Maj-Gen BAILLON who is Chief of staff to General Sir Henry M WILSON.

(d) Capt BOLGER, SC, briefed by Bde Comd for his visit to Lt col BUTTROSE.

(e) Bde IO delivered lecture to the ORs of the HQ and att sub secs on recent ops in the Div area with emphasis on part played by 17 Bde. In future, whenever possible, this lecture will be a regular feature.

AITAPE
15 Jan

SAMASAI AREA: 2/5 Bn HQ moved fwd to SAMASAI. On left flank NUNKUANIME, (reported clear 14 Jan), occupied by pl D coy. B Coy occupied MAHARINGA. No contact made with enemy estimated strength 80/100 who withdrew EAST. Air strike on SELEMA and AROA reported accurate. Patrol also confirmed native report of approx 60 enemy in this area. On right flank, patrol to EMUL made NO contact with the enemy.

(b) SC moved out en route PEREMBIL.

AITAPE
16 Jan

SAMASAI AREA: NORTH of NANU patrols report TELBENGA, ALMI and SELNAUA clear of enemy.

Air strike AROA - SELEMA reported accurate by ground tps.

On right flank, natives reported enemy concentrated in AMULI V452032 but that other villages LUWAITE area clear.

Air Force reported bombs on target area during strike carried out ARONGA.

(b) 2/7 Cav Cdo Sqn patrol from SIKAPI V454089 contacted B Coy 2/5 Bn at MAHARINGA then moved out for ARINIGAMA via HAMBINI.

(c) Bde Comd visited Div to see GOC and discussed future ops.

(d) BM inspected Eastern Sector MLR.

(e) On discretion of Bde Comd, survey was made by Bde staff of possible dropping grounds for use in the future. List was compiled and submitted to 5 Div for 4 Tac R Sqn to recce villages and areas required. This prior infm ref DZs is intended to aid 2/5 Bn in their planning.

AITAPE
17 Jan

SAMASAI AREA: On left of force, B Coy moved fwd to SELNI following report area clear. Intention is to patrol in area BOMBISIMA HAMBINI, NANU.

D Coy plus one sec A Coy less one pl crossed NANU RIVER and attacked and occupied AROA. One pl moved NUNKUANIME.

This move makes two coy front moving SE in main direction of advance SOUTH of AMUK RIVER. Intention is to clear enemy from area between AMUK and NANU rivers.

D Coy is to patrol SE also SOUTH to LUWAITE area to maintain contact with patrols and adv of right flank. Patrol reported area NORTH OF TEREMBE creek - to AMUK river clear of enemy.

Air strikes carried out on AROA, SELEMA reported accurate.

On right of force, C Coy less 2 pls moved fwd to SAMASAI. One pl remained ASILING and one pl ALBANUM.

Patrolling being carried out SE to LUWAITE area.

(b) 6 Aust Div OO No 3, defining new Bde boundaries, areas of exploitation and Bde reliefs, received today.

(c) 6 Aust Div DEFENCE SCHEME AITAPE, outlining role for the Bde also received.

(d) Bde Comd made air recce which incl area in which 2/5 Bn operating and also MAPRIK. Plane continued NE to DAGUA thence along coast to AITAPE.

(e) Lt col HENNESSY, 2/6 Cav Cdo Regt called to see Bde Comd ref

proposed ops.

(f) Patrol from 2/7 Bn, to recce L of C BABIANG to PEREMBIL via YASUM, returned. Patrol reported route more suitable as L of C than route YACAMUL - TONG - PEREMBIL.

AITAPE
18 Jan

SAMASAI AREA: HQ 2/5 Bn moved NORTH over NANU river and est at AROA.

On ~~right~~ right of force one pl with det of mortars adv and accurately engaged, with mortar fire, village of AMULI (Reported 16 Jan to be occupied by enemy in strength).

Patrol from SIHIM to EMUL and TATE to track junc 454028 contacted enemy, killing three.

(b) During the past few days, 2/5 Bn have been using with success the air support now increased to 6 Aircraft available for 2 strikes per day.

Today 2/5 Bn were notified to request strikes only on urgent situations, as 71 Wing RAAF concentrating on important targets WEWAK area.

Indication ~~of~~ ^{by} 3 in mortar smoke to aid strike has been found most successful. Full str of sp previously anticipated, will be available again 21 Jan.

AITAPE
19 Jan

BANA AREA: HQ 2/5 Bn est at AROA. C Coy less one pl moved NORTH of NANU river and occupied WARELI. One pl remained SAMASAI. to HIMALI R.

Three coys now operating in area NORTH of NANU river/ (the northern boundary). Main axis of adv is SE to BULAMITA - BALIF villages.

Patrol from C coy contacted enemy strength 8 at AUANG, 6 of these killed and 2 taken prisoner. One of the PW later died. A further patrol contacted two enemy SE of WARELI V489058 killing one and taking the other prisoner.

On right flank, following contact made 18 Jan by patrol at enemy ambush posn V449036 LUWAITE area, a further patrol went out today with object of clearing the posn. Contact made - NOZ cas inflicted either side.

One pl plus det 3 in mortars also went fwd again and accurately engaged AMULI.

Six BEUAFORTS bombed ARONGA area.

(b) 191200I 2/1 Aust Fd Regt take over role of 2/2 Aust Fd Regt in sp this Bde in defence TADJI drome.

(c) BM visited 2/7 Bn to listen to Coy Comds solutions of an appreciation set by Lt col PARBURY. Object of the exercise was 50 written appreciation dealing with the clearing of the enemy to/grid line from the YAMBES area.

(d) Successful R/T conversation carried out by BM for Bde Comd to Lt col BUTTROSE and Capt BOLGER at SAMASAI.

Posn ref native labourers in TONG-YAMBES - SAMASAI area discussed. It was considered that 750 natives are necessary to ~~maintain~~ maintain the force in its existing ~~posn~~ mobile state and rate of adv. Supply posn at present considered adequate to support this number.

AITAPE
20 Jan

BANA area: ON left of force, patrol to BOMBISIMA cleared the village, killing 5 enemy.

Patrol from WARELI to BULAMITA, to harrass enemy, contacting strength 60 inflicting 7 cas incl 2 offrs. Own cas 4 wounded.

Patrol from D Coy at AROA through SAKENGE SOUTH across NANU river to LUWAITE, drove enemy strength 20 from LEKANAL. Villages ALGUSUM, WUNINBIL clear.

In the AMULI area, one pl attacked and occupied posn at V449036. Strength of enemy contacted NOT known.

Later A Coy plus two dets of mortars less one pl moved to take up posn ALUMI threatening AMULI.

Air strike on AMULI reported accurate.

- (b) 17 Bde OO No 1 ref defence TADJI Drome issued. Att as appx.
- (c) Bde Comd visited JL school and later witnessed tk exercise 2/6 Bn area.
- (d) BM recce MLR.

AITAPE
21 Jan

BANA AREA: Pl at SAMASAI joined C Coy at WARELI. Pl of D Coy at NUNKUANIME moved to WALHETA.

Following attack on BULAMITA 20 Jan. a further patrol today found villages clear. Natives reported enemy moved out through UTAM, AGUIBIL.

Air strikes on HAMBIBI, TILAHAU, NANU villages reported accurate.

Fighting patrol from ALUMI, to clear track junc V449034, failed to clear posn. One enemy killed.

PW captured by natives at NUMANGO 21 Jan states enemy concentrated in villages NUNMANGO str 18, BALIF 300, MALAHUM 7, ILAHOP 60. Majority of tps belong to 238 Jap Regt.

AITAPE
22 Jan

BANA AREA: C Coy less pl moved fwd and occupied BULAMITA. BEAUFORTS on mission to bomb the village were asked by R/T to switch to TILAHAU and HAMBIBI. Bombing reported accurate. Patrols reported villages UTAM, AGUIBIL, KUANICIMA clear of enemy.

Later in the day HAMBIBI reported evacuated.

Patrol from SELNI, with object of clearing enemy from NAHU area located enemy at V482095 and engaged them with mortar fire. Subsequently it was found that two enemy were killed.

On right flank, A Coy cleared track junc V449034. Air strike requested AMULI NOT carried out. Enemy still in occupation of village

(b) NORTH across Himali river, 2/7 Cav Cdo Sqn established patrol base at AMAM, and are maintaining security patrols.

(c) Owing to heavy rain in the mountains during the night 21/22 Jan, the water in the lagoon beside Bde HQ area rose and swamped the camp site.

When the threat to the HQ was recognized, Bde Comd and BM working in the early hours of the morning, cut a drain through the sand dune allowing the water to escape to the sea. In a few hours the level of the water fell many feet relieving the situation.

AITAPE
23 Jan

BANA AREA: Patrol from 2/5 Bn contacted 2/7 Cav Cdo Sqn at AMAM 22 Jan. Patrol reported on return that 4 enemy stragglers were killed at V507108 and also that definite proof of enemy cannibalism was established.

Patrols from BULAMITA report ALBINIMAI V528042 and RIAMALIOI clear. One enemy straggler killed RIAMALIOI.

Patrol from SELNI, to set ambush at V472098 where 15 enemy sighted 22 Jan, contacted enemy 474105 killing 4.

Natives reported that ARONGA, SOUTH of our right flank, occupied by enemy and periodically relieved from BALIF. WURITA occupied by enemy, strength unknown.

Natives also reported large numbers of enemy camped in a KUNAI patch SOUTH of BALIF villages.

Air strikes carried out on AMULI and BALIF villages reported accurate.

Unfortunately, 2 BEAUFORTS which were engaged on the AMULI strike, collided then crashed. Patrols were sent out to find the wrecked planes, and found the crew of four of one plane all killed, and of the crew of five belonging to other plane, four had been killed, and one, Sjt CHIVERS was alive but suffering from burns.

Serum and medical supplies dropped at YAMBES and medical attention rendered Sjt CHIVERS.

Remains of dead airmen were buried by our tps in the area.

(b) Lt col PARBURY reported Bde Comd to discuss intended relief of 2/5 Bn by 2/7 Bn.

AITAPE
24 Jan

BANA AREA: Patrol to establish ambush at posn V484101 near where enemy contacted 23 Jan, contacted 4 enemy near HAMBINI. HAMBINE itself was clear, and was occupied by 4 pl later in the day. Further patrol to TILAHAU and NAHU report area clear.

Security patrol from SELNI killed 2 stragglers BOMBISIMA. Two enemy, incl one Lt, surrendered under white flag. PW did NOT have surrender leaflets but recognized and understood them.

Party of 60 enemy apparently foraging, attacked by patrol SOUTH of ALBINIMA l. Casualties, enemy 14 killed, own one wounded. Enemy withdrew to BALAGA.

D Coy less 2 pls relieved 15 pl at WARELI. 15 pl rejoined C Coy at BULAMITA. One pl D Coy established SAKENGE, pl at WALHETA remained same posn.

SOUTH of NANU River, A Coy still held up at AMULI. Air strike NOT carried out because of bad weather.

(b) Bde Comd conference this morning was attended by BM, BM(L), SC, IO, Sig O, and Adjt 2/7 Bn. Comd outlined future intentions, and discussed details of relief of 2/5 Bn by 2/7 Bn.

(c) With regard to the proposal to improve DREKIKER cub strip, Lt-Col BUTTROSE made personal recce and considered it impracticable to proceed, since more suitable sites would shortly be available in SALATA BALIF areas. Bde Comd concurred, and original instr was cancelled 25 Jan in view this recommendation.

(d) SC returned from forward area, having followed route AMAM, WALUM, ABAU River, DANMAP River to LUAIN. This L of C is used regularly by 2/7 Aust Cav Cdo Sqn.

(e) Lt-Col O'CONNELL, CO 2/1 Aust Fd Regt, Lt-Col WOOD and Lt-Col PARBURY visited Bde Comd.

(f) Bde Comd and BM visited GOCs Mess in evening.

AITAPE
25 Jan

BANA AREA: SOUTH of NANU River, A Coy attacked and occupied. AMULI. Enemy withdrew. Enemy strength 30 contacted again near TERAWON. NO casualties inflicted.

Natives reported BUNAHOI V471016 occupied by enemy str 60. Between NANU and HIMALI Rivers, security patrols being maintained in SELNI villages, BANA villages and BULAMITA areas.

One straggler killed V488089. Enemy reported in strength ALBINIMA l.

Forward of our right flank drive, natives reported 17 enemy killed SALATA area from 1-20 Jan. Ten enemy now in SALATA. Enemy party evacuated ARONGA and moved to BALIF. M'BRAS reported clear.

Air strike carried out on BALIF.

(b) 17 Bde OO No 2 issued today is attaes appx.

(c) Warning order ref relief of 2/5 Bn by 2/7 Bn issued. Att as appx.

(d) Bde Comd approved dropping of 4.2" mortars at BULAMITA for use in operations against enemy concentration BALIF. Two mortar dets 2/1 Aust Fd Regt to come under command this HQ 28 Jan 45.

(e) As patrols from WALUM and BULAMITA areas are now approaching old bomb line, new Air Force Bomb line has been laid down with effect from 252400L. New line extends from V732295 SOUTH along ANUMB River to NORTH SOUTH grid line 80 thence SOUTH to EAST WEST grid line 10 and WEST along this grid to NORTH SOUTH grid line 67 thence SOUTH to SEPIK River.

(f) Maj SCHMEDGE, MC, new BM 16 Bde, called to pay respects to Bde Comd.

(g) Joining instrs for Course No 17, 17 Bde JL School, issued today. Course to cover period 2-22 Feb, and vacancies allotted as follows:

- 2/6 Bn 30 NCOs
- 2/7 Bn 12 NCOs
- 2/2 Fd Amb 3 NCOs
- 17 Bde Sig Sec 1 NCO
- 2/46 LAD 2 NCOs

AITAPE
26 Jan

BANA AREA: 2/7 Cav Cdo Sqn contact patrol to 2/5 Bn captured 5 Japs including 3 Officers at WADENGE V486080. Patrol to NILU area, NE of our left flank, reported NILU suitable as Sqn area. Enemy reported at DAHABIGA V590064 IREUCUBIA V5608.

It is intended that 2/7 Cdo Sqn establish base at NILU to carry out role as laid down in 17 Bde OO No 2.

In area flanked by HIMALI and NANU Rivers, 5 enemy, incl 1 Medical officer, surrendered to carrier line escort in vicinity of AUANG.

Area from BULAMITA SOUTH to NANU River reported clear.

Natives report enemy in large numbers ALBINIMA 2.

SOUTH of the NANU, enemy were contacted on track in vicinity TERAWON. Enemy withdrew and his casualties NOT known.

Six enemy found dead in AMULI as result of air strikes.

(b) Vide Adm Order No 2, Date of move put back to Feb 3 1945.

AITAPE
27 Jan

BANA AREA: A Coy at AMULI relieved by D Coy and moved to AROA.

Patrol reported TERAWON clear, but enemy strength unknown was contacted at V458023. Casualties - enemy NOT known, own one died of wounds and one wounded.

Air strike on BUNAHOI reported accurate.

NORTH of the NANU River, one enemy straggler killed at BOMBISIMA. Patrol from BULAMITA to V523030 reported area clear. One enemy straggler killed ALBINIAM 1.

(b) At 271100I, coy of 2/2 Bn constructing defences on MLR under direction 17 Bde, ceased work and returned to unit.

(c) Maj BARNDEN, DAQMGR just returned from LUZON landing, called to pay respects to Bde Comd.

AITAPE
28 Jan

BANA AREA: Security Patrols being carried out all areas. Two enemy stragglers killed vicinity WARELI.

On right flank, TERAWON engaged with mortar fire. Air strike on village reported NOT accurate.

(b) 280800I - Two 4.2" mortar dets of 2/1 Aust Fd Regt, strength 2 Offrs 20 ORs, came under command 17 Bde and moved to BULAMITA area.

AITAPE
29 Jan

BANA AREA: HQ 2/5 Bn plus B Coy, less one pl plus 4 pl, moved forward and occupied BULAMITA. One pl established V497025 guarding approaches from SALATA - M'BRAS area.

C Coy moved forward to ALBINIMA 1.

Following slight enemy opposition earlier in the day, D Coy moved SOUTH over NANU River and occupied TERAWON.

Following native report that WANAKI V457107 occupied by enemy strength 50, area was engaged by heavy mortar fire.

Natives reported enemy moving from WEST into MAPRIK area.

Air strikes were carried out on KUNAI patch situated on spur SOUTH of BALIF, and also on BALAGA and SALATA.

(b) Advise received from 6 Div that Bde boundary as laid down

in 6 Aust Div OO No 3 Changed. 17 Bde OO No 2 amended in accordance. Att to OO No 2.

AITAPE
30 Jan

BALIF AREA: Patrols report that area flanked by HIMALI and NANU Rivers and SE to line WARANGOM V492103 to V540045m clear of enemy.

Following on air strike, ALBINIMA 2 occupied by patrol from KUANICIMA. Later C Coy established base in village.

On right of force, 20 enemy were reported dug in BUNAHOI.

Natives reported SALATA and NUMANGO areas clear of enemy. Most of the villages to the SE of BALIF reported by natives to be occupied by enemy.

(b) Proposed relief of 2/5 Bn by 2/7 Bn has been delayed by Comd due to other operational considerations. 2/7 Bn instructed that maximum effort will be given, meanwhile, to completion of MLR.

(c) BM inspected centre sector of MLR and made verbal report to Bde Comd.

(d) In the evening, Bde Comd visited Lt GALLAGHER, Amenities Officer 17 Bde, who is a patient at 2/11 AGH.

(e) BM, BM(L), and IO attended lecture at 2/7 Bn Offrs Mess. Subject of lecture was ground to air comm. Six officers each from 4 Tac R Sqn, 7, 8, and 100 Sqns, were present. A general discussion followed the lecture.

AITAPE
31 Jan

BALIF AREA: 2/6 Cav Cdo Regt less 9 Sqn come under command this Bde as from 310800L.

Disposns: RHQ SUAIN
2/7 Sqn HQ plus 8 Sec NILU
A & B tps en route SUAIN.
C tp less 8 sec en route NILU
2/10 Sqn less C Tp LUAIN
C Tp en route V620160.

It has been considered practicable for 2/6 Cav Cdo Regt to carry out task allotted them in 17 Bde OO No 2 with one Sqn plus one tp. Intention is to relieve 2/7 Sqn less 2 tps at NILU with 2/10 Sqn, base C Tp 2/7 Sqn at WALHIGA V625130, and rest A and B tps 2/7 Sqn at SUAIN. C Tp 2/10 Sqn to prepare base and DZ at V620160.

Flood conditions in DANMAP area are holding up movement at present.

BALIF AREA: On northern flank, security patrol from NILU reported 30/40 enemy in villages V571074- 4 enemy killed.

In centre sector, A Coy less one pl arrived BULAMITA. One pl moved forward and occupied ALBINIMA 1. B Coy moved from BULAMITA SOUTH across NANU River and occupied SALATA without contacting enemy.

C Coy moved to ALBINIMA 2 and reported enemy strength 60 at ALBINIMA 3 V537025. 4 pl established on track V493024. Air strike carried out on BALAGA.

On right flank, patrol contacted 4 enemy at V468100. Casualties own one wounded plus one native sentry wounded. Enemy unknown.

Report received that ANGAU patrol comd by Capt O'Donnell, reached SCREW River where they were contacted by LULULAI from village of WAINUINGA- a village NORTH of MAPRIK. LULULAI instructed by Capt O'DONNELL to recon villages in the vicinity of MAPRIK, and then to report to 2/5 Bn.

Reports from JOCK FORCE, patrolling in area to the deep SOUTH our right flank, confirm that enemy occupying villages SOUTH from WAHUN to YUBANAKUOR. Enemy apparently well fed and in good condition. Further SOUTH in MOI area, natives report enemy well established.

- (b) Ref 17 Bde OO No 2. Bde northern boundary further amended to omit line ATOB River - ALAGIL Ck- V600184 to point V505180. Boundary now becomes ATOB River to point V505180.
- (c) Maj THOMAS MC, G11 (ops) Adv LHQ, called to see Bde Comd.
- (d) Bde switched from "I" zone time to "K" time at 312300I.

General:

During this month, 2/6 and 2/7 Bns have been supplying numerous working parties for commitments in AITAPE area. 2/6 Bn have been carrying out routine patrols in KAMTI, PALAURU, YAFUNDA areas.

Exploits of Lt QUILTY, OC Gd Pl att 17 Bde HQ, in his effort to reach and bring back PW being brought from our forward area to DANMAP River, att as appx.

M. J. Moten Brig.
(M. J. MOTEN)
Comd 17 AUST INF BDE.

MAPRIK SPECIAL. 1ST EDITION.



SCALE 1 INCH TO 1 MILE.

NOTE: FORM LINES ONLY

YARDS

YARDS

50 EAST

REPORT ON ESCORT OF 2 JAP PW CAPTURED BY 2/5 AUST INF BN.
By NX57129 Lt H W QUILTY C Coy 2/1 Aust Gd Regt.

1. Party consisting of 2 members of my pl - Cpl McCAULEY R C L/Cpl LINDENMAYER E and myself left HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde on 27 Jan 45.
2. We travelled by 3 ton truck to the "Fork" DANMAP River, where we were to take over 2 JAP PW from 2/5 Bn.
3. At approx 1700 hrs we learned that the PW would NOT arrive until the following day. It was then raining heavily and I decided to return by the track down river bed to the main coast road, but after proceeding for approx 1 mile we were caught by the sudden rise of the water. The engine stalled and we were forced to climb onto the roof of the cab- the only portion still above water. As it was growing dark and Cpl Mc CAULEY could NOT swim I fired several bursts from an OWEN gun. This attracted a party of troops who threw ropes to us. These we tied around each man in turn and we were hauled ashore.
4. We made our way to HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde where we remained until the 29th Jan.
5. On the 29 Jan the PW who had also been caught in the flood were brought in and handed over to us.
6. By the 30 Jan the DANMAP had fallen sufficiently to allow us to cross, and as we had lost the truck, we decided to cross the river and make our way EAST along the coast to DOGRETTA BAY where an LCT was expected to land stores.
7. After crossing the DANMAP we were taken by Jeep for the remainder of the journey- a rough and at times dangerous road.
8. We were taken aboard the LCT at 1630 hrs and set out for AITAPE wh where we arrived at 0145 hrs.
9. We found the bridge over the NIGIA River washed away and crossed by punt.
10. Prisoners were handed over to Pro Officer HQ 6 Aust Div at 0245 hrs 31 Jan.
11. We returned to HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde and reported to Duty Officer at 0330 Hrs 31 Jan.

(Signed) H QUILTY Lt.

WD

Subject: GEN INFM AND INSTRS FOR AMUK RIVER AREA

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

26 Jan 45

G782

2/7 AUST INF BN

Copy to: 2/6 Aust Inf Bn
Comd
SC
IO
Sig O

- 1. The Bde Comd has directed the following infm and instrs be passed to you to assist you in your task in the AMUK River area.

INTENTIONS

- 2. Outline intention, which will incl patrolling programme, for the following day will be submitted NOT later than 1900I daily.

AIR

3. Direct Air Sp

- (a) Calls for strikes will be made through this HQ.
- (b) When a request for the following day is granted, it can NOT be cancelled unless a message to that effect is received at this HQ NOT later than 2100I on the day prior to the strike.
- (c) All requests for direct air sp are required to reach this HQ by 1900I.
- (d) Time limit after which NO strike will be made will be included in the request.
- (e) Request will indicate if mortar smoke indication will or will NOT be used.
- (f) Our I 19/6 of 15 Dec 44 refers.

4. Requests for tac R

Will be made as laid down in this HQ G73 of 7 Dec 44.

5. Tac R sorties

Our G778 of 25 Jan 45 refers.

6. Message streamers

There is an acute shortage of message streamers and it is requested that they be returned daily with the native courier.

INT

7. Sitreps

Sitreps are required to 1000I and 1900I daily and at any other time a sitrep is considered necessary.

8. Int reports together with topographical amendments and additions will be forwarded one weekly.

9. Weather reports

(a) To assist arrangements for air strikes and air dropping weather reports are required daily as at 0600I and 1200I.

(b) Infm to be included is as follows:

(i) A - cloud base - height of clouds above ground expressed in ft

(ii) B - amount of sky covered by cloud - expressed in tenths of sky surface

(iii) C - weather - fine, raining or stormy.

(c) An example is -

"able 4000 baker 6 charlie fine"

(d) When an air strike has been requested weather reports will be submitted hourly until such time as strike has been carried out.

(e) Weather reports will be submitted by sig franked with "Meteorological Immediate" priority.

10. FS

Two FS Sec personnel are att from this HQ and will remain with you in the area to assist in the collection and despatch of captured documents and eqpt.

COMN

11. Battle procedure

The necessity for continuous comms with this HQ is stressed. When moving your HQ fwd, the three 22 sets will be employed to ensure an unbroken link with this HQ. This HQ is control sta for the gp and out stas will NOT close down without permission from Control.

12. Ground to air

(a) The use of panel strips as laid down in LHQ Trg Instr No 7 will be followed.

(b) Aircraft may be communicated with by RT

(c) RT conversations will be kept as short as possible and correct RT procedure will be observed at all times.

(d) The following map ref code will be used when working with 4 Tac R Sqn RAAF:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
C	Y	R	I	L	B	O	K	E	N

13. RT - ground to ground

- (a) RT Code No 2 will be used at all times in conjunction with this HQ G761 of 22 Jan 45.
- (b) The object of RT is to reduce sig traffic and allow urgent requests to be made. The best conditions exist for RT between 0800I - 0900I daily.
- (c) The security assessment of RT Code No 2 is estimated as two days and originators of RT conversations will take every precaution to see the code is NOT compromised and conversations are so worded or encoded to ensure no disclosure of the contents of the message.
- (d) Any possible suspected compromise of the RT code will be reported to this HQ.

14. Despatches

Despatches from this HQ are cleared to you by air drop or native courier.

Your outward despatches will be forwarded to this HQ by native courier who departs daily at 0600I.

15. Priorities

Sitreps, intentions, weather reports and requests for air strikes will be given the priority "IMMEDIATE". It is most desirable to keep the use of priorities to a minimum.

GEN

16. Security

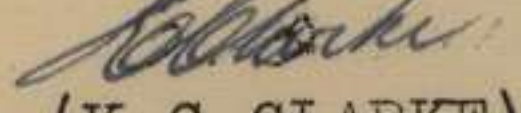
Security instrs as laid down in GRO G371/44 will be fully observed.

17. Att units and visitors

All att units and visitors come under your comd when in your area and all their outward correspondence will be submitted to you before despatch.

18. Public Relations

All articles and stories written by the Public Relations NCO may be read at your HQ, but will be forwarded without delay by native courier direct to this HQ.

 Maj
(K C CLARKE)
PM 17 Aust Inf Bde

BDE COMD'S CONFERENCE AT WAPIL AT 240930I JAN 45

Attended: Bde Comd
BM
BM(L)
SC(L)(Capt LEE)
IO
Sig O
Adjt 2/7 Bn

Bde Comd outlined the relief of 2/5 Bn by 2/7 Bn.

ISSUE OF ORDERS

1. 17 Bde 00 No 2 would be issued.
2. A warning order to 2/5 Bn after the return of Capt BOLGER, and will indicate a relief during early Feb:
 - (a) 2/7 Bn CO's party of 30 would arrive NOT before 3 Feb.
 - (b) The first coy would arrive PEREMBIL NOT before 7 Feb.
 - (c) 2/5 Bn would move out all the spare personnel NOT before 29 Jan and would indicate in which order coys would be relieved:
A Coy will relieve A Coy
B Coy will relieve B Coy, etc.

MOV

3. The move from here to PEREMBIL or YAMBES will be controlled by the SC. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Fwd mov beyond this pt by the unit and regulation pt at TONG. Capt BLACKWELL would be posted at TONG and work under the SC¹.
4. The move is to be continuous - NO clashing. Suggestions and alterations to times of departure from here may be made by BM(L).
5. Recce parties would arrive in the area 5 to 7 days in adv of the main body.
6. Three dets of mortars would be relieved, the balance of the Mortar Pl to move in with the rear party.

RATIONS

7. NO undue accumulation because present L of C will close down.
8. There is NO accommodation for tps fwd of TONG.
2/7 Bn by sending ~~fw~~ cooks fwd with recce parties to est cookhouses fwd of TONG.

DETS 2/5 BN

9. Dets under comd 2/5 Bn would NOT be relieved whilst the major move is on.
10. 2/7 Bn have been asked to nominate a staff offr for the move. He need NOT necessarily be a senior offr.
11. 120 personnel is the maximum to move at any one time.

DREKIKER CUB STRIP

12. The DREKIKER Cub Strip will be prepared. BM to issue orders for its preparation, arrange the necessary tools, stores and rations to be dropped there. The task will be carried out by 2/5 Bn Pnr Pl who will move to DREKIKER ~~remain~~ there until the job is finished and come under comd ~~2/7 Bn~~

Cancelled

RELIEF

13. Detailed instrs of the change over will be issued by the SC.
14. Capt MARSDEN to see IO 2/7 Bn ^{*6 cas} and indicate when sitreps and intentions are required at this HQ.
15. Capt LEE prepare an Adm Order to be issued in conjunction with OO No 2. Pts to consider are:
- (a) Sup and maint of the Cav Regt.
 - (b) Evac of wounded - discuss with Col SMIBERT. Until such time as the new L of C established, evac over the old L of C.
 - (c) Amn holdings.
 - (d) We will consider organising a new L of C when this move is well under way.
16. Bde Comd may go fwd to see Col HENNESY and if so, may take CO 2/7 Bn to discuss the

Sig O submitted that 1 22 set would be made available to Cav Regt for rear link to this HQ. Bde Comd agreed to this.

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

WT

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

17 aust inf bde

26 1610Z

For Action

TO

Rear 2/5 Bn 2/7 aust inf bn 2/6 aust
cav (cd) regt 6 div AASC 6 div 2/2 rd amb
COMD BM SC SIG CTR

(info) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions

GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

Q146 SECRET (.) ref 17 aust inf bde adm order number 2 (.)
para 2 (c) is cancelled (.) NO movement before 3 FEB 45 (.)
ack

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { except }

{ } Wireless

Signed

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

Signed

[Handwritten Signature]

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

SECRET

Copy No: 5

W/D.

26 Jan 45

17 AUST INF BDE ADM ORDER No 2

(To be read in conjunction with 17 Aust Inf Bde 00 No 2 dated 25 Jan 45)

GEN

(a) This order covers the relief of 2/5 Aust Inf Bn by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn in the AMUK - NANU Rivers area during period 27 Jan 45 - 26 Feb 45.

(b) Relief will take place in following stages:-

(i) Mov of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn to SAMASAI area in following gps under arrangements HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde:

Serial	Composition	Str NOT to exceed
RED 1	Bn Recce Gp	36 all ranks
" 2	Coy Recce Gps	68 " "
" 3	A Coy Gp	120 " "
" 4	B Coy Gp	120 " "
" 5	C Coy Gp	120 " "
" 6	D Coy Gp	120 " "
" 7	Details 2/7 Aust Inf Bn	120 " "

(ii) Mov of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn from SAMASAI area to battle disposn under arrangements Force Comd.

(iii) Mov of 2/5 Aust Inf Bn from battle disposns to SAMASAI area under arrangements Force Comd.

(iv) Mov of 2/5 Aust Inf Bn from SAMASAI area to AITAPE in following gps under arrangements HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde:

Serial	Composition	Str NOT to exceed
GREEN 1	Details 2/5 Aust Inf Bn	120 all ranks
" 2	A Coy Gp	120 " "
" 3	B Coy Gp	120 " "
" 4	C Coy Gp	120 " "
" 5	D Coy Gp	120 " "
" 6	Details 2/5 Aust Inf Bn	100 " "

(c) For sigs, serials will be referred to as R1, G3, etc.

MOV

(a) Mov of all personnel involved in relief will be via route AITAPE - HARECH RIVER - BASE CAMP - NIALU - TONG - YAMBES - SAMASAI L of C.

(b) Mov will be by MF AITAPE - HARECH RIVER and on foot for remainder of journey.

(c) Mov will be as follows:

Serial RED 1 depart AITAPE 0500I 27 Jan 45
 " " 2 " " 0500I 28 Jan 45
 " " 3 " " 0500I 1 Feb 45

Serial GREEN 1 depart SAMASAI 0700I 30 Jan 45.

Mov of other serials will be advised later. (Probable date of mov Serial GREEN 2 9 Feb)

- (d) All serials will rest one day at TONG.
- (e) All mov between BASE CAMP and SAMASAI will be under control HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde as directed either from HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde or Control TONG whose orders and instrs will be implemented without question.

3. ACCN AND STAGING FACILITIES

Particulars of accn and staging facilities available on L of C and details of additional staff to be provided by units are set out in Appx A att.

4. SUPS

All personnel will move from pt of departure (i.e. AITAPE or SAMASAI) carrying following sups:-

- (a) One days FO or SWPA ration
- (b) One emergency ration
- (c) 32 tablets atebrin (yellow spot container)
- (d) Outfits individual water sterilising - 1
- (e) Salt tablets

5. MEALS EN ROUTE

Meals en route will be provided by Staging Camps as follows.

(a) BASE CAMP and NIALU

- (i) Lunch and evening meal day of arrival
- (ii) Breakfast day of departure

(b) TONG

- (i) Evening meal day of arrival
- (ii) Breakfast, midday and evening meals - rest day
- (iii) Breakfast day of departure

(c) YAMBES

- (i) Evening meal day of arrival
- (ii) Breakfast day of departure

(d) SAMASAI

All meals during period of stay.

(e) MIDDAY MEALS

Where required midday meals will be consumed from rations carried on the man as per para 4(a) above.

6. AMN

Following amn will be carried on the man:-

(a) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

- (i) AITAPE to SAMASAI

10 rounds per rifle
2 mags per OSMG
2 mags per LMG

- (ii) SAMASAI to fwd posn

50 rounds per rifle
8 mags per OSMG
7 mags per LMG
2 grenades per man

(b) 2/5 Aust Inf Bn

10 rounds per rifle
2 mags per OSMG
2 mags per LMG

(c) Additional amm required for issue at SAMASAI will be provided by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and delivered to SAMASAI under arrangements HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde.

7. TRANSFER - SUPS, STORES, EQPT AND WEAPONS

(a) Following stores, eqpt and weapons will be handed over by units as under:-

(i) AMUK - NANU Rivers area

By 2/5 Aust Inf Bn to 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

Weapons:	Mortars 3 in complete	-	8
	MMGs complete	-	4
	Mortars 2 in complete	-	12
	Pistols Sig complete	-	12

Sig eqpt: Complete holdings

Accn Stores and cooking gear: Complete holdings

RAP eqpt: By mutual arrangement

Amm: Force holdings except as shown in para 6(b) above.

Sups: Force holdings except as shown in para 4 above.

(ii) AITAPE area

By 2/7 Aust Inf Bn to 2/5 Aust Inf Bn.

Equivalent stores to subpara (i) above.

(b) AAFs G1033 will be completed by units concerned for all stores and eqpt handed over. One additional copy of each AAF G1033 will be prepared and forwarded to HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde.

8. REAR DETAILS

(a) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

(i) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn will arrange for party of NOT more than 1 offr 20 OR to remain in present location and conduct rear details 2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Name of offr detailed will be submitted to HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde by 28 Jan 45.

(ii) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn will fully instruct OC Rear Details 2/7 Aust Inf Bn as to his responsibilities and duties particularly in regard to care and safeguarding of unit stores and eqpt.

(b) 2/5 Aust Inf Bn

Rear Details 2/5 Aust Inf Bn will be responsible for fostering 2/5 Aust Inf Bn on arrival AITAPE area.

9. RELIEF OF ATT PERSONNEL

Dets under comd 2/5 Aust Inf Bn will NOT be relieved until after the major relief by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn is completed. Detailed instrs will be issued later.

10. CONTROL OFFICER - TONG

Capt D W BLACKWELL HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde will be stationed at TONG as control offr for mov between BASE CAMP - SAMASAI (designation CONTROL TONG).

11. PERSONAL EQPT AND ARMS

Personnel will move from pt of departure carrying the following on the man:-

- (a) Marching order (details to be laid down by unit concerned)
- (b) Blanket
- (c) Tents shelter half
- (d) Tents mosquito
- (e) Personal arms
- (f) Amn and sups as set out above.

12. TPT

Tpt for mov of personnel between AITAPE and HARECH RIVER will be arranged by HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde.

13. UNIT STORES

- (a) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn will advise HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde by 28 Jan of particulars of unit stores required to be moved from AITAPE to AMUK - NANU Rivers area.
 - (i) by native carrier (Note: Only minimum essential non-droppable stores will be carried by native carriers)
 - (ii) by air drop.
- (b) 2/5 Aust Inf Bn will arrange for mov by native carrier from AMUK - NANU Rivers area of unit stores being returned to AITAPE area.

14. COMM

- (a) HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde - AMUK - NANU Rivers area by WT
- (b) HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde - KIRKS INN by phone
- (c) TONG - SAMASAI by phone
- (d) SAMASAI - Force HQ by phone
- (e) TONG - HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde: phone to Force HQ, WT Force HQ to AITAPE.
- (f) By native courier

ACK.

W P Bolger Capt
 (W P Bolger)
 SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	1-2
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	3-4
Recr 2/5 Aust Inf Bn	5
2/5 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt	6
6 Aust Div	7
AASC 6 Aust Div	8
2/2 Aust Fd Amb	9
Comd	10
BM	11
SC	12
Sig O	13
File	14
War Diary	15-17
Spares	18-21

PARTICULARS NIALU - TONG - SAMASAI L OF C

Serial	Place	Location	Accn Available	Permanent Staff	Additional Staff to be provided by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn	Rations Held
1	BASE CAMP	287268	MAP, kitchen, huts with beds accommodate 140 personnel, latrines, good water(river)	Med orderlies 2 Cook 1 Gen Duties 2	1 offr to act as OC Camp 3 Gen Duties	To be delivered as required under arrangements H. 17 Aust Inf Bde
2	NIALU	319208	MAP, kitchen, latrines, huts with beds accommodate 250 personnel, good water(river)	Med orderlies- 2 Cook 1 Gen Duties 2 AASC Det 2	1 offr to act as OC Camp 3 Gen Duties	1200
3	TONG	287135	MAP, kitchen, latrines, huts with beds for 250 personnel water limited (has to be carried)	Med orderlies 2 Cooks 1 Gen Duties 3 AASC Det 2 ANGAU 1	5 Gen Duties	2000
4	YAMBES	350089	Hutments suitable for adm purposes only, water limited (has to be carried), staging area only, tents shelter half required	Med orderlies 2 Cooks 1 Gen Duties 8 AASC Det 2 ANGAU 1	1 offr to act as OC Camp 3 Gen Duties	1200
5	SAMASAI	416067	do	Med orderlies 2 Cooks 1 Gen Duties 8 AASC Det 2	1 offr to act as OC Camp 3 Gen Duties	1500

NOTES: (i) Limited cooking gear only is available, improvised containers 4 gal food drums etc may have to be utilised.
(ii) Emergency stocks only of atabrin are held at each post.
(iii) All water must be chlorinated before use.
(iv) Offrs IC gps will ensure that camps are left in clean and tidy condition prior to departure.
(v) Native fruits will NOT be purchased individually but if available, should be purchased through ANGAU rep.

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
			W/D.

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)	Originator 17 aust inf bde <i>For Action</i>	Date—Time of Origin 250835I	Office Date Stamp
TO	2/5 aust inf bn <i>(w) For Information (INFO.)</i>		Message Instructions GR
	2/7 aust inf bn		

ORIGINATOR'S No.
 0 194 SECRET (.) WARNING ORDER (.) 2/7 bn will relieve you early
 feb (.) PARBURY and recce parties str 6 offrs 30 ORs arrive NOT
 before 3 feb (.) coy recce parties follow then first coy ETA
 SAMISAI NOT before 7 feb (.) arrange to move out all your spare pers
 incl say part of res coy and thin out elsewhere total NOT to exceed
 120 all ranks depart SAMISAI NOT before 29 jan (.) detailed instrs
 follow and dates confirmed later (.) indicate order you wish your
 coys relieved (.) desire ops to continue unchecked during change
 over (.) ack

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means { except } { } Wireless	If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER	Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:33%;">Time</td> <td style="width:33%;">System</td> <td style="width:33%;">Op</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THI or TOR</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time Cleared</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Time	System	Op	THI or TOR			Time Cleared		
Time	System	Op										
THI or TOR												
Time Cleared												
Signed	Signed											

RESTRICTED

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

17 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
ROUTINE ORDERS

by

BRIG M J MOTEN
COMD 17 AUST INF BDE

W/D (3)

Serial 41

25 Jan 45

'G'

146. USE OF TELEPHONE

1. Statistics show that the telephone is being used far too often for messages of a routine nature. This promiscuous use results in the caller often being informed that the line is engaged.
2. Originators of calls must endeavour to send written messages whenever possible since by this means a greater volume of traffic can be handled over existing lines.

K. C. Clarke Maj
(K C Clarke)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

'AQ'

147. AMERICAN CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

1. There have been instances of personnel of this formation wearing articles of clothing and equipment, which is on issue to American troops.
2. There is no authorisation for personnel of this formation to hold on issue any article of American clothing or equipment, with the exception of Gaiters, American Pattern, and Belts Web, American Pattern, and the practice of wearing and using the above will cease forthwith.
3. Units will ensure that no personnel are in possession of such articles and a thorough check will be made throughout units in order that this clothing and equipment be returned to ADOS Dump 6 Aust Div.
4. Disciplinary action will be taken against personnel in unauthorised possession of same.

148. SPEEDING

1. Recently there have been numerous cases of vehicles of this formation exceeding the speed limit of 20 mph, which is laid down in this area for all vehicles. Unit Comds will be responsible to ensure that all drivers are warned of the speed limit and the drivers must be informed that severe disciplinary action will be taken in any cases reported where vehicles are driven in excess of the speed laid down.
2. DAPM 6 Aust Div will be responsible for maintaining road patrols to check speeding offences. Charges against offenders will be forwarded direct to units concerned by DAPM and charge will be dealt with by the Unit Comd, who will adopt a strict and severe attitude towards such offences.

149. AMMUNITION

1. The undermentioned Primer Lot Numbers of Ctges of 25 pr primed No 1 MkII have been sentenced "NOT FOR ISSUE".

<u>Lot No</u>	<u>Filler and Date</u>
1656	ME 10/42
1657	"
1658	"
1659	"
1742	ME 1/43
1743	"
1744	"
1745	"
1746	"

2. Units holding stock of Ctges fitted with any of above primer lots will return same to 16 Aust AAD.

150. MEDICAL RECLASSIFICATION - ENTRIES IN AAB 83

The practice adopted in some units of entering in the AAB 83 information contained in column 10 of AAF D20 will be discontinued.

151. GROs

Attention is drawn to notice in GROs of 5 Jan 45.

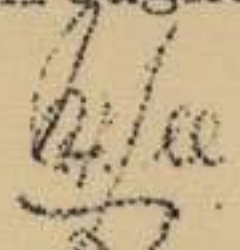
152. DRESS DISCIPLINE, SHIRTS AND TROUSERS

1. Attention is again drawn to 6 Aust Div Adm Instr 4 Part IV para IV(d) and 6 Aust Div A1474 of 18 Dec 44.

2. Instances are still occurring of personnel disregarding above instrs, which will be republished in Unit Orders and will be strictly enforced by all unit comds.

153. MALARIA

Commencing on Monday 29 Jan 45, two (2) atebirin tablets will be taken daily by all ranks throughout the entire Bde.


 Capt
 (W P Bolger)
 SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

NOTICES

CHURCH PARADES

RC

- 0745 hrs - Mass - tent 2/119 Aust Bde Wksps.
- 0900 hrs - Mass - HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde.

OD

- 0600 hrs - Holy Communion - 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Marquee
- 0745 hrs - Padre service - 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Marquee for HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde and 2/6 Aust Inf Bn.
- 0830 hrs - Holy Communion - 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Marquee for HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde
- 0915 hrs - Padre service - 2/7 Aust Inf Bn - for 2/5 and 2/7 Aust Inf Bns
- 0945 hrs - Holy Communion - 2/7 Aust Inf Bn - for 2/5 and 2/7 Aust Inf Bns.

17/35

SECRET

2/7 Aust Inf Bn

LOCATION REPORT 5

TO: 17 Aust
Inf Bde

Ref map: AITAPE AREA
1:25000

As at 2359 hrs 15 Jan 45

Serial NO.	Sub Unit	Area	Map ref	Remarks
41	Bn HQ	WAPIL	010486	Manning MLR - plus 12 pl B coy (att)
42	A coy less 1, 2 & 3 sec 7 pl	TADJI DROME	974476	
43	1 sec 7 pl	" "	971483	
44	2 " " "	" "	985474	At 5 post - drome area
45	3 " " "	" "	974475	At 6 post - drome area
46	B coy less 12 pl 4 & 5 secs 11 pl	WAPIL	010486	At 4 post - drome area
47	4 sec 11 pl	"	983498	Guarding tanks near coast.
48	5 " " "	"	978488	Guarding planes etc at strip - drome area
49	B coy 12 pl	TADJI DROME	974476	Att to A coy on MLR
50	C coy	WAPIL	010486	
51	D coy	"	010486	
52	HQ coy less pnr pl	"	010486	Pnr pl is now att 2/2 Aust Fd Coy

DO NOT TYPE ON THIS LINE

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

FROM: 17 aust inf bde

DATE - TIME OF Origin: :
292000I

FOR ACTION

2/6 aust cav (cdo) regt 2/5 2/6 2/7 bns 16 aust inf bde
6 aust div 71 wing RAAF

Originator's No.

0196 SECRET (.)ref 17 aust inf bde 00 2 delete para 2 (g) insert
excl to 17 aust inf bde junc ANUMB RIVER -HELIMAP CREEK V770183
GINI IMI V685167 - SUAP CREEK - ATOB RIVER ALIGAL CREEK V600184
pt V505180 thence WEST along grid 18 to AMYK RIVER V380180 to
incl NIALU V320207 ack all infm

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



Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority.

DEFERRED less
2/6 aust cav (cdo) regt.

THI or TOR

Time
Cleared

copies to:

COMD
BM
SC
SIG O
File 2
War Diary 2
Spares 4

SECRET

Copy No: *ref*

25 Jan 45

17 AUST INF BDE 00 No 2

Ref maps: AITAPE - WEWAK 1 in to 1 mile series, and
4 miles to 1 in series.

INFM

1. ENEMY

All available infm has been issued to units.

2. OWN TPS

- (a) JOCK FORCE (Comd - Capt A J MARSHALL 2/2 Aust Inf Bn) is patrolling in the YUBANAKUOR A4988 - NANU River area and is due to return to AITAPE early in Feb.
- (b) AIB patrols are op in the SINAHU area (which is bounded on the EAST by rd MARUI - MAPRIK) and the area MOI A5066 and SOUTH to SEPIK River.
- (c) ANGAU patrol is op along ATOB River - ARAMAP River - SCREW River V700070.
- (d) 16 Aust Inf Bde Gp is relieving 19 Aust Inf Bde in the coastal sector and is responsible for securing the line ILIAP - MALIN - ABAU, and offensive patrolling fwd to ANUMB River. They are establishing a standing patrol at WALUM V5719.
- (e) 19 Aust Inf Bde is relieving 17 Aust Inf Bde of its responsibility for def in the AITAPE area NOT later than seven days after 19 Aust Inf Bde concs in AITAPE.
- (f) 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt less one sqn comes under comd 17 Aust Inf Bde from 0800I 31 Jan 45.
- (g) Inter-bde bdy
Excl to 17 Aust Inf Bde junc ANUMB River HELIMAP Creek V770183 - SILITA Creek V643192 - ALAGIL Creek V600184 - pt V585180 thence WEST along grid 18 to AMUK River V380180 incl NIALU.

INTENTION

- 3. 17 Aust Inf Bde will clear enemy from area WEST of NORTH - SOUTH line through incl AMI V602038 - BITIKA V5908.

METHOD

4. GEN

The intention will be implemented by aggressive patrolling and harassing tactics against located enemy localities, concs and L of C. The maximum use will be made of air strikes and mortar fire for the sp of offensive patrols. Bases must be made secure and capable of solid def and before relinquishing a base to move fwd comds will in turn secure the fwd base. All bases should be suited for air maint and thus units be indep of a fixed L of C for sups.

- 5. 2/6 AUST CAV (CDO) REGT less one sqn

TASKS

- (a) Patrol EAST along the tracks bounded on the NORTH by the inter-bde bdy, on the EAST by the 70 vertical grid line and on the SOUTH by the 10 lateral grid line, and destroy all enemy in that area.

- (b) Est a suitable fwd base and move NOT less than one sqn to clear the enemy from the areas along and adjacent the gen line WOMSAK Villages V5209 - NILU V5609 - DAHABIGA V5806 thence the area MAMOLANUNGA V6005 - NUMBATA V6306 - MUSANGAI V6003 - CHAKANUM V5803.

6. 2/5 AUST INF BN with under comd:

Det 17 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec
Det 4 Aust Pigeon Sec
2/24 Aust Sup Dep Pl
Det 2/2 Aust Fd Amb
Det 2/4 Aust Malarial Control Unit
Det ANGAU

TASKS

- (a) To clear the enemy from the area along the gen line AUANG V4906, WARANGAM Villages V5003, NUMANGO Villages V6402 thence EAST to the line of the NINAB River.
- (b) To clear the enemy from the area along the gen line LUWAITE Villages - AMBUM Villages A4797 - ILAHOP A5698.
- (c) Patrol to the deep SOUTH as far as the 90 lateral grid line and clean up enemy pockets within striking distance of the force moving in para 6(b).

7. INTER-UNIT BDY

Incl to 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt LAKE IMBIA V7003 - WALAHUTA V5802 - thence WEST along the AMUK River to track and river junc at V480090.

8. LIAISON

- (a) Capt D M McCREA of HQ 6 Aust Div is att to 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt for liaison with 2/5 Aust Inf Bn.
- (b) Lt W J A WILLS of HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde is att 2/5 Aust Inf Bn for liaison with 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt.

9. 2/7 AUST INF BN

- (a) Will relieve 2/5 Aust Inf Bn during Feb and will continue with the tasks in para 6.
- (b) Separate instrs will be issued regarding the relief.

10. AIR

Air sp and tac R will be requested through HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde.

ADM

11. Will be issued separately.

INTERCOMN

12. 17 Aust Inf Bde HQ remains present location.

13. WIRELESS

- (a) One 22 set will be provided by HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde for 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt for use as a rear link to this HQ. Unit will be included in the gp HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde (Control) - 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt - 2/5 Aust Inf Bn.
- (b) Freq and Code Signs
Will be allotted by 17 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec.

15. CODE WORDS - GROUND TO AIR

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt	KUNAI
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	PIPER
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	SAC SAC

ACK

Signed at: *0930 I*

Issued by: *SIGS*

K Clarke Maj
(K C Clarke)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt	1
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	2
2/6 Aust Inf Bn	3
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	4
16 Aust Inf Bde	5
6 Aust Div	6
71 Wing RAAF	7
Comd	8
BM	9
SC	10
Sig O	11
File	12-13
War Diary	14-16 ✓

Subject: RT CODE No 2

SECRET

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

24 Jan 45

G775

2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
Copy to: 16 Aust Inf Bde
19 Aust Inf Bde
2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt
Sigs 6 Aust Div (2)
17 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (2)
File (3)
War Diary (3)

1. Ref this HQ G769 of 23 Jan 45.

2. Serial 3 - Second reserve

Delete - FEMALENUDITY/C

Insert - TIGERHOLDMAN/M

3. Please ack.

 Maj
(K C Clarke)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

SECRET

Subject: PLACE NAME CODE AND FIGURE CODE
RT - GROUND TO GROUND

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

22 Jan 45

G761

2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
Copies to: 6 Aust Div
2/6 Aust Inf Bn
17 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec
Comd
BM
SC
File (2)
War Diary (3)

1. Attached place name code and figure code are issued for use in RT conversations.
2. Use of codes will commence immediately.
3. Ack.

K C Clarke Maj
(K C Clarke)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

SECRET

FIGURE CODE
RT - GROUND TO GROUND

E	M	P	T	Y	B	R	A	I	N
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

PLACE CODE NAMES

Place	Code Name	Place	Code Name
AKULI	MINAH	BULAMITA	SLYLARK
ALBOMIM	HAWK	BALIF	TURKEY
ABUBIL	VULTURE	BAUPUTA	PENGUIN
AFIALUPA	EMU	BALAGA	KOOKABURRA
AMI	NIGHTINGALE	BALANGABADABIL	CROW
AUPIK	FLAMINGO	CHAKANUM	GOOSE
AMUK	SWALLOW	CHAULAK	BLACKBIRD
ALUMI	CANARY	CHERAGUM	EAGLE
AMOGU (SCREW)	KINGFISHER	CHISINAMBU	TEAL
AROA	SPARROW	DAHABIGA	STORN
AMAM	PARROT	GANITER	WREN
AGUIBIL	CUCKOO	HIMALI	CRANE
ANGUMUTA	CORMORANT	HAMBINI	GANNET
ASENIBIL	GALAH	ILAHOP	PLEWIT
ATUBUNGITA	TERN	ILMAHERA	PLACOCK
AKAUWAMBIL	PHELICAN	IDAKIABUL	ROOSTER
AULIP	DUCK	INAKOR	MOPOKE
ANBIWOMA	QUAIL	KUAINICIMA	COCKATOO
AMUL	OWL	KUALIGEM	ORPINGTON
ASANAKOR	SNIPE	KUMINIBUS	KIWI
ARAPU	PHEASANT	KUBAB	VAMPIRE
AMBUM	FINCH	KUIMBE	SWIFT
AKOUMBES	ROSELLA	LAUTA	DOVE
ARONGA	MAGPIE	LASIMBE	WATERHEN
BUNAHOI	ROBIN	LUMUA	LEGHORN
BABIANG	SWAN	MISANGAI	OSTRICH
BUTIKA	LYREBIRD	MAPRIK	BIRD OF PARADISE
BUNAHABIL	HERON	MIPEL	FALCON
BARAHITIMA	THRUSH	MILAK	MINORCA
BEMBITOK	TOMTIT	MANITER	MUDLARK
BOMBISIMA	FANTAIL	MUE	PLOVER
MAMOLANUNGA	RAVEN	TERAWON	PARRAKEET
MALIN	BANTAM	TILAHAU	BELLBIRD
MANINIMBIL	ROOK	TONG	CYGNET
MALAHUM	STARLING	TAKAOMIMBIL	SANDPIPER
M'BRAS	BULFINCH	TATIMBA	LOVEBIRD
NANU	WOODPECKER	TIMINGER	EGRET
NUMALIE	PLUMMET	URUNO	DABCHICK
NINAB	MOCKINGBIRD	UTAM	WHIPBIRD
NELIGUM	WAGTAIL	WANITENIP	BALDYCOOT
NEHU	JACKASS	WALAHUTA	LINNET
NEGUBIL	GOLDFINCH	WAMILIB	WINE DOT
NAMBALUPA	LEATHERHEAD	WURIER	FIERYTAIL
NUMANGO	WAXBILL	WALUM	GOSLING
PEREMPIL	BLUEBONNET	WOMSAK	ALBATROSS
RLAMALICI	BUTHERBIRD	WANDANGE	PARTRIDGE
SUHIME	HONEYEATER	WARANGAM	AUSTRALOP
SAUNAMBE	CASSOWARY	WOMBANOR	BUDGERIGAR
SAHIK	SHAG	WAHUN	GULL
SAMISAI	CURLEW	WENI	BAT
SELEMA	IBIS	YAMBES	BROLGA
SUPARI	MICAW	YASUM	TEAK
SERAMUTA	HORNBILL	YUBANAKUOR	PETREL
SAROM	BLUBIRD	YAKAMUL	DODO
SALATA	JAY		

SECRET

PLACE CODE NAMES

Code Name	Place	Code Name	Place
ALBATROSS	WOMSAK	LINNET	WALAHUTA
AUSTRALOP	WARANGAM	MINAH	AMULI
BANTAM	MALIN	MAGPIE	ARONGA
BULLFINCH	M'BRAS	MOCKINGBIRD	NINAB
BLUEBONNET	PEREMBIL	MACAW	SUPARI
BUTCHERBIRD	RLMALIOI	MOPONE	INAKOR
BLUEBIRD	SAROM	MINORCA	MILAK
BLACKBIRD	CHAULAK	MUDLARK	MANITER
BIRD OF PARADISE	MAPRIK	NIGHTINGALE	AMI
BELLBIRD	TILAHAU	OWL	AMUL
BALDICOOT	WANITENIP	ORPINGTON	KUALIGEN
BUDGERIGAR	WOMBANOR	OSTRICH	MISANGAI
BAT	WENI	PARROT	AMAM
BROLGA	YAMBES	PELICAN	AKAUWAMBIL
CANARY	ALUMI	PHEASANT	ARAFU
COCKOO	AGUIBIL	PENGUIN	BAUPUTA
CORMORANT	ANGUMUTA	PEEWIT	ILAHOP
CASSOWARY	SAUNAMBE	PEACOCK	IILMAHERA
CURLEW	SAMISAI	PLOVER	MUE
CROW	BALANGABADABIL	PLUMMET	NUMALIB
CRANE	HIMALI	PARRAKEET	TERAWON
COCKATOO	KUAINICIMA	PARTRIDGE	WANDANGE
CYGNET	TONG	PETREL	YUBANAKUOR
DUCK	AULIP	QUAIL	ANBIWOMA
DOVE	LAUTA	ROSELLA	AKOUMBES
DABCHICK	URUNO	ROBIN	BUNAOI
DODO	YAKAMUL	ROOSTER	IDAKIABUL
EMU	ATIALUPA	RAVEN	MAMOLANUNGA
EAGLE	CHERAGUM	ROOK	MANINIMBIL
EGRET	TIMINGER	SWALLOW	AMUK
FLAMINGO	AUPIK	SPARROW	AROA
FINCH	AMBUM	SNIPE	ASANAKOR
FANTAIL	BOMBISIMA	SWAN	BABIANG
FALCON	MIPEL	SKYLARK	BULAMITA
FIERYTAIL	WURIER	STORK	DAHABIGA
GALAH	ASINIBIL	SWIFT	KUIMBE
GOLDFINCH	NAGUBIL	STARLING	MALAHUM
GOOSE	CHAKANUM	SHAG	SAHIK
GANNET	HAMBINI	SANDBIFER	TAKAOMIMBIL
GOSLING	WALUM	TERN	ALUBUNGITA
GULL	WARUN	THRUSH	BARAHITIMA
HAWK	ALBOMIM	TOMTIT	BEMBITOK
HERON	BUNAHABIL	TURKEY	BALIF
HONEYEATER	SUIHIME	TEAL	CHISINAMBU
HORNBILL	SERAMUTA	TEAK	YASUM
IBIS	SELEMA	VULTURE	ABUBIL
JACKASS	NILU	VAMPIRE	KUBAB
JAY	SALATA	WREN	GANITER
KINGFISHER	AMOGU (SCREW)	WATERHEN	LASIMBE
KOOKABURRA	BALAGA	WOODPECKER	NANU
KIWI	KUMINIBUS	WAGTAIL	NELIGUM
LYREBIRD	BITIKA	WAXBILL	NUMANGO
LEATHERHEAD	NAMBALUPA	WHIPBIRD	UTAM
LEGHORN	LUMUA	WINEDOT	WAMILIB
LOVEBIRD	TATIMBA		

Subject: RT CODE No 2

SECRET

Hq 17 Aust Inf Bde
23 Jan 45
G769

2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn

Copies to: 16 Aust Inf Bde
19 Aust Inf Bde
2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt
Sigs 6 Aust Div (2)
17 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (2)
File (3)
War Diary (3) ✓

Reference this Hq G733 of 15 Jan 45.

3. The undermentioned RT codewords/ key letters effective as from 010001 Feb 45, will replace those contained in the above letter:

Serial 1 - for current use -	AUSTINFCKER/L
Serial 2 - first reserve -	PARTLYNUMBED/B
Serial 3 - second reserve -	FEMALENUDITY/C

3. It is requested that obsolete codewords be destroyed by fire.
4. Please ack.

K C Clarke
(K C CLARKE) Maj
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

SECRET

2/5 AUST INF BN

Location Report No: as at 152359I

(time & date)

Ref Map: NANU EAST

Ser No.	Sub Unit	Area	Map Ref	Remarks
1.	Bn HQ	PEREMBIL	393078	
2.	4 pl	"	"	
3.	3 dts 3 pl	"	"	
4.	A coy	SIHIM	430049	
5.	1 det 3 pl	"	"	
6.	1 det 3 pl	MUSINAU	378065	
7.	1 sec 2 pl	"	"	
8.	B coy Coy HQ	MAHARTINGA	435105	
9.	11 pl	"	"	
10.	12 pl	"	"	
11.	10 pl	SEMINA	423101	
12.	1 det 3 pl	"	"	
13.	C coy coy less			
	13 pl	ASILING	405076	
14.	13 pl	TUMAMBA	423090	
	D coy			
15.	coy less 18 & 17 pl	SAMASAI	416066	
16.	2 det 3 pl	"	"	
17.	1 sec 2 pl	"	"	
18.	17 pl	ALBANUM	427063	
	18 pl	NUNKUANIME		
	1 det 3 pl	"		

Signed D H PITTS Lt
102/5 Aust Inf Bn

SECRET

Copy No: **16**

20 Jan 45

17 AUST INF BDE OO No 1

Ref map: ATTAFB LAST 1 in to 1 mile
Arty Svy 1;25,000

GEN

1. This order will be read in conjunction with 17 Aust Inf Bde Op Instr No 3 (NOT to all addressees).

INFM

2. ENEMY

All available infm has been issued to units.

3. OWN TPS

- (a) 6 Aust Div are responsible for the coord and comd of the defs in the ATTAFB - TADJI area (see Appx A).
 - (i) All tps allotted for def in area "A" or whose camp site is within that sector have been placed under comd 17 Aust Inf Bde.
 - (ii) Comd of area "B" is being exercised by 3 Aust Base Sub Area.
- (b) 17 Aust Inf Bde have been allotted the following additional tps:
 - (i) Under comd
two coys 2/3 Aust MG Bn
 - (ii) Under op comd (after receipt of code word "TOKIO")
2/1 Aust Fd Coy RAE - 120 tps organised as inf coy
one bty 2/1 Aust Tka - 100 tps organised as inf coy
Regt
4 Int Tps Wksps(AIF) - 120 tps organised as inf coy
19 AOD - 30 tps organised as inf pl
 - (iii) In sp
2/1 Aust Fd Regt
- (c) Strong pts
The following pts are to be manned and def immediately a warning order is received, the personnel on duty at installations will assist in def when not required for op duties in their own appointments:

19 AOD	- Z921522	- manned by remaining AOD personnel
Army fuel dump	- Z931508	- manned by 52 BIPOD
Army amm dump	- area Z955495	- manned by 16 AOD
Control tower		
TADJI strip	- Z982481	- manned by RAAF
RAAF amm dump	- Z999482	- manned by RAAF
DF sta RAAF	- V015475	- manned by RAAF
- (d) Description of area
The area "A" to be def incls what is known as the MAIN LINE OF RESISTANCE. See Appx A.

INTENTION

4. 17 Aust Inf Bde will defend the MAIN LINE OF RESISTANCE.

METHOD

5. The MLR has been divided into three sectors, see Appx A.

(a) WESTERN Sector

2/6 Aust Inf Bn with under op comd:

Unit	No of Tps	Organised as	Task Vide Appx A
19 AOD	30	inf pl	Locality 5
4 Inf Tps Wksps (AIF)	120	inf coy	" 4
One bty 2/1 Aust TKA Regt	70	two inf pls	" 3

In sp:

two pls 2/3 Aust MG Bn

(b) CENTRE Sector

2/7 Aust Inf Bn with under op comd:

Unit	No of Tps	Organised as	Task Vide Appx A
One bty 2/1 Aust TKA Regt	30	inf pl	Locality 2
2/1 Aust Fd Coy RAE	120	inf coy	" 1

In sp:

one coy 2/3 Aust MG Bn

(c) EASTERN Sector

2/5 Aust Inf Bn with in sp:

one pl 2/3 Aust MG Bn

(d) Rear bdys of bns are shown on Appx A.

(e) Manning of defgs

Maint parties and sentries will be posted only by inf bns unless warning of an impending attack is issued.

6. FD ARTY

(a) DF tasks - are shown on trace P att and are numbered 1 - 22.

(b) SOS

DF - task no 6
DF - task no 7

(c) Rate of fire

DF - 5 mins - rate 3 rpg
SOS - 3 mins - rate 4 rpg
2 mins - rate 3 rpg

(d) Main OPs at - Z955496
Z985473
V011474

- (e) On receipt of warning order "TOKIO", one FOO will report to each inf bn.

7. MMG

- (a) one pl in sp 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
(b) Two pls in sp 2/6 Aust Inf Bn
(c) One coy in sp 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

OC MMG Coys will be responsible for coord the MMG fire plan in the MLR with particular ref to bdys between units.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF POSN

- (a) Inf bns will arrange with units placed under comd to recce their allotted posts and prepare plans for their occupation.
(b) These posts will be marked with pegs, spit locked, and the designation of units to occupy.

9. ALARM

Warning of attack will be given direct to 6 Aust Div or this HQ whichever route is shorter. This warning will be preceded by phrase "ENEMY ACTION".

10. WARNING ORDER

On receipt of "ENEMY ACTION" this HQ will issue to units under comd by fastest means possible code word "TOKIO". All units will immediately man action stas and duties as outlined in this Order.

ADM

11. Will be issued separately.

INTERCOMN

12. Bde HQ is at V006490, see Appx A.
13. 17 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec will lay line supplemented by wireless to:

2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
2/1 Aust Fd Regt

14. SOS

DF - task no 6 - RED GREEN RED
DF - task no 7 - GREEN WHITE GREEN

15. CODE WORDS

- (a) On receipt of code word "TOKIO", wireless sets will open immediately on listening watch.

- (b) Ops will clear all lines on receiving a phone call giving warning of attack which will be preceded by "ENEMY ACTION".
- (c) As fmns and units move outside of the MLR for op, it will be necessary from time to time to originate sigs designating the allotment of sector and res comd's responsibility. These sigs will be preceded by the code word "COMPASS".

ACK

Signed at: 1420 I

Issued by: 1/35

K C Clarke Maj

(K C Clarke)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

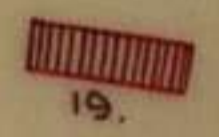
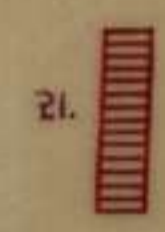
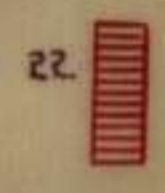
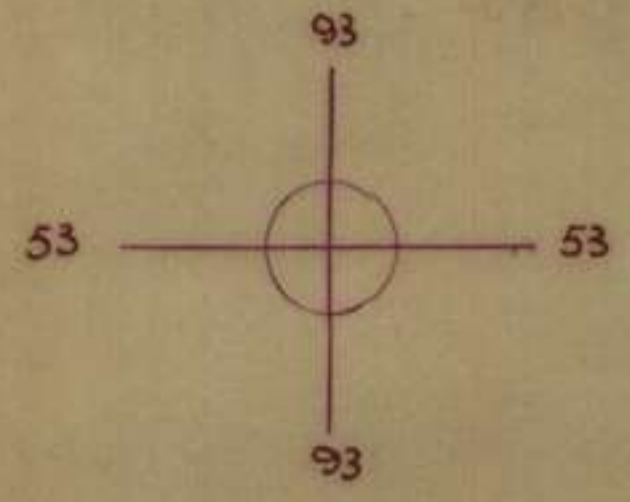
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2/6 Aust Inf Bn	2	1	1
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	3	1	1
2/1 Aust Fd Regt	4	1	1
2/3 Aust MG Bn	5	1	1
19 Aust Inf Bde	6	1	1
3 Aust Base Sub Area	7	1	-
6 Aust Div	8	1	1
Comd	9	1	1
BM	10	1	1
SC	11	1	-
Sig O	12	1	-
File	13-14	2	1
War Diary	15-16	2	1

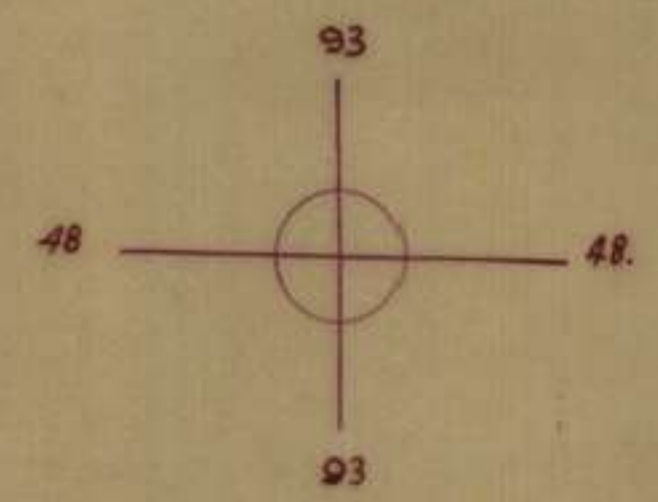
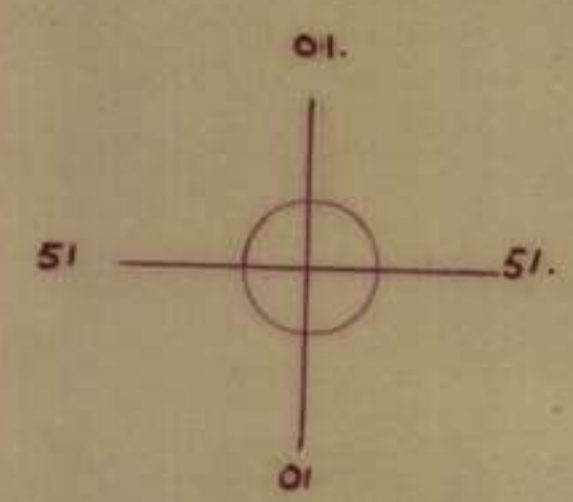
TRACE. 'P' 17. AUST. INF. BDE. O.O. I.

ARTY. PLAN.

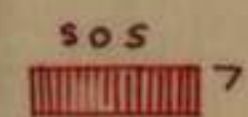
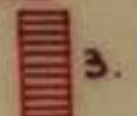
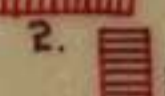
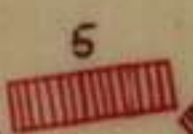
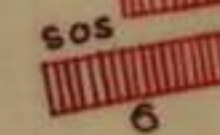
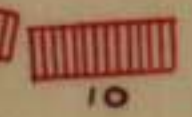
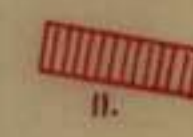
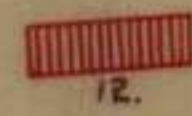
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1:25,000.



A.T.P. B.T.P.



F.T.P. E.T.P. C.T.P. D.T.P.



17 AUST. INF BDE INT. SEC.

W/D.

PACIFIC OCEAN

AITAPE ROAD

APPX. A. 17. AUST. INF. BDE. O.O.I.

AREA B.

AREA A.

WESTERN SECTOR

CENTER SECTOR

EASTERN SECTOR

BABELSBURG STRAIT

DEFENDED LOCALITIES

ARTILLERY PLAN AITAPE AREA

E. W. ROBINSON Major
Scale 1:25000
Surveyed & drawn by
26 Aust. Survey Bty. RAA

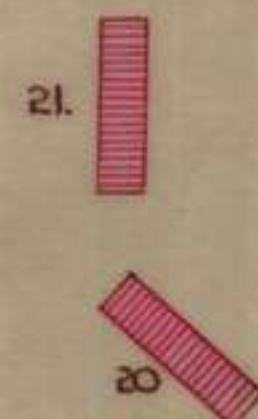
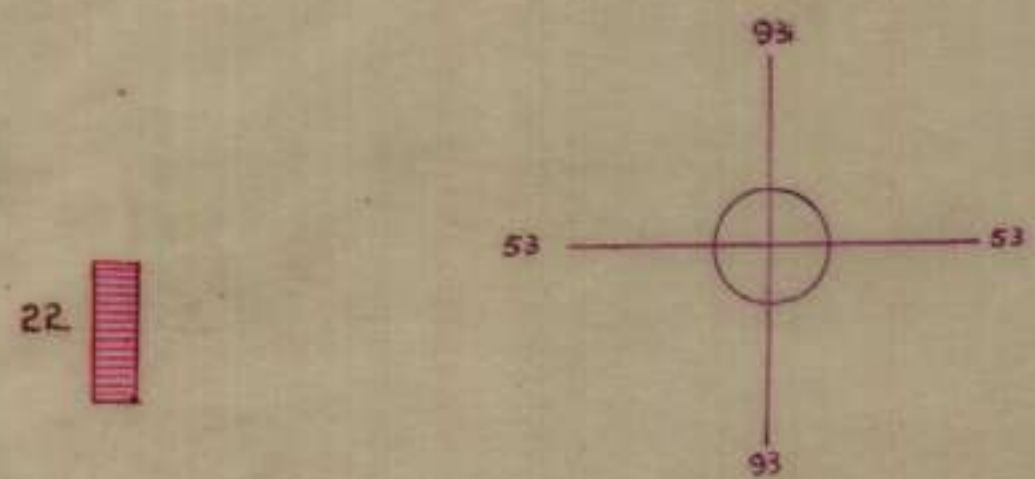
Legend
Surveyed points Nos 1184-0
Perimeter defence
Refer to this map as
26 Svy No 1A

PLAN N° 26 SVY 1A

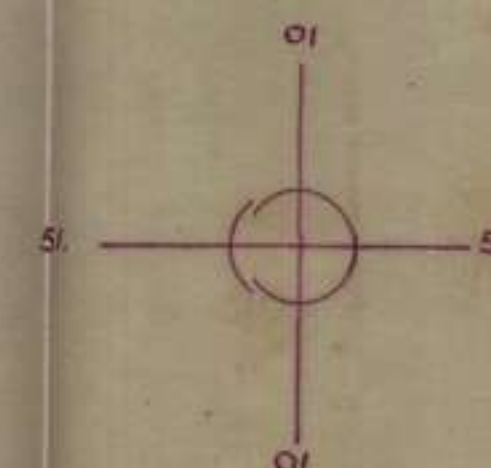
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ARTY. PLAN.

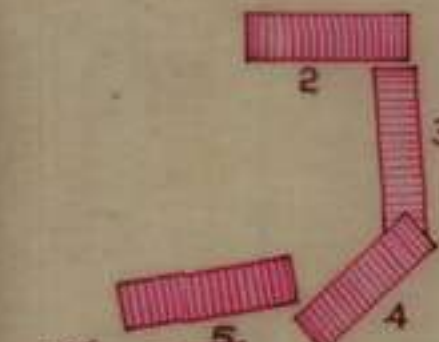
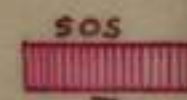
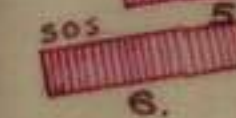
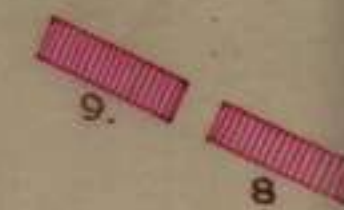
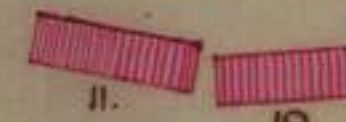
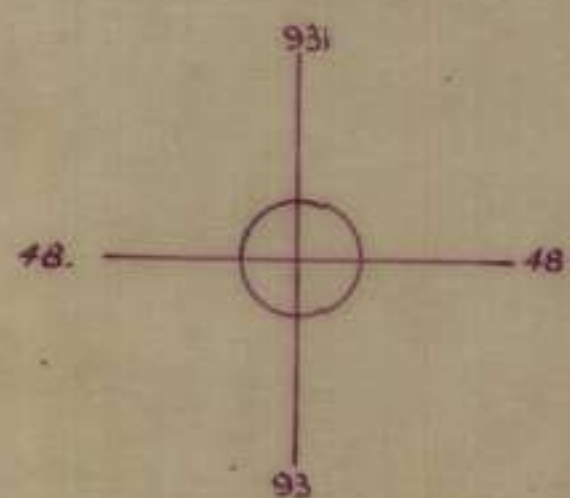
REF MAP. - ARTY PLAN. I.A.
1:25,000.



A TP B TP



F TP E TP C TP D TP



17. AUST. INF. BDE. INT. SEC.

SECRET

2/5 AUST INF BN

Location Report No: as at 152359I

(time & date)

Ref Map: NANU EAST

Ser No.	Sub Unit	Area	Map Ref	Remarks
1.	Bn HQ	PEREMBIL	393078	
2.	4 pl	"	"	
3.	3 dts 3 pl	"	"	
4.	<u>A coy</u>	SIHIM	430049	
5.	1 det 3 pl	"	"	
6.	1 det 3 pl	MUSINAU	378065	
7.	1 sec 2 pl	"	"	
8.	<u>B coy</u> Coy HQ	MAHARINGA	435105	
9.	11 pl	"	"	
10.	12 pl	"	"	
11.	10 pl	SEMINA	423101	
12.	1 det 3 pl	"	"	
13.	<u>C coy</u> coy less			
	13 pl	ASILING	405076	
14.	13 pl	TUMAMBA	423090	
	<u>D coy</u>			
15.	coy less 18 & 17 pl	SAMASAI	416066	
16.	2 det 3 pl	"	"	
17.	1 sec 2 pl	"	"	
18.	17 pl	ALBANUM	427063	
	18 pl	NUNKUANIME		
	1 det 3 pl	"		

Signed D H PITTS Lt
102/5 Aust Inf Bn

TRANSLATION

DOCUMENT CAPTURED WEMBE - 14 Jan 45.

NAKAMURA OP ORDER NO 85
EAST SECTOR UNIT ORDER
5 Jan 45, 0600 hrs
TUMAMBA.

1. Natives in the SUMAL vicinity have been increasingly active since the end of Dec.
2. The force will reinforce the SUMAL Garrison Unit.
3. Capt YOSHIDA and subordinate personnel will leave for SUMAL and consolidate with the remaining unit. Then he will carry out the duties of the said unit.
4. The remaining unit will come under the command of Capt YOSHIDA when he arrives.

EAST SECTOR CO

Lt Col NAKAMURA.

Note ÷ OC No 1 Coy 1 Bn 238 Regt. JVAH3.

* We couldn't find any NAKAMURA in the personality files.

Subject: RT CODE No 2

SECRET

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

2/ Jan 45

G760

2/5 AUST INF BN
2/6 AUST INF BN
2/7 AUST INF BN

Copies to: 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt
16 Aust Inf Bde
19 Aust Inf Bde
2/2 Aust Fd Amb
Sigs 6 Aust Div (2)
File (3)
War Diary (3)

1. HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde G733 of 15 Jan 45 will be amended as shown hereunder:-

Para 1

Delete: "Serial 1 - for current use - MACHINEWOULD/G"

and Insert:

"Serial 1 - for current use - MACHINEWOULD/E"

2. Ack.

K Clarke Maj
(K C CLARKE)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

N O T I C E S

CHURCH

PARADES

Church Services SUNDAY 21 JAN 45.

PROTESTANT*

0600 hrs

HOLY COMMUNION

2/6 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Marquee

0745 hrs

Parade Service (2/6 Aust Inf Bn
 (HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

2/6 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Marquee

0830 hrs

Parade Service (2/5 Aust Inf Bn
 (2/7 Aust Inf Bn

2/7 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Marquee

0915 hrs

HOLY COMMUNION

2/7 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Marquee

R C

0900 hrs

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde Recreation Hut.

SERVICES TO PERSONNEL ON MLR TO BE ARRANGED

RESTRICTED

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

17 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

BRIG M J MOTEN CBE DSO ED

COMD 17 AUST INF BDE

Serial 40

18 JAN 45

"G"

NIL

K C Clarke
 Capt Maj
 (K C CLARKE)
 BM 17 Aust Inf Bde
 A.O.D.

"AQ"

141. RELIGION AND SPIRITUAL WELFARE IN THE ARMY.

(Extract from GRO A489/44).

General Principles.-

1. (a) The attention of all ranks is directed to the importance of religion in the Army and the right of every soldier to the free practice of his religion.
- (b) Freedom of worship is a right guaranteed by the Constitution of the Commonwealth. This right is in no way limited by the fact that a member becomes subject to military law, but, on the contrary, is specifically preserved by the provisions of the AMR & O.
2. There is in the forces a large percentage of young men whose lives would normally be in the process of being moulded under the influence of their homes and religious institutions. With the temporary loss of these aids and the continual challenge to preconceived ideas which is being made by the new factors associated with army life, it is doubly important that suitable opportunities should be provided for the practice of religion.
3. The personal qualities which demand a high standard of conduct at all times and which inspire courage and self-sacrifice in a crisis are by nature spiritual, not physical, and these are essential to our nation during the war and in the difficult years which must follow. Hence, attendance at religious services should not be regarded as something interfering with training for war, but as a desirable adjunct thereto.

Church Parades.-

4. Unless, in the opinion of the CO, conditions preclude it, each unit will hold a general parade every Sunday. At this parade, all ranks will be given the opportunity of exercising their free will in the matter of their attendance or non-attendance at a religious service. Those wishing to attend will be marched off to the area in which their service is to be conducted; the remainder of the parade will be left at the disposal of the CO.

5. Freedom of conscience will be safeguarded at all times and no soldier will be compelled, under any circumstances, to attend a religious service which violates his religious convictions. Conscientious objectors will not be compelled to attend any service at all. The Commander-in-Chief directs that this freedom will be untrammelled and that the execution of this order will have the personal attention of all commanders.
6. It is possible for only the major religious denominations to be represented by chaplains in the forces, and it will often be impossible for a member to attend a service conducted by a chaplain of the denomination of the church to which he belongs.
7. It is the policy of the Army to permit personnel to attend services of their own denomination if such are available, but, if they are not, combined parades may be arranged in conformity with the policies of the various religious bodies, which are as follows :-
 - (a) The Roman Catholics and Hebrews do not participate with other bodies;
 - (b) Other Christian denominations are prepared to participate in combined parades conducted by chaplains other than Roman Catholic or Hebrew, if attendance at a service conducted by a chaplain of their own denomination cannot be arranged. Where a combined parade is arranged, the service authorized for combined parades in AAB A33 will be used.
8. Where appropriate chaplains are not available, the services of civilian clergymen may be used to conduct church parades or, if practicable, COs may arrange for members to be paraded to suitable churches in the vicinity. Normally, arrangements for the services of a civil clergyman will be made through the senior chaplain of that denomination in the formation.

142. DISCIPLINE - PERSONNEL IN MT.

Despite previous instructions and continual policing by provost personnel, vehicles are still seen in this area carrying personnel standing in the back of the vehicle and riding on the canopy, cabin, roof, sides and tail boards of the vehicle.

This practice is dangerous and is contrary to First Aust Army Administrative Standing Orders Chapter 21 para 20 (a) (iv) (v) and must cease forthwith.

Units will arrange that in any future movement of personnel by MT, an NCO is detailed to travel in the back of the vehicle. This NCO will be responsible that personnel remain seated wholly within the confines of the vehicle throughout the journey.

DAPM 6 Aust Div will ensure that all provost personnel police this order.

Disciplinary action will be taken against all offenders.

(To be republished in unit Routine Orders)

143. REHABILITATION - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.
VACANCY FOR COMPANY SECRETARY.

The following letter has been received by the Directorate of Rehabilitation from one of the largest textile companies in Australia, and one which employs over 1,000 persons :-

"My company is seeking an experienced individual for appointment as Secretary to the Company - a returned man if possible.

The position is a senior one in the £1,000 per annum and upward category. It requires a man with recognized accountancy qualifications, who has held a senior post before entering the Army. Age would need to be over 30 and under 42.

There are splendid prospects for the right person, but we must have a man of real ability, a good disciplinarian and yet a likeable personality."

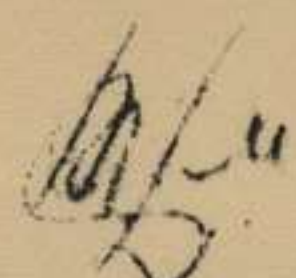
Nominations for the appointment will be submitted to HQ 6 Aust Div not later than 1 Feb 45. They should be accompanied by all relevant particulars of the nominee, including age, educational qualifications and business experience.

144. SWIMMING - DOCKS AREA

Swimming in Docks Area is forbidden to all ranks.
(To be republished in Unit Orders)

145. BEER ISSUES.

Beer issues will be available at the Canteen from 11 Jan 45 at the rate of two bottles per man. Units will draw at normal time and days. After this issue, future scale will be one bottle per man weekly, details later.


Capt
(W P BOLGER)
SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

NOTICES

CHURCH PARADES

Church Services for both Roman Catholic and Protestant members of Bde HQ will be held at 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Lines at 0745 hours each Sunday.
Personnel for Church Parade will be marched down from Bde HQ at 0730 hours.

LOST: Spectacle Case - Lost in Bde Area
Finder please return to
NX105314 Cpl MARSDEN J H YMCA.

Subject: RT CODE No 2

SECRET

WAR
DIARY

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

15 Jan 45

G733

2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn

Copies to: 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt
16 Aust Inf Bde
19 Aust Inf Bde
2/2 Aust Fd Regt
Sigs 6 Aust Div (2)
File (3)
War Diary (3)

1. The following RT codewords/key letters will be used within 17 Aust Inf Bde as from 010001I Feb 45:

Serial 1 - for current use - MACHINEWOULD/G
Serial 2 - first reserve - JUBILANTPORK/P
Serial 3 - second reserve - AUSTINFCKER/L
2. Serial 1 will be used until further notice and any changes will be notified by ref to the above serial numbers.
3. Any actual or suspected compromise will be reported immediately to this HQ.
4. All previous allotments are cancelled and will be destroyed by fire.
5. Please ack.

Clarke Maj
(K C Clarke)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

Subject: INT REPORT

Hq 17 Aust Inf Bde

15 Jan 45

0736

6 AUST DIV

Copy:

2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
File (2)
War Diary (3)
(Spares 2)

Att for infm is copy of Int Report rendered by 2/5 Aust Inf Bn covering period 2-8 Jan 45.

2. Topographical infm has been forwarded separately.

M J Moten
for Brig
(M J MOTEN)
Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde

WEEKLY INT REPORT - 2/5 AUST INF BN

Compiled by Lt D H PITTS, IO

2 Jan - 8 Jan 45

Ref Map:

SUAIN EAST NANU EAST
SUAIN WEST NANU WEST

1. OPS - OWN

During the week under review contact with the enemy has occurred more frequently and the enemy has been forced to withdraw from posns which were the logical posns for him to hold in order to prevent our Eastward mov.

Both B Coy and C Coy have moved fwd and occupied comd features - B Coy at SAHIK, C Coy at PEREMBIL.

In the case of C Coy this mov was carried out immediately following an air strike.

During previous strikes on this feature the enemy had been observed to vacate the village and disperse on the Eastern slopes.

On 3 Jan a recce patrol str 1 NCO 8 OR from C Coy moved onto feature immediately following air strike and 3 in mortar conc. The patrol reported feature unoccupied and two pls of C Coy were ordered by this HQ to occupy PEREMBIL.

This action occurred in time to prevent the enemy from re-occupying the village area. Several Jap counter attacks and periodic sallies were made during the afternoon and night 3/4 Jan but were repulsed.

These attacks were NOT determined attacks and in view of the fact that the enemy used only one LMG, rifles and grenades, PEREMBIL was NOT in danger of recapture once our tps were dug in.

Enemy cas 19 killed from an attacking force estimated at 40. Own cas one wounded.

The enemy withdrew and occupied a def posn at LOWER PEREMBIL and LOWER PEREMBIL ridge some 500 yds EAST of PEREMBIL proper.

Fighting and recce patrols have been very active gradually extending patrolling further EAST and SE.

Recce patrol from NEW SAHIK on 7 Jan moved to SUMUL. Village was reported clear but 12 Japs with 2 natives were observed moving to the EAST towards WALENDE. Party was only carrying 3 rifles.

On 8 Jan a fighting patrol of 1 offr 15 OR moved to WALENDE with a native guide. Patrol was able to approach village unseen and observed 29 Japs enter village from gardens. An ambush was set covering the village and conc fire opened at short range. This ambush was particularly successful resulting in 20 Japs killed for certain and two probables. Own cas native sentry slightly wounded.

On the same day a fighting patrol str 1 offr 12 OR from C Coy moved from LOWER PEREMBIL to the ASILING villages contacting approx 40 enemy with 1 LMG, rifles and grenades in the lower village. This action resulted in 3 Japs killed for certain and two probables. Own cas nil.

The patrol set fire to 3 huts and withdrew when engaged by the enemy.

Enemy were taken by surprise and answering fire was of desultory and disorganised nature.

Several weapon pits were observed, later found to be 18.

ASILING has been harassed by 3 in mortar and MG fire from PEREMBIL during period under review.

2. ENEMY OPS

In this area the enemy certainly occupied the dominating features which commanded the three main approaches to the EAST (see Topography) and it would appear that this was part of a definite def plan to prevent our Eastward adv and NOT merely foraging parties.

However the enemy has displayed no aggressive tactics and has NOT as yet fought with determination for any of these comd features.

3. AIR OPS - OWN

Strikes were made daily on PEREMBIL prior to the occupation of the feature by own tps.

ASILING has since been the main target. One strike was made on PELNANDU which resulted in the enemy evacuating the village.

Generally strikes have been accurate.

ENEMY - Nil

4. ENEMY TACTICS

Little change has been reported and the enemy still appear to have a series of bases from which foraging parties operate.

When our tps have made contact with the enemy in villoges he has quickly evacuated and withdrawn further EAST and SE.

5. TOPOGRAPHY

There are three main ridges running from the SE to NW and approx parallel. These high features provide the natural lines of approach to the EAST and are so formed that supporting fire from 3 in mortars and MMG can be obtained from the centre ridge to either or both flanking ridges.

SAHIK comds the Northern ridge, PEREMBIL the centre and MUSINAU the Southern ridge.

TRACKS

Many corrections have been made to tracks shown on existing maps and additional tracks plotted.

6. GENERAL

Contrary to native reports all Japs killed by own tps have been well built and in good physical condition.

DIARY LT R. G. WALCH

15 DEC 44 - 7 JAN 45

Friday 15 Dec 44

Left AITAPE 1400 with party - Brig, Maj LOGAN, Lt WALCH, 3 batmen, 1 NCO and 4 Gd Fl, Pte BARNES and 4 cooks 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Night at 2/11 Aust Inf Bn HQ arrived there 1630. Made contact ANGAU at YAKAMUL and left party stores in boy loads to facilitate move in morning. Capt BIRRS 2/11 Aust Inf Bn Adj. Lt.

Saturday 16 Dec 44

Left 2/11 Aust Inf Bn 0600 hrs arrived YAKAMUL MISSION 0630 hrs and found Brig and Maj LOGAN had gone ahead. WALCH with police boy guide and party 11, left MISSION 0640 and moved ROUTE: - track NOT shown map direct to HARECH RIVER, ref 264355, thence follow HARECH CREEK bed to BASE CAMP, ref 279264 approx.

Time caught up to Brig party 1100. Reached BASE CAMP 1400.

Going throughout day very rough and stony owing to creek bed and necessity of crossing stream depth 1 - 2 ft approx every 100 yds. BASE CAMP consists of one house cook, one house sleep (35 men) one house sleep (10 men) - a number of native "lean-to's", each accommodating approx 4 - 6 men. NO latrine, water good, small place for fire in house cook. Sufficient space available for accmn for extra 100 men. Suggest tps moving YAKAMUL - TONG carry $\frac{1}{2}$ tent, mosquito net, gas cape, $\frac{1}{2}$ blanket, $\frac{1}{2}$ towel, pullover, one change shirt and trousers JG, 2 changes sox, toilet gear, pannican, one mess tin, rations (one day), mosquito lotion, one billy per 10 men, one spoon, extra rifle oil.

NOTE: Jeephead to be est at 264355.

Sunday 17 Dec 44

Left 2 cooks 2/5 Aust Inf Bn BASE CAMP. Party 3 and 11 moved to NIALU arriving 1230. Hy rain second half of journey. ROUTE: - via MAIPEN CREEK to 311221, thence corduroy track to NIALU.

GOING: Rough in creek bed, some steep grades on track which is mainly corduroyed.

NIALU: Clean native village. One latrine, 3 huts available would accommodate 60 men. One hut for 30 men since been erected. Water has to be carried up steep hill from creek. Understand 4 x 44 drums have since been dropped for storage. Good rations at AASC ration pt. NO cooking facilities for any number. Dropping ground small but close to AASC dump and 90% recovery up to date.

Monday 18 Dec 44

Left NIALU 0600 hrs - arrived TONG (YASUAR MISSION) 1400 hrs.

ROUTE: NIALU - KASIM - SAKANGEL - TONG.

GOING: slow, main part of track corduroyed, steep grades especially in first two hrs. NO water on track before $\frac{1}{2}$ hr from KASIM.

KASIM: Small dirty village - NO accmn.

SAKANGEL: Large clean village - could accommodate 40 men. Water would have to be carried 400 - 500 yds.

TONG: Actual locality YASUAR MISSION. Area very muddy and hygiene poor. Good dropping ground - 95% recovery. AASC ration pt holding 14 days rations 100 men. Supplies dropped every day except when weather cloudy.

ACCN - ANGAU HUT, accn 30 men, accn 40 men, accn 35 men (under construction), one kitchen, one hosp, (20 beds), one mess hut (under construction), one AASC store, one Bn HQ and Int Sec, one sig office, one Force Store, corduroy tracks, under construction, one police boy hut, one ANGAU RAP, 3 latrines, one grease trap, one incinerator, water facilities poor - 10 drums expected to be dropped soon. Require store of blankets, one link to air, one link to Bde, one offrs mess (under construction) 50 natives for permanent labour on camp. Capt COLE and WO comprise ANGAU Staff. Food good.

One sig tower 12 ft (under construction)

Tuesday 19 Dec 44

Spent day at TONG. Gained infn. C coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn arrived 1400 hrs - main accommodated on southern spur in tents. Maj Mc B, Sig O, IO and Adjt arrived. Brig gave self outline plan for future ops.

CAV DISPOSNS: C tp HQ and 2 secs YASILE. One sec C tp YAPOMBIL.

HQ A tp TONG
One sec A tp TONG
HQ B tp and three secs YAMBES
4 main OP 1000 yds SE SONCAIEN.

infn enemy - to 1800.

100 at MUSIMBILIM
50 between YAPOMBIL - MUSIMBILIM.
30 at SELNAUA and 5 huts.
Daily patrol 1 offr and 6 - 10 SELNAUA to NEW SAHIE.
Few - BANA, few - WARELI.
" - LUWAITE, few ANAM.
100 in PEREMBIL area.

REPORT later in day:

SITREP to 1910001 (.) sentries report 71 japs left YASE (.) Proceeded ALBULUM - YAUATONG - NANINUM arriving NANAHANG 1700 (.) Left immediately arrived MUSIMBILIM approx 1830 hrs. Brig told WALCH for infn that he intended arranging: -

BASE CAMP - 3 tiered bed hut to accommodate 100 men erected. To station one cook and offsider and med^{o/s} and small ration store and latrines. When party going TONG - YAKAMUL one native go ahead with message warning NIALU and BASE CAMP str of party and approx time of arrival. Same arrangement re accn will apply at NIALU.

BRIG'S PLAN:

1. Maj Mc B. To leave area WEST line through SAROL - YAUATONG to Capt COLE with exception of one patrol 2/5 Aust Inf Bn to MIMBICK.

2. To occupy YASILE with A coy HQ and one pl, one pl at YAPOMBIL, one pl at TONG. Pl at TONG stage to YAPOMBIL then to ALBULUM and YAUATONG preceded by patrols. When YAUATONG est move Pl at YAPOMBIL to ALBULUM. Then coy HQ and one pl to YOURANG. Then patrol fwd from YOURANG to NANAHANG villages area. Then pl at ALBULUM stage to YAUATONG NANINUM and NANAHANG and pl at Y UATONG follow behind.

Next move to MUSIMBILIM then to DREKIKER.
(probably a coy show)

C coy task - Coy HQ and two pls - YAMBES remaining pl at TONG. offensive patrolling to SAHIE (new). Patrols to NUMISIM (old MASUBA) and SOUTH to MUSIMBILIM. When A coy made progress to NANAHANG, one pl from C coy to block track at MUSIMBE - DREKIKER area. Then A coy hold DREKIKER area while pl which astride track returns to YAMBES.

Prior pl from YAMBES moving to MUBIMBE one pl from TONG moves to YAMBES. Then C coy with flank protection at SAHIE push between rivers NANU and RIHAMBON to MUBU. OP at SONGAIEH held until SAHIE secured.

Brig also stressed info re dropping grounds in area particularly on SOUTH track very important. Water drums required at YAMBES and YAKAMIE. NOTE: YAPOMBIL NO good for dropping.

The following is copy of patrol report received today by CO 2/7 Sqn -

PATROL REPORT

18 Dec 44

Patrol formed by 9 sec C tp.
Type of patrol - recce
Comd - Lt WADIE.
Str - 1 offr 10 ORs
Time out 180730I - Time in 181500I
Route out YASILE to SAMARIE to SIMBOK to YOURANG
Route in - YOURANG to BEN to YASILE
Object - To recce area YASILE - YOURANG to ascertain if area clear of enemy.
To gain topo info.

PART I

1. Area is clear of enemy - enemy last in area 16 Dec when 5 passed through YOURANG to SIMBOK to YAPOMBIL. Natives report all enemy have withdrawn from area to MUSIMBILIM.

2. Topo info in PART II.

PART II

YASILE to SAMARIE - 10 min - good track slightly down grade.

SAMARIE to Creek June ref 281099 - 20 min - very steep down grade to creek. Track would cut up badly under constant traffic and is in bad condition now. Good going along creek.

281099 to SIMBOK - 25 min - very steep up grade - track fair condition.

SIMBOK to YOURANG - 90 mins - good track and level going. This ridge continues all the way to MUSIMBILIM.

TIME YASILE to YOURANG - 2 hrs 25 mins. A clear KUNAI patch at 295080 area 150 by 50 yds is possible dropping zone - is 5 min from YOURANG. This village covers an area approx 600 by 50 yds. A knoll in centre of village could be used for def posn needing NOT less than two sections. Village overlooks area to EAST SOUTH and WEST for distance 4 - 5 miles.

YOURANG to BEN - 30 min - steep down grade to creek June and immediate steep climb to BEN. Good track. BEN to track June 296009 - 20 min - good level going.

296099 to creek June 289104 - 15 mins - little used native pa fair going. 289104 - YASILE - 40 min - 10 min good going along creek thence steep climb to main track at ref 279113 thence 5 min

to YASILE along main track.

TIME: YOURANG to YASILE - walking time 1 hr 45 mins.

TOPO INFM

True bearings from centre of YOURANG VILLAGE.

YALENGAL	132½
MORLENGE (NOT YALENGE)	157½
YAMBES	90½
MUSIMBILIM	134½
NANAHAR (NOT NANAHANG)	145½
DREKIKER	119½
YASUAR MISSION	352
HEN (YANGE)	345½
YAKIO	335
YASILE.	325
YAKUM MISSION	323½
MIWHAK	165

True bearings from NW end of village approx 300 yds from centre.

YASUAR	354½
WINYAMON	236
YAUATONG	242
YAKAMIK	301
YASE	300
YAPOMBIL	295½

HAULO should be YA-ULA. NINGRANK is village between YAULA and MIWHAK.

Sketch by patrol is separate.

Wednesday 20 Dec 44

Brig left 0600 with 1 NCO 5 ORs Gd Pl, batman, Pte BARNES J, Maj LOGAN and batman.

A coy arrived TONG approx 1230.

Maj Mc B gave outline plans to Sig O, IO, Adjt and self at 1000 and issue op order at 1600 hrs. Maj Mc B told me to lay out sketch completed area of Force HQ and also programme of works. NO drop of supplies today as weather bad - NO air activity at all today.

Maj Mc B's plan and extracts from op order -

ENEMY - As before except patrol SELANAUA - SAHIK of approx 26 usually, night spent at SAHIK.

Party 14 Japs and 5 natives moved to MIWHAK. Appears NOT sufficient forage for total Jap force at MUSIMBILIM.

PLAN - C coy less 15 pl and one det Mortar 3" and ASC details and sigs (w/T and lamp to TONG) to YAMBES. - Capt CAMERON.

9 pl A coy and det sigs and det med YAPOMBIL - base there and patrol ALBULUM and YAUATONG. Pl then to push to YAUATONG thence patrol to NANAHANG.

7 Pl A coy and det sigs and det med to relieve present force at YASILE and then next day to YOURANG - responsible for patrolling all tracks from YOURANG and to NANAHANG. A coy less two pls and one pl C coy responsible def TONG under Lt STEWART.

Tps at Force HQ incl:-

Hq pers
sigs
Pnrs
One det Mortar 3"
Postal
AASC
Pidgeons.

C coy in def locality at YAMBES. Def role but with aggressive patrolling forward.

Pl at YOURANG patrol base. Pl at YAPOMBIL aggressive patrolling role - move pl in stages to NANAHANG.

In addition Force tps at TONG supply one sec standing patrol at MERINGE 1 NCO and 3 ORs at SONGAIEN 210700 to man OP and observe SAHUK.

COMM

TONG - YAMBES W/T 108 L/T and V/S
TONG - YAPOMBIL W/T 108 and V/S
TONG - YOURANG W/T 108 L/T and V/S
TONG - SONGAIEN native runner and pidgeon.

Sitreps reach Force HQ by 0930 daily. Patrol programme Force HQ by 1600 daily.

NO set piece attacks. Police boys and armed natives will accompany each force.

Clench fist above head indicates friendly natives. Beware of unoccupied villages. Natives, if travelling at night will carry a fire stick. 20 Cav Commando left Force HQ.

Thurs day 21 Dec 44

C coy less 15 pl left for YAMBES 0700. 3 BRAUFIGHTERS bombed YUSIMBLIN 0800. Supplies and mail dropped 1000 - 1400. Corduroy track through Force HQ constructed. Accn 40 men completed.

Body Jap officer, 2nd Lt unarmed, found at 392073.

Cav cdo supplies and approx 10 men left Force HQ.

PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY OF WORK

1. Complete Hosp - natives
" Accn 40 men - natives
6 hole ORs latrine - own tps
incinerator - own tps
Grease trap - own tps
Improve offrs quarters - batmen.
2. Ablution area - own tps.
Floor kitchen - own tps
Floor Force HQ and I sec and reconstruction - natives
Floor sig office and reconstruction - own tps
Construction sig office tower - natives

Construction bole sig office - natives.

3. Mess hut and floor - natives
Clear area near main block - own tps
Offrs mess and floor - natives
4. Accn 30 men and floor - natives
Reconstruction accn 30 men beds and floor - own tps
5. Offrs and sjts latrine - own tps
Main corduroy track - natives
Construction sig store - natives
6. Floor AASC - natives
7. Reconstruction and floor AASC and Force store - natives
Corduroy track to water pt and ablation pt.

N report Japs ate two boongs in SAHIK area. Native report killed 9 Japs SAHIK area and produced following as evidence:-

2 SM badges of rank, 3 sjts BOR, 1 superior pte BOR, 1 cpl BOR, 3 campaign ribbons, 1 piece totum wood in leather case.

Friday 22 Dec 44

Native report through C coy that MUSIMBILIM has been evacuated of all Japs. Believed moving to PEREMBIL. 7 and 9 pls left 0700 under Lts FLYNN and MILES respectively to YASILE and YAPOMBIL. 7 pl arrived YASILE 0850 and moving stright on to YOURANG. C coy patrols:-

8 patrol at LAUING - 1 offr and 12 ORs
Recce patrol to MUSIMBE, DREKIKER, MUSIMBILIM

Saturday 23 Dec 44

Self and BLIGH left 0800 - route - track via BEN to YOURANG. Object - to recce YOURANG and surrounding area with view to possible adv HQ PIPER FORCE. Report submitted and my opinion suitable for HQ site. Dropping ground approx 10 mins carry from YOURANG. Arrived back camp (TONG) 1715 hrs.

8 Pl A coy moved to YOURANG with view to occupying NANAHANG tomorrow.

7 pl A coy moved YASILE to YOURANG.

9 pl A coy moved YAPOMBIL to YAUATONG.

Japs reported moving MIWHAK to posn SOUTH of YAUATONG.

C coy patrolling to DREKIKER - report NOT yet to hand.

Sunday 24 Dec 44

Further construction at TONG - sig tower now completed. tps are accommodated in new accn hut. Work on Force HQ and Int Sec progressing. Air strike on PEREMBIL - successful but NOT details to hand yet.

Air drop today ACF hampers, amm and supplies.

Monday 25 Dec 44

Two 2 day patrols from C coy.

Details of patrols:-

1. Fighting patrol - 1 sjt 2 cpls 10 ORs. of 8 pl to MUSINAU to determine enemy str and result of bombing. Native police boy

stopped patrol at DIAHINGA until further recce was made by him and patrol waited night at DIAHINGA.

2. Recce patrol to MUSIMBILIM - MIWHAK - YAUATONG - YOURANG to determine str enemy at MIWHAK or if vacated.

Tuesday 26 Dec 44

HQ A coy moved to YOURANG - 9 pl to MUSIMBILIM, 8 pl to NANAHANG and 7 pl remain YOURANG. C coy protective patrolling. Capt COLE left 1400 on 3 day visit to AITAPE.

Wednesday 27 Dec 44

Left TONG 0530 - Maj Mc BRIDE, polis poi and self. Arrived YAMBES 0735. YAMBES C coy HQ and 2 pls - hygiene good, def good, S patrol near PEREMBIL Lt DONNELLY and 12 ORs. Following can be seen from YAMBES - PEREMBIL, NANANUN, MUSINAU, NUBISIM, DREKIKER, MUSIMBILIM. Air strike 1100 on MUSINAU - 5 huts damaged and burnt. Cas NOT yet to hand. Left YAMBES 1030 arrived YOURANG 1155. 8 pl and A coy HQ at YOURANG - waited for Lt STEWART to return from DREKIKER to report which incl - Place suitable for coy def, dropping good could land Piper Cubs. Left YOURANG 1530, arrived 1730 TONG.

Air strike approx 1430 - 13 BAUFORTS on PEREMBIL - bombed and strafed - result yet unknown. Infm from local polis poi that hut 500 yds NW MUSINAU is hide out for 30 Japs. during strikes on MUSINAU. This hut being made secondary target for tomorrow.

Approx 1600 Lt DONNELLY and 4 ORs ambushed 17 Japs near NANANUN. 10 Japs definitely killed - own cas NIL. Rifle and SMG and grenade fire used.

Capt SCOTT and arrived TONG 1200 hrs

Capt SCOTT - Div Sigs
" - Div Cipher

Thursday 28 Dec 44

Corduroy work in accn hut and erection of pit pit beds. Pl C coy at TONG moved YAMBES 1330. A coy HQ and 7,8,9, pls occupied DREKIKER 0830

Friday 29 Dec 44

Left TONG 0600. Party Maj Mc BRIDE, self, BLIGH, Capt McPHER (AANG) and batman xxx and police boy.

Route - TONG - YOURANG - NANAHANG - MUSIMBILIM to DREKIKER. Enemy vacated MUSINAU early morning and moved to MIMAU. A coy well dug in DREKIKER.

Party arrived DREKIKER 1030. 1400 hrs - Lt MILES xxx and 10 ORs moved MUSINAU - MIMAU where contact was made - 3 enemy killed - own cas NIL. This patrol in passing through MUSINAU located 5 new enemy graves - dug up three and found only body - no clothing - bodies were very big men and appear Marine type. Those also killed at MIMAU - marine type - well clothed. Also 1400 hrs Lt FLYNN and 14 ORs moved WEST MIMAU - NO contact made. Our patrols armed with Owens, Bren, grenades and few rifles.

C coy NO contact made, protective patrolling only.
1400 hrs - SW slopes PEREMBIL bombed with HE and incendiaries and straffed. 1100 hrs MUSINAU bombed with incendiaries and straffed. Jap AA fire with IMG from NE corner MUSINAU - NO effect.

TONG - Tk A pl arrived, CO, MO, Capt BLACKSTONE, QM and AASC Offr - other details arrived morning.

Night - quiet with own Mortar 3" bombing with 6 HE on NORTH MUSINAU at irregular intervals throughout night.

DREKIKER - 400 by 100 yds approx - all 2' 6" KUNAI - NO huts on arrival - very clean area. Present condition - 6 huts erected - 4 latrines down - $\frac{1}{2}$ kunai cut to ground level and WEST end of feature very suitable cub-strip. Water - good - 20 mins carry. MUSIBILIM and surrounding villages completely destroyed by previous bombing. MUSINAU - very dirty condition - Jap excreta uncovered all over area - bombing had considerable effect, on 27 Dec particularly.

Saturday 30 Dec 44

Left DREKIKER 0730 - party Maj Mc B, self, BLIGH and police boy - arrived TONG 1200.

Route: - DREKIKER - DIAHINGA - MUSAB - SETMEN - MUYEM - MERINGE - TONG.

Two A coy patrols - MIMAU area - NO contact made - C coy patrol under Lt DONNELLY to SAHIK - 8 Japs in area, 3 killed - own cas NIL - PEREMBIL bombed accurately.

WALSH conferred with HQ 2/5 Aust Inf Bn and Pd Amb Maj and gave suggestions on routes for evacuation.

Lt Col BUTTRESS, CO 2/5 Aust Inf Bn, conf 1630 gave general plan:-

BHQ to YAMBES 2 Jan 45, Tk A pl under comd A coy 2 Jan, B coy to YAMBES 2 Jan. Then C coy to NANUNUN area 2 Jan. Local adm details.

Sunday 31 Dec 44

Left TONG 0730 - Party Capt BLACKSTONE, Lt HODGE, ANGAU Sjt, Maj PARSONS (2/2 Aust Pd Amb), Capt (AASC), self -

Arrived 1015 YAMBES. Recce YAMBES from pt of view Bn HQ site, ADS site, and adv base site.

DROP: 0600 TONG, 4 chutes only at YAMBES. NO drop at DREKIKER.

Native report 15 Japs between BELANAU and SAHIK.

Monday 1 Jan 45

Rest at TONG

Coy security patrols.

Tuesday 2 Jan 45

Tk A pl to DREKIKER. Self, BLACKSTONE and 2 batman moved TONG - MUSAB - DREKIKER.

Maj Mc B took over comd A coy. Bn HQ moved TONG - YAMBES. AASC to YAMBES. 1115 strike PEREMBIL.

C coy less 13 pl moved NASALEM. 13 pl moved to LAUING.

Wednesday 3 Jan 45

A coy less 9 pl and one det mortar 3" occupied MUSINAU. Method:- 0700 hrs coy comd and ANGAU and 8 pl moved MUSINAU to clean, clear and build coy area. State MUSINAU - enemy dead, rubbish and excreta exposed - village generally in chaos. Dead and refuse were burnt and huts previously occupied by enemy demolished and burnt. 3 new huts erected by ANGAU. 7 pl moved MUSINAU 1300. By 1800 hrs - area clean, kitchen operating, latrines dug and flyproofed (amm boxes over 8 ft trench. Coy dug in, 1/2 tents erected, fire lanes cleared, perimeter booby trapped.

MUSINAU village - 1200 yds by 80 yds approx. A coy perimeter 100 by 150 yds on highest feature in village situated SE corner. Good observation from coy posn - MUSINAU, YAMBES, NEW SAHIK visible. Night - 4 alarms (booby traps) NO enemy seen.

Tk A pl and 9 pl remained DREKIKER. PEREMBIL bombed by A coy mortar 3" in morning inflicting one cas. Accurate shooting on top of feature and SE spur.

Air strike PEREMBIL - 1300. ASILING also bombed and strafed. Amn dump ASILING burnt - strike accurate. B coy arrived YAMBES 1300 hrs. 1600 C coy recce patrol reported PEREMBIL clear. Report to CO 2/5 Aust Inf Bn who ordered immediate occupation PEREMBIL by C coy less one pl. C coy in posn by 1645 hrs. 1715 hrs Japs str 40 attacked PEREMBIL from ASILING with one LMG and rifles. Enemy cas 6. Own NIL. Capt CAMERON of opinion enemy knew of occupation but was surprised by own str and fire power. Enemy's approach was cautious along EAST spur. 1810 hrs second Jap attack PEREMBIL. Own cas one wounded Pte ESCRET at 1825 hrs. 2018 third Jap attack left flank repulsed. This attack though only for clearing dead from previous attacks.

Own def fire consisted LMG, SMG, rifle and grenade. Own tps slightly dug in for first attack and completed digging during night. Enemy had NOT previously dug in on PEREMBIL.

Thursday 4 Jan 45.

Fighting patrol to PEREMBIL, self accompanied. Comd Lt MILES, str - 20, weapons:-

3 brens, one Mortar 2", 7 SMGs, 3 gren/men. Each SMG - 5 mags, each bren - 7 mags, 12 mortar bombs, rifles and 50 SAA / man. Patrol well briefed - moved cautiously - well dispersed.

Route:-

MUSINAU - river 388066 - river 390065 - PEREMBIL. NO contact made. Enemy chopping lower PEREMBIL heard. PEREMBIL - bombing had been very accurate on top feature and on SOUTH and SE spurs. C coy completing digging - burning refuse - erecting RAP, kitchen and coy HQ - ANGAU rep (Lt MONK) supervising work, sentries both own and native posted. Mortar 3" fire (harrassing) on ASILING at 1000 and 1600. 2 brens fired lower PEREMBIL 1100 - 4 mags. Enemy dispersed in village and sentry in coconut seen to descend promptly.

PEREMBIL - very dominating feature - NO features obstruct view along ridge in SE direction. 0210 hrs Jap attack str 50 PEREMBIL from MUSINAU and ASILING tracks. Enemy cas 3 - own NIL. B coy one pl moved to NASALEM.

Friday 5 Jan 45

Self and BLACKSTONE to YAMBES. Route:- MUSINAU - river 382071 - along river to 355093 - up very steep grade to YAMBES (3) thence to YAMBES (2).

CO to PEREMBIL and returned YAMBES 1600.

WILLS arrived - briefed re situation by self.

8 pl - patrolled 1 NCO (sjt BEDDOME) and 12 - MUSINAU - NINAU - NEGIRA. 1 NCO and 8 - MUSINAU - PEREMBIL. 1 NCO and 5 - MUSINAU - DIAHINGA - MUSIMBILIM - MUSILO - MIWRAK.

B coy - 3 patrol to old SAHIK - Lt TAYLOR and 21 then security patrol to NEW SAHIK.

C coy fighting patrol to ASILING - Lt ANDERSON and 20 - via EAST slopes of feature - route in: - main track. C coy fighting patrol to behind ASILING. Native report enemy str ASILING approx 100.

Native report Japs moving str unknown WALENDE to SUMUL. Air strike PELNANDU - 1115.

A coy patrols NO contact made.
C " " reports NOT yet to hand.

Discussed final pts re future ops with CO and received general infm for comd.

Saturday 6 Jan 45

Left YAMBES 0700 - party BASCO, 2 batmen and self - arrived TONG 0930 - left TONG 1000 - arrived NIALU 1500 - night NIALU. Coffee stall KASIM - 2 men, one good hut 100yds from village to NORTH - 10 yds from track, 30 lbs coffee on hand. NIALU - AASC store, med post, 10 beds in RAP, kitchen operating, good food, accn present for 60.

Native report to NIALU - 30 Japs approx one hr to EAST - action taken:- 3 two man posts on tracks during night - Stand to 0400, kanaka sentries posted on all tracks.

Sunday 7 Jan 45

Left NIALU - 0630, arrived river 0730 - BASE CAMP 1000 - KIRK'S INN 1300 - YAKAMUL 1430 - 17 Aust Inf Bde HQ 1600.

BASE CAMP - RAP - 10 beds, house cook, accn 60, ration store (sisel craft) - empty. NO corduroy on floors -

KIRK'S INN - 2 tents, well drained - coffee and biscuits supplied.

Subject: OPS - TONG AREA

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

13 Jan 45

G726

Lt-col A W BUTTROSE
2/5 Aust Inf Bn

1. Further to my sig 0170 of 12 Jan 45 the following indication is given of the trend of future ops in order that you may look ahead in your planning.
2. Two sqns 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt are working SOUTH towards the junc of HIMALI River and MISA Creek. Timings are uncertain but they should arrive in this area within seven days.
3. GOC 6 Aust Div has intimated that on arrival in the above area the Cav will be placed undermy comd in which case I propose to direct them to the gen line of the KUBAB Creek V5905. Their move will follow the route HAMBINI Villages V4909 - WOMSAK Villages V5209 - NILU V5609 - DAHABIGA V5806 thence CHAKANUM V5803, MISANGAI V6003 and MAMOLANUNGA V6005. They will be required to clean up enemy pockets NORTH of the AMUK River.
4. This will necessitate a slight variation in the instrs sent you in the sig above referred:
 - (a) You will be relieved of any responsibility for the area NORTH of the AMUK River after passing EAST of the 48 vertical grid line.
 - (b) You will est contact with the Cav in the HAMBINI Village area.
 - (c) The mov of the left of your force will be SOUTH of the AMUK River and will be in the gen direction of SELNAUA V4408, AUANG V4906, BALAGA V5502. During this fwd move you will clear the enemy from the country between the AMUK and the NANU River.
 - (d) When the move in subpara (c) above is well under way and is approaching the 49 vertical grid, your right should move fwd of PELNANDU area and clear the enemy in succession from the following gen areas LUWAITE V4503, WAHUN A4799, AMUL A5598.
 - (e) Careful timing of the moves in subparas (c) and (d) will be essential to ensure that your flanks do not become too widely separated.
5. These are essential preliminary moves before MAPUIK can be tackled. At present they are merely proposals and on receipt of orders from Div placing the Cav under my comd, you can anticipate receiving instrs somewhat on the above lines.

6. We are having an immediate air recce made of the above proposed gen lines of adv to select possible air dropping stas. The results will be advised you and will possibly determine the lines along which you will eventually move.

7. AIR SP
The posn here has definitely improved and all your requirements should now be met. Make the maximum use of the RAAF in all your planning.

M J Moten . Brig
(M J Moten)
Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde

Copies to:

Comd
BM
SC
File (2)
War Diary (3)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

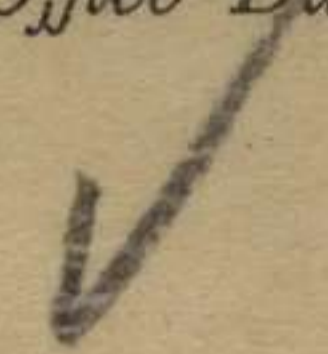
Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

17 aust inf bde

120745I



For Action

TO

2/5 aust inf bn

Message Instructions

GR

(w) For Information (INFO.)

ORIGINATOR'S No.

0170 SECRET (.) from MOTEN to BUTTROSE (.) in view improved sup posn objectives extended to EAST to 50 vertical grid (.) northern flank astride AMUK river and HIMALI river (.) southern flank NOT generally SOUTH of 04 lateral grid but patrols may move to the deep SOUTH ack

This message may be sent **AS WRITTEN** by any means { except

{ }

Wireless

Signed

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

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

Subject: ENEMY TACTICS

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

15 Jan 45

G722

6 AUST DIV

Copy to: 2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Fd Regt
2/2 Aust Fd Amb
File (2)
War Diary (3)

1. The following infm deals with the enemy counter attacks on PEREMBIL 3 Jan 45.
2. The enemy made 3 attacks, one immediately after occupation by our tps, another at last light and the last during darkness.
3. PEREMBIL was evacuated by the enemy during the airstrike 3 Jan 45. Harassing fire from 3 in mortars followed the airstrike. This kept the enemy from returning to the village and enabled it to be occupied by our tps. One coy less one pl had occupied the village by 1700I.

4. ENEMY ATTACKS

(a) First attack

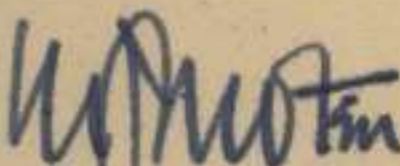
At 1700I an enemy force estimated 20 to 30 attacked from LOWER PEREMBIL which is approx 300 yds to the SE. The enemy moved up silently and did not open fire until within 20 to 30 yds of our posns. Attack was not forced home. The enemy used rifles and grenades. Our tps had normal pl weapons. Enemy cas were 3 known killed, our own one wounded.

(b) Second attack

This was launched at 1800I by a force estimated to have been increased to 40/50 enemy. The attack was carried out by gps of 3 to 4 men who attempted to move up the eastern and western slopes of the feature. The attack was not coordinated, and was not forced home. One LMG was used by the enemy in addition to rifles and grenades. Our own tps used normal pl weapons. 2 enemy were known to have been killed in this attack, our own cas were nil.

(c) Third attack

At 2015I the enemy made a further attack with a force estimated at 40/50. This was the most forceful of the 3 attacks. The enemy made a diversionary attack on the western slopes of the feature with a small party armed with rifles. At the same time the remainder attacked from the EAST. The enemy were forced to withdraw after 15 mins. In this attack they reached to within 5 yds of our posns. Weapons used by own and enemy tps same as second attack. Known enemy killed 6, our own nil.


(M J Moten)
Brig
Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde

Subject: REPORT ON TRENCODE

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

12 Jan 45

G720

6 Aust Div
Copy to: Sig O
File
War Diary (3)

1. Ref 6 Aust Div G183 of 10 Jan 45.
2. "Trencode" cipher has been found to be unsatisfactory for the following reasons:
 - (a) Speed of op

As with other low grade ciphers, Trencode is much slower to operate than higher grade ciphers.
 - (b) Corruptions

Corruptions are the causes of many delays. In Trencode several possible solutions are available for each corrupt gp. This necessitates a "check and repeat" being made, the best method being for Cipher to originate an entirely separate message. As such a message would bear the same priority as the original corrupt message, delays in the handling of other messages of equal priority are likely to occur. An unnecessary volume of Signal Service messages is also thus placed on the link concerned. The method of op of Trencode is such that messages which are wholly indecipherable are not known to be corrupt until their deciphering is almost complete. Therefore a delay occurs in asking for a check and the time spent in handling such a corrupt message could well have been spent on other traffic on hand.
 - (c) Allotment of personnel

The normal allotment of cipher ops to Bde HQ (2) is considered to be insufficient as these personnel would have to operate both the "Bde" cipher (for messages between Div and Bde) and Trencode (for messages fwd of Bde). Under present conditions, this posn has been relieved by the attachment of Bn personnel to operate Trencode but such a withdrawal is considered unsound in the event of all bns being committed.
 - (d) Trg of personnel

The required versatility of bn signallers restricts the time available for the maint of a high standard of trg in the op of Trencode.
 - (e) Trencode documents

The allotment of Trencode books has been found to be insufficient and it is considered that 9 copies per inf bn should be the scale of issue. Until rectified, long delays on the link Bde - YAMRES were occurring for this reason.

3. Where speed, with a certain degree of security is the prime factor, the handling of op messages fwd of Bde necessitates a speedier cipher. RT Code No 2 is being used in some cases to encipher messages for transmission by WT, and together with RT conversations, is reducing the time lag between T00 and TOR.

For ease and speed of op the syllabic sheet type cipher or code appears to be suitable and it is suggested that RT Code No 2 could be expanded to give a greater vocabulary with blank spaces to permit of local assignments.

Where however security is the greater consideration a cipher similar to the present "Bde" cipher to replace Trencode would considerably reduce traffic delays.

H J Moten

Brig

(H J Moten)

Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

WAR
DIARY

17 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

BRIG M J MOTEN CBE DSO ED
COMD 17 AUST INF BDE

Serial 39

11 JAN 45

"G"

NIL

K C Clarke
(K C CLARKE) Maj
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

"A"

140. BREAKING DOWN OF SERVICE OR ENEMY AMMUNITION.

1. Accidents have occurred due to unauthorised breaking down of enemy ammunition.
2. Attention is directed to GRO 51/44 part X paras 139-142 inclusive, which will be promulgated in Unit Routine Orders.

W P Bolger
(W P BOLGER) Capt
SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

N O T I C E S

CHURCH PARADES

14 JAN 45

0600 hrs - Holy Communion (C E)	- 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Marquee
0745 hrs - Parade Service	- 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Marquee
0845 hrs - " "	- 2/5 & 2/7 Aust Inf Bns in 2/7 Aust Inf Bn area,
0930 hrs - Holy Communion (C E)	- 2/7 Aust Inf Bn Marquee
1015 hrs - " " (C E)	Hq 17 Aust Inf Bde Marquee.

All Services conducted by Chaplain RICHARDSON.

RC MASS - 0900 hrs Recreation Marquee Hq 17 Aust Inf Bde.

LOST: Paybook - Lost in Bde Area - Finder please
return to VX 133736 Sjt WILSON
2/46 Aust LAD.

Subject: RECCE PATROL BABIANG - PEREMBIL - YAKAMUL

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

10 Jan 45

G713

2/7 Aust Inf Bn

Copy to: 6 Aust Div
19 Aust Inf Bde
2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt
2/5 Aust Inf Bn
Comd
SC
File (2)
War Diary (3)

1. You will send a patrol of one offr and 5 OR to recce route from BABIANG V407355 along DANDRIWAD river to track V375275 to HOUSE KIAP V392208 to MIHET V363217 to YASUM V366135 to SAHIK V376111 to PEREMBIL.
2. Patrol will return via YASUAR, NIALU, BASE CAMP to YAKAMUL.
3. Time out 110600I.
4. Object of patrol
 - (a) Is route suitable for use as L of C to PEREMBIL?
 - (b) How far can jeeps proceed along this route?
 - (c) How far can route be made jeepable?
 - (d) How much work would be required?
 - (e) What work is required to make route first class for mov of tps?
 - (f) What accn for tps is at present available along route?
 - (g) What are most suitable staging posts?
 - (h) What are estimated times for body of tps in marching order for each stage?
 - (i) What is liability of DANDRIWAD river to flooding?
 - (j) Are there any suitable dropping grounds along route?
 - (k) Is route from BABIANG more suitable than route YAKAMUL - BASE CAMP - NIALU - YASUAR?
4. Personnel will carry 4 days rations.
5. Personnel will take two atebirin tablets per day whilst on patrol.
6.
 - (a) Two trucks 1/4 ton 4x4 provided under arrangements HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde will report to 2/7 Aust Inf Bn at 110600I.
 - (b) Tpt will return to this HQ 11 Jan 45.
7. Patrol Comd will collect two native guides from No 2 Compound ANGAU at 110630I. The guides are to be released for return to this area as soon as patrol contacts own tps SAHIK area.

K C Clarke Maj
(K C Clarke)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

SECRET

Subject: AIR MAINT

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

8 Jan 45

Q801

Lt-Col A W BUTTROSE
175 AUST INF BN

Set out hereunder is a summary of the present posn of air maint for your force.

2. At present there is only one aircraft available for use for air maint for the whole divisional requirements.
3. Every care to safeguard this aircraft has to be exercised as its loss even for a short period would jeopardise your sup.
4. It is therefore necessary for air dropping to you to conc on one suitable central area. Thus for the immediate future dropping will at YAMBES. This will entail the carrying fwd to SAHIK and ASILING areas as well as to MUSINAU. On your moving fwd say to PEREMBIL dropping would then be concentrated there.
5. Before moving the dropping area fwd it is necessary to build up res at YAMBES not only to serve temporarily as your force res but also to sup those portions of your force which you will have to leave in that area.
6. Bad flying weather has to a certain extent delayed the building up of res but this is inevitable.
7. As mentioned in our Q772 of 7 Jan it is not possible to maintain the number of natives (631) at present in the area.
8. With your force at its present str a maximum of 250 natives only could be maintained. From HODGES letter of the 4 Jan to the BM at the moment only 174 natives incl 50 carrying paras but excl of those improving tracks are employed. From COLE'S figures for 7 Jan there are 261 labourers at present at YAMBES and 28 at DREKEKIR. It would appear then that sufficient lab is available for the purpose of carrying fwd to the coys. In addition COLE has authority to employ casual lab for other tasks such as hut constr and track improvement.
9. The average number of drops per week for TONG area has been 15 - best week 22. To maintain daily requirements for a force of 650 europeans and 250 natives requires 12 aircraft per week without any amn whatsoever or res of sups and POL or any other requirements such as additional stores. That is the present posn.

Copy:

Comd
BM
SC
File
War Diary (3)

W P Bolger Capt
(W P BOLGER)
SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

Subject: 17 AUST INF BDE JUNIOR LEADERS SCHOOL

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

Jan 45

G694

GEN

1. The above school will be conducted at V055463 from 10 Jan 45.
2. No 1 course will be conducted from 10 - 30 Jan 45 incl.
3. (a) CI - Capt C M I PEARSON
(b) The school will comprise school HQ and two pls.
 - (i) Each pl is organised as an inf pl and is commanded by a lt with three sjt instrs as sec leaders.
 - (ii) Each sec will comprise eight student NCOs.

OBJECT

4. To train NCOs to be competent instrs,

VACANCIES

5. Vacancies are allotted as follows:-

2/6 Aust Inf Bn	24 NCOs
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	24 NCOs

6. Nominal rolls will be forwarded to reach this HQ by 081200I Jan.
7. Students selected to attend will report to Bde HQ Veh Park at 091300I for on mov to school. Tpt will be arranged by this HQ for mov from Veh Park to school.

DRESS AND EQPT

8. Students will report to the school in full marching order plus cots folding.

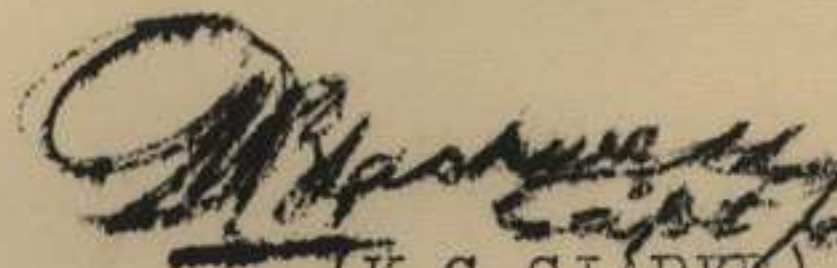
PL STORES

9. Units will provide students with the following stores and eqpt:

2/6 Aust Inf Bn	OSMGs	3
	LMGs complete	3
	Mortars 2"	1
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	OSMGs	3
	LMGs	3
	Mortars 2"	2
	303 ball SAA	500 rounds
	9 mm SAA	500 rounds

FUTURE COURSES

10. The details of future courses will be issued in separate instrs.


(K C CLARKE) Maj
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

2/5 Aust Inf Bn	Comd
2/6 Aust Inf Bn	SC
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	File
Capt C M I PEARSON	War Diary (3)
6 Aust Div	

Subject: MOVEMENT - DETAILS 2/5 AUST INF BN TO YAMBES

W/P

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

5 Jan 45

Q716

1. GEN

Personnel of 2/5 Aust Inf Bn as per para 2 below will move from AITAPE to YAMBES on 7 Jan 45.

2. STR

Party will consist of:-

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>OR</u>
D Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn	5	94
Capt GEER	1	
Lt DONALDSON and batman	1	1
Lt JOHNSTONE and batman	1	1
Water Duties		1
I Sec		1
Pay		1
NCOs and Key Personnel		8
Total	<u>8</u>	<u>107</u>

3. MOV

Party will proceed to YAMBES in following stages:-

- (a) Stage 1. - 7 Jan 45 - by MT from WAPIL to HARECH RIVER (ref 267345) under arrangement HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde.
- (b) Stage 2. - 7 Jan 45 - on foot from HARECH RIVER (ref 267345) to BASE CAMP.
- (c) Stage 3. - 7 Jan 45 - stage night 7/8 Jan 45 BASE CAMP.
- (d) Stage 4. - 8 Jan 45 - on foot from BASE CAMP to NIALU.
- (e) Stage 5. - 8 Jan 45 - stage night 8/9 Jan 45 NIALU.
- (f) Stage 6. - 9 Jan 45 - on foot from NIALU to TONG.
- (g) Stage 7. - 9 Jan 45 - stage night 9/10 Jan 45 TONG.
- (h) Stage 8. - 10 Jan 45 - on foot from TONG to YAMBES and on arrival YAMBES come under comd 2/5 Aust Inf Bn.

4. TFT

6 trucks 2 1/2 ton 4x4 will report to Rear 2/5 Aust Inf Bn at 0515 hrs 7 Jan 45. Convoy to depart at 0530 hrs and proceed as per para 3 (a) above. Bde TO will be in charge of convoy and will ensure that track YACAMUL-HARECH RIVER is safe for use by MT.

5. RATIONS

(a) Personnel will move from Rear 2/5 Aust Inf Bn carrying two days ration on the man for consumption as follows:-

(i) Midday meal 7 Jan 45 en route to BASE CAMP.

(ii) One days ration to be handed over to OC Staging Camp BASE CAMP on arrival there.

(iii) Midday meal 8 Jan 45 en route to NIALU.

(iv) Midday meal 9 Jan 45 en route to TONG.

(b) Meals will be available at Staging Camps en route as follows:-

(i) Evening meal 7 Jan 45, Breakfast 8 Jan 45 BASE CAMP.

(ii) Evening meal 8 Jan 45, Breakfast 9 Jan 45 NIALU.

(iii) Rations are available from Det AASC TONG but meals may have to be prepared under arrangements OC party.

(c) In emergency only, OC party may draw rations from Det AASC NIALU.

6. ANTI-MALARIAL PRECAUTIONS

(a) Full anti-malarial precautions will be observed.

(b) For first 14 days after departure from AITAPE all personnel of this party will consume two atebirin tablets daily.

(c) Rear 2/5 Aust Inf Bn will ensure that personnel leave carrying on the man the yellow spot reserve container of atebirin complete with 32 tablets.

(d) OC party will carry seven days sup at two tablets per man per day for use en route.

(e) ATEBRIN is NOT available at Staging Camps en route.

7. EQPT

Personnel will move in marching order with weapons incl tents mosquito and tents shelter half.

8. AMN

Amn will be carried as follows:-

10 rounds per rifle

2 mags per OSMG

2 mags per Bren.

9. SALT TABLETS

Before departure from AITAPE personnel will be issued with sufficient salt tablets for consumption en route.

10. TOBACCO

Tobacco for this party will NOT be available at YAMBES before 14 Jan 45.

11. NATIVE LABOUR

NO native labour is available for this move.

W P Bolger Capt
(W P BOLGER)
SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

	<u>No. of copies</u>
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	1
Rear 2/5 Aust Inf Bn	3
Comd	1
B M	1
SC	1
War Diary	2
File	1
6 Aust Div (for infm)	1

Subject: MOVEMENT - DETAILS 2/5 AUST INF BN TO YAMBES

W/D

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

5 Jan 45

Q716

1. GEN

Personnel of 2/5 Aust Inf Bn as per para 2 below will move from AITAPE to YAMBES on 7 Jan 45.

2. STR

Party will consist of:-

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>OR</u>
D Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn	5	94
Capt GEER	1	
Lt DONALDSON and batman	1	1
Lt JOHNSTONE and batman	1	1
Water Duties		1
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Pay		1
NCOs and Key Personnel		8
Total	8	107

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(d) OC party will carry seven days sup at two tablets per man per day for use en route.

(e) ATEBRIN is NOT available at Staging Camps en route.

7. EQPT

Personnel will move in marching order with weapons incl tents mosquito and tents shelter half.

8. AMN

Amn will be carried as follows:-

10 rounds per rifle

2 mags per OSMG

2 mags per Bren.

9. SALT TABLETS

Before departure from AITAPE personnel will be issued with sufficient salt tablets for consumption en route.

10. TOBACCO

Tobacco for this party will NOT be available at YAMBES before 14 Jan 45.

11. NATIVE LABOUR

NO native labour is available for this move.

W P Bolger Capt
(W P BOLGER)
SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

	<u>No. of copies</u>
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	1
Rear 2/5 Aust Inf Bn	3
Comd	1
B M	1
SC	1
War Diary	2
File	1
6 Aust Div (for infm)	1

Subject: ENEMY INFM - TCNG AREA

17 Aust Inf Bde

5 Jan 45

11/57

6 AUST DIV

Copy to: 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
File (2)
War Diary (3)

The following notes on enemy tactics, and general condition, are compiled from reports received from 2/5 Aust Inf Bn to 1 Jan 45.

2. ENEMY TACTICS

- (a) Enemy activity has been confined to the occupation of bases from which foraging parties move to native gardens in the vicinity.
- (b) Enemy are endeavouring as much as possible to avoid using native tracks, in order to evade our patrols and the activity of natives.
- (c) It appears that little attempt is made to move tactically with the exception of one fwd scout and one to three rear scouts.
- (d) Def posns in villages previously occupied by enemy, and now in our hands were practically non-existent. At both MUSINAU and MIMAU only two weapon pits have been located, and at SAHIK four slit trenches plus one weapon pit 150 yds along track to LUAING.
- (e) Reports state that enemy sentries were posted at all times, covering approaches to villages occupied. Sentries appear to be most alert.

3. EQUIPMENT

Where enemy tps have been observed or encountered by our patrols it has been noted that NOT all enemy have been armed with rifles.

Of a party of 15/20 observed in MIMAU village only ten were seen to be armed.

Six enemy ambushed in vicinity of SAHIK had only one rifle in neglected condition with the party.

Scale of grenades carried is NOT known, but it is considered to be only of a limited number.

NO report as to amm carried per rifle has been received.

Clothing is reported to be generally of good quality and in very good condition, although extremely dirty.

Boots however are in bad condition and in some cases none are worn.

4. PHYSICAL CONDITION

Enemy are reported to be in very good condition and appear to be well fed.

M J Moten
Brig
(M J MOTEN)
Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
------	----------	----------	---------------------------

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)	<i>Originator</i> 17 AUST INF BDE	<i>Date—Time of Origin</i> 052200 I	<i>Office Date Stamp</i>
<i>For Action</i>			
2/5 AUST INF BN			
TO	<i>(w) For Information (INFO.)</i>		<i>Message Instructions</i> GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

O 150 SECRET (.) further enemy documents indicate

**following changes to our 14/4 (.) 8 dec HQ 41 Div moved to LUWAITE
V457037 (.) 41 Div engrunit reorganized to absorb 8 indep engr regt
(.) engr coys detached as follows 1 coy to AOZU det on coast 2 coy
to 238 regt 3 coy to 239 regt (.) 41 engr HQ probably moved mid dec
to WANDANGE V497080 SELNI V491090 TUMAMBA V432090 towards PEREMBIL (.
(.) 238 regt gp probably conc PEREMBIL area dec all infm**

<p><i>This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means { except } Wireless</i></p>	<p><i>If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER</i></p>	<p><i>Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority</i></p>	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:33%;"><i>Time</i></td> <td style="width:33%;"><i>System</i></td> <td style="width:33%;"><i>Op</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>THI or TOR</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Time Cleared</i></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Time</i>	<i>System</i>	<i>Op</i>	THI or TOR			<i>Time Cleared</i>		
<i>Time</i>	<i>System</i>	<i>Op</i>										
THI or TOR												
<i>Time Cleared</i>												
<i>Signed</i>	<i>Signed</i>											

Subject: DISPOSNS AND STRS 41 JAP DIV

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

Jan 45

I 4/4

2/5 AUST INF BN

1. The following is a summary of infm now available of disposns and strs of 41 Jap Div.
2. Infm has been obtained from documents and maps captured within the last few days and confirms previous indications as to the activity of 41 Div.
3. Infm is forwarded in amplification of maps already dropped to you and is believed to indicate fairly reliably the disposns of 41 Div.

4. 41 Div HQ

(a) Org

Div HQ is constituted as a gp HQ as follows:-

HQ 41 Div (55)
41 Div Engr Regt (95)
41 Div Sigs Unit (30)
8 Indep Engr Regt (less coys det)
40 Rd Constr Unit (190)
Ord Service Unit
Branch Fd Ord Depot
51 Constr Unit (50)
MP dets
Expeditionary Unit (elements)

Estimated strs are shown in parenthesis.
Total str of HQ Gp is stated to be possibly 5/600.

(b) Location

Gp HQ is located in BALIF villages area and has direct control of BALIF sector.

5. 237 Regt

Although NOT immediately concerning your area, infm of this Regt may be of value.

(a) Responsibility of Regt is apparently divided into three sectors.

- (i) Left Sector, manned by portion of 3 Bn, is line from ABAU to mouth of NIMBUN CREEK, then generally SW along high ground to MALIN.
- (ii) Right Sector, manned by 1 Bn, is line from ROCKY FORESHORE, feature V6928, in gen SE direction to unnamed village at V745246.
- (iii) Reserve Sector, manned by remainder 3 Bn plus att tps, is line from pt midway between ROCKY FORESHORE and village V745246 running in SW direction.

(b) DANMAP RIVER Area

2 Bn was opposed to our tps along line of DANMAP RIVER and infm gained during Nov - Dec indicated str of this unit to be approx 300.

However, as 211 enemy have been killed by Aust tps in this area to date it is possible that this bn has now been rendered useless as a fighting force.

(c) Str

Total str of 237 Regt and att tps is now estimated to be 1000 - 1200 which figure incld approx 650 sick, who are however, compelled to fight and work.

6. 238 Regt

(a) Org

Regt has att the following tps:-

One coy 8 Indep Engr Regt
54 L of C Unit
90 L of C Hosp
9 Embarkation Unit (dets only)
1 Fd Hosp
Ord Duty Unit

(b) Disposns

Regt is responsible for what is known as PEREMBIL sector with def posns believed established at SUMUL, PEREMBIL and MALBUAIN. Regt HQ is situated at SELNI. Unit responsibilities are unknown but following identification of tps have been recently found:

- (i) Offr of 3 Bn and NCO 1 Fd Hosp at SELNI.
- (ii) Offr of 3 Bn killed at YAMBES on 15 Dec.

(c) Str

Little infm is available on which to base str of Regt and att tps, but pending further infm it is tentatively estimated at 800.

7. 239 Regt

(a) Org

Regt has att the following tps:-

One coy 8 Indep Engr Regt
2 Fd Hosp

(b) Disposns

Regt, less one bn which is believed to have been withdrawn for duty elsewhere, is responsible for def of WOMSAK and SALATA areas. Regt HQ is located at WOMSAK. One bn is located at SALATA and is responsible for def of SALATA sector with established defs at MUSENDAI APOS and ASANAKOR.

(c) Str

Little infm as to str of Regt and att tps is available and pending further infm it is tentatively estimated at 5/700.

8. Gen

(a) Strs

Strs quoted have been increased since previous estimated as it is believed a policy of rft of Inf Regts by the attachment of non-divisional tps is being carried out.

(b) L of C

Mov of 41 Div Gp to areas SOUTH of the TORRICELLIS was by route MALIN - WALUM - WOMISIS - AMAM - WOMSAK, and should the enemy attempt to adopt offensive tactics against our tps to the NORTH it is considered that this route would again be used.

(c) Inter-Divisional responsibilities

Responsibilities of 41 Div and 20 Div together with subdivision of 41 Div area into sectors are shown on map already dropped to you.

K C Clarke Maj
(K C Clarke)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

Subject: OPS - TONG AREA

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

3 Jan 45

G680

Lt-Col A W BUTTROSE
2/5 AUST INF BN

Infm recently obtained now gives a fairly clear picture of enemy disposns in the WEWAK area. A summary of infm as affecting your front is att.

2. The actual str of the enemy is an uncertain quantity and the figures given should be treated with res. They may be regarded as a maximum figure.
3. Now that the posn in front of you is reasonably clarified, it should help you to make a sound appreciation.
4. The op instr number 7 still stands.
5. The following points are stressed:-
 - (a) Forward bases at YAMBES and DREKIKER (and if you decide to put a base fwd in the new SAHIK area) must be secure and capable of solid def and that before relinquishing a base to move fwd you must in turn secure your fwd base.
 - (b) There is no hurry to nip out places like PEREMBIL. The maximum use of air strikes and your present harassing tactics by offensive patrols should achieve the required results. I expect you will use your mortars here as well. Look into the possibility of putting an ambush along his L of C EAST of PEREMBIL.
 - (c) No attempt at this stage should be made to move against MALBUAIN 3804 but this flank must be kept under observation and consideration given to the possible enemy approaches leading into MUSIMBILUM from the SOUTH and SE.
 - (d) While dispersion of your bn is unavoidable it should be arranged that you have at least local superiority opposite the forces in your immediate front e.g. the enemy str at PEREMBIL has been stated by your reports to be around 87. This is more than countered by your tps at YAMBES and LUAING and plus your ability to move the whole or portion of your tps from DREKIKER against any enemy conc in the PEREMBIL area. The strengthening of your posn opposite SUMUL 393110 will have to be considered.
 - (e) Any move you make must be carefully co-ordinated with the fwd mov of **sup**s.
 - (f) As you move further EAST and drive the JAP from his prepared defs you must expect to be counter-attacked and should prepare accordingly.
6. The sup situation is still not good. Only one aircraft is available but a second has been asked for so that we can build you up to 7 days sup, and with the uncertain flying weather to be expected this is considered a minimum.

7. If D Coy can be gainfully employed it will be moved fwd on your request but the difficulties of sup must be given due consideration.
8. The posn of the comd of att tps in your area has been clarified by 6 Aust Div who have placed them under 17 Aust Inf Bde which authority is delegated to you.
9. The med appreciation of Major PARSONS has been carefully examined and is approved. However the provision of 70 beds at YAMBES seems to be lavish in view of the nature of your ops and the methods employed which should keep casualties to the minimum. Major PARSONS will be told that any future comms of this nature will be submitted to you and a copy sent to ADMS for infm only. Please keep me in touch with the med situation continuously.
10. If you have any difficulties let me know I may be able to help you.
11. Please ack this by sig.
12. News of the capture of PEREMBIL has just come in - good work. The principle in para 5(b) applies generally to all def enemy localities.

M J Moten
Brig
(M J MOTEN)
Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde

Copy to:

BM
War Diary (2)
File (4)

RESTRICTED

Nos: 138-139

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

17 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

BRIG M J MOTEN CBE DSO ED

COMD 17 AUST INF BDE

Serial 38

4 JAN 45

"G"

NIL

K C Clarke Maj
(K C CLARKE)
BM 17 Aust Inf Bde

"A"

138. PRE-SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Attention is directed to GRO A178/44.

Any soldier who considers himself suitable for appointment to commissioned rank in any of the relevant arms or corps is entitled to submit an application to the CO or OC of his unit for an interview by a local board and shall be entitled to be so interviewed.

Units will ensure that the principles underlying the pre-selection of officers are regularly promulgated to all ranks.

139. REQUEST HOUR

Attention is drawn to GRO A492/43 as amended.

The request hour was instituted to enable other ranks who are at a loss when they wish NOT to make a formal complaint but to obtain information informally on some matter.

Coy etc comds will see "requestmen" daily in accordance with the customs of the service and subject to operational exigencies.

The following principles underlying the request hour will be observed:-

- (a) In every company or equivalent sub-unit there will be a period in the week in which an other rank may see an officer on any personal or service matter other than a formal complaint. The time and place will be published in the weekly training programme or standing orders.
- (b) Access to the officer must be direct without the requirement of any previous notification or permission from a Warrant or Non-commissioned officer.
- (c) The interview should not take place in the sub-unit office and should be entirely informal.

The object of GRO 492/43 will be explained to all ranks on parade and this procedure will be repeated from time to time as a continuous offer always open for acceptance.

W P Bolger Capt
(W P BOLGER)
SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

N O T I C E S

CHURCH PARADES

7 Jan 45

- R C 0745 hrs - Mass - 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Area
0845 hrs - Mass - HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde
Confessions - Saturday afternoon 6 Jan 45 - Padre O'Keefe's tent 2/7 Aust Inf Bn lines.
Personnel attending RC services will be marched to and from the service by senior officer or NCO of each party.
- O D 0600 hrs - Holy Communion - 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Hut (Padre Richardson)
(C of E)
0745 hrs - Parade Service - 2/6 Aust Inf Bn area
0830 hrs - Parade Service - Bde HQ, 2/5 2/7 Aust Inf Bn - 2/7 Aust Inf Bn Area.
0915 hrs - Holy Communion - Bde HQ, 2/5 2/7 Aust Inf Bn - 2/7 Aust Inf Bn Marquee (Padre Richardson)
1000 hrs - Holy Communion - 2/6 Aust Inf Bn Recreation Hut (Padre Richardson)
(C of E)

WEEKLY INT REPORT

PIPER FORCE

Compiled by Lt D H PITTS IO.

26 Dec 44 to 1 Jan 45

Ref Map: SUAIN EAST NANU EAST
SUAIN WEST NANU WEST

1. OPs OWN

A coy has advanced by pls via YOURANG MUSIMBILIM NANAHANG and on 280830I the coy occupied a def locality at DREKIKER from which mortar fire has been directed on MUSINAU.

Fighting patrols to MUSINAU report that enemy tps have evacuated the village. Further extensive patrols have operated from YAMBES and DREKIKER to the EAST and SOUTH.

In three cases fighting patrols have contacted enemy tps inflicting cas and without loss to themselves.

2. OPs ENEMY

Our patrols report enemy tps in occupation of ASILING, PEREMBIL NUMISIM. Native reports state that enemy are also at BOMBISIMA 481079 WARELI 485060, WANDANGE 497080 and are patrolling to SALATA 483004 LUWAITE sq 4503.

3. AIR OPs

Own

During the earlier part of the week strikes were made on both PEREMBIL and MUSINAU. The enemy having evacuated the latter, strikes have been concentrated on PEREMBIL with one strike on a secondary target at EMUL sq 4304.

Enemy

NIL

4. ENEMY TACTICS

Tactics have been confined to the occupation of def bases from which foraging parties push fwd.

Reports indicate that the enemy are endeavouring as much as possible to avoid using native tracks for the following reasons -

1. Our patrols
2. Hostility of natives.

There is little attempt made to mov tactically except that sentries are posted and a fwd scout is used.

5. TOPO

NASALEM 388085 is suitable for a coy def locality from which mortar and MG fire can be directed on PEREMBIL.

A comprehensive list of track times have already been forwarded to Bde HQ.

Tracks generally are well defined but deteriorate rapidly with use by tps.

Corduroying of track between YASUAR and YAMBES has been commenced.

6. GENERAL

In every case where our patrols have killed enemy tps the physical condition of these tps has been very good.

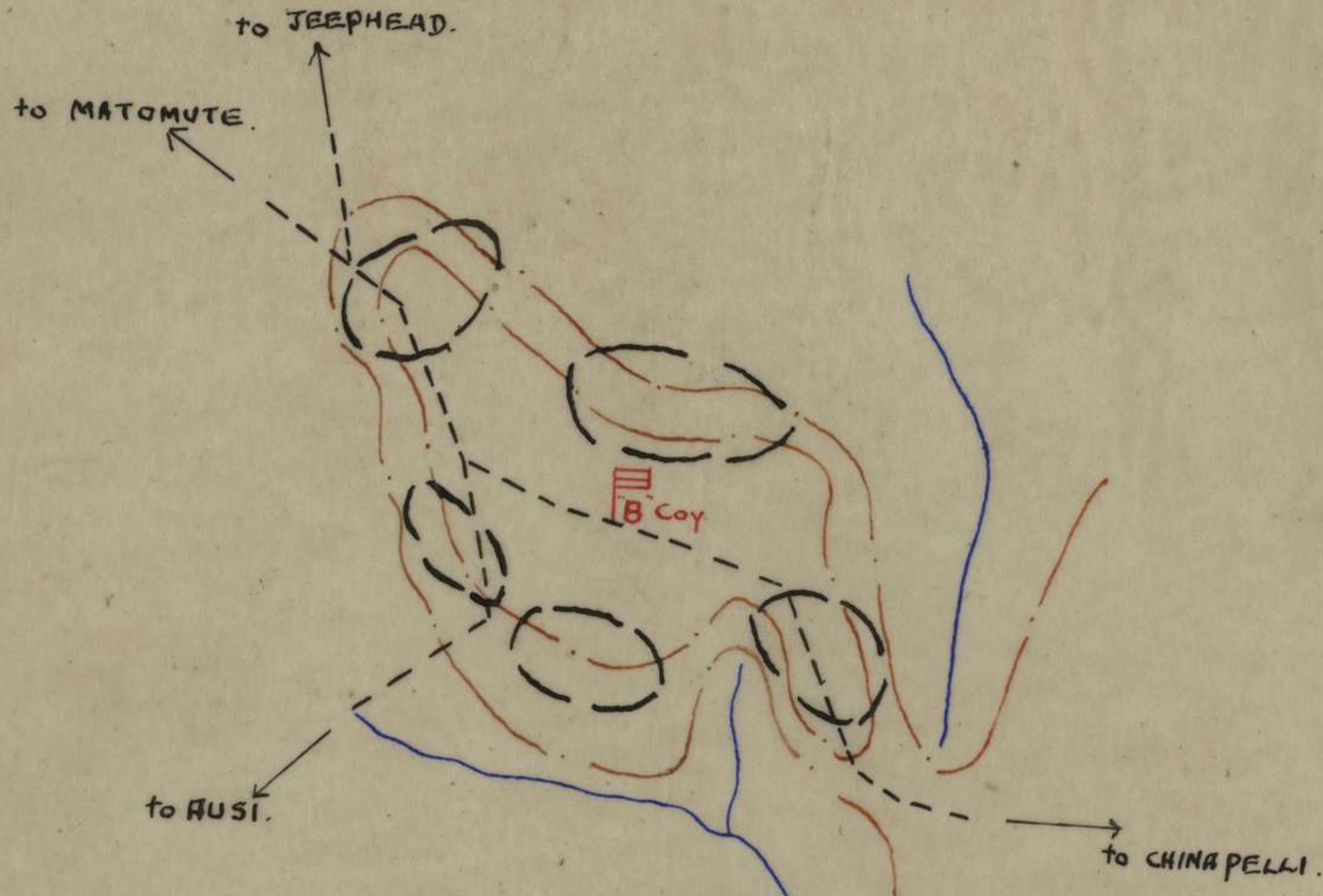
Clothing although filthy is of good quality and in good condition. Boots however, are bad and in two cases none were worn.

(Signed) D H PITTS Lt.

— SKETCH MAP - KAMTI - AREA - DEF —

Ref Map - RITAPE East 1:63360

RF: 1:3960



yds 100 50 0 110 220 330 440 550 yds.

V.I. 20ft approx.
Scale - 1in = 110 yds.

Legend.	
Track.	---
Creek	~~~~~
Farm Lines.	- - - - -
Sec Def Areas.	()

Traced by IntSec 17 Husr Inf Bde 16-12-44.

T 12/21

2/6 Aust Cav (Commando) Regt.
12 Dec 44

TRACK REPORT ON HARECH RIVER L of C TO YASUAR MISSION

REF MAPS - SUAIN WEST L/63360
- NANU WEST

3-4 December 44

ROUTE YAKAMUL MISSION along HARECH RIVER to ref V312222 to NIALU-KASAM (MUASNSM) - SEKANGEL - YASUAR MISSION.

TIME with native carriers to carry packs the route takes approx 16 hrs tps in full marching order 3 days

GUIDES the track is easy to follow well defined and guides are unnecessary

STAGE 1. YAKAMUL MISSION to "River Camp" ref V275282 - time 5 hrs
On leaving the MISSION the track follows a sandy creek bed swampy in patches through sac-sac and pit-pit for approx 1 hr - good going. Track then enters river bed of the HARECH and the going becomes progressively more difficult. After another hr the river flows through a steep sided gorge. This gorge continues as far as the upper HARECH. The river bed is strewn with boulders and going is strenuous. The river is crossed continually throughout its entire length. River averages up to 16 yards in width and up to 2 1/2 feet deep, flows at a rate of 5-6 knots. Crossings are not difficult but because of the rate of flow care is necessary to maintain a footing. Land slides which have deposited large boulders in the stream bed make going progressively more difficult. Five hours after ~~leaving the~~ leaving the Mission the "River Camp" is reached: this camp consists of half a dozen roughly built native huts sufficient to accommodate approx 100 tps. Good water.

STAGE 2 River Camp to ref V312222 to NIALU - time 5 hrs
From the river camp the track becomes progressively more difficult for three hours. Then improves to fair going along the stream bed of the UPPER HARECH. This continues for an hour until ref V312222 is reached where the track leaves the stream bed. A short stiff climb and then downhill to NIALU over a muddy track which is being corduroyed. NIALU provides a good staging camp for some 150 tps in well built native huts. A small quantity of provisions is maintained there and water and firewood are kept up the village natives.

STAGE 3 NIALU - KASAM - SEKANGEL - YA SUAR MISSION
Leaving NIALU the track climbs steeply for 3 hrs; the going is very hard over a muddy track (corduroying is in progress and should improve the track condition considerably.) Track is then downhill to KASAM 3 hrs from NIALU. ~~KASAM~~ KASAM is small village with NO facilities for staging. Leaving KASAM the track ascends sharply - the track is well corduroyed into steps. Going is fair. SEKANGEL is reached one hour later (large clean village which could be used as a staging camp if necessary) From SEKANGEL going is good with a short stiff climb into YASUAR one hour later

Signed R. L. SHEGOG tpr

Track is well corduroyed from NIALU to the end.

Subject: TOPOGRAPHICAL INFM

W/D.
HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

2 Jan 45

I 12/34

6 AUST DIV

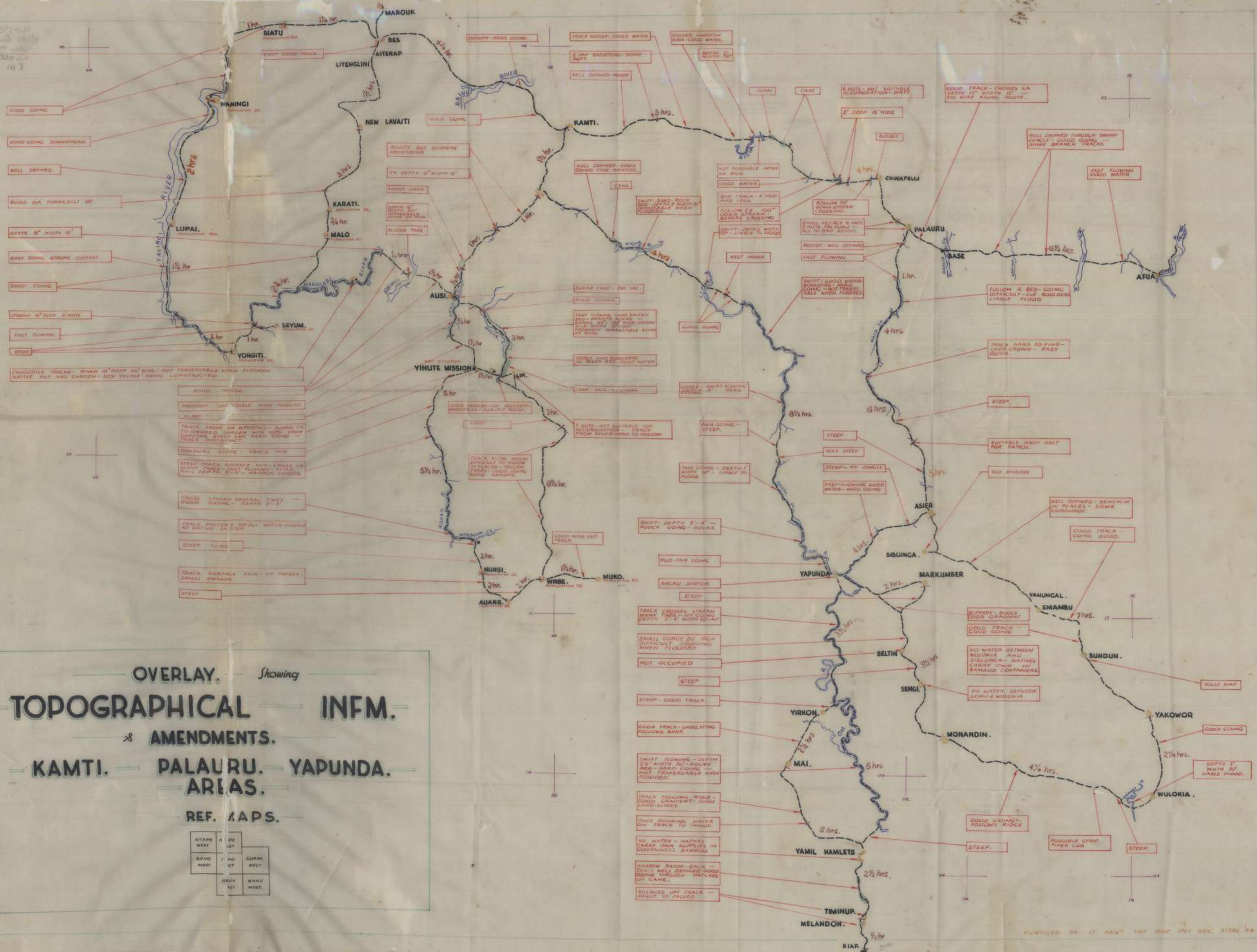
Attached is overlay of topographical infm gained
by patrols based at KAMPI, PALAURU and YAPUNDA.

M J Moten

Brig

(M J Moten)

Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde



OVERLAY. *Stowing*

TOPOGRAPHICAL INFM.

& AMENDMENTS.

KAMTI. PALAURU. YAPUNDA. AREAS.

REF. MAPS.

AITAPE	A	PE	
WEST	IST		
SEMO	7	NO	SUAN
WEST	ST		WEST
		HAKI	NANU
		IST	WEST.

Subject: RECCE PATROLS WEST OF AITAPE

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

28 Dec 44

G640

6 AUST DIV

1. Ref your G11376 of 9 Dec 44.
2. Attached are reports on patrols carried out by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

M J Moten

Brig

(M J Moten)
Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde

I 8/17.
WD

PATROL REPORT

PATROL A

2/7 Aust Inf Bn
23 Dec 44.

REPORT on recce track from V898553 along coast to WARAFU 1
Z605664 RAMU Z535587 WALWALI 2 Z582487 WENGIAN SIAUTI WOM 2
BES KAMTI jeep head Z929514 by VX16557 Lt TYRES.

STR 2 offrs 20 ORs (incl 1 med offr 1 med ord 1 Bn Int Sec
representative). 1 ANGAU Sgt and 100 native carriers att.

Route out)		Time out - 130830 I
Route in)	as above	Time in - 221120 I

OBJECT Recce track as above.

Ref MAPS - AITAPE EAST - AITAPE WEST 1 in to 1 mile.

PART I

i. Track mostly flat and muddy - passable by inf, not by
vehs - would be impassable after heavy rain - ten days (route
as above) for men carrying packs.

ii. Question.1 - Presence of ENEMY

Answer - NIL

iii. Question 2 - Attitude of Natives

Answer - Friendly throughout

iv. Question 3 - River crossings

Answer - See going map

v. Question 4 - MALOL and SISSANO LAGOONS

Answer - MALOL possible harbourage for craft with not
more than 3 ft draft.
SISSANO NOT suitable harbourage.

PART II

OBJECT - Recce track Z898553 along coast to WARAFU 1 Z605664
RAMU Z535587 WAIWALI 2 Z582487 NENGLIAN SIAUTI WOM 2
BES KANTI jeep head Z929514.

BOUND 1 - Z898553 to TELIA Z793570

ROAD - Rather wet and muddy under foot from Z898553 to
TEPIER PLANTATION.
One small landslide area Z898553
" " " " Z850553

Marsden matting laid through saddle MT TEPIER. Good
firm jeep track from TEPIER PLANTATION to TELIA VILLAGE
except at mouth of WAIPO CREEK where it moves across
a sand bar about 6 ft above high tide level 200 yds wide
(sand inclined to be shifty) - well covered from air.
Could be made serviceable with small amount of labour.

VILLAGES- All houses as shown on map destroyed - TEPIER VILLAGE
not occupied - 3 huts in bad state of repair - MAROK
does not exist at Z804564 as shown on map.
TELIA VILLAGE: 12 or more huts in good repair - well
laid out - sanitation good - natives friendly and
anxious to please.

ENEMY - No sign of ENEMY in area. Native reports - ENEMY moved
along coast to WEST after AITAPE invaded.

NATURAL) Natural water was plentiful when small pits were dug -
WATER) coconuts supplied refreshing drink.
SUPPLY)

NATURAL) Coconuts along entire bound - at gardens area TELIA
FOOD) PAW PAW BANANAS leaves of sweet potato and PINEAPPLES
SUPPLY)

TERRAIN - Flat coastal track except area MT TEPIER.

TIME - 5 hrs.

PART II (Contd)

- BOUND 2 - TELIA VILLAGE to LAMBU VILLAGE Z774580.
- TRACK - Good firm foot track through edge of jungle to MAROK Z779577 where it goes out to a wide sand beach 3 to 400 yds in width and held firm by grass along to LAMBU Z774580 - Well covered from air to MAROK but open along beach to LAMBU.
- VILLAGES - TELIA - MAROK come under command LULUWAI LAMBU VILLAGE. MAROK clean and well laid out but huts in poor repair. LAMBU clean - sanitation good - small gardens - natives all friendly and seemed to dislike the Jap as he would cut down the trees in their gardens.
- ENEMY - NO ENEMY seen - native reports ENEMY moved through to WEST after invasion by Americans.
- NATURAL
WATER) - Can be obtained by seepage pits.
SUPPLY)
- FOOD - Coconuts - sweet potato.
- TERRAIN - Flat
- TIME - 1 hr 30 mins.

PART II (Contd)

- BOUND 3 - LAMBU to AROP Z648632
- TRACK - Firm to YALINGI RIVER but for 500 yds along beach past there it is covered with 18" of water but ground firm sand, then track moves up in jungle edge where it is firm, to mission villages at Z750580 and moves on firm track through villages to Z740580. Well covered from crossing by canoe to Z738582 (crossing YALINGI RIVER - see Appx "A"). (Crossing and recce MALOL LAGOON see Appx "B") - Track under cover of jungle to Z665619 where it moves along sand beach to AROP VILLAGE.
- VILLAGES - Village at Z690596 not at Z598591 NOT occupied. Village Z690596 NOT occupied - about 6 huts. MALOL and MISSION VILLAGES clean - good gardens - sanitation good. Natives friendly and anxious for trade in salt and tobacco. AROP VILLAGE clean huts - bit crowded - sanitation into lagoon - natives friendly.
- ENEMY - No signs of ENEMY. NATIVE reports that ENEMY from there moved SOUTH towards hills sometime ago - seemed to dislike the Jap and had gone bush for a time (supported native report by gardens overgrown in places which would indicate that they had been absent).
- WATER - Seepage pits.
- FOOD - COCONUTS, PAW PAW, SWEET POTATO, FISH, LEMONS and SEPALS (a fruit like an orange).
- TERRAIN - Flat.
- TIME - 7 hrs.

PART II (Contd)

- BOUND 4 - AROP to WARAFU 1. Z604665
- TRACK - Along isthmus to the channel but then must be crossed by canoe because of crocs and sharks. Total trip done by canoe as the canoes must be brought from AROP so native prefers to move pers all the way by canoe.
- VILLAGES - Village at Z615611 NOT occupied - about 6 huts built over water half an acre in swamp gardens area. WARAFU 2 NOT occupied at Z591619 - 2 huts - small garden and start of track to RAMU VILLAGE, Z605613 occupied by natives fishing from WARAFU 1. WARAFU 1. clean - good gardens - sanitation good - NATIVES friendly.
- ENEMY - NOT in that area - NATIVES REPORT that ENEMY never came up the coast to their village but went to the hills near AITAPE.
- FOOD - FISH plentiful in LAGOON - COCONUTS PAW PAWS BANANAS.
- TERRAIN - Flat - sand bar past AROP as shown on the map, is an isthmus not sand bar - covered with native gardens and 60 ft above high tide level - 200 ft wide.
- TIME - 1½ hrs.

PART II (Contd)

- BOUND 5 - WARAFU 1 to RAMU Z535587.
- TRACK - By native canoe to Z591619 where track starts
Track well formed - slippery clay surface but firm
- well covered from air - swampy jungle in places
bordering track but mostly firm though heavy jungle
(see going map for track correction) stream
crossing at Z554587 by firm native bridge.
- VILLAGE - RAMU - laid out in two rows of huts - clean - well
spaced - very clean - sanitation good.
Natives friendly - say they went bush for a time
while Jap went through that area some months ago -
confirmed by ANGAU.
- ENEMY - ENEMY moved towards the hills through that area -
No traces of ENEMY seen.
- FOOD - PIDGEON and HORNBILLS tough meat but edible and make
very rich soup - PAW PAW, LEMON, PINEAPPLE and
BANANAS plentiful. SWEET POTATOES greens of them,
SACSAC, PUMPKIN and CHOKO plentiful.
- WATER - Good fresh water stream.
- TERRAIN - Swampy and heavy jungle.
- TIME - 2 hrs.

PART II (Contd)

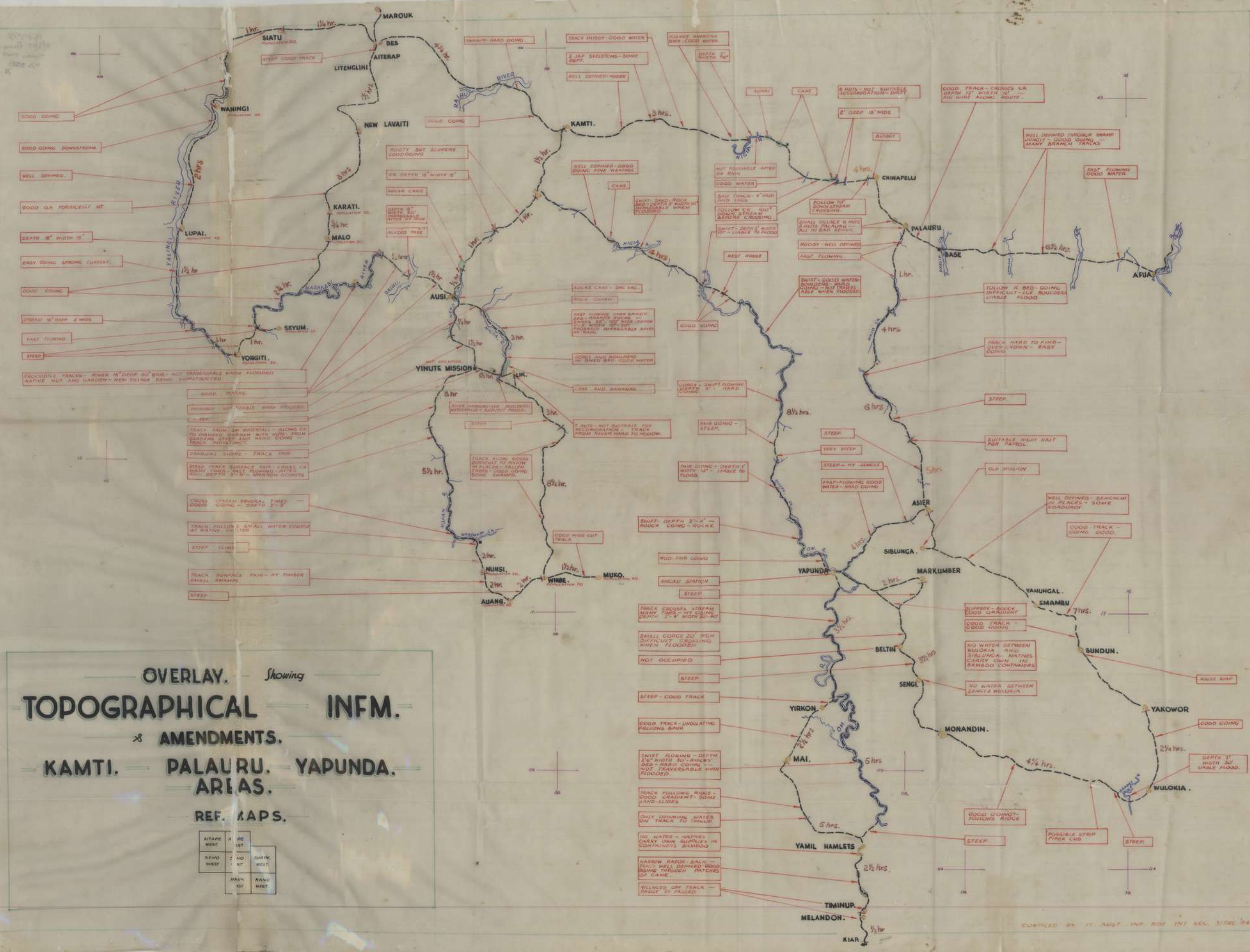
- BOUND 6 - RAMU to WALWALI 2 Z583487.
- TRACK - (For correction see going map). Track to Z545518 well formed and firm - inclined to be damp and slippery - Main track continues to BARIDA. From Z545518 the track is almost non-existent through heavy SAC SAC swamp knee deep and impassable to small bodies of tps and only passable to small bodies in dry weather - native guide necessary.
- VILLAGE - WALWALI 2 is shown on the map as WALWALI 1 - it is not occupied except for a few natives that come down to the gardens area from WALWALI 1 at Z573459 - Natives friendly.
- ENEMY - ENEMY hut at Z579497 one dead Jap - dead some months but no identification on him. From there on to WGM 2 appeared to be patrol route for Japs. Native reports that ENEMY came through there a lot about three or four months ago, but most died, and the remainder went over the range to the SEPIK Valley - estimated str had been 800 according to police boy. No HQ could be located - natives seemed to indicate that they mostly kept on the move.
- FOOD - SAC SAC, PIDGEONS, HORNBILLS, COCONUTS, SWEET POTATOES.
- WATER - Plenty of fresh water streams.
- TERRAIN - Flat and swampy except for small ridges crossed at area Z575500 - very wet swampy country and all streams subject to flood.

PART II (Contd)

- BOUND 7 - WAIWALI 2 to NENGIAN.
- TRACK - Very wet and muddy but passable over foothills PIENO RIVER (see Appx "D") not fordable after heavy rain - small streams would flood with heavy rain and become impassable.
- VILLAGE - NENGIAN - clean village well laid out - NATIVES friendly gardens area Z590489.
- ENEMY - Old signs of ENEMY along track - boot, helmets, found at scattered points on side of track.
- FOOD - PAW PAW, BANANAS, PIDGEONS, etc. - SWEET POTATO and SAC SAC.
- WATER - Ample supply from streams.
- TERRAIN - Mostly over small ridges at edge of foothills.
- TIME - 1½ hrs.

PART II (Contd)

- BOUND '8 - NENGIAN to SIAUTI
- TRACK - Track for total distance muddy and swampy in places but passable in all weathers except for streams if they were in flood would be impassable (NENGO RIVER see Appx "E"); (YALINGI RIVER see Appx "F"). Track well covered from air.
- VILLAGE - SIAUTI clean and sanitation good - natives friendly and anxious for trade.
- ENEMY - Used the route for patrol but NO ENEMY there for some months - reports coincide with other reports.
- FOOD - PAW PAW, BANANAS and the birds, etc.
- WATER - Water from the many streams flowing from the hills.
- TERRAIN - As shown on map - some swampy areas and very muddy over foothills.
- TIME - 5 hrs.



OVERLAY. Showing
TOPOGRAPHICAL INFM.
 & AMENDMENTS.
KAMTI. PALAURU. YAPUNDA. AREAS.
 REF. MAPS.

AITAPE WEST	A RE	157	
SEAVO WEST	C NO	137N.	
	ST		WEST.
	MAUK	157	
	WAKU		WEST.

PART II (Contd)

- BOUND 9 - SIAUTI to BES Z799464
- TRACK - Very muddy and heavy going - moves through swamp for most of the bound and in places mud is 15 to 18 inches deep.
- VILLAGES - Clean - well laid out. WOM 2 good gardens area and 6 Bn telephone laid to KAMTI - Natives friendly and anxious to please - supplied coconuts and had them ready in anticipation of our arrival.
BES - clean - natives very friendly - BES VILLAGE is in reality at Z499467 and deserted village as shown on map.
- ENEMY - ENEMY have been through area and one dead ENEMY seen on stream Z805165 but had been dead some months.
- FOOD - PAW PAW, PINEAPPLE, SWEET POTATO, etc.
- WATER - Plentiful supply from streams.
- TERRAIN - Mostly flat country with mountain range on our immediate right.
- TIME - 3½ hrs.

PART II (Contd)

- BOUND 10. - BES to KAMTI Z890419
- TRACK - (see overlay for correction) Very muddy and heavy going - hills rather steep in places but not big enough to tire the tps (RAIHU RIVER see Appx "G").
- VILLAGES - KAMTI - clean with gardens area - "B" coy 2/6 Bn camped in area - natives not seen.
- ENEMY - No tracks or sign of ENEMY seen.
- FOOD - COCONUTS
- WATER - Plentiful from streams
- TERRAIN - Rather sharp hills, but are all about 2 to 300 ft high rising to the mountain range to the SOUTH.
- TIME - 7 hrs.

PART II (Contd)

BOUND 11 - KANTI to jeep head at Z929514

TRACK - Wet and muddy at the hills and inclined to be swampy along the RAIHU RIVER. The best track is through MARNGE Z892440 and then down to RAIHU RIVER.

ENEMY - One Jap village at Z915496 approx 6 huts and some boxes about - NO def posns dug.

WATER - Plentiful from RAIHU RIVER

TERRAIN - Hilly for the first hour from KANTI but flat swampy country down the RAIHU RIVER to the jeep head.

PLANTATION- At Z920505

TIME - 4 hrs.

RECCE OF YALINGI RIVER CROSSING2/7 Aust Inf Bn
14 Dec 44.

2 offrs 22 ORs (1 ANGAU, 1 med offr, 1 med ord, 1 Bn Int Sec personnel)

Ref Map AITAPE WEST 1 in to 1 mile.

Map Ref Z768581

OBJECT: 1. Is YALINGI RIVER fordable
2. Subject to flood
3. Possible bridging

PART I

1. YALINGI RIVER is fordable, but would be swift after heavy rain
2. Would be subject to flood in wet season.
3. It would be possible to bridge the river, and most timbers could be cut in area.

RECCE OF YALINGI RIVER CROSSINGPART II

- (a) Good sand approach on EAST side - waterlogged on WEST side. NO detour.
- (b) Good assembly area on WEST side with good cover from air and land.
- (c) Cover in edge of jungle (see sketch attached)
- (d) Fordable at any point.

100 yds wide
2 ft to 2'6" in very swift current.
Coarse sand bottom (very firm)
Bridging possible and timber available in area.
Very liable to flood after heavy rain
Good cover from observation in fringe of
jungle area
There is plenty of material available for
building rafts, but would need
ropes across stream to prevent
them going out to sea.

RECCE OF MALOL LAGOON

2/7 Aust Inf Bn
15 Dec 44.

2 offrs 22 ORs (1 ANGAU, 1 med offr, 1 med ord, 1 Bn Int Sec personnel)

Ref Map AITAPE WEST 1 in to 1 mile.

Map Ref Sq Z7357 - Z7358 - Z7457 - Z7458

OBJECT : 1. Is MALOL LAGOON suitable anchorage for small craft

PART I

1. MALOL LAGOON good anchorage for craft with not more than 2'6" draught, as channel is not deep enough to permit larger vessels entering (could be dredged)

PART II

- (a) Good cover and approaches through villages and garden areas on both banks.
- (b) Good assembly areas for tps and vehs in native gardens.
- (c) Cover good in gardens up to bank on EAST side, but landing point on WEST bank is on an open sand bar (see sketch), but good cover in gardens 100 yds along sand bar.
- (d) For crossing points (see sketch)

300 yds wide
 3 ft at WEST bank but 1 ft at EAST bank
 Slight current at change of tide
 Sand bottom at entrance
 Could be dredged - sufficient materials in area.
 Natives will ferry tps across in canoes.

RECCE OF SISSANO LAGOON

2/7 Aust Inf Bn
16 Dec 44

2 offrs 22 ORs (1 ANGAU, 1 med offr, 1 med ord, 1 Bn Int Sec personnel)

Ref Map - AITAPE WEST

OBJECT - 1. Is SISSANO LAGOON suitable anchorage?

PART I

1. NOT suitable anchorage owing to depth of lagoon and entrance from ocean.

PART II

- (a) Approaches good firm sand
- (b) Good areas for assembly
- (c) Good cover supplied by native gardens.
- (d) Only crossable by native canoe, owing to shallows (can't be forded owing to presence of crocodiles)

700 yds wide
Channel 400 yds wide
6 in to 10 ft in centre
Current strong at change of tide
Could easily be bridged
Ample bridging materials
Ample raft building materials, but native canoes plentiful.

RECCE PIENO RIVER CROSSING

2/7 Aust Inf Bn
18 Dec 44.

2 offrs 22 ORs (1 ANGAU, 1 med offr, 1 med ord, 1 Bn Int personnel)

Ref Map - AITAPE WEST

Map Ref - Z588488

OBJECT : 1. Is PIENO RIVER fordable?
2. Subject to flood?
3. Is PIENO RIVER possible to bridge?

PART I

1. PIENO RIVER can be forded anywhere in that area.
2. Subject to flood in wet season.
3. Could be easily bridged.

PART II

- (a) Good firm approaches
- (b) Good assembly areas
- (c) Well covered from air
- (d) Can be forded except after heavy rain

125 yds wide
2 ft deep
Current swift
Could easily be bridged
Ample bridging materials in area
Good materials for building rafts
Deep banks - steep 10 ft drop
Firm sand bottom

RECCE CROSSING NENGO RIVER

2/7 Aust Inf Bn
18 Dec 44

2 offrs 22 ORs (1 ANGAU, 1 med offr, 1 med ord, 1 Int Sec Pers)

Ref Map - AITAPE WEST

Map Ref - Z663469

OBJECT: 1. Is NENGO RIVER fordable
2. Subject to flood
3. Is NENGO RIVER possible to bridge

PART I

1. NENGO RIVER is fordable but not after heavy rain.
2. Subject to flood with one day's rain.
3. Could be bridged but difficult owing to width.

PART II

- (a) Good firm approaches on EAST bank but swampy on WEST bank.
- (b) Very subject to flood after rain.
- (c) Well covered from air.
- (d) Fordable in dry season.

400 yds wide
3 ft deep
Current swift
Could be bridged
Ample bridging material and fast building
Banks 5 ft drop to river bed.
Good firm sand bottom

RECCE OF YALINGI RIVER CROSSING

2/7 Aust Inf Bn
19 Dec 44

2 offrs 22 ORs (1 ANGAU, 1 med offr, 1 med ord, 1 Bn Int Sec personnel)

Ref Map AITAPE WEST 1 in to 1 mile.

Map Ref Z724468

- OBJECT: 1. Is YALINGI RIVER fordable
2. Subject to flood
3. Possible bridging

PART I

1. YALINGI RIVER is fordable except when in flood.
2. Would be subject to flood in wet weather.
3. Bridging materials plentiful and could be bridged but would present difficulties on account of 300 yds width.

PART II

- (a) Good firm sand bottom but has heavy jungle growth on both sides - banks 8 ft high and jungle tracks only approach.
- (b) Good assembly area for tps only.
- (c) Jungle thick but near edge of river some bamboo and an absence of vines.
- (d) Fordable at any point.

300 yds wide

1 ft deep

Current steady but would be swift in flood.

Flat country on approaches - almost a vertical drop to river bed

Firm sand bottom

LIABLE to flood only after very heavy rains

Plenty of bridging timber in areas around banks

Good cover from air and land except when actually crossing river.

Bamboo would make excellent raft-building material

RECCE RAIHU RIVER CROSSING

2/7 Aust Inf Bn
20 Dec 44

2 offrs 22 ORs (1 ANGAU, 1 med offr, 1 med ord, 1 Bn Int Sec personnel)

Ref Map - AITAPE EAST

Map Ref - Z845438

OBJECT - 1. Is RAIHU RIVER fordable
2. Subject to flood
3. Is RAIHU RIVER bridgeable

PART I

1. RAIHU RIVER is fordable in dry season
2. Subject to flood in wet season
3. Could be bridged

PART II

- (a) Swampy and jungle banks
- (b) Assembly areas for tps good
- (c) Good cover from air and land
- (d) Fordable in dry season

300 yds wide
3 ft deep
Current steady
Could be bridged - ample materials in area
Also for raft building
Sloping banks 8 ft deep
Firm sand bottom

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. NATIVES

Throughout the entire patrol natives were quite friendly, and seemed very pleased to see us move through. By talking to natives themselves we came to the conclusion that the natives gave the Japanese stragglers a rough time, as they passed through their villages. The number of huts built by the Japanese in remote places of the swamp areas where they have laid down and died, seems to confirm the fact. In a lot of cases the natives left their villages and never came back till after the Japs had gone back to the hills.

2. ENEMY

On information from the natives there has apparently been no enemy sighted in the locality for many months, and when we reached SIAUTI we met an ANGAU patrol which had just come in from the WAIPO region and his information regarding enemy was the same as ours. And he is of the opinion that there are no enemy WEST and SW this side of the SEPIK valley. His information regarding the WAIPO natives was that wherever the Jap went they left behind a lot of DYSENTERY with the natives, whereas we contacted no dysentery amongst the natives whatsoever.

3. VILLAGES

All villages were remarkably clean, and their hygiene and sanitation was excellent. We also observed that the natives made a regular practice of washing two or three times a day. Also, in all big villages there was established a LULUWAI TUL TUL and DOCTOR BOY. Also a house KIAP complete with sanitation. It is apparent that ANGAU PATROLS have been through that country, but not for some considerable time.

4. TERRAIN

Most difficult tracks in most cases in very bad condition and in bad weather impassable to tps. Swamp is mostly sac sac and in places 4 ft deep. The swamps contain a certain amount of acid from the SAC SAC palms and this has a tendency to irritate the feet.

5. RIVER CROSSINGS

In general all the rivers - the NENGO, YALINGI and RAIHU - where the patrol crossed and came into contact with them were found to be no more than 2 ft deep and the average pace of the flow would be approx 6 to 7 mph. All the rivers contained many sand bars owing to the shallowness of the water. There would be no difficulty in performing river crossings of these rivers at this stage, but I think that they would be uncrossable in monsoonal weather.

6. TRADE

It is definitely necessary for long range patrols to take salt and twist tobacco for trade, as to take complete rations for duration of the patrol means a long string of natives. In our case 110 natives to carry patrol's 10 days' rations plus their own 10 days' rations. The only items of food I personally think it necessary to take are tinned meats, tropical spread, biscuits, milk, tea and sugar and tomato juice could be included, deleting all other unnecessary food items such as margarine, and dehydrated vegetables, which in our case we never used except for trade.

GENERAL REMARKS

(Continued)

TRADE (Contd)

Trade is the main thing that natives look for when white men pass through their villages and for very small gifts you can get an abundance of vegetables.

On all patrols whether there be a boy line or not, there should be at least two police boys accompany the patrol, as the troops can learn a lot from them in the way of living off the land if any time they become separated from their patrol or formation for a time. I personally think that the reason the Jap starved to death was mainly because he did not know what foods in the jungle to eat.

The SAC SAC palm is good food when treated the native way, and if the pulp is eaten just as it is, it is poisonous, and the native seems to think that the Japanese may have eaten this SAC SAC and died in that way.

(L B TYRES) Lt
(Patrol Comd)

PATROL REPORT

PATROL B

2/7 Aust Inf Bn,
16 Dec 44

Report on recce track MALOL 2738580 - track junc 2721469 -
WOM 2 - track junc 2805489 - FUL TALUL 2869541 - AITAPE by
VX84958 Lt F. X. CONNOR.

Str: 1 offr and 8 ORs (incl 1 med ord 2/2 Fd Amb)
1 Sjt ANGAU and 10 native carriers. attached.

Route Out)	Time Out - 141030I
) As above	
Route In)	Time In - 160835I

Object - Recce track as above.

Ref Maps : AITAPE EAST - AITAPE WEST 1" to 1 mile.

PART I.

i. Track flat and muddy - passable infantry - not by
vehicles - would be impassable after heavy rain - three -
day trip from MALOL via this track to AITAPE for men carry-
ing packs.

ii. Question 1 - Presence of ENEMY

Answer : NIL

iii. Question 2 - Attitude of natives

Answer : Friendly throughout

iv. Question 3 - River crossings

Answer : Detailed recce YALINGI RIVER in Part II.

v. Question - MALOL LAGOON

Answer : Area examined by this patrol suitable
harbourage small craft.
For complete answer to this question
necessary to have report from Lt TYRES
o/c patrol No 3 (a)

Lt
(F. X. CONNOR)
Patrol Comd

PART II.

PATROL NUMBER R3 (b)

OBJECT: Recce track MALOL Z738580 - track june Z721469 - WOM 2 -
track june Z805489 - FULTALUL Z869541 - AITAPE.

1. YALINGI RIVER

- (a) Only approaches narrow native pads, not jeepable.
- (b) Numerous assembly areas for tps along both banks.
- (c) Thick rain forest on WEST bank - shorter, sparser rain forest EAST bank - at estuary banks cleared for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile back from beach and 200 to 300 yds on each side.
- (d) Patrol crossed river about a dozen times - hard going - probably dangerous in wet weather, even with river crossing gear.
- (e) River bed varied from 70 yds wide at estuary to 300 yds further south - stream itself never more than 70 or 80 yds - remainder sand bars, along which patrol walked.
- (f) Two to three ft deep all along portion traversed.
- (g) Current about 6 - 7 mph - very strong - hard going to get across, even with water barely above knees.
- (h) Banks particularly shallow - EAST bank almost indefinable - WEST bank never more than two or three ft.
- (i) Muddy bottom all the way - tps sank in mud over boot tops at almost every crossing.
- (j) Difficult, if not impossible, for land vehicles to ford stream at any place, owing to muddy bottom - what appeared to be ALLIGATOR (vehicle) tracks seen at approx Z757530 for two to three hundred yds. Abundance of local bridging material - at estuary br over river itself would need to be about 80 yds long and a raised causeway for at least 200 yds over swampy ground to ensure all-weather crossing. Brs at all other places would have to extend from 50 to 100 yds beyond both banks.
- (k) From nature of sand bars river very liable to flood after heavy rain in hills to SOUTH - would then become wide fast-flowing stream practically impossible to ford.
- (l) Cover in stream bed consists of Pit Pit - only fair cover - good cover on both banks, particularly WEST bank.
- (m) No rain for 48 hrs before river traversed.

2. GOING

Packs carried by natives all the way - (see para 5) - consider trip MALOL - SIAUTI - AITAPE would have taken from 24 to 36 hours longer without their assistance. Natives at MALOL could not guide patrol to track shown on map as starting at Z734567. Only track SOUTH from MALOL to YALINGI RIVER known in area is as shown on overlay att. After passing Z751508 where map shows track adjacent to YALINGI RIVER several attempts to locate track WEST of river. I consider that track on map is now disused and track followed by patrol is the best one available from MALOL to Z721469. Track from Z843533 via PULTALUL to AITAPE shown on map as jeep track. From Z843533 to incl BRIDGE at Z873539 NOT jeepable, owing to SAC SAC swamp and disrepair of br. Local timber available for repairs. From there to AITAPE barely jeepable in dry weather. Along old Airdrome site, track crated with many shell holes approx 10 ft diameter and 2 to 3 ft deep. These can be detoured, but owing to long grass could be dangerous to vehs if drivers NOT warned.

3. WATER

Many small streams crossed on tracks - abundance of water.

4. VILLAGES

- (a) MALOL - large gp of villages - friendly natives - coconuts paw paws, bananas in good supply - HOUSE KIAP and MISSION.
- (b) SIAUTI - few dozen native huts - friendly natives - coconuts and paw paws - police boy staying there - worked for ANGAU in WAU, SALAMAUA and LAE - resting at present - would get infm of any Japs in vicinity and report it quickly.
- (c) WOM 2 - Passed through quickly - a dozen huts - HOUSE KIAP - few natives seen.
- (d) PULTALUL - Unoccupied - old US assault course in area - coconuts and paw paws.

5. NATIVES

10 native carriers with this patrol - additional nine or ten picked up at MALOL, who carried mens packs. All natives worked well under ANGAU Sgt, who was of great assistance - police boy made excellent scout.

6. ENEMY

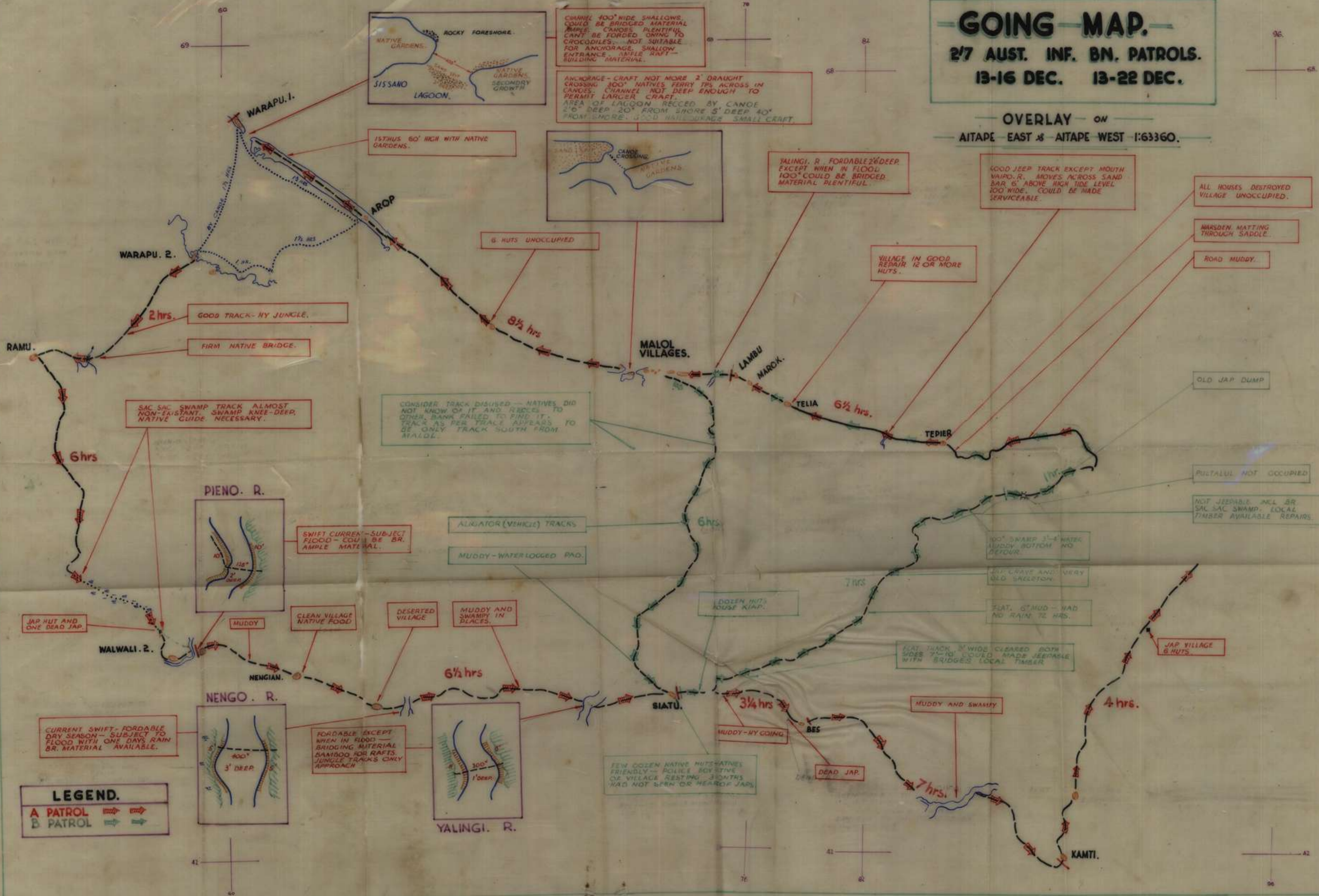
Gas canister and rubber shoe with cleft toe found Z677540 - numerous kerosene and other boxes with Jap symbols at same dump.

Lt
(F. X. CONNOR)
Patrol Comd

GOING MAP.

2/7 AUST. INF. BN. PATROLS.
13-16 DEC. 13-22 DEC.

OVERLAY ON
AITAPE EAST & AITAPE WEST 1:63360.



44/87

33

NEW SAHIL

F7 30 Dec

Patrol Routes R12, 15, 17, F3-11

Overlay to 4 inch - 1 mile

Lauq

R8 20 Dec

R10 30 Dec

Nasalen

Narugan

33

02

F11 1 Jan

33

02

From Manahang

R12 27 Dec

MUSIM

GREMBA

F5 30 Dec

R17 31 Dec

F10 12 Dec

NIGUB

village

Drawn by 76 Bn Inf Sec
5 Jan 45

02

33

02

33

I17/61

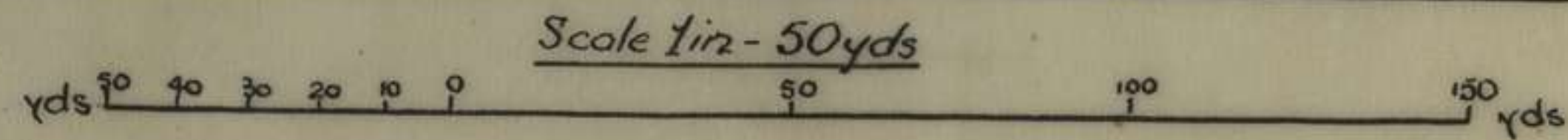
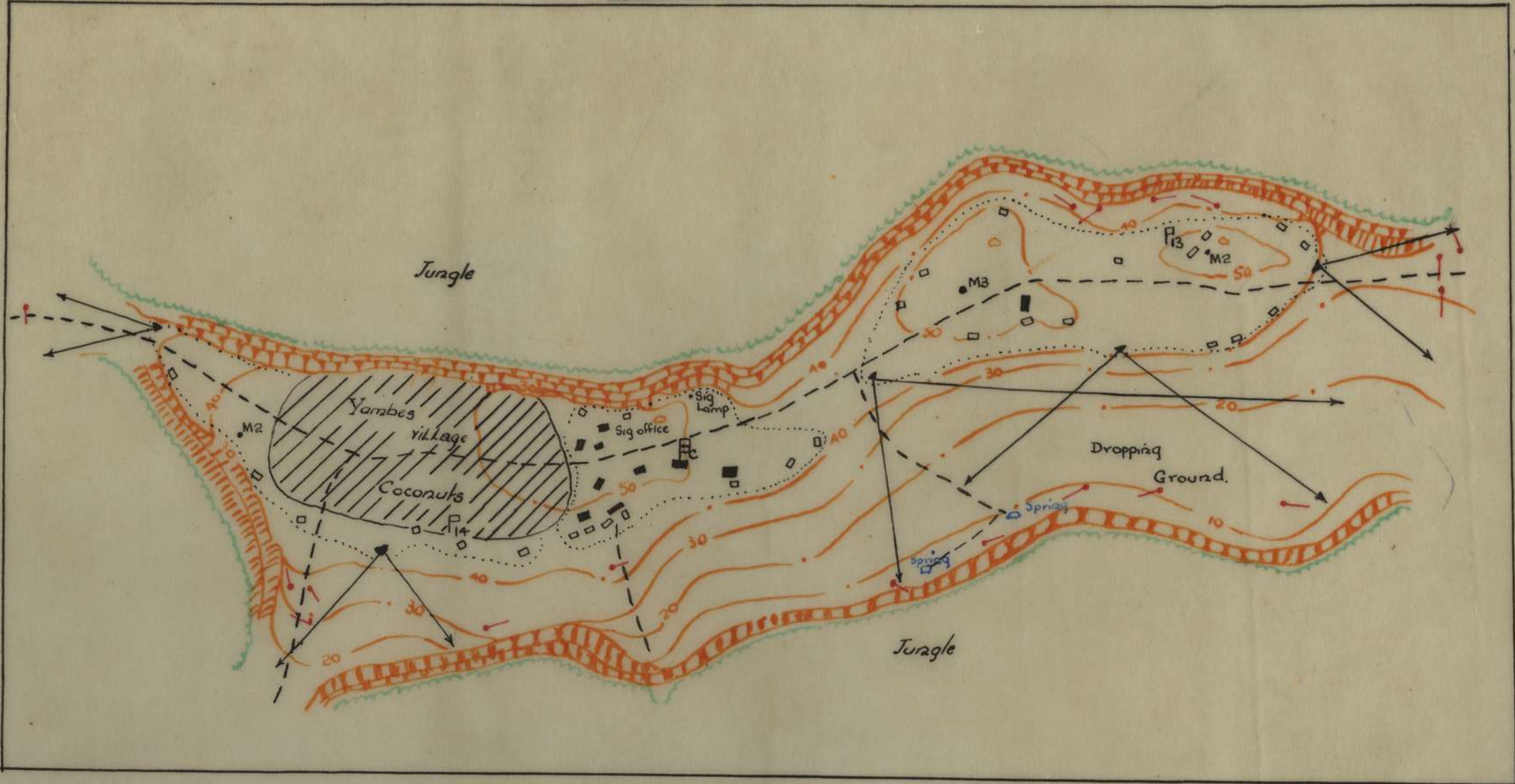
Coy DEF POSN & FIRE PLAN

YAMBES 353088

I17/61

RF 1:1800

Ref Map Tong 1st Edition 1:63360



VI 10 ft (approx)

Legend

- Weapons pits
- Huts occupied
- Jungle edge
- Booby trap 36HE grenade
- The ridge is covered with kurai grass with secondary growth on jungle edge
- Sheer cliffs

Method: Compass & pacing
 Visibility: Fair
 Time taken: 5 hrs
 Date: 22 Dec 44.

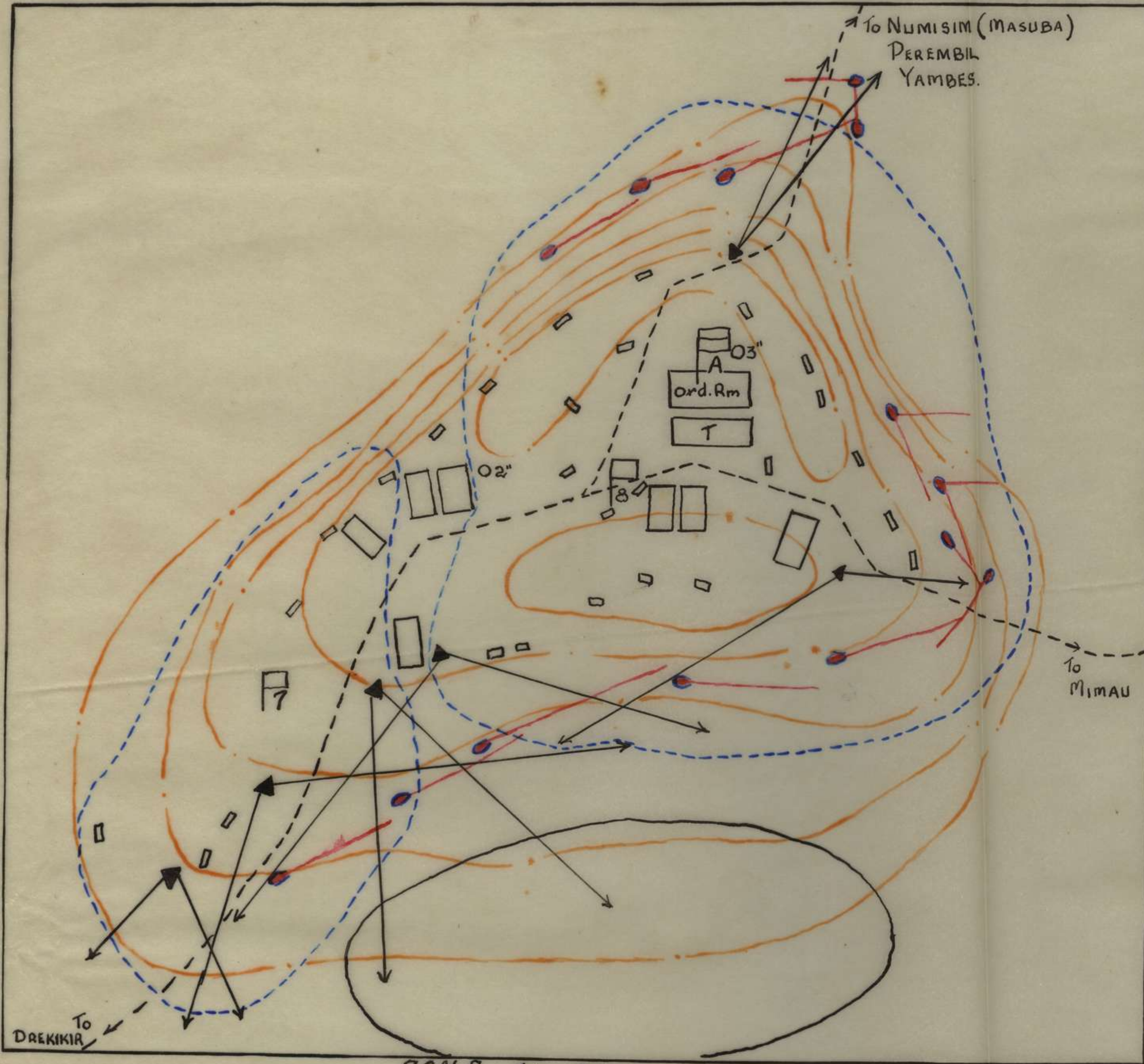
Drawn by AB Sutherland Ae.
 2/5 Br. Int Sec.

FIRE PLAN MUSINAU AREA

Ref. Map: TONG SPECIAL 1:63,360

I17/65

RF 1:720.



G.N. *
m.N.
approx. 5°

SCALE 1 in = 20 yds.
yds 20 15 10 5 0 20 40 60 80 100 yds.

Method: Bearings by Compass.
Distance by Pacing.
Vis: Good.
Time Taken: 6 hrs. Date: 4 Jan. '45.
Drawn By: 2/5 Bn. Inf. Sec.

V.I. 5ft. approx.

Legend.
—●— m36 Booby Traps.
- - - Pl. bdy.

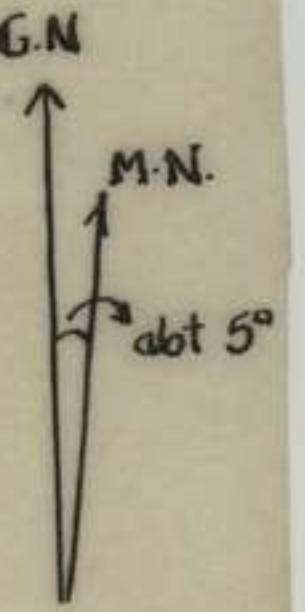
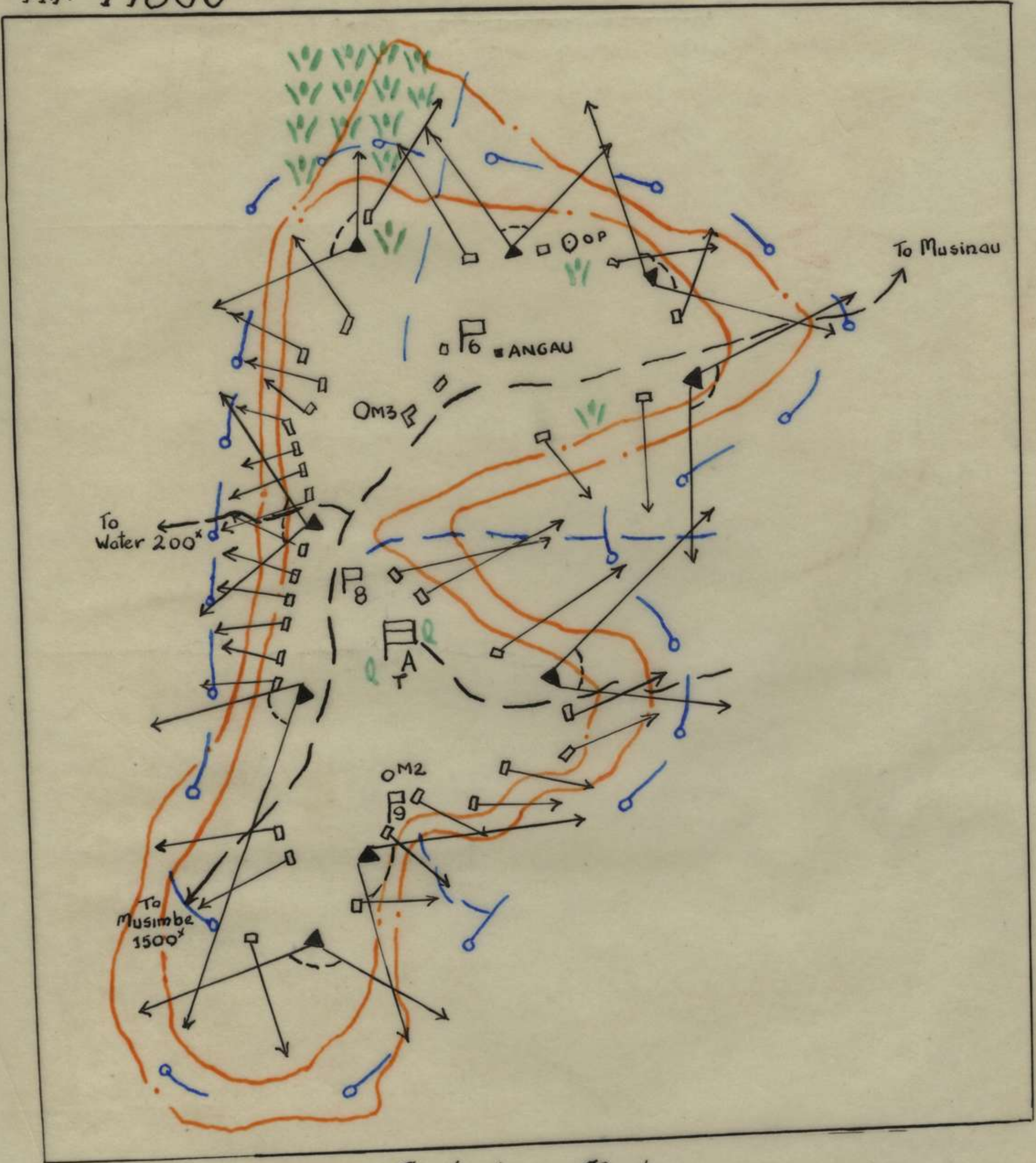
FIRE PLAN SKETCH

I 17/63

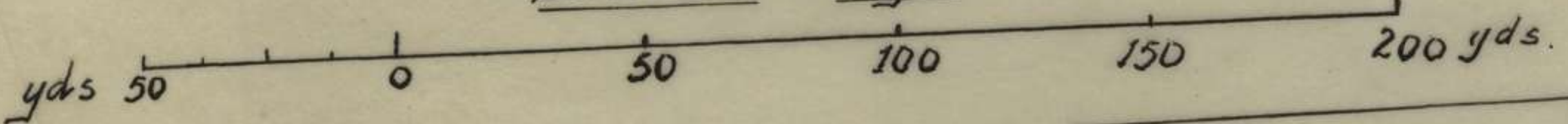
DREKIKER AREA.

REF MAP. TONG SPECIAL 1:63,360.

RF 1:1800



Scale 1 in = 50 yds.



Method: Compass & Pacing
 Vis: Good.
 Date: 30 Dec. 44.
 Time Taken: 4 1/2 hrs.
 Drawn By: Pte. W. Murdoch
 Traced By: 12/5 Aust. Inf. Bn. Inf. Sec

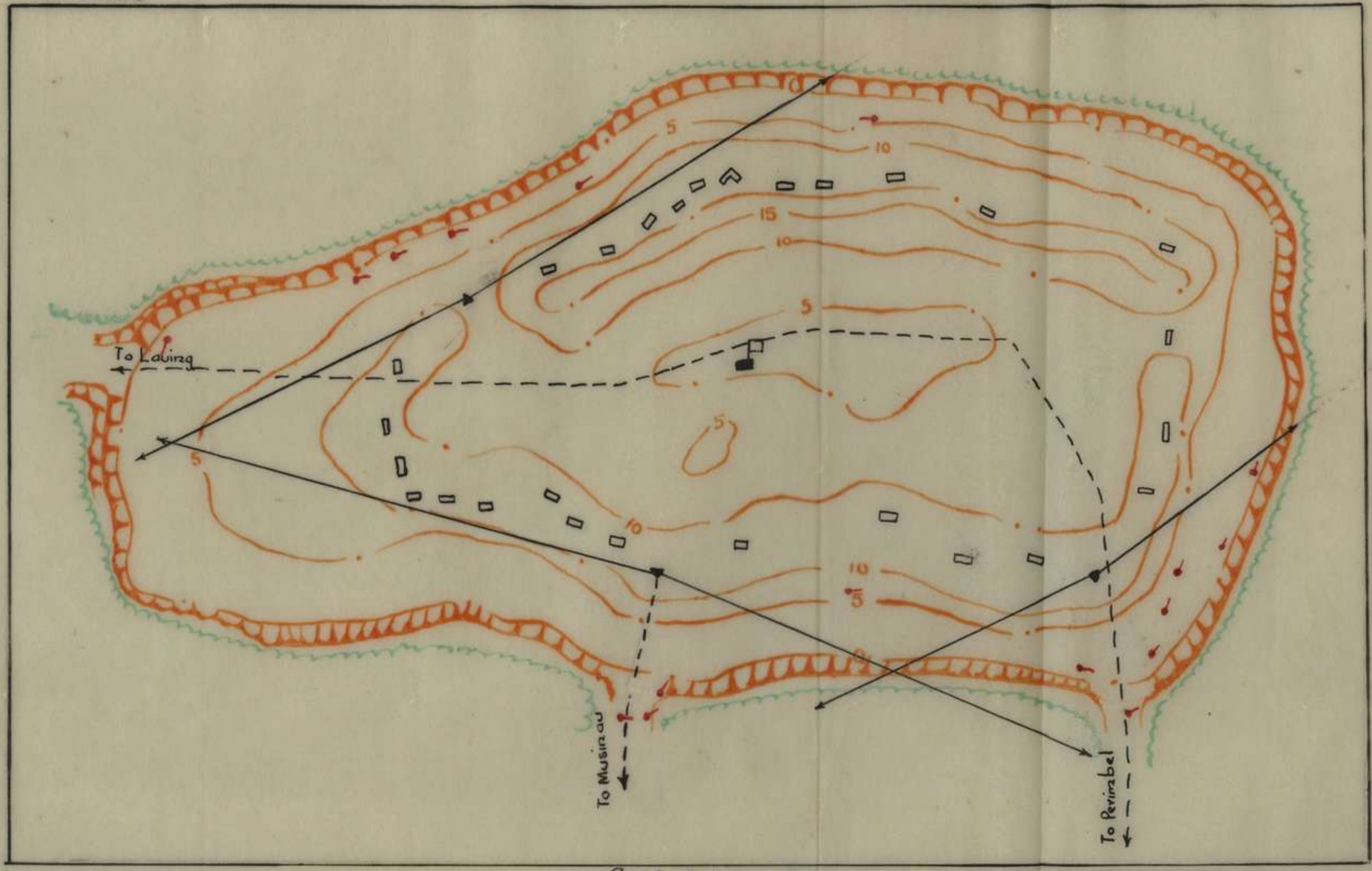
- Rifle Pit.
- Form Lines only.
- 🌿 Bonanos
- Booby Traps. of 36 Grenade Type.

40/11 I

Sketch. Def Posn NASALEN 388084.

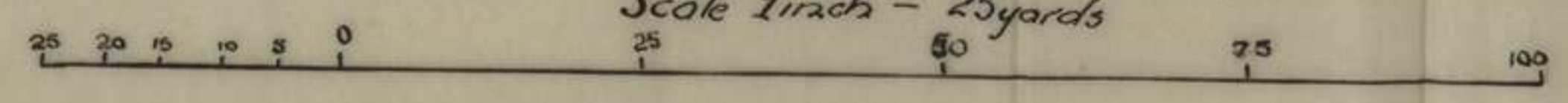
Ref Map TONG SPECIAL 1:63360

RF 1:900



GM
5'

Method: Compass & Pacing
 Visibility: Good.
 Time taken: 1hr 30mins
 Date : 5 Jan 45



VI - 5ft (approx)

Signature: J. E. Reay Pte

Legend.
 ● Booby trap
 [hatched] sheer cliff

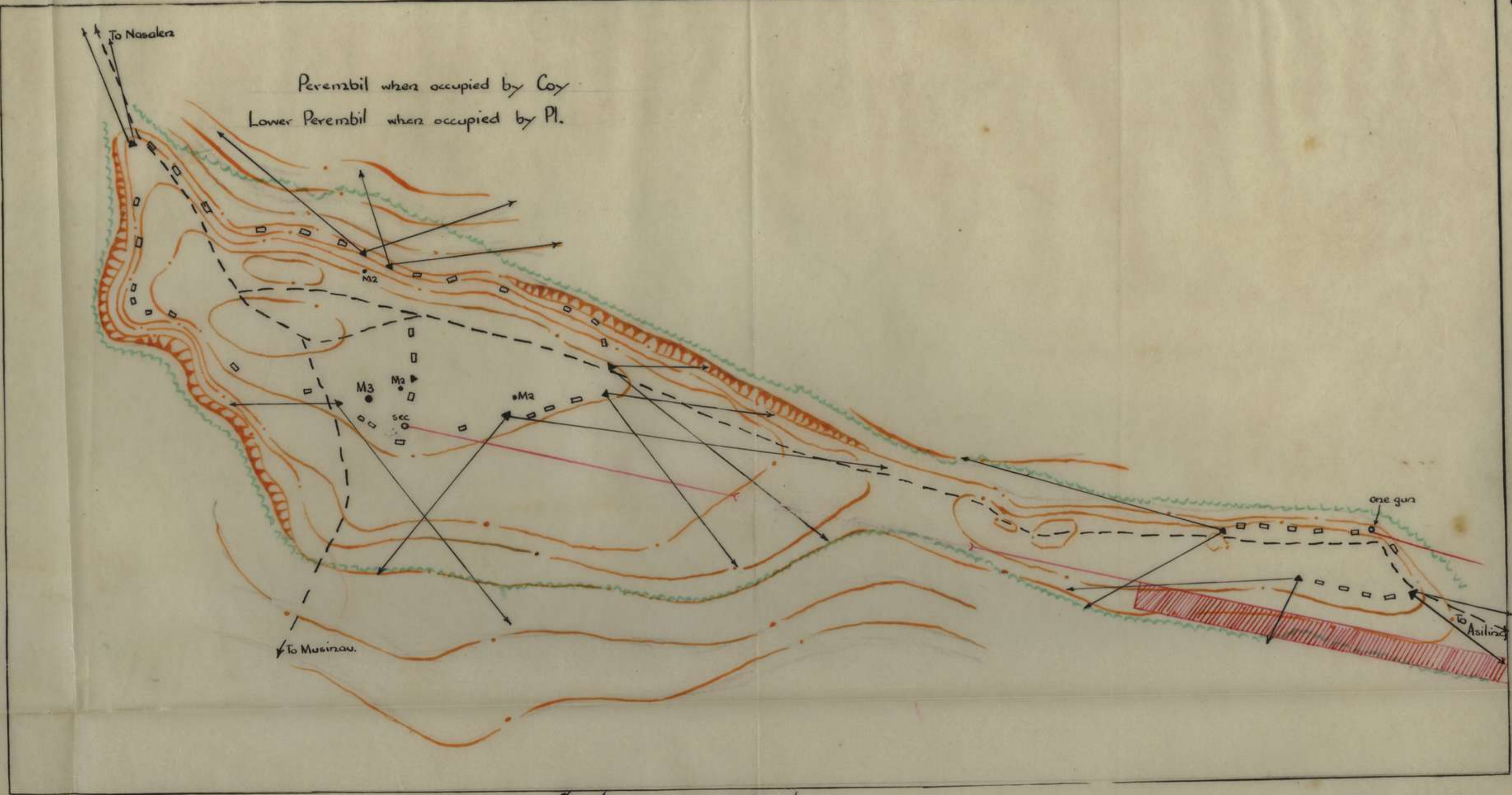
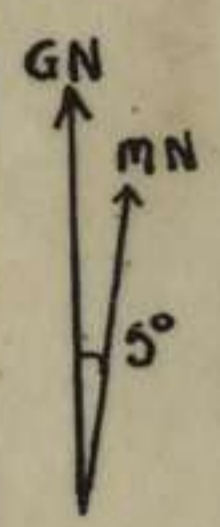
Drawn by 215 Bn Inf Sec
 5 Jan '45

28/11/45

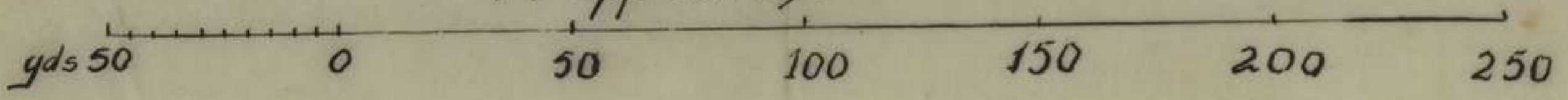
Sketch

Perembil & Lower Perembil 393078
Ref Map NANU EAST 1:63360

RF 1:1800



Scale 1 in. = 50 yds.
V.I. approx. 10ft.



Drawn by 2/5 BN INT SEC
11 Jan 45.

Method: Compass & Pacing
Vis: Good.
Time Taken: 2 1/2 hrs.
Date: 10 Dec 45.

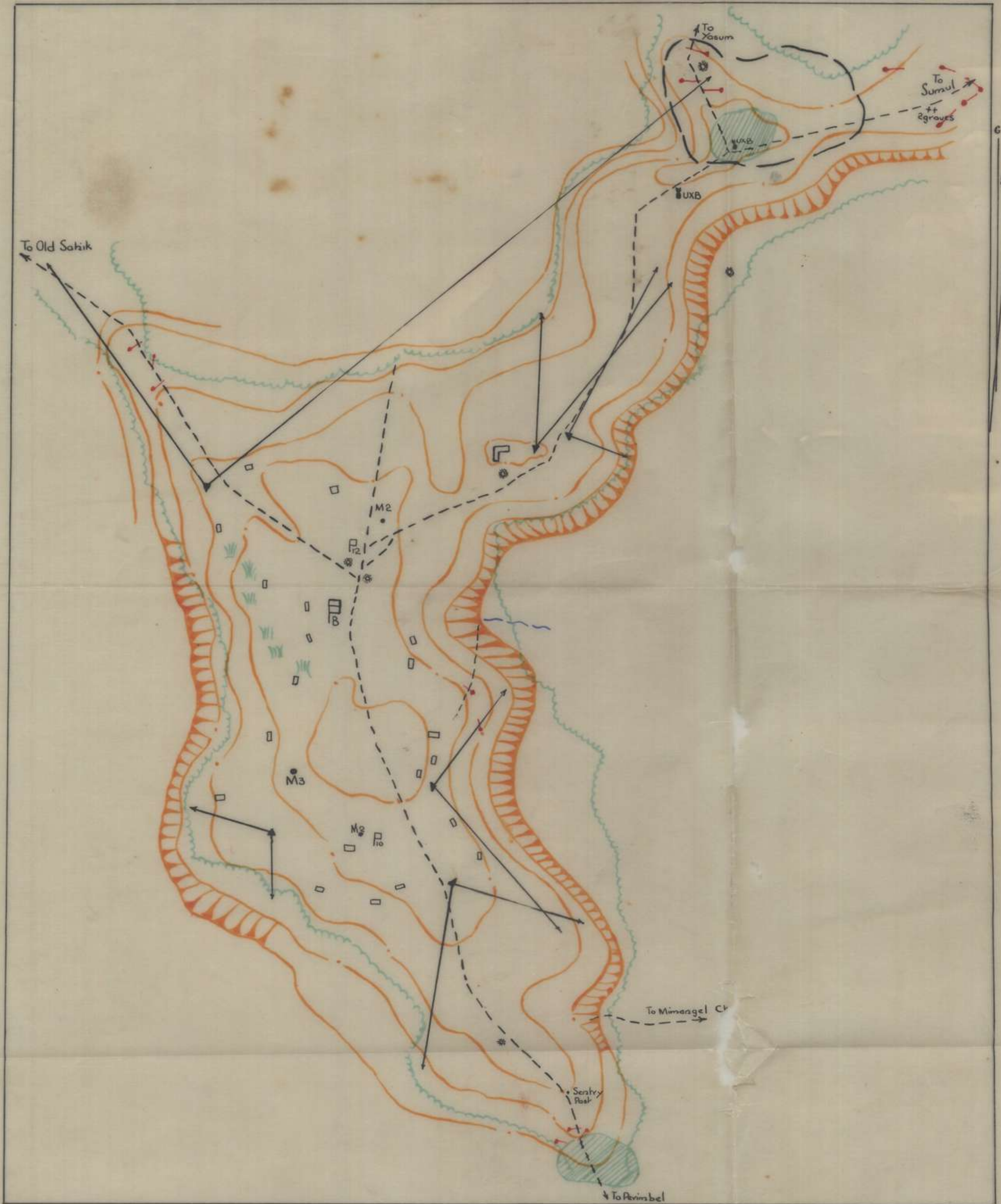
Sketch

NEW SAHIK AREA Ref 384117

I 17/66

RF 1:900

Ref Map TONG SPECIAL



Method: Compass & pacing
 Time taken: 4 hrs
 Visibility: Good
 Date: 7 Jan 44

Scale 1 inch = 25 yards
 25 50 75 100 125

VI 10ft (approx)

Signature: R.J. Lance Plt.

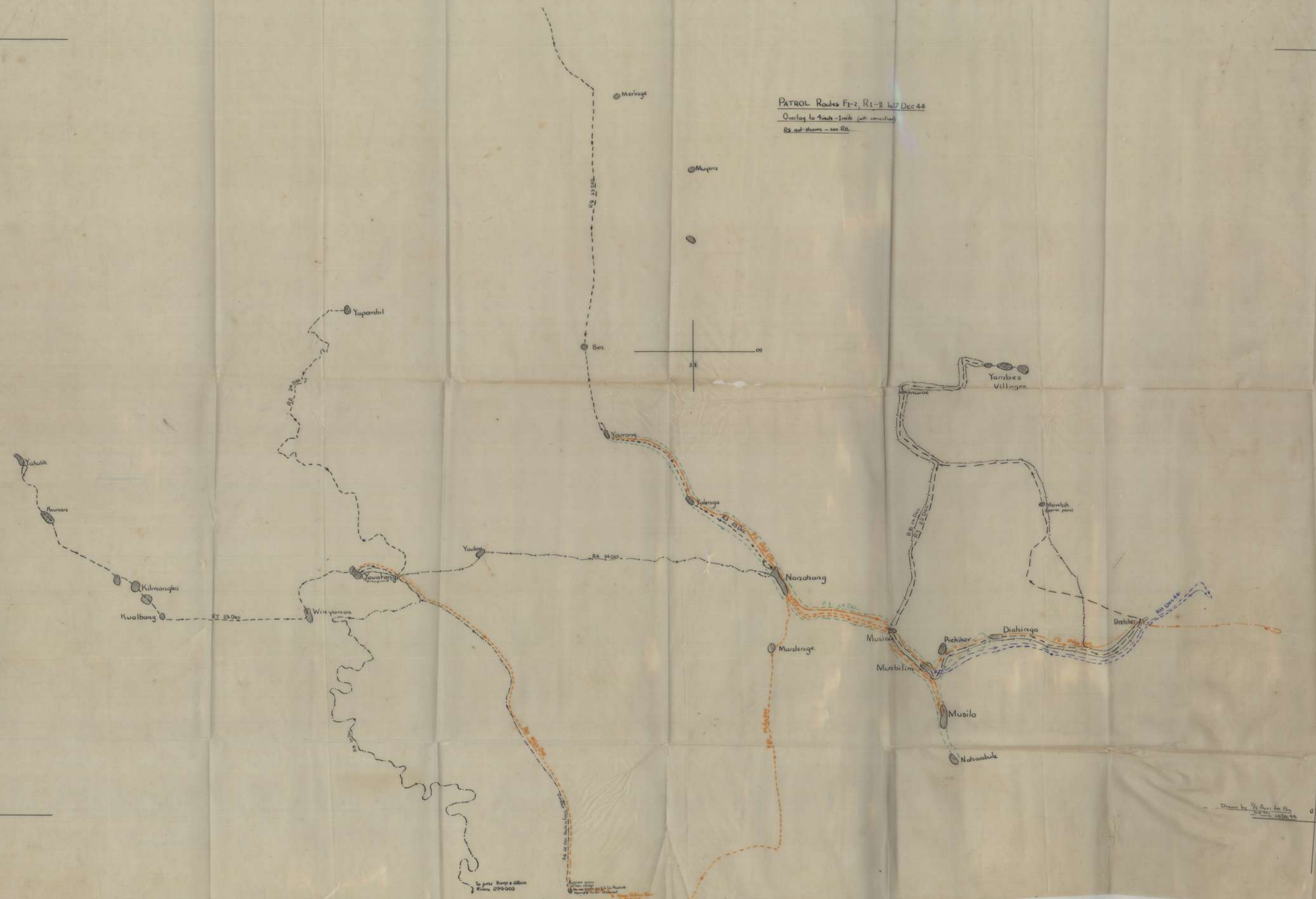
Legend:
 Bomb crater: *
 Dropping area: ★
 Bunaras: [Symbol]
 2" marker tank: [Symbol]
 Booby trap: [Symbol]
 Sheer cliff: [Symbol]

Drawn by 2/50th Inf Sec.
 8 Jan 44

22
03

22
03

PATROL Routes F1-2, R1-11 to 7 Dec 44
Overlay to 4 inch - 1 mile (with correction)
RS not shown - see RA



22
03

03
22

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FR 53 (Serial No.)

23 12 4 HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday / / 194 (Unit)

11 2 4 19 66
W.E. / / OFFRS. O.R's. + OFFRS. O.R's. ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 2 3 4				5	6 7 8 9 10								
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.								
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.				
	1		1 3 1 7 6	BRIGADIERS* CHAPLAINS* Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.									
	1		18										
		DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
		A.		18									18
		E.(1)											
		E.(2)											

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
 ** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 23 / 12 / 1944 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col T/Brig	8X 2889	MOTEN	M J	COMD	YES		
T/Maj	VX 37109	CLARKE	K C	BM	"		
T/Capt	VX 5460	BOLGER	W P	SC	"		
Capt	VX 117103	HIRST	J R	SC(L)	"		
Capt	VX 7856	MARSDEN	H M	IO	"		
T/Capt	EX 6054	JOHNSON	L G	TO	"		
T/Capt	VX 27083	COUGHLAN	H T	LO 1	"	with rear details	
Lt	VX 165115	WILLS	W J A	LO 2	"		
Lt	VX 35629	ASHTON	T W	LO 3	"	with rear details	
Capt	8X 76385	BLACKSTONE	J W	BASCO	"		
Capt	8X 18513	LEE	W F	Legal	"		
Lt	VX 41669	WHITLEY	A G	educ	"		
Lt	VX 57807	GALLAGHER	S R	Amn	"		
XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX					
Lt	VX 5108	MCCDIE	H S	B O O	"		
Lt	8X 134861	BRANDER	I R	HYG	"		
Chaplain	8X 26146	WALLACE	W H D		NO	det 2/5 Bn	
"	8X 19124	RICHARDSON	D J T		NO	" 2/6 "	
"	VX 90116	O'KEEFE	P G		"	" 2/7 "	

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lt	VX 138180	WALCH R F	2/7 Bn	2/10/44	acting IO

23/12/44
Date of Despatch

W P Bodge Capt
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

FR / ~~53~~ / Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 23 12 / 4 HQ 17 AUST INF BDE / 1944 (Unit)

53

W.E. 11 / 2 / 4 OFFRS. 19 O.R.'s 68 + OFFRS. - O.R.'s - ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1 2 3 4				5	6 7 8 9 10									
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.		ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.								
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.			Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.				
				W.Os. Class I.										
			2	W.Os. Class II.										
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.										
			2	Staff Sergeants										
			4	Sergeants										
		1	11	Corporals										
	3	11	56	Troopers, Privates, etc.										
				Civilians counting as O.R.										
*	3	12	75 *	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.			*			*				
<p style="font-size: small;">Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).</p> <p style="font-size: small;">** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces. 10 N.Z. Forces.</p>				Detail	A.I.F.	C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
				A	75	Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.							75
				B(1)										
				B(2)										

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
6	2/6 Aust Inf Bn			1	2/5 Bn (batman-Padre)		
3	2/7 Aust Inf Bn			1	2/6 Bn (")		
				1	2/7 Bn (")		
				1	2/119 Aust Bde WKSP		
				5	Rear Party		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To.....(Unit) is Particularly Requested. / / 194.....

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 23/12/1944.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants				
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen				
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitches				
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing				
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental				
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers				
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers				
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters				
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders				
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers				
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers				
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer				
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevadores				
Computers								Biggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine				
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical				
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors				
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Reftters				
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identifu. Numbers				Tinsmiths				
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers				
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors				
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths				
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman								
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners								
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics												
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)												
Fitters				Driver-Operator												
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers												
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians												
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)												
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.				
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors								
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers								
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks								
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply								
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical								
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers								
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors								
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks								
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies								
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.				
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals								
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.								
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics								
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant								
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.								
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers								
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers								
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates								
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers								
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.			*	*

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
 (b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
 (c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
 (d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
 (e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

23/12/44
Date of Despatch

W.P. Edge
Signature of Commander
C. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

H. 17 Aust Inf Bde

11/2/4

APPENDIX "A"

DATE 23 Dec 44

19 66

Trade	Rank	E	Posted Strength	Deficient	Surplus	RFTs
<u>TRADE GROUP I</u>						
Draughtsmen "I"	Cpl	1	1			
" " "I"	Pte	1	1			
<u>TRADE GROUP II</u>						
Int Duties	S Sjt	1	1			
" "	Cpl	1	1			
" "	Ptes	2	1	1		NR
<u>TRADE GROUP III</u>						
Clerks	WOii	1	1			
"	Cpl	1	2		1	
"	Ptes	2	3		1	
<u>NON-TRADE LIST</u>						
CSM	WOii	1	1			
CMS	S Sjt	1	1			
Batmen	Ptes	13	11	2		NR
Orderlies	Ptes	9	9			
General Dutymen	Cpl	1	1			
" "	Ptes	2	10		8	
Mess Corporal	Cpl	1	1			
Msg Dutyman	Pte	1	1			
Water "	Pte	1	1			
Storeman	Pte	1	1			
Tpt Sjt	Sjt	1	1			
Dvrs MT	Cpl	1	1			
" "	Ptes	8	9		1	
<u>SERVICES</u>						
AACHD	Batmen Dvrs	Ptes	3	3		
<u>AASC</u>						
Clerk	Cpl	1	1			
Batman	Pte	1	1			
<u>AAMC-Medical Orderly</u>						
Cpl	Cpl	1	1			
<u>AALC-Clerk</u>						
Batman	Pte	1	1			
<u>AACC-</u>						
Amputation Examiner	Sjt	1	1			
Batman Dvr	Pte	1	1			
<u>AAMU</u>						
Filter MV	Sjt	1				
Filter MV	Pte	1				
Mechanic MV	Pte	1				
<u>AACC</u>						
Cooks	Cpl	1	1			
"	Ptes	2	3		1	
<u>AA Amenities</u>						
Clerk	Sjt	1	1			
<u>AA Education</u>						
Clerk	Sjt	1	1			
<u>TOTAL</u>						
		66	75			

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FR / 54 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 30/12/1944 HQ 17 AUST INF (Unit)

W.E. 11/2/4 OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 66 + OFFRS. - O.R's. - ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.										
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.						
	1		1	* BRIGADIERS * CHAPLAINS Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.											
	1	1	8												
	1		5												
			18												
	2	1													
				A.I.P.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.		
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).				A.									18		
				E.(1)											
				E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
 ** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
NX 124617	Capt	BLACKWELL D	SC "A" HQ First Aust Army	26/12/44	allotment of duty BM(L) Authority HQ 6 Aust Div All062 of 19 Dec 44

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX 57807	Lt	GALLACHER S R	104 CCS	29/12/44.	Admitted

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO.....(Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194.....

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 30 / 12 / 1944 Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col T/Brig	SX 2889	MOTEN	M J	COMD	YES		
T/Maj	VX 37109	CLARKE	K C	BM	YES		
Capt	NX 124617	BLACKWELL	D	BM(L)	YES		
T/Capt	VX 5460	BOLGER	W P	S C	YES		
Capt	VX 117103	HIRST	J R	SC(L)	YES		
Capt	VX 7356	MARSDEN	H M	I O	YES		
T/Capt	TX 6054	JOHNSON	L C	T O	YES		
T/Capt	VX 27088	COUGHLAN	H T	LO 1	Yes	with rear details	
Lt	NX 165115	WILLES	W J A	LO 2	Yes		
Lt	VX 35692	ASHTON	T W	Lo 3	Yes	with rear details	
Capt	NX 76385	BLACKSTONE	J W	BASCO	YES		
Capt	QX 18513	LEE	W F	Legal	YES		
Lt	VX 41669	WHITLEY	A G	Educ	YES		
Lt	VX 57807	GALLACHER	SR	Amen	YES	No evac to 104 CCS	29/Dec
Lt	VX 5108	MOODIE	H S	B O O	YES		
Lt	NX 134861	BRANDER	I R	Hyg	YES		
Chaplain	SX 26146	WALLACE	W H D		No	det 2/5 Bn	
"	QX 19124	RICHARDSON	D J T		"	" 2/6 Bn	
"	VX 90116	O'KEEFE	P G		"	" 2/7 Bn	

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lt	VX 133180	WALCH R F	2/7 Bn	2/10/44	acting LO

30/12/44
Date of Despatch

[Signature]
Signature of Commander
HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 30 / 12 / 1943 HQ 17 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY

W.E. 11 / 2 / 4 OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 66 + OFFRS. - O.R's. - ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
				W.Os. Class I.					
	1		1	W.Os. Class II.					
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
				Staff Sergeants					
			2	Sergeants					
			4	Corporals					
		1	11	Troopers, Privates, etc.					
	3	12	57	Civilians counting as O.R.					
				Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.					
*	4	13	75 *						*

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2). * * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.	Detail	A.I.F.	C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
			Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.							
	A	75									75
	B(1)										
	B(2)										

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
5	2/6 Bn			1	2/5 Bn		
3	2/7 Bn			1	2/6 Bn		
				1	2/7 Bn		
				5	Rear Details		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To.....(Unit) is Particularly Requested. / / 194.....

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 30/ 12/194 4

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, B.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Bangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radlographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Elggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Bollermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors							
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers							
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks							
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply							
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical							
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics							
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers							
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	*	*	

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
 (b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
 (c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
 (d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
 (e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

Trade	Rank	E	Posted Strength	Deficient	Surplus	RFTs Required
<u>TRADE GROUP I</u>						
Draughtsmen "I"	Cpl	1	1			
" " "I"	Pte	1	1			
<u>TRADE GROUP II</u>						
Int Duties	S Sjt	1	1			
" "	Cpl	1	1			
" "	Ptes	2	1	1		
<u>TRADE GROUP III</u>						
Clerks	WOII	1				
"	Cpl	1	1			
"	Ptes	2	2			1
<u>NON-SPECIALISTS</u>						
CSM	WOII	1				
CMS	S Sjt	1		1		
Batmen	Ptes	13	1			
Orderlies	Ptes	9	11	2		
General Dutymen	Cpl	1	10			1
" "	Ptes	2	1			8
Mess Corporal	Cpl	1	10			
Hyg Dutyman	Pte	1	1			
Water "	Pte	1	1			
Storeman	Pte	1	1			
Tpt Sjt	Sjt	1	1			
Dvrs MT	Cpl	1	1			
" "	Ptes	8	1			1
<u>SERVICES</u>						
AACHD Batmen Dvrs	Ptes	3	3			
<u>AASC</u>						
Clerk	Cpl	1				
Batman	Pte	1	1			
<u>AAMC-Medical Orderly</u>						
	Cpl	1	1			
<u>AALC-Clerk</u>						
Batman	Pte	1	1			
<u>AACC-</u>						
Amunition Examiner	Sjt	1				
Batman Dvr	Pte	1	1			
<u>AEME</u>						
Armourer	Sjt	1				
Fitter MV	Pte	1				
Mechanic MV	Pte	1				
<u>AACC</u>						
Cooks	Cpl	1				
"	Ptes	2	1			
SA Amenities			3			1
Clerk	Sjt	1				
<u>AA Education</u>						
Clerk	Sjt	1	1			
<u>TOTAL</u>						
		69				