

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

Item number: 8/2/24

24 Infantry Brigade

September 1942

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

Month and Year Sep 42.

*Oct - 1 -*  
*Dutch*  
~~WAR DIARY~~

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

Commanding Officer.....

*Prepared*  
Army Form C. 2118.

3. DEC. 1942

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	1		<p>During the night 31 Aug - 1 Sep according to plan for BULIMBA operation 2/32 Bn took up posns vacated by 2/15 Bn and passed to comd 20 Bde.</p> <p>Posns vacated by 2/32 Bn were occupied by 2/28 Bn who reported at 0400 hrs new HQ established at 88822943. 0500 hrs coys Bn disposns reported in posn</p> <p>2/28 Bn was visited by Bde Comd during the day.</p> <p>In accordance with Divisional plan there will be a rearrangement of Mgs and A/Tk guns on the Bde front.</p> <p>Advice received that B.M. (Major D.R. JACKSON) has been awarded D.S.O.</p> <p>As the result of developments on the Southern front no further instructions have been received with respect to the proposed relief.</p> <p>2/15 Bn attacked enemy localities in vicinity Pt 23 (872296 Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000) according to plan. Coys reached objectives with exception of left fwd coy which did not quite succeed. Hidden interior minefds hampered tks and amn supplies and hold of posns was not firm enough to commit exploiting force. Bn was with drawn within FDLs coming under comd this Bde and taking up a posn in approx area 886295.</p> <p>The concert party which was to give performances in Bde area was cancelled in view of the operational situation.</p>	Appx 1
	2.		<p>In an endeavour to supply the ORs of Bde HQ with reliable information of local operations, a news sheet is to be issued from today.</p>	

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

*dy*

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

# WAR <sup>2</sup> DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Unit HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer.....

Month and Year Sept 42

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	2	Contd	<p>Trace showing enemy disposns as shown by air photographs taken 31 Aug.</p> <p>Visit of GOC 9 Aust Div to Bde HQ prior to visit to 2/15 Bn</p> <p>Warning order issued for move of 2/15 Bn, 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn.</p> <p>Tonight 2/15 Bn will revert to comd 20 Aust Inf Bde and re- turn to former operational area. 2/28 Bn will occupy posns vacated by 2/15 Bn area 886295, 2/32 Bn reverts to comd 24 Aust Inf Bde and returns to former locality 888294.</p> <p>Following adjustments to supporting arms were made night 1/2 Sep.</p> <p>One tp 11 A/Tk Bty in area 878294 was withdrawn and its posns manned by two guns each from 879294 and post 10.</p> <p>Two A/Tk guns 2/3 Pnr Bn moved from post 6 to 879294</p> <p>One Sec 12 Lt AA Bty moved to support 2/43 Bn in 877296</p> <p>D Coy 2/2 MG bn relieved by B Coy less one pl.</p> <p>Special Order of the Day by General AUCKINLECK</p>	Appx 2
	3		<p>Scheduled interchange of units (2/15Bn, 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn) was completed without incident.</p> <p>(At appx "A" is trace showing HQ and coy disposns of 2/28 &amp; 2/43 Bns as at 1800 hrs 3 Sep)</p> <p>2/28 Bn reported HQ estab at 88482957 at 2057 hrs (2 Sep)</p> <p>2/32 Bn reported relief completed 0030 hrs (3 Sep)</p> <p>This Bn resumed posns as held at 2400 hrs.</p> <p>31 Aug</p> <p>Today being the third anniversary of the commencement of war HM the King directed that it should be a national Day of Prayer.</p> <p>A short service attended by all available members of Bde HQ was held in the open to the South of the system of entrench- ments which is our HQ.</p>	Appx 3

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

*dy*

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

# WAR <sup>3</sup> DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Unit HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer.....

Month and Year... Sep 42.....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
	3	Contd	<p>In the absence of a Padre the service was conducted by the S.C. (Capt SANGSTER)</p> <p>The service was simple and short, being that suggested and circulated for the occasion.</p> <p>During the afternoon Bde HQ was visited by Hon R.G. CASEY accompanied by G.O.C. 9 Aust Div (Lt Gen Sir LESLIE MORESHEAD) and G1 (Col Wells). After meeting the Bde Comd (as a civilian a member of MR CASEY'S one time electorate -Corio) the B.M., Mr CASEY was introduced to officers of Bde HQ with whom he later had afternoon tea in the officers mess.</p> <p>2/12 Aust Fd Regt with drawn from support this Bde and all S.O.S. tasks taken over by 2/8 Fd Regt.</p> <p>Coy raid on enemy FDLs(873293) arranged by 2/43 Bn for to-night.</p>	See Appx 4
	4		<p>Visit by GOC 9 Aust Div</p> <p>H.M. the King's message to Eighth Army received</p> <p>2/43 raiding party was not able to make contact.</p> <p>At approx 87362937, two groups each of 3 to 4 enemy were seen, patrolling beats 200 to 300 yds long and meeting at the end of their beats. This made it impossible to clear gaps in minefd without losing surprise, and Coy withdrew as moon rose.</p> <p>(For details see Int. Sum No.39)</p>	See Appx 5
	5		<p>During morning Bde sector visited by C inc (GEN ALEXANDER) The General was accompanied by Bde Comd while he inspected 2/43 front.</p> <p>From this Bde the General went on to 20 Bde.</p> <p>In the event of 26 Bde which is in area 433902 (Ref Map QASABA 1:50,000)</p>	

*dy*

WAR DIARY

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. Date Sep 42

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~  
(Erase heading not required).

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	5	Contd	having to move South for operational reasons it is intended that this posn will be occupied by two bns of either 20 or 24 Bde. The remaining bn will come under comd the remaining Bde. The Bde Comd and B.M. made a recce of 26 Bde area this afternoon. Notes on conference of COs at 0930 hrs 5 Sep 42	Appx 6
	6		Message from Eighth Army Comd Congratulating all ranks of Eighth Army "on devotion to duty and good fighting qualities which have resulted in such a hy defeat of the enemy and which will have far reaching results". Further to possible eventualities if 26 Bde have to move South Bde Comd & BM reced 20 Bde area this afternoon from 1400 to 1530 hrs Conference of CO's to arrange inter bn relief. Night 8/9 Sep 2/28 Bn & 2/32 Bn will relieve 2/43 Bn & A Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn	See Appx 7
	7		During night A Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn, which occupied area from Post 10 (881292) to excl QATTARA trk, was relieved by B Coy 2/3 Pnr bn. Warning order for relief of 2/43 Bn & A Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn by 2/28 Bn and 2/32 Bn. Relief to be carried during hours of darkness night 8/9 Sep. 2/43 Bn will go into reserve taking over area at present occupied by 2/32 Bn. (For details of Order see Appx 8)	Appx 8
		1900	Bde Major (Maj D.R. JACKSON) attended investiture parade at HQ 9 Aust Div . Others in the Bde who were decorated appear in appx 9 Distribution List issued	Appx 9 Appx 30
		1115		
		1500		
	8		Issue of OO No.12 for relief of 2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn by 2/28 Bn and 2/32 Bn, tonight. Trace showing Bde disposns as at commencement of relief appears at	Appx 10 Appx 11
	9		Reliefs were completed during night without incident. Location of unit HQ now as follows :- 2/28 Bn 87972948 2/32 Bn 87822963 2/43 Bn 88832939 2/3 Pnr Bn 88232940 Trace showing disposns as at conclusion of relief appears at	Appx 12

dy

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. Date Sep 42

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	9	Contd	<p>A Course on mines consisting of four half day periods for all available personnel of the Bde, was commenced today. This course has been arranged by C.R.E. - instructors provided by 2/3 Fd Coy.</p> <p>So that the maximum number may avail themselves of this opportunity each period is repeated. The opening period commenced at 1300 hrs today and will be repeated at 0800 hrs tomorrow.</p> <p>In accordance with cabled instructions from LANDFORCES Melbourne Brig TOVELL Comd 26 Bde is to return to Australia for duty there. Comd 26 Bde will pass to Lt Col D.A. WHITEHEAD, present Comd 2/32 Bn, on 12 Sep. Lt Col WHITEHEAD will hand over Comd of his bn to Maj J.W. BALFE tomorrow. Lt Col WHITEHEAD and Maj BALFE are promoted to Temp Brig and Temp Lt Col respectively as from the dates they assume their new comds.</p>	
	10		Conference at Bde HQ attended by G.O.C. 9 Div, Bde Comd, GI, CRA, & BM.	
	11		Recce by Brig & BM of area about 1500 to 2000 yds fwd of our FDLs. Recce this morning was under enemy fire.	
	12		Issue of Admn Instn No.6 T/Brig D.A. WHITEHEAD D.S.O. M.C. took over comd 26 Bde today.	Appx 13
	13		On a similar mission to P.O. BELL who was with us from 15 to 21 Aug P.O. M. CLELAND 6 Sqn RAF (Tk Busting) arrived at Bde HQ for a four days stay. The mines course commenced 4 days ago concluded today.	
	14		Advice from 9 Div this morning (see Appx 14) that 51 Highland Div has been affiliated with 9 Aust Div with the object of assisting the Highland Div to gain desert and battle experience as rapidly as possible. The affiliation has been continued down to units. Affiliated to this Bde is 153 Bde and to 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn, 2/43 Bn, 5 Black Watch, 1 Gordons, 5/7 Gordons respectively.	
	1715	hrs	<p>Visit by Brig 3 S.A. Bde, who are on our left flank. Comd 51 Highland Div with his GI visited FDLs 1715 hrs Visit by GOC 9 Aust Div Issue of notes on future ops (see appx 15) covering projected fwd move of FDLs night 18/19 Sep.</p>	

SM

WAR DIARY

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. Sep 42

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~  
(Erase heading not required).

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14	Contd	Consequent upon these notes verbal orders will be issued to the Bde "O" Group at this HQ at 1100 hrs tomorrow and written orders for the ops covered by the notes will be issued.	
	15		10 Bty 3 A/Tk Regt relieved 11 Bty in the Bde area during the night. Conference of "O" Group 1100 hrs to receive orders with respect to the fwd move of the Bde FDLs. There has been a marked increase in the activity of enemy bombers during the last two days. Their attention has been mainly directed towards attempting to bomb arty posns in the Bde sector with little success.	
	16		During last night work of preparing the new line of F.D.Ls for occupation was commenced. The minefd fwd of the inf posns was partially laid and some digging done of the inf posns. To protect working ptys a covering party, pl strength, took up posns with secs at 87952914, 87892917, and 87852918. At 0220 hrs the sec at 87852918 were approached by an enemy party estimated to be about 40 to 50 strong. Sec opened fire and a sharp engagement ensued during which sec sustained two casualties. After trying to outflank our sec the enemy withdrew and daylight recce of the area gained evidence of 4 enemy bodies having been dragged away. Further details of this incident appear in Intelligence Sum. No. 51 Other patrols on the front during the night reported no sign of enemy. P.O. CLELAND returned to his Sqn today. He was given as thorough an insight into phases of inf work as time and opportunity permitted. This included visits to the fwd bns and a survey of the front from their OPs.	
	1245		Comd 30 Corps (Sir Oliver LEESE) accompanied by BGS (Brig WALSH) GOC 9 Aust Div (Sir Leslie MORESHEAD) GI (Col WELLS) visited Bde HQ. With the Bde Comd the party proceeded to a recce of the 2/32 Bn front. Stukas again visited the Bde area about midday with nil results.	
	17		During night work proceeded on proposed new posns without interference by enemy. 9 Aust Div today advised of alteration in original plans for advancing the present line of FDLs. 2/43 Bn is now to take over all tasks of 2/3 Pnr Bn as set out in appx 15 (see appx 16). When the move is complete, operations permitting, 2/28 Bn will be relieved by 3 S.A. Bde night 20/21. Corps Comd again visited Bde area. 9 Aust Div Operational information (Paper received)	Appx 15 Appx 16  Appx 17

1623/PMES/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

24

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. **Sep 42.**

or  
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~  
(Erase heading not required).

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	18		<p>Minefd fwd of new posns now being prepared was completed last night and follows line as shown in Appx 18</p> <p>Patrol during night encountered enemy listening post fwd of their FDLs manned by two men who challenged and withdrew. Patrol made an unsuccessful attempt to cut them off and fired on them with TSMGs as they escaped to the West.</p> <p>There are signs today that the enemy has discovered our activities fwd of our FDLs at night. At first light one man walked back to enemy lines from area 87762918 - one of the areas which is being prepared. During the morning 2 EA carried out a recce at low altitude fwd of present FDLs. (I Sum No. 53)</p> <p>Corps Comd(Sir OLIVER LEESE) and eighth army comd (GEN MONTGOMERY) visited front in Bde sector today. They were accompanied by the Bde Comd.</p>	Appx 18
	19		<p>During night 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn moved fwd to partially prepared new posns thus advancing our line of FDLs to follow the line approx 87602940 - 87722922 - 87952917.</p> <p>To rear of this line 2/43 Bn moved into reserve posn.</p> <p>2/3 Pnr Bn disposns remain unchanged.</p> <p>Bde disposns at beginning of move remained as shown in appx 12.</p> <p>New disposns at conclusion of move appear in appx 19</p> <p>Digging and occupation of new posns was carried out without incident, and with complete absence of enemy interference.</p> <p>Light enemy harassing fire, including a few mortar bombs, fell on the new areas today, otherwise the day was quiet.</p> <p>During morning Brig GRAHAM, Comd 153 Scottish Bde visited Bde HQ., lunch at HQ then taken to the fwd bns by Bde Comd, returning at 1615 hrs.</p>	Appx 19
	1124 1950		<p>Issue of OO No. 14 (Appx 20)</p> <p>Issue of OO No. 15(Appx 21) - to hand over to 3 SA Bde night 20/21 Sep 24 Aust Inf Bde FDLs from QATTARA Rd SE to 87952917 and readjust Bde disposns within the new boundary.</p>	Appx 20 Appx 21
	20		<p>Night was quiet. Patrols which were out made no contact but attempts to penetrate enemy FDLs in areas 873295 and 873294 (i.e. West of our FDLs) drew MG fire very readily.</p> <p>Visit from Col MURRAY first to Bde HQ then with Bde Comd to fwd areas.</p>	

dy



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. **Sep 42**

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20		<p>Capt TROUP (I.O. 153 Scottish Bde, 51 HD) arrived at Bde HQ today. Following the decision to affiliate 51 H.D. to 9 Aust Div to gain battle experience. Capt TROUP has come to this Bde to study, for the period of his stay, the general working of the "G" Staff of a Bde in the line with particular attention to the "I" Sec and its methods.</p> <p>There was an increase in enemy shelling today. Total of 100 shells fell in the Bde area and the majority of these in the new areas occupied by the Bde night before last.</p>	
	21		<p>Handover of FDLs from QATTARA track West to 3 S.A. Bde during night was completed without incident.</p> <p>2/43 Bn took up posns held before move night 18/19 and Bde disposns now are as shown in</p> <p>Patrols during night again made no contact but while receiving minefd 87412926 saw Italian working party, in bright moonlight, moving backwards and forwards from a truck apparently unloading mines.</p>	Appx 31
		1215	<p>Issue of OO No 16 - (Appx 22)</p> <p>At last light 2/32 Bn moved Bn HQ closer to FDLs to 87712959.</p> <p>Enemy arty during day registered D.F. tasks astride QATTARA Trk between pt 21(876291) and foot of MITEIRIYA Ridge.</p>	Appx 22
	22		<p>Patrols during night made no contact but those which approached close to enemy FDLs encountered automatic fire.</p> <p>A large working party, this time apparently, laying mines, was observed behind enemy wire 874292.</p> <p>Last night, party using a carrier endeavoured to bring in a Hurribomber which crashed landed 25 Aug between our own and enemy lines in area 875293. Party worked on machine for 5½ hrs but managed to move it only about 200 yds through the soft sand.</p> <p>Quiet day.</p>	
	23	1330	<p>BM 152 Highland Bde spent night at Bde HQ and today visited the fwd areas.</p> <p>Col USA Sig Corps accompanied by USA assistant military attache (Cairo) visited this HQ. He proceeded to 2/28 Bn HQ. Object of visit to study A.I.F. Signal methods and equipment.</p> <p>Capt TROUP returned to his Bde today.</p> <p>BM 153 Highland Bde spent the day with the Bde. During his stay he visited the fwd areas.</p> <p>As part of programme of exercises at present in progress 2/43 Bn will carry out tactical exercises with tks night 23/24 Sep. Day was quiet again.</p> <p>9 Aust Div Tactical Exercise with tks</p>	Appx 23

1623/PMES/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

dy

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

Sep

WAR <sup>9</sup> DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24		<p>In accordance with arrangements previously mentioned last night 2/43 Bn carried out exercise in night attack by moonlight with tks - Exercise was under Div HQ control and carried out in EL QASABA area. 2/43 Bn having 3 senior officers sick was comd by Maj H.J. WILLIAMSON.</p> <p>Bde comd attended accompanied by Comd 30 Corps.</p> <p>During night a recovery vehicle, with a covering party of 1 offr 16 ORs, brought back to our lines the Hurribomber which the party night 21/22 Sep attempted to move without success. Engineers opened a gap in minefield to allow rec veh through. A guide took veh on to machine when the precincts were reported clear of enemy. Aircraft was hoisted and recovered to our lines without enemy interference.</p> <p>Penetration of enemy minefids or wire on the front by night patrols is now practically impossible owing to bright moonlight and enemy vigilance.</p> <p>Issue of location statement</p> <p>Quiet day.</p>	Appx 24
	25	1900	<p>Two men were wounded in our patrols last night. One man was member of patrol which engaged an enemy party which approached at 87422943; the other man in a patrol which was pinned down by MG fire in vicinity of minefd in enemy FDLs area 87412933. (Details of these patrols appear in Int Sum No. 60)</p> <p>This afternoon Bde Comd visited by Bde Comd 152 Highland Bde.</p> <p>Bde Comd delivered a criticism of 2/43 Bn exercise with tks the night before last at 2/43 Bn. 2/43 Bn Tactical exercise Appx 25</p> <p>Tonight 2/3 Pnr Bn will carry out a similar exercise.</p> <p>Day was quiet with the exception of an increase in enemy Arty activity which commenced at 1700 hrs and continued to last light.</p> <p>79 shells fell in the area from 1700 - 1845 hrs.</p>	Appx 25
	26	1015	<p>Two British aircraft crashed landed, one in vicinity of the Bde area 883293 and the other to the South in the SOUTH AFRICAN FDLs, approx area 879291.</p> <p>Arrangements have been made by Bde Salvage offr to recover these machines tonight.</p> <p>As from 1800 hrs today inter Bde bndy will be as outlined in appx 26</p> <p>There has been an increase in air activity both of our own and enemy aircraft over the fwd areas today.</p>	Appx 26

1623/PMES/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

dy

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

Sep 42

- 10 -  
WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26	Contd	At 2330 hrs 1 EA dropped 2 bombs from about 1000 ft in 2/3 Pnr area. No damage was done.	
	27		During the recovery operations of two aircraft which crashed landed yesterday, one was taken to EL ALAMEIN Sta to await the arrival of the machine from the South. Enemy aircraft took advantage of this and dropped bombs, including incendiaries, in vicinity of this aircraft. No damage. Quiet day. Trg - Bn with supporting arms ( <i>Paper from HQ RAA. w/ attachments to our lens for trg</i> )	Appx 27
	28		C.O. Seaforth Highlanders visited 2/32 Bn. Another quiet day.	
	29	1200	Patrols made no contact during night but recovered 2 pdr gun from area 87572922. Corps comd (Sir OLIVER LEESE) and G.O.C. N.Z. Div (Gen FREYBERG) visited the Bde. Notification received from 9 Aust Div today that '24 Aust Inf Bde is to be relieved by 152 Bde Gp 51 HD commencing night 1/2 Oct. 24 Bde is to move back to SHAMMAMA area North of 900 Grid line. Issue of OO No 17 (appx 28) for hand over of present locality to 152 Inf Bde. Relief will be carried out 1/4 Oct. Medical arrangements for move	Appx 28 Appx 29
	30		During night salvage party, with vehicle, salvaged 250 cases 25 pr amn from area 87472945 (between own and enemy lines) Advance elements of 152 Bde arrived during day. Advance Parties Bde HQ and each bn moved to EL SHAMMAMA area today.	

*D.R. Jackson*  
Major.  
B. M. 24 Aust. Inf. Bde.



SEP WAR DIARY

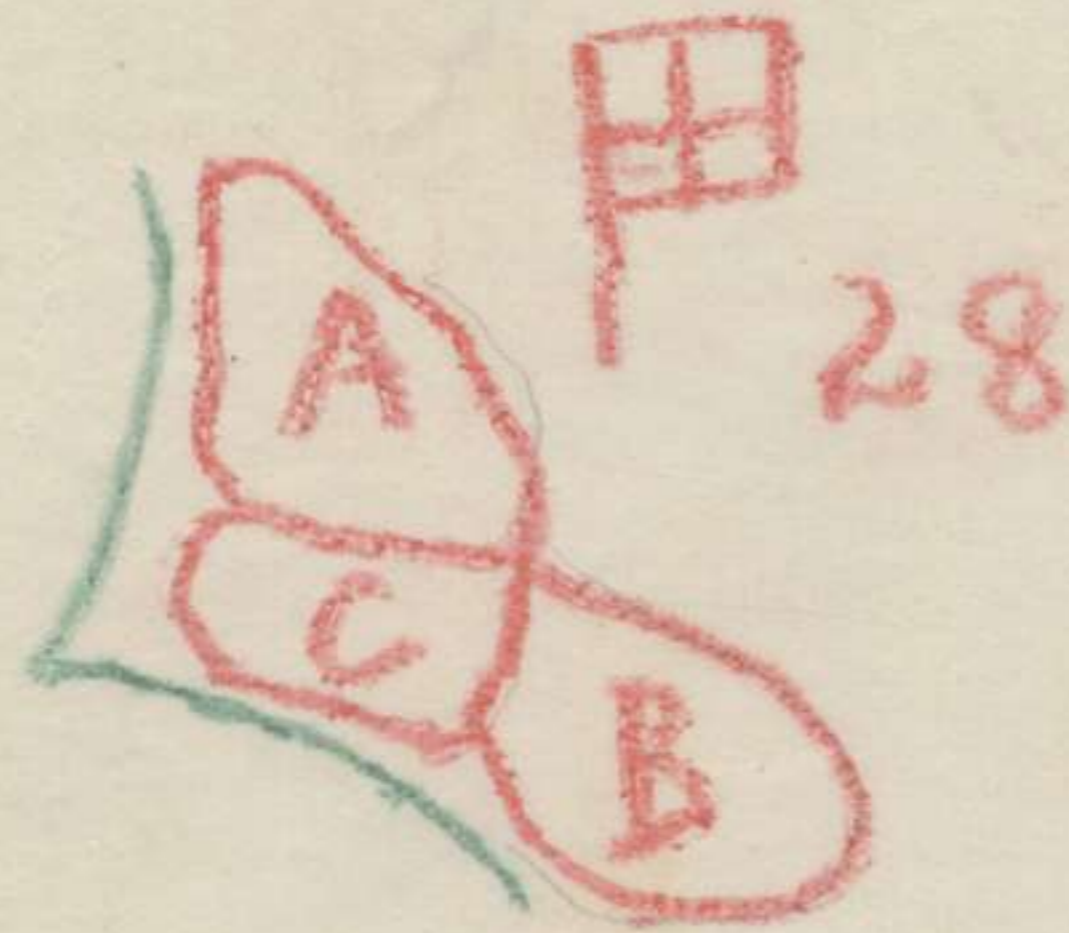
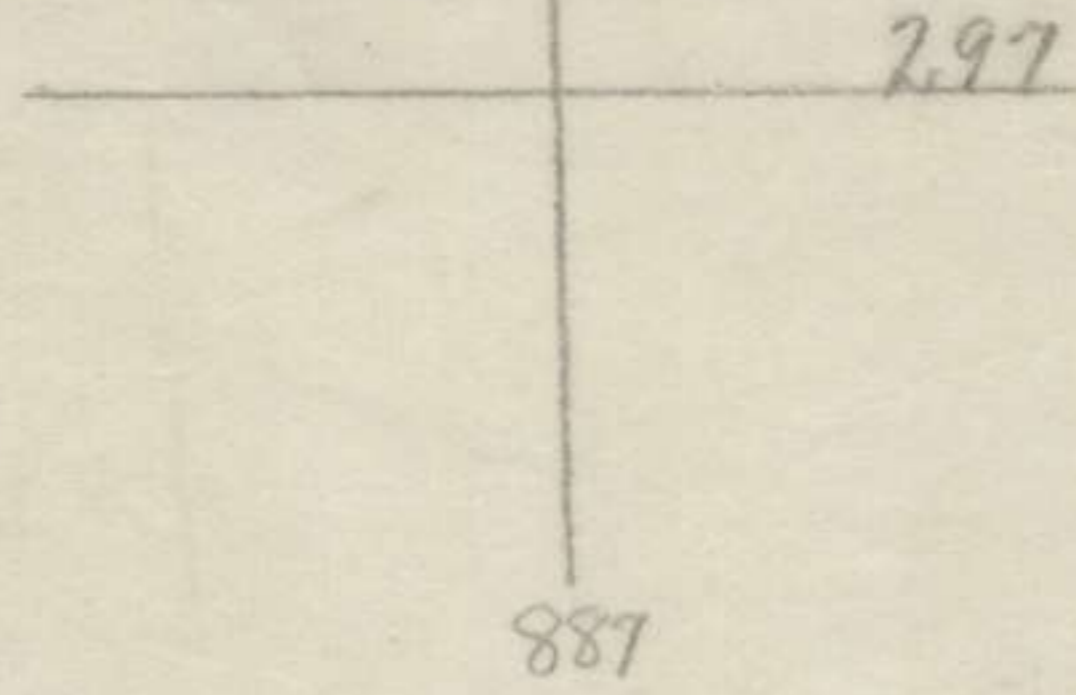
APPENDICES

DUPLICATE

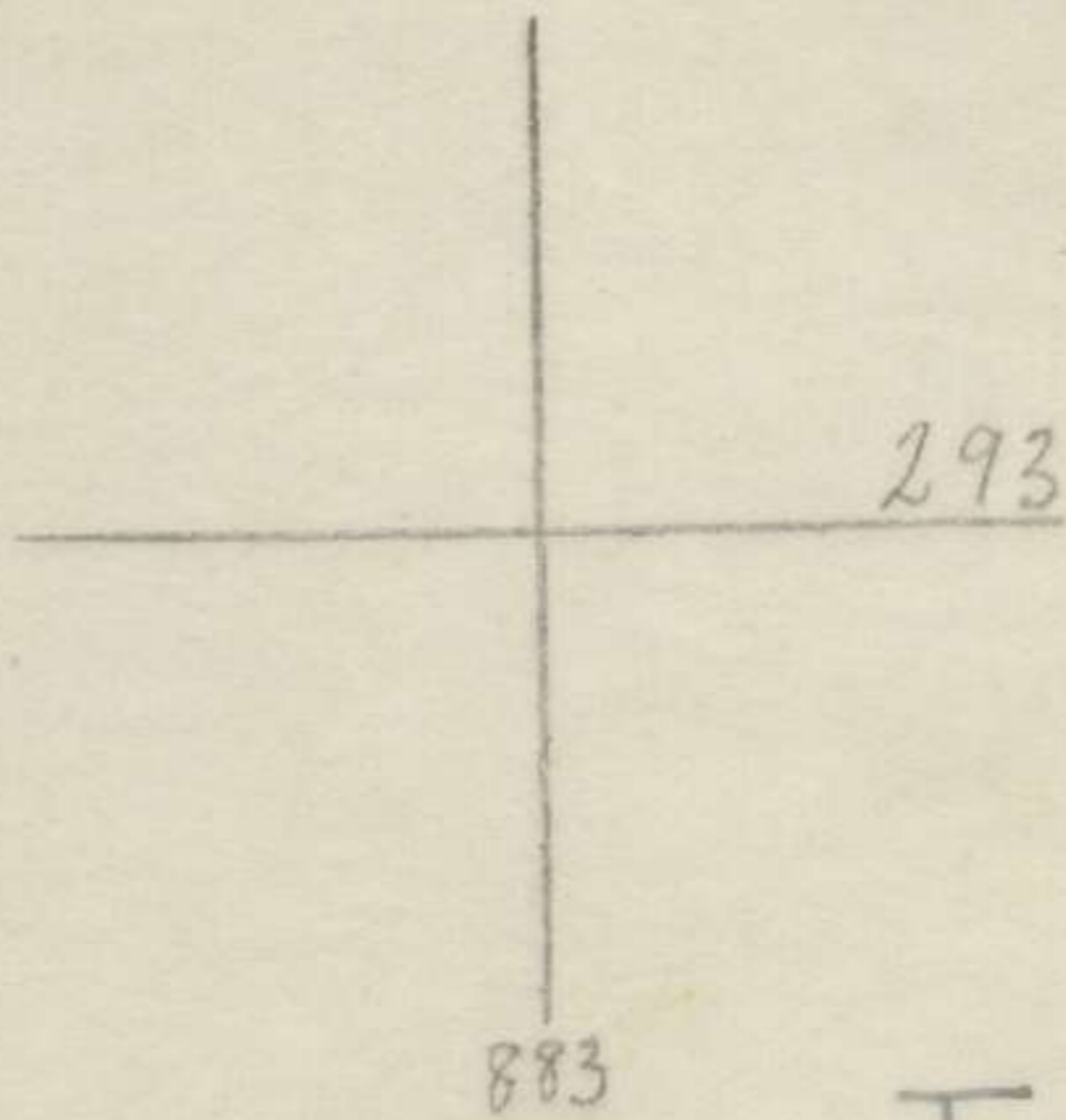
Appx "A". 1

~~Appx "A"~~

~~Trace showing disposals  
of 2/28 Bn and 2/32 Bn  
at completion of moves  
night 2/3 Sep 42.~~



P 24 BDE



Trace showing disposals  
of 2/28 Bn and 2/32 Bn  
at completion of moves  
night 2/3 Sep 42.

Copy

Appx "B"  
3

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

BY

GENERAL SIR CLAUDE J.E. AUCHINLECK, G.C.I.E., C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., O.B.E.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, THE MIDDLE EAST FORCES

The following message has been received from His Highness,  
the Duke of Gloucester :-

THE PALACE,  
KHARTOUM.  
3rd August 1942.

At the close of my long and extensive visit to the Middle East, I wish to tell you and all ranks under your command how pleased I have been with all I have seen.

The size, distances and varying conditions in the Middle East made my tour intensely interesting and I was most impressed with the cheerfulness, efficiency and physical fitness of all the numerous formations that I have visited.

Since I saw the Eight Army in April and May they have been fighting a long and ceaseless battle in most trying conditions and with the utmost endurance and gallantry.

I was therefore particularly glad to have the opportunity of again visiting some of the formations during my short visit to the Western Desert on July 19th, and I was greatly inspired by their excellent morale and eager confidence in the outcome of the battles that face them.

I wish you all the best of luck.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, G.C.I.E., D.S.O., O.B.E.,  
Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.

Sgd. C. Auchinleck  
General.

Recd 2 Sep.

App "B"  
"C"  
4

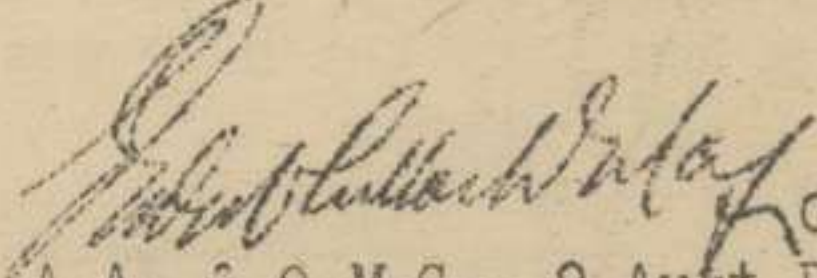
Rear HQ 9 Aust Div.  
Ref: A110/1/726  
1 Sep '42.

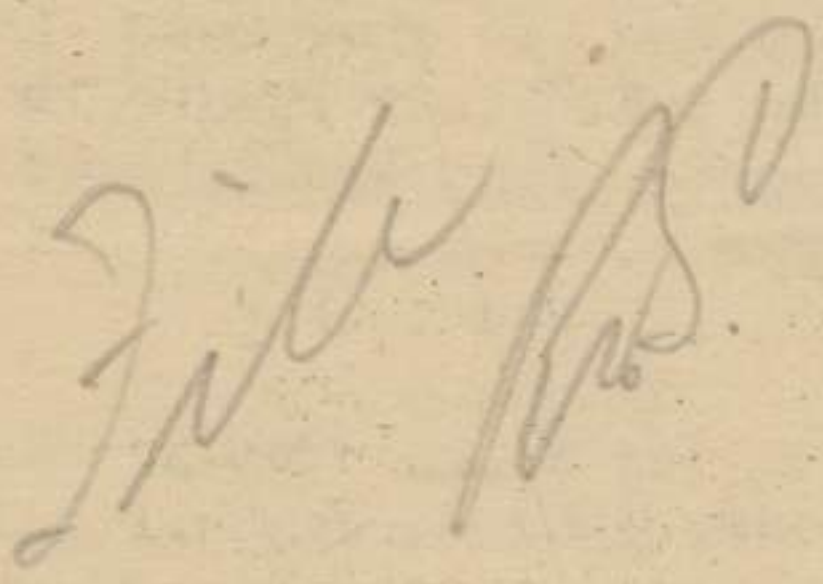
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

1. H.M. the KING has directed that Thursday 3 Sep '42 shall be a National Day of Prayer.
2. Formations and units will as far as local conditions permit, arrange for short services to be held at some convenient time during the day.
3. The need for dispersion makes it impossible for Chaplains to officiate at the number of separate Services which it will be necessary to hold, and for this reason a short form of service for Protestant personnel has been prepared and is attached as an appendix to this circular. It is written in a form which is suitable for pl and Sec Comds to read to small bodies of men, or for larger parades where possible.
4. R.C. Chaplains are arranging services for R.C. personnel.

Distribution:

List 'C'

  
Col.  
A.A. & Q.M.G., 9 Aust Div.



A SHORT SERVICE FOR SMALL GROUPS OF SOLDIERS

LESSON  
Joshua (i) 8

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Let us pray for the Royal Family:

Almighty God, we humbly beseech thee to bless our most gracious Sovereign Lord, King George, our gracious Queen Elizabeth, Mary the Queen Mother, the Princess Elizabeth, and all the Royal Family: Endue them with thy holy spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen.

Let us pray for our King and Country and our Allies:

O Lord God Almighty, guide, we pray thee, our King and all those to whom thou hast committed the government of our Nation and Empire, and the Leaders of our Forces and to those to whom has been committed the government of the nations of our Allies; Grant them at this time special gifts of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength; that upholding what is right; and following what is true they may obey thy holy will, and fulfil thy divine purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen.

Let us pray for our comrades:

O God, the Protector of all that trust in thee, we commend to thy fatherly goodness our comrades who are serving on land at sea, or in the air; beseeching thee to take into thine own hand both them and the cause wherein their King and Country send them. Help each of us to play the man, to show mercy in victory and patience in reverses. Make us strong in the faith that thou wilt defend the right; and restore to all mankind the blessings of true brotherhood and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen.

The Lord's Prayer to be said together:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the glory; For ever and ever - Amen.

Leader. The Lord bless us and keep us and all whom we love in the grace of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Ghost, now and for ever - Amen.



App "5" 5.

Recd 5 Sep 46

---

---

# THE KING'S MESSAGE TO THE EIGHTH ARMY

---

I pray that God may bless the Desert Army in the important battle which has now begun, from which great results may flow to the cause of the United Nations in every part of the world. I have the utmost confidence in the troops from all parts of my Empire and in their Commanders.

All my thoughts are with you.

**GEORGE R.I.**

---

---

Copy

Appx "D"  
"E"

7

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO: 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn, 2/43 Bn, 2/3 Pnr Bn, K Sec Sigs,  
76 LAD, Pro Sec, Rear Bde, HQ Gd Pl

FROM: 24 Aust Inf Bde I 366 6

following message from army comd for promulgation to all ranks begins (.) the battle of ALAMEIN has now lasted six days and the enemy has slowly but surely been driven from eighth army area (.) tonight 5 Sep his rear gds are being driven west through the minefds area nowthrough HIMEIMAT (.) all formations and units both armd and unarmoured have contributed towards this striking victory and have been magnificently supported by the RAF (.) I congratulate all ranks of eighth army on devotion to duty and good fighting qualities which have resulted in such a hy defeat of the enemy and which will have far reaching results (.) I have sent a message to the AOC western desert expressing our thanks to the RAF for their splendid sp (.) all informed

*W. G. ...  
Capt*

T00 1130 1315

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

Appx # " 8

TO: 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn, 2/43 Bn, 2/3 Pnr Bn, K Sec Sigs, rptd 2/8 Fd Regt, 11 Bty 3A Tk Regt, 2/3 Fd Coy, C Coy 2/2 MG Bn, 2/8 Fd Amb, 76 LAD, 20 Aust Inf Bde, 3 S.A. Bde, 9 Aust Div.

FROM: 24 Aust Inf Bde 0 162 7

warding order (.) 2/28 bn and 2/32 bn will relieve 2/43 bn and A Coy 2/3 pnr bn darkness 8/9 Sep (.) adv ptys report 7/8 sep (.) right 2/32 bn to excl QATTARA RD and incl STRONGPOINT 2 (.) left 2/28 bn incl QATTARA RD to excl POST 10 (.) rear 2/3 pnr bn POSTS 1 - 10 incl (.) 2/43 bn to res and will take over present locality and tasks 2/32 bn (.) no withdrawal sp arms (.) review fireplans immediately (.) traffic control - routes through minefd gaps J K L to 2/43 bn and 2/32 bn N F to 2/28 bn 2/3 pnr bn (.)

ack all informed

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

TOO LATE IMMEDIATE to underlined

RECIPIENTS OF DECORATIONS TO BE PRESENTED on 7 SEP 42.

HQ 24 AUST INF BDE PERSONNEL

D.S.O.

Lt.-Col D.A. WHITEHEAD, M.C.  
Maj. D.R. JACKSON

2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

M.C.

X SX 9364 Capt M.R. JEANES  
SX 9822 Capt J.D. GORDON

2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn

D.C.M.

QX 3026 Cpl LEESON H.T.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn

M.M.

X SX 6339 Sgt SHEPARDSON E.W.  
NX 11889 Sgt GARNSEY K.A.  
X SX 10558 L/Cpl MADDOCKS J.G.S.  
SX 6162 L/Cpl WRIGHT A.S.  
SX 6842 Pte FRANKLIN D.  
SX 5282 Pte DEAN H.J.  
VX 45046 Pte HYNES D.T.  
WX 12098 Pte LANGFORD T.

2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn

X Not with unit

RECIPIENTS OF DECORATIONS TO BE PRESENTED on 7 SEP 42.

HQ 24 AUST INF BDE PERSONNEL

D. S. O.

Lt.-Col D.A. WHITEHEAD, M.C.  
Maj. D.R. JACKSON

2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

M. C.

X SX 9364 Capt M.R. JEANES  
SX 9822 Capt J.D. GORDON

2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn

D. C. M.

- QX 3026 Cpl LEESON H.T.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn

M. M.

X SX 6339 Sgt SHEPARDSON E.W.  
NX 11889 Sgt GARNSEY K.A.  
X SX 10558 L/Cpl MADDOCKS J.G.S.  
SX 6162 L/Cpl WRIGHT A.S.  
SX 6842 Pte FRANKLIN D.  
SX 5282 Pte DEAN H.J.  
VX 45046 Pte HYNES D.T.  
WX 12098 Pte LANGFORD T.

2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn

X Not with unit

RECIPIENTS OF DECORATIONS TO BE PRESENTED on 7 SEP 42.

HQ 24 AUST INF BDE PERSONNEL

D. S. O.

Lt.-Col D.A. WHITEHEAD, M.C.  
Maj. D.R. JACKSON

2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

M. C.

X SX 9364 Capt M.R. JEANES  
SX 9822 Capt J.D. GORDON

2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn

D. C. M.

QX 3026 Cpl LEESON H.T.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn

M. M.

X SX 6339 Sgt SHEPARDSON E.W.  
NX 11889 Sgt GARNSEY K.A.  
X SX 10558 L/Cpl MADDOCKS J.G.S.  
SX 6162 L/Cpl WRIGHT A.S.  
SX 6842 Pte FRANKLIN D.  
SX 5282 Pte DEAN H.J.  
VX 45046 Pte HYNES D.T.  
WX 12098 Pte LANGFORD T.

2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn

X Not with unit

8 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 12.

Ref map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

No change from verbal orders.

INFM

1. Enemy. Bde Intelligence Summary No. 43 issued herewith.
2. Own Tps.
  - (a) Relief of 24 Aust Inf Bde by 26 Aust Inf Bde will not take place.
  - (b) 7 Med Regt RA has returned to sp 9 Aust Div. 2/12 Fd Regt returned to sp fwd bdes 7/8 Sep, of which two btys to be superimposed on SOS tasks.

INTENTION

3. 24 Aust Inf Bde will carry out interunit relief on night 8/9 Sep 42.

METHOD

4. 2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn will be relieved in FDLs by -
 

Right	-	2/32 Bn
Left	-	2/28 Bn
5. 2/43 Bn will move to res and take over present locality and tasks 2/32 Bn (Bde O.O. No. 10 para 12).
6. 2/3 Pnr Bn will reoccupy and hold western perimeter ALAMEIN defended locality from coast to incl post 10.
7. Inter-bn Boundary

Between 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn	-	QATTARA Rd incl to 2/28 Bn
" 2/28 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn	-	minefd 88152975 - 88102949 excl to 2/28 Bn.
8. Strongpoint No. 2. will be manned by 2/32 Bn.
9. Time of relief. Units will exchange adv ptys 7/8 Sep and reliefs will be arranged mutually to take place during darkness 8/9 Sep. Rear ptys may be left if required.
10. Fire plan. No withdrawal of sp arms. Fire plans will be revised immediately.
11. Patrols
  - (a) Patrolling during relief will be responsibility of 2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn.
  - (b) Patrol policy is unchanged. In view of enemy's development of warning system and AP minefds, until further notice patrols will be planned to ambush, capture or destroy enemy's listening posts and patrols, rather than to raid into his FDLs.  
Ground fwd of his FDLs will remain in our control.

ADM

12. Amm

- (a) WE scale will be taken by each unit.
- (b) AP unchanged.

13. Sup

)  
POL ) unchanged.  
Water )

14. Fortress Res

- (a) 2/28 Bn will take over all res now held by 2/32 Bn and draw 2 days res from Bde Res on 8 Sep.
- (b) 2/32 Bn will take over all res now held by 2/43 Bn.
- (c) Res for 2/43 Bn will be held in Div Res.
- (d) No change 2/3 Pnr Bn.
- (e) Receipts will be given and copies fwded this HQ by 1800 hrs 10 Sep.

15. B Echs

Unit B Echs remain present posns.

16. Traffic Control

- (a) Minefd gaps J K L and Main Rd will be used by 2/43 Bn, 2/32 Bn and if desired, by HQ 2/28 Bn.
- (b) Minefd gaps N and F by 2/28 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn.

INTERCOMN

17. Codewords for progress of relief to be sent to this HQ -

HUNG - completion relief 2/32 Bn - 2/43 Bn.  
DRAWN - " " 2/28 Bn - 2/3 Pnr Bn.  
QUARTERED arrival 2/43 Bn in res locality.

18. Normal wireless activity during relief.

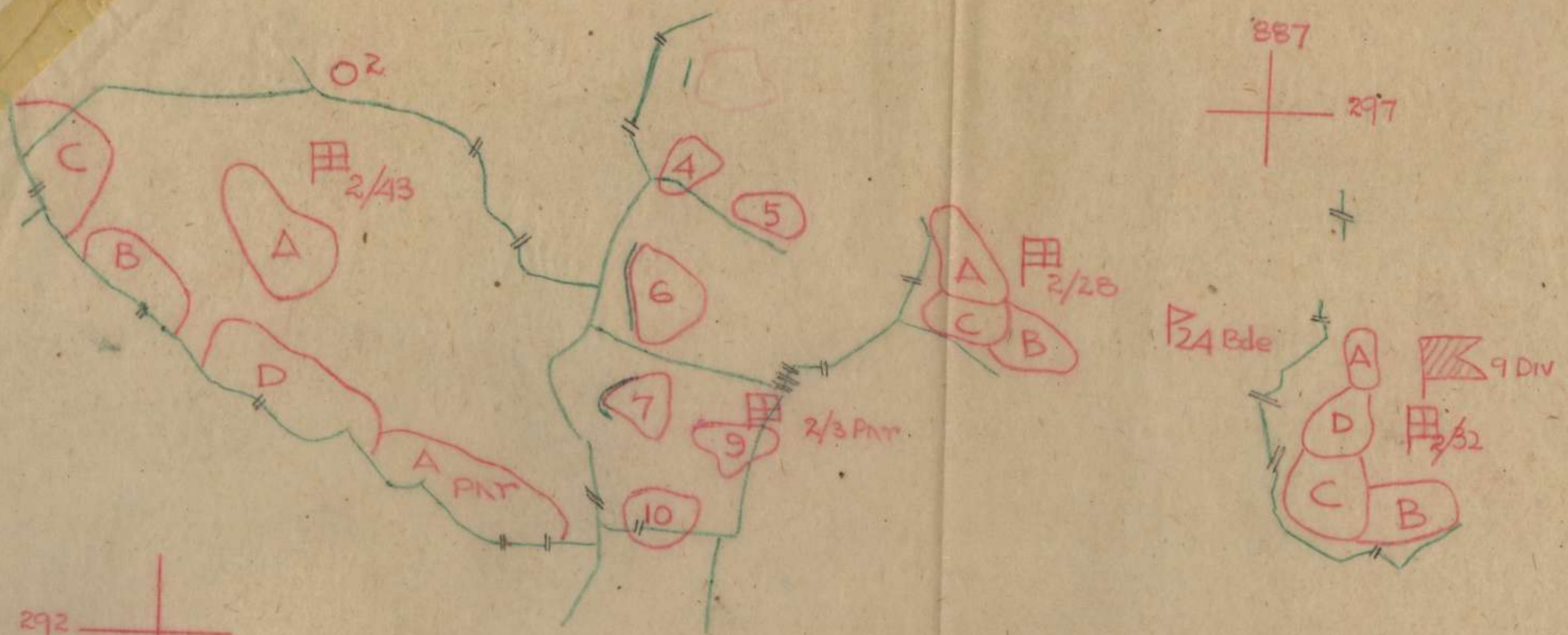
Ack

Issued through Sigs in confirmation  
verbal orders to Bn Comds 1930 hrs 6 Sep. Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Time of signature 1200 hrs

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>		<u>Copy No.</u>
2/28 Bn	1	9 Aust Div	13-14
2/32 Bn	2	20 Aust Inf Bde	15
2/43 Bn ✓	3	26 Aust Inf Bde	16
2/3 Pnr Bn	4	3 S.A. Bde	17
K SecSigs	5		
76 LAD	6	Comd	18
		B.M.	19
2/8 Fd Regt	7	S.C.	20
11 Bty 3A Tk Regt	8	I.O.	21
12 Bty 4 Lt AA Regt	9	T.O.	22
2/3 Fd Coy	10	File	23
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	11	War Diary ✓	24-25
2/8 Fd Amb	12		



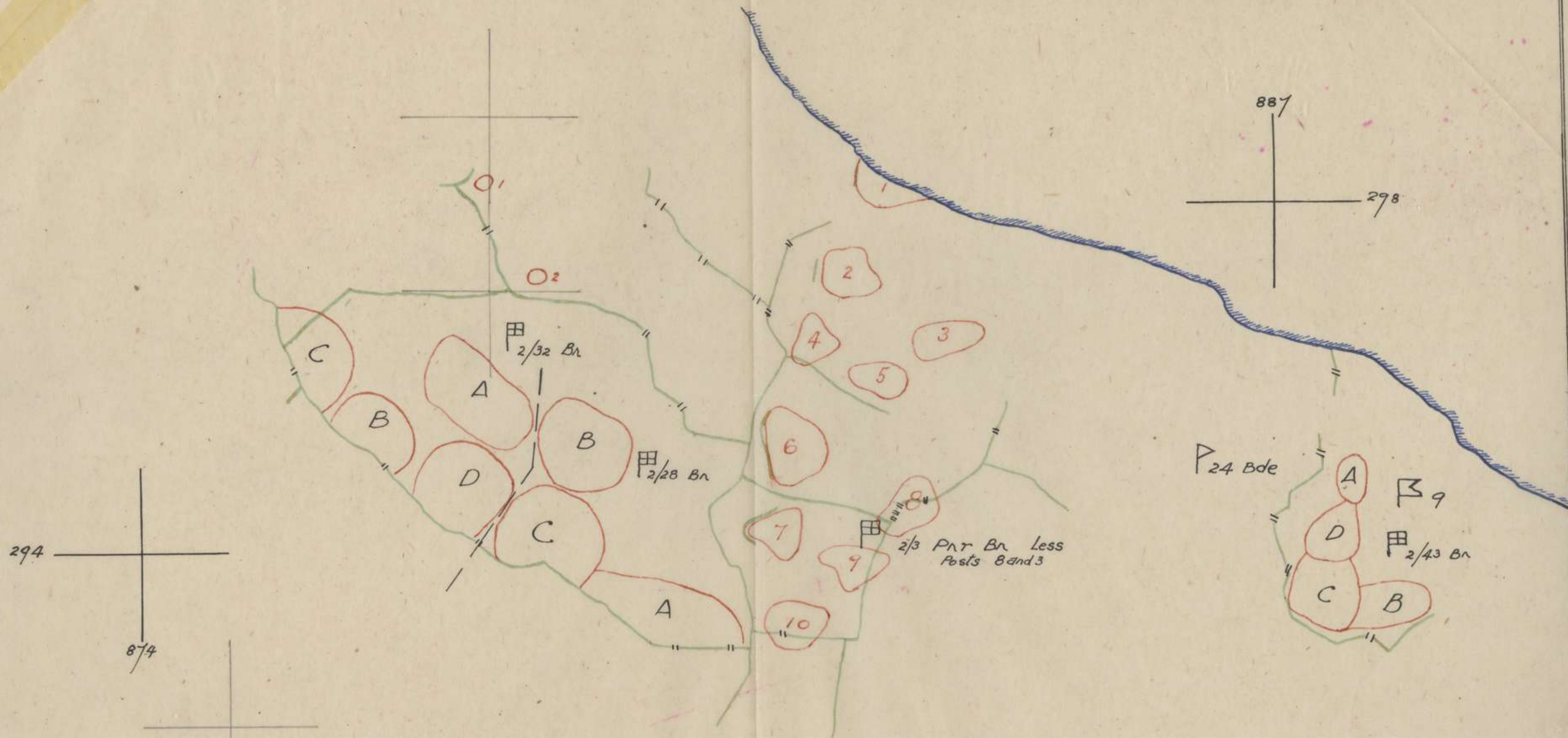


292  
877

887  
297

24 Aust Inf Bde Dispositions as at 24 Sep '42  
Superimpose on EL ALAMEIN sheet 1/50000.

24 Aust inf Bde Disposition as at 1800 hrs 9 Sep '42  
Superimpose on EL ALAMEIN sheet 1/50,000



24 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN No 6

GENERAL

1. Paras 2 (a), 2 (b) and 3 of 24 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN No 5 are cancelled.
2. Res of rations and water will now be held and disposed of in accordance with the succeeding paras of this Instn.

SCALE OF RES

3. RATIONS  
3 days held under Div control in dumps at 88802945.
4. WATER  
Sufficient res water is held in cisterns at ALAMEIN STA and no res will be held other than that which can be held in containers normally in possession of units.
5. POL  
100 miles carried in all vehs.
6. AMN  
As already held by units with the exception of 2/8 Fd Regt who will be notified by HQ RAA 9 Aust Div of holdings.

CENTRALIZATION OF 3 DAY RES

7. RATIONS  
(a) All units will retain 2 day's ration, less biscuits based on ration strength on 15 SEP 42.  
(b) All res rations in excess of 2 days plus the biscuits of the 2 days rations being retained, will be delivered by units to Div dump at 88802945 on 16 SEP 42 as follows :-

(i)	Bde H.Q.	)	1300 hrs
(ii)	Bde Res	)	
(iii)	2/28 Bn	)	1430 hrs
(iv)	2/32 Bn	)	
(v)	2/3 Pnr Bn	)	1530 hrs
(vi)	2/8 Fd Regt	)	
(vii)	11 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	)	1630 hrs
(viii)	12 Bty 4 Lt A A Regt	)	
(ix)	2/3 Fd Coy	)	1730 hrs
(x)	C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	)	

To facilitate the quick returning of res, units will ensure that the above times are adhered to.

(c) AASC 9 AUST DIV will be providing personnel to assist in checking and receiving rations.

(d) Res rations from each unit will be checked into the dump by reps of the unit concerned, Bde HQ and AASC on behalf of Div HQ. Any shortages between rations received and rations originally issued, after those mentioned in para 7 (a) above have been deducted, will be recorded. Issue and receipt vouchers signed by the abovementioned three reps will be completed and a copy retained by each rep.

8. Either a debit will be raised against units to cover the cost of rations previously issued and not returned, or such units will be short issued over a brief period until the deficiencies are made good. Decision on this matter will be promulgated when the extent of shortages is known by 9 AUST DIV.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RES

9. RATIONS


(a) The two days rations retained by units will be consumed on 17 and 20 SEP. As the biscuits of these 2 days will have been returned, vide para 7 (b) above, bread will be drawn in lieu from Sup pt at the normal time. NO rations other than bread will be issued on 16 and 19 SEP.

(b) Units which do NOT at present hold 2 days res rations will draw on res rations scale from Div dump at 88802945, under arrangements to be notified.

10. WATER

(a) All 2 gall water containers issued as per Appx "B" to 24 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN No 5 will be delivered to Div Dump when EMPTY.

(b) Return of all the above mentioned containers must be completed by 21 SEP 42.

 Capt.  
S.C. 24 AUST INF BDE.

Distribution

2/28 Bn  
2/32 Bn  
2/43 Bn  
2/3 Pnr Bn  
K Sec S,gs  
2 Pl 2/1/Aust HQ Gd Bn  
76 L.A D  
2/8 Fd Regt  
11 Bty 3 A Tk Regt  
12 Bty 4 Lt A.A. Regt  
2/3 Fd Coy  
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn  
9 Aust Div  
Comd  
S.C.  
Bde AASC Offr  
C.Q.M.S.  
File (2)  
War Diary (2)

14 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Notes on Future Ops No. 2.

Ref map: ML ALAMEIN 1/50,000

1. These notes are issued to enable further planning by comds whilst coordination with 3 S.A. Bde and sp arms is being completed. Written orders for ops covered by the notes will be issued 15 Sep 42.
2. 24 Aust Inf Bde will advance its line of FDLs to 87602940 - 87722922 - 87952917 during night 18/19 Sep 42.
3. 3 S.A. Bde is advancing its right flank from present posns in Posts 11 and 13 to conform.
4. Inter div boundary is to be decided, but point of junc between 24 Aust Inf Bde and 3 S.A. Bde will be 87952917.
5. Interbde boundary - QATTARA RD incl to 2/28 Bn.
6. (a) Occupation of new posns will be done on one night, 18/19 Sep. 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn will move fwd as planned previously and dig in, covered by protective dets from 2/3 Pnr Bn.  
(b) 2/3 Pnr Bn will at the same time occupy the present fwd coy areas vacated by 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn.  
(c) On occupation of new posns by 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn, 2/3 Pnr Bn will occupy present areas of B, D, A Coys 2/32 Bn and C Coy 2/28 Bn. Posns to be recd in detail.  
(d) 2/43 Bn will relieve 2/3 Pnr Bn in Posts 1 - 10 ALAMEIN Defences.
7. All movement of personnel will be done by night and any necessary preliminary work by day done under cover. No wire or pickets will be erected fwd of present FDLs before night 18/19 Sep.
8. Engr personnel and equipment will be available for assistance. Requirements will be reported on, and allotment of effort planned in detail by 16 Sep.
9. Minefd from QATTARA Rd will be laid to join with 3 S.A. Bde minefd in vicinity 87952917 by night 18/19 Sep. New minefds will be marked initially by cairns and not by fences or posts.
10. Verbal orders to Bde C Gp at Main HQ at 1100 hrs 15 Sep 42.

ACK

Issued by LO and Sigs  
Time of signature 2115 hrs

BR. *J. J. J.* Maj.  
B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/28 Bn	1	2/8 Fd Amp	10
2/32 Bn	2	76 LAD	11
2/43 Bn	3		
2/3 Pnr Bn	4	3 Aust Div	12
2/8 Fd Regt	5	20 Aust Inf Bde	13
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	6	3 S.A. Bde	14
12 Bty 4 Lt AA Regt	7	Comd	15
2/3 Fd Coy	8	B. M.	16
A Sec Sigs	9	File	17-22
		War Diary	23-24

WSD

App ~~11~~  
16

R. A. E. MINEFIELD TRACE E/3/10

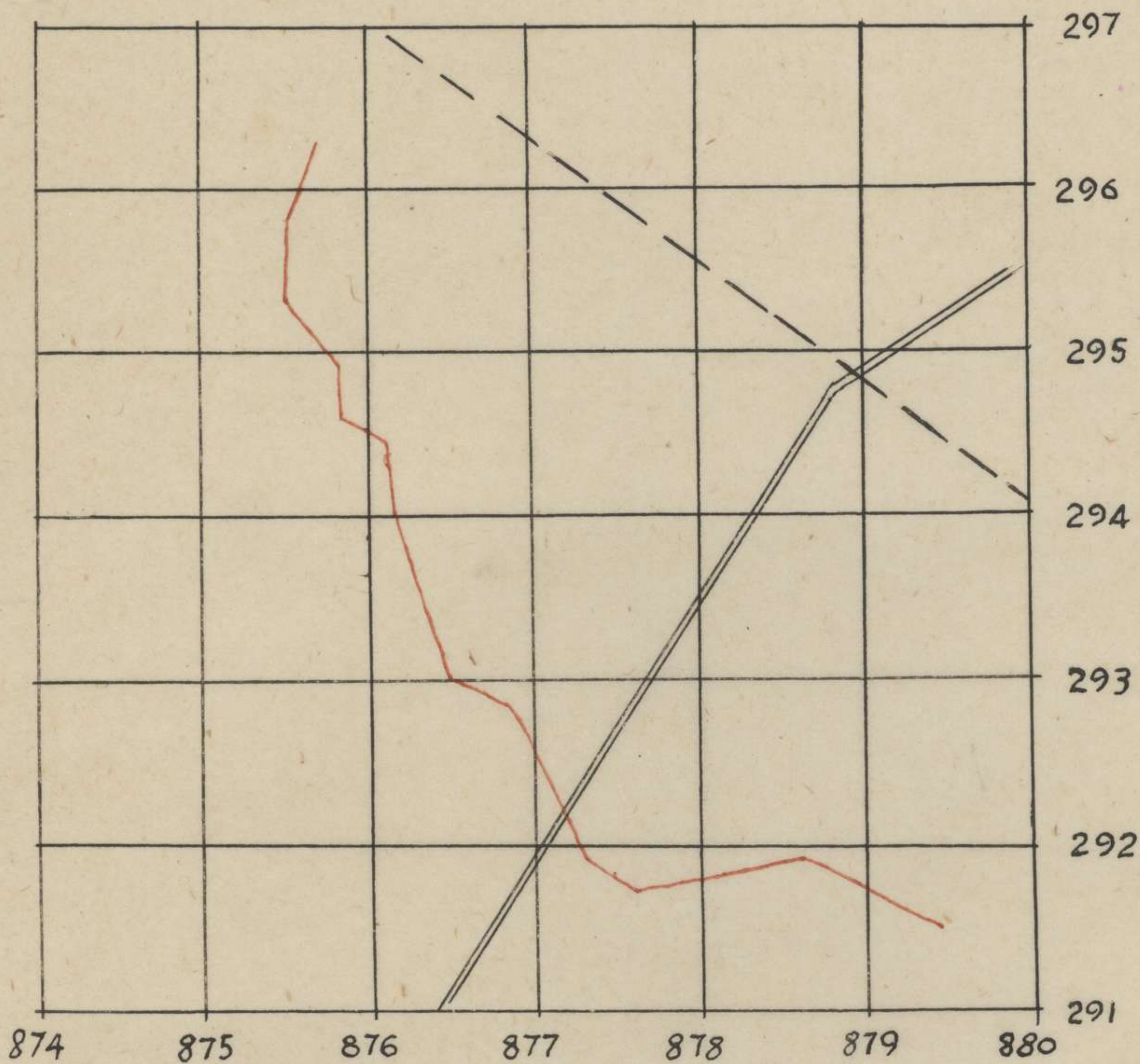
Appx 18

18

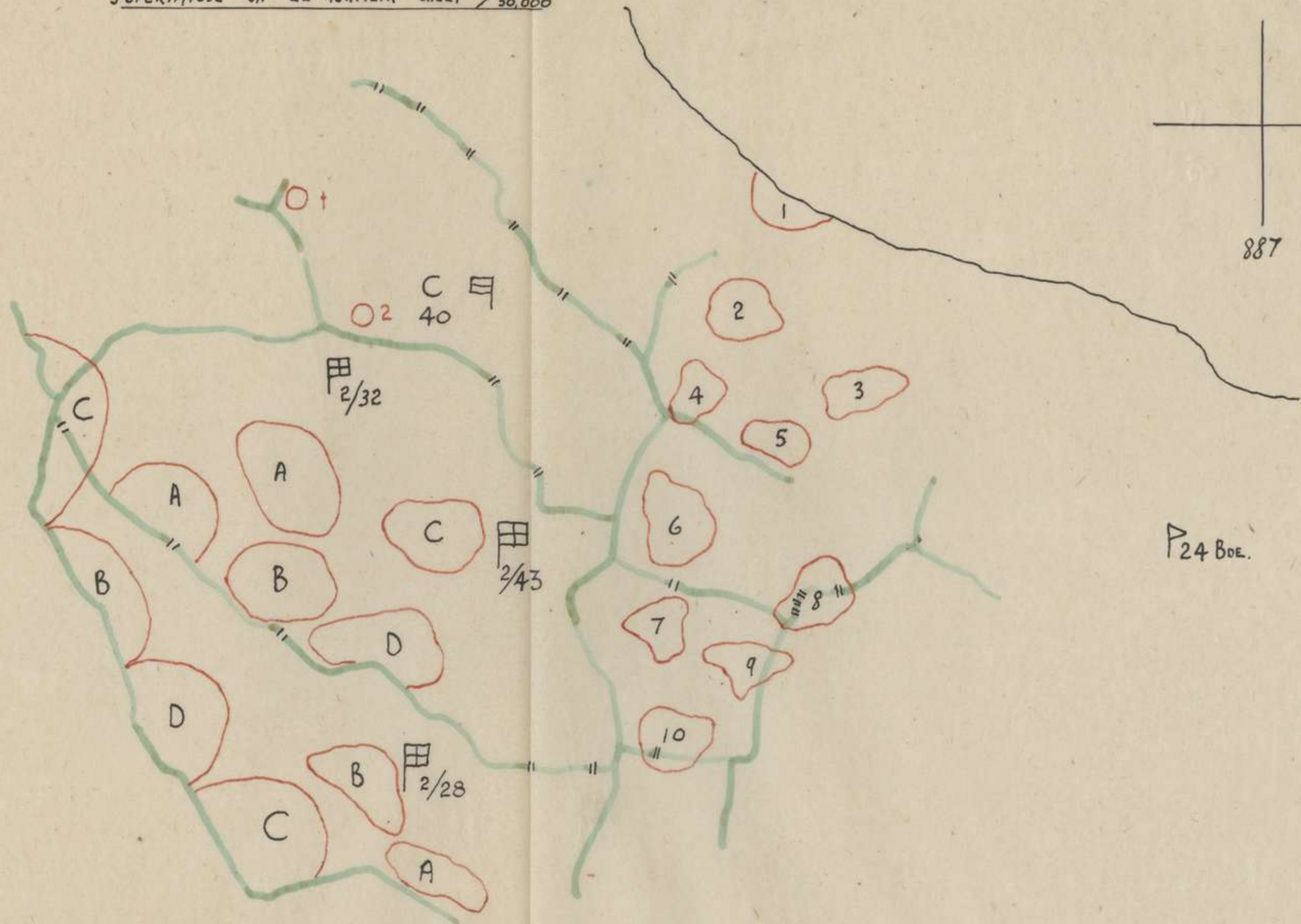
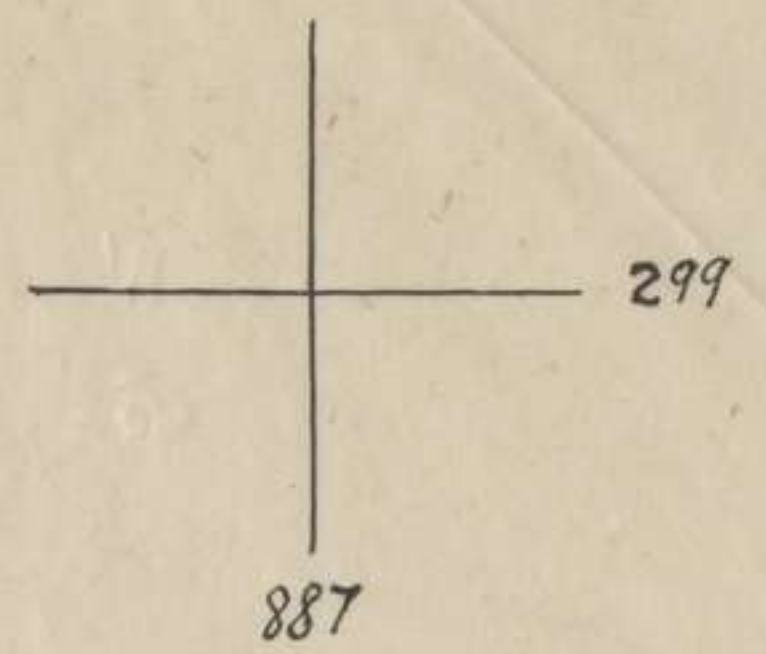
REF. MAP 1:50,000

18-9-42.

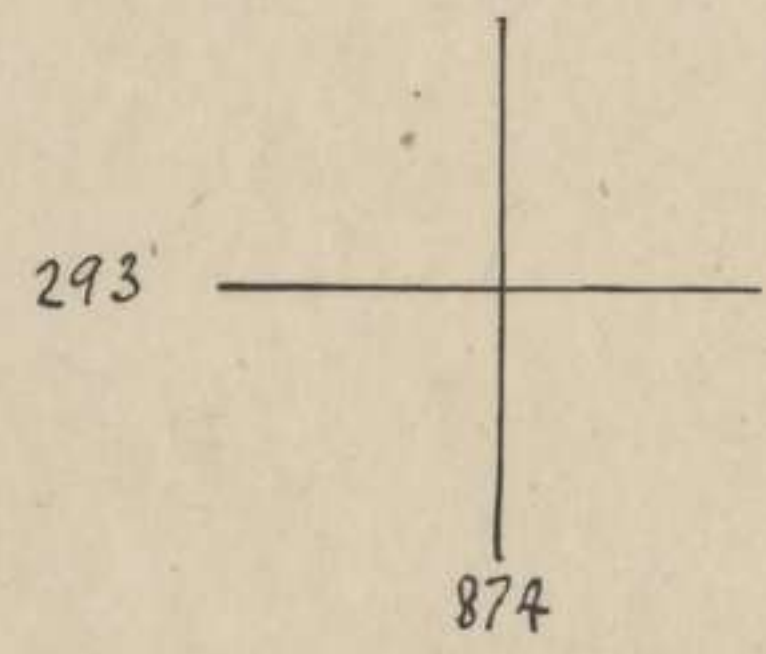
INFORMATION FROM 2/3 AUST. F.D. COY



24 AUST. INF. BDE. DISPOSITIONS AS AT 1800 HRS. 20 SEP. '42  
SUPERIMPOSE ON EL ALAMEIN SHEET 1/50,000



P24 BDE.





24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 14  
(Superseding O.O. No. 10 of 25 Aug 48).

Ref map : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

INFM

1. 30 Corps is to defend present FDLs at all costs.
2. 26 Aust Inf Bde is to be made mobile with tasks -
  - (a) to hold defended area A.
  - (b) be prepared to counter attack to restore the situation in either 20 or 24 Aust Inf Bde areas.
3. (a) Interbde bndy incl to 24 Aust Inf Bde is Trig 30 (870292) - CAIRN 875295 - 87652970 - 87802970.  
 (b) Inter div bndy incl to 24 Aust Inf Bde, Trig 33 (876288) - excl BIR EL MAQBUB A minefd gap 88022929 - thence old bndy.
4. 3 S.A. Bde is taking over 24 Aust Inf Bde FDLs to incl QATTARA RD on night 20/21 Sep.
5. 24 Aust Inf Bde responsibility for defence against airborne and paratps -
  - (a) West of FDLs ALAMEIN defended locality, area bounded by FDLs 2/28 Bn, 2/52 Bn - inter bde bndy - ry line - inter div bndy.
  - (b) Area enclosed by defences ALAMEIN defended locality and North of telegraph line 881293 - 883289.
6. Following tps are in sp 24 Aust Inf Bde -
  - C Sqn 40 RTR
  - 2/8 Fd Regt
  - two blys 2/12 Fd Regt
  - 10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt
  - one sec 4 Lt AA Regt
  - 2/8 Fd Coy
  - C Coy 2/8 MG Bn
  - 2/8 Fd Amb

INTENTION

7. 24 Aust Inf Bde will defend present FDLs.

METHOD

8. Fwd bns - Right 2/52 Bn  
Left 2/38 Bn
9. Line of FDLs  
87562964 - 87572950 - 87662931 - pt 23 (87762921)
10. Inter bn bndy  
QATTARA rd incl to 2/28 Bn
11. Res  
2/43 Bn in res, with tasks -
  - (a) to hold res posn
  - (b) counter attack to restore Bde FDLs.

12. Fire Plan - issued in Appxs A & B.

13. Strongpoint No. 2 will not be manned.

14. Patrols

Patrol programmes will be issued at intervals from this HQ to ensure coordination of patrolling with HF. Object of patrolling will be -

- (a) to inflict damage upon enemy and take prisoners.
- (b) identifications.
- (c) location and plotting of enemy minefde and FDLs.

15. Anti paratp defence

2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn will hold mob res to deal with paratp landings.

Areas of responsibility -

- (a) 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn - FDLs to bn rear bndys.
- (b) 2/43 Bn - area west of Posts 6 - 10 ALAMEIN defended locality, and bounded by rear bndys of fwd bns, interbde bndy and ry line.
- (c) 2/3 Pnr Bn - ALAMEIN defended locality North of telegraph line 881295 - 883289.

16. Minefde

(a) Fwd bns will recommend gaps in fwd minefde at earliest.

(b) New minefde trace and allotment of responsibility for guarding and closing gaps will be issued subsequent to readjustment of FDLs 21 Sep.

For the present, fwd bns will be responsible for gaps in fwd minefde and gaps A, B, C.

2/43 Bn responsible for gaps D - K incl, and 2/3 Pnr Bn responsible for gap L - O incl and U1 - W incl.

ADM.

17. No change from 24 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instn No. 5 as amended by Instn No. 6.

INTERCOMN

18. Bde Main HQ at 88612949.  
Rear HQ at 88852929.  
Tac HQ, when formed, in 882296.

19. S. D. F.

2/32 Bn - verey lights RED RED GREEN  
2/28 Bn - verey lights GREEN GREEN RED

ACK

Signed at 1124 hrs  
Issued through Sigs

*G.R. Jones*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

Copy No.

2/28 Bn	1	9 Aust Div	12
2/32 Bn	2	20 Aust Inf Bde	13
2/43 Bn	3	3 S.A. Bde	14
2/3 Pnr Bn	4		
C sqn 40 RTR	5	Comd	15
2/8 Fd Regt	6	B.M.	16
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	7	S.C.	17
2/3 Fd Coy	8	I.O.	18
K Sec Sigs	9	File	19-20
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	10	War Diary	21-22
2/8 Fd Amb	11		

Was Done

SECRET  
Copy No 22

App 21

19 Sep 48

24 Aust Inf Bde O.C. No. 15

Ref map: EL ALAMAIN 1/50,000

INFM

1. 3 S.A. Bde is taking over 24 Aust Inf Bde FMs to incl QATTARA Rd on night 20/21 Sep.
2. Inter div body after take over, QATTARA Rd to 87822929 excl, thence inland to 88092929 incl 2 Aust Div, thence old body.

INTENTION

3. 24 Aust Inf Bde will hand over FMs from incl QATTARA Rd to 87822929 to 3 S.A. Bde on night 20/21 Sep and readjust dispositions within new body.

METHOD

4. Pwd. Pos will remain Right 2/32 Bn  
Left 2/28 Bn
5. Inter bn body - incl to 2/32 Bn, 87832970 - 87702950 - 87502920.
6. Outline of operation night 20/21 Sep.
  - (a) 2/28 Bn will hand over present FMs to 3 S.A. Bde (R.D.L.I.) and relieve left two coy 2/32 Bn and two coy areas 2/32 Bn.
  - (b) 2/32 Bn will readjust dispositions within new body.
  - (c) 2/43 Bn on relief of two Fwd coys will return in tot to defended locality at 882293, and reassume their role in that locality.
  - (d) 2/3 Par Bn will not move.
7. Fire Plan  
Proposed fire plans for 21 Sep will be submitted to this HQ by 1500 hrs 20 Sep.
8. Arty  
Arty fire plan issued in O.C. No. 14 will remain in force until daylight 21 Sep.
9. Engg Stores  
Locality stores will be left intact by withdrawing units.
10. Covering patrols  
2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn will maintain covering patrols on their present fronts until reliefs are complete. Relieving units then assume responsibility.

ADM

11. To carrying out for 2/43 Bn under arrangements this HQ, and will be drawn from Bde B Ebn area when required by 2/43 Bn.

INTERCOMM

12. No change location Bde HQ.

13. Codewords to report completion of reliefs.

SOUP	2/28 Bn	relieved by 3 S.A. Bde
FISH	2/28 Bn	complete in new locality.
ENTRE	2/32 Bn	" " " "
JOINT	2/43 Bn	" " " "

ACK

Issued through Sigs  
Time of signature 1950 hrs

*Gr Jenson*

Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

Copy No

2/28 Bn	1
2/32 Bn	2
2/43 Bn	3
2/5 Par Bn	4
C sqn 40 MTR	5
2/8 Fd Regt	6
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	7
2/3 Fd Coy	8
K Sec Sigs	9
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	10
2/8 Fd Amb	11
9 Aust Div	12
20 Aust Inf Bde	13
3 S.A. Bde	14
Comd	15
B.M.	16
S.C.	17
I.O.	18
File	19-20
War Diary	21-22

Appx 'R' to 24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 14.

MG FIRE PLAN

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

LEGEND

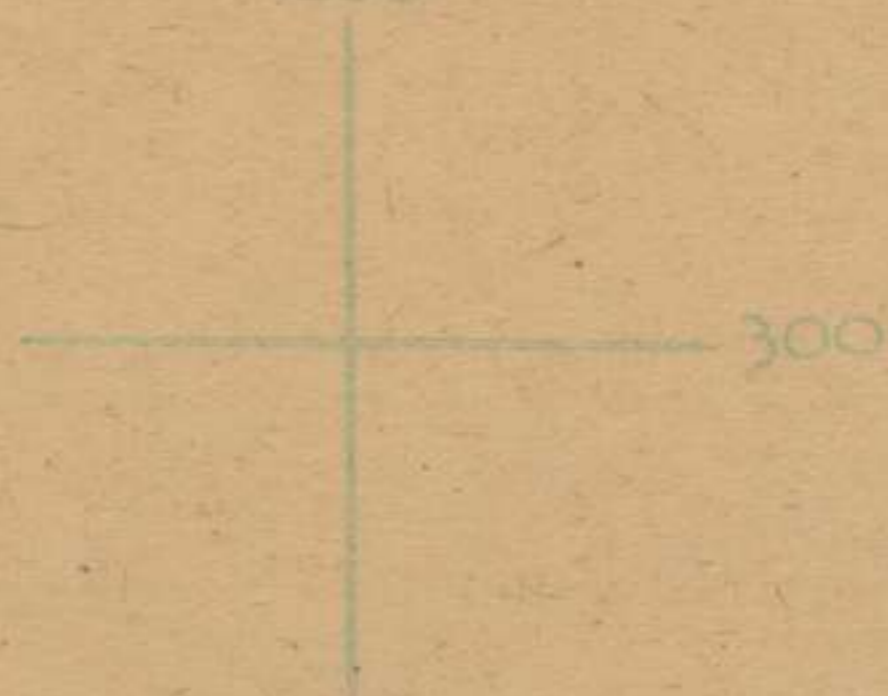
MMG  
Posn



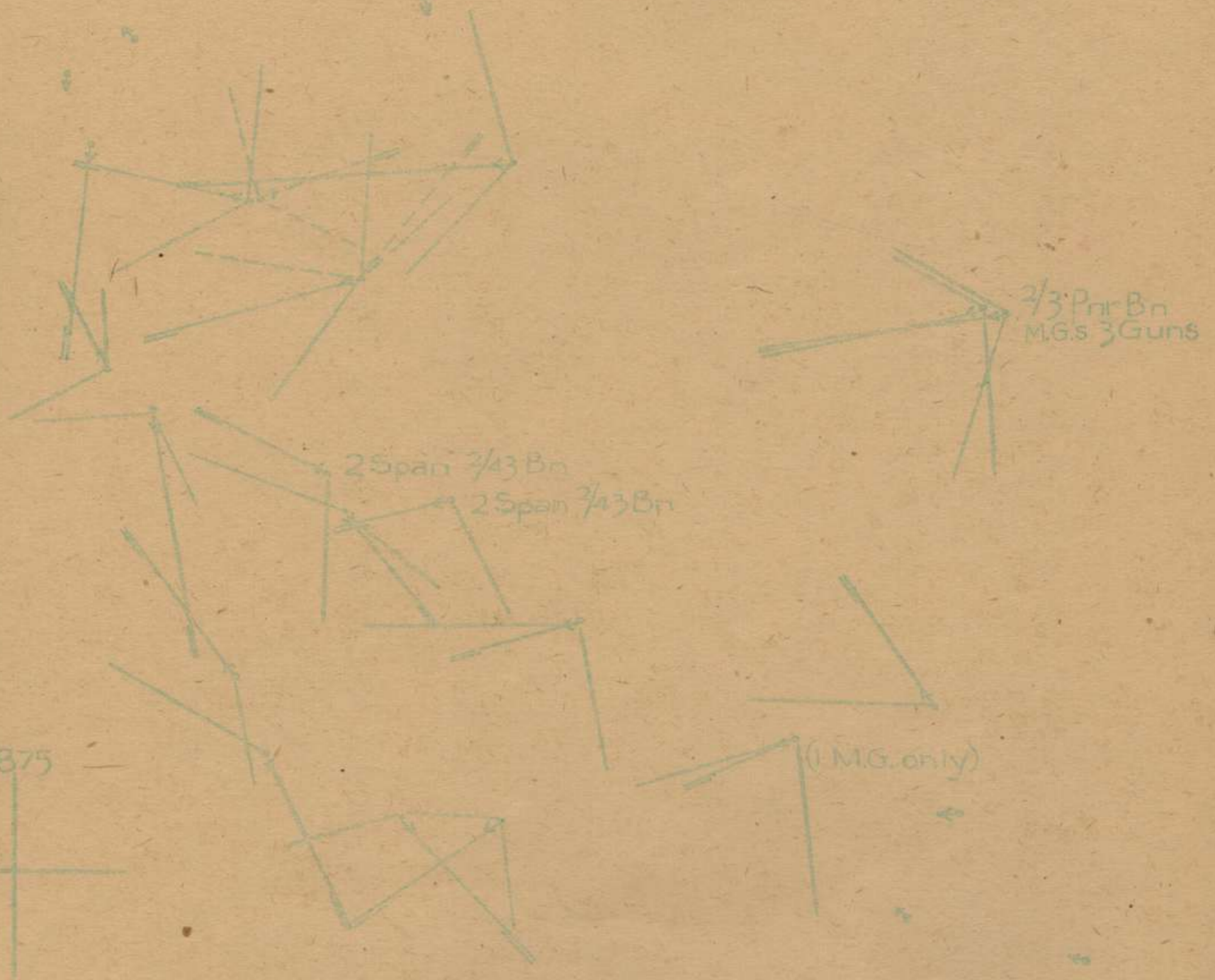
Alternate  
Penetration  
Tasks



880

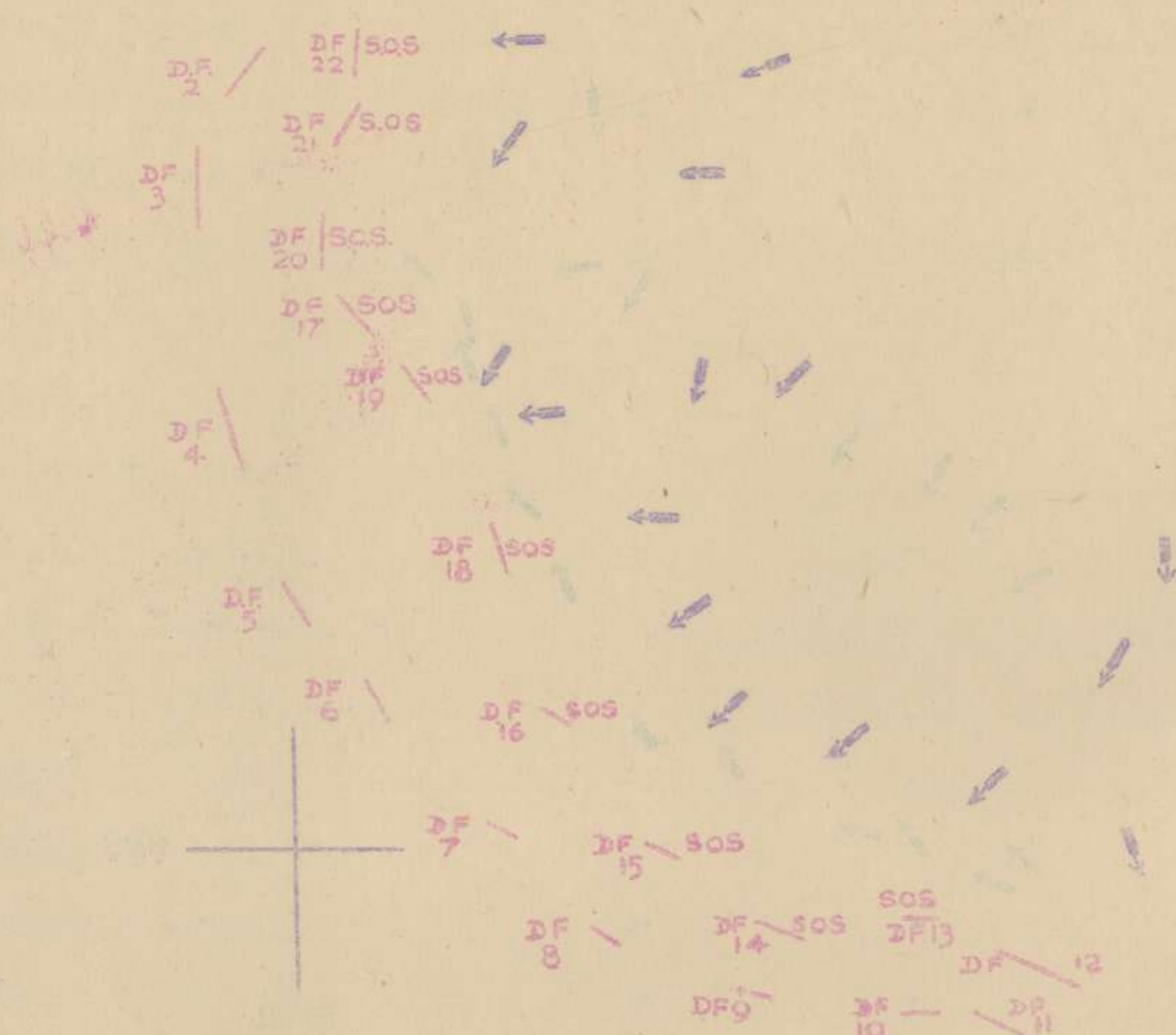
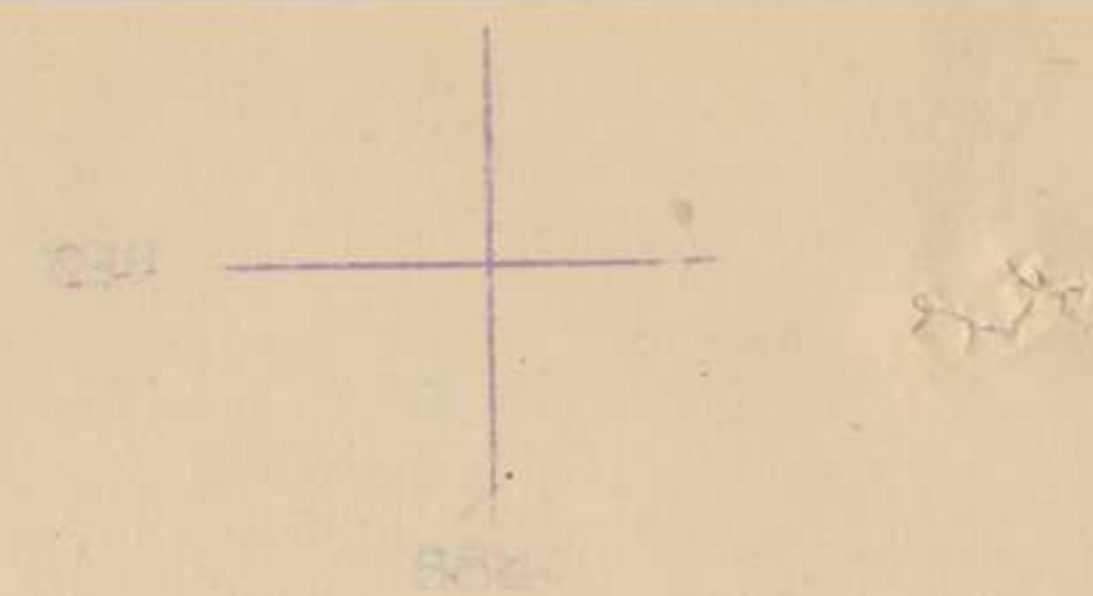


300



EL ALAMEIN 2/5/42

TK JUN POSNS & DF POSNS



LEGEND  
SOS A TK gun  
DF A TK gun  
DF A TK gun

Art No.	Co-ords	Nature of Art	No. of Tps	Qty to Engage	Arm	Rate	Remarks
DP B2	874300 296500 - 874300 296500	-	-	-	A. E.	5 Mins Rapid	
DP B3	874500 296510 - 874500 296500	-	-	-	"	" "	
DP B4	874600 294500 - 874700 294700	-	-	-	"	" "	
DP B5	874900 295510 - 875110 295200	-	-	-	"	" "	
DP B6	875300 295900 - 875510 29200	-	-	-	"	" "	DP tasks at call.
DP B7	875200 295170 - 875200 293070	-	-	-	"	" "	All tps to be prepared to engage if asked for.
DP B8	875500 291500 - 875340 291400	-	-	-	"	" "	
DP B9	877000 291010 - 877000 291100	-	-	-	"	" "	
DP B10	878300 291000 - 878600 291000	-	-	-	"	" "	
DP B11	878700 291000 - 879100 290900	-	-	-	"	" "	
DP B12	878900 291400 - 879400 291170	-	-	-	"	" "	
DP B13	878400 291500 - 878800 291500	808	1	2/12 Pd Regt	"	5 Mins Normal 5 Mins Slow	Green-Green-Red from 2/28 Bn HQ at 873 2925.
DP B14	877500 291600 - 877300 291500	808	1	2/12 Pd Regt	"	" "	
DP B15	878900 293000 - 877100 291900	808	1	2/12 Pd Regt	"	" "	
DP B16	876500 293700 - 876500 293500	808	1	2/12 Pd Regt	"	" "	
DP B17	875300 295150 - 875500 294900	808	1	58 Pd Bty	"	" "	Red-Red-Green from 2/28 Bn. HQ at 87322966.
DP B18	876100 295700 - 876300 293400	808	1	58 Pd Bty	"	" "	
DP B19	875600 294700 - 875810 294510	808	1	15 Pd Bty	"	" "	
DP B20	875100 295500 - 875100 295300	808	1	15 Pd Bty	"	" "	
DP B21	875400 295200 - 875200 295900	808	1	15 Pd Bty	"	" "	
DP B22	875410 295640 - 875300 295340	808	1	15 Pd Bty	"	" "	

WD

Appx 6  
22

SECRET  
Copy No 22  
21 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 16.  
(Superseding O.O. No. 14 of 19 Sep 42)

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

INFM

1. 30 Corps is to defend present FDLs at all costs.
2. 20 Aust Inf Bde is to be made mobile with tasks -
  - (a) to hold defended area A.
  - (b) be prepared to counter attack to restore the situation in either 26 or 24 Aust Inf Bde areas.
3. (a) Interbde bndy incl to 24 Aust Inf Bde is Trig 50 (870292) - CAIRN 875296 - 87652970 - 87802970.  
 (b) Inter div bndy - excl QATTARA rd to 87822939, thence incl minefd to 88092929 - telegraph line to 880289.
4. 24 Aust Inf Bde responsibility for defence against airborne and paratps -
  - (a) West of FDLs ALAMEIN defended locality, area bounded by FDLs 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn - inter bde bndy - ry line - inter div bndy.
  - (b) Area enclosed by defences ALAMEIN defended locality and North of telegraph line 881293 - 888289.
5. Following tps are in sp 24 Aust Inf Bde -
  - One sqn 9 Div Cav
  - 2/8 Fd Regt
  - two btys 2/12 Fd Regt
  - 10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt
  - one sec 4 Lt AA Regt
  - 2/3 Fd Coy
  - C Coy 2/2 MG Bn
  - 2/8 Fd Amb

INTENTION

6. 24 Aust Inf Bde will defend present FDLs.

METHOD

7. Fwd Bns - Right 2/32 Bn  
Left 2/28 Bn
8. Line of FDLs  
 CAIRN 875296 - 87552953 - 87652955.
9. Inter bn bndy  
 Incl to 2/32 Bn, 87832970 - 87702950 - 87502920.
10. Rear bn  
 2/3 Pnr Bn will hold Posts 1 - 10 ALAMEIN defended locality.



11. Res - 2/43 Bn  
Task (a) Counter attack to restore FDLs.  
 (b) Occupation of, or counter attack on, any section of ALAMEIN defended locality.  
 (c) Counter attack on air or seaborne landings within ALAMEIN defended locality.

12. Fireplan - issued in Appxs A and B.

13. Patrols  
 Patrol programme will be issued at intervals from this Hq to ensure coordination of patrolling with HP.  
 Object of patrolling will be -  
 (a) to inflict damage upon enemy and take prisoners.  
 (b) Identifications.  
 (c) Location and plotting of enemy minefields and FDLs.

14. Anti paratro defence  
 2/43 Bn and 2/3 Par Bn will hold mob res to deal with paratro landings.  
 Areas of responsibility  
 (a) 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn - FDLs to bn rear bndys.  
 (b) 2/3 Par Bn - area bounded by rear bndys of fwd bns, interbde bndy, by line and own rear bndy.  
 (c) 2/43 Bn - ALAMEIN defended locality East of rear bndy 2/3 Par Bn, and North of inter div bndy.

15. Minefields  
 Minefld trace and responsibility for guarding, closing and ordering closing of gaps given in Appx C.  
 Engr assistance will be provided where required for closing gaps.

ADM

16. No change from 34 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instrn No. 5 as amended by Instrn No. 6.

INTERCOMN

17. Bde Main Hq at 88612949  
 Rear Hq at 88852989  
 Tac Hq, when formed, in 888296.

18. M & F - very lights RED RED GREEN

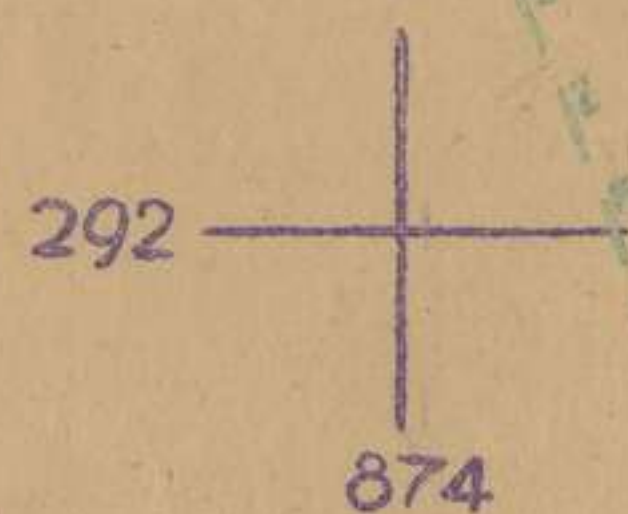
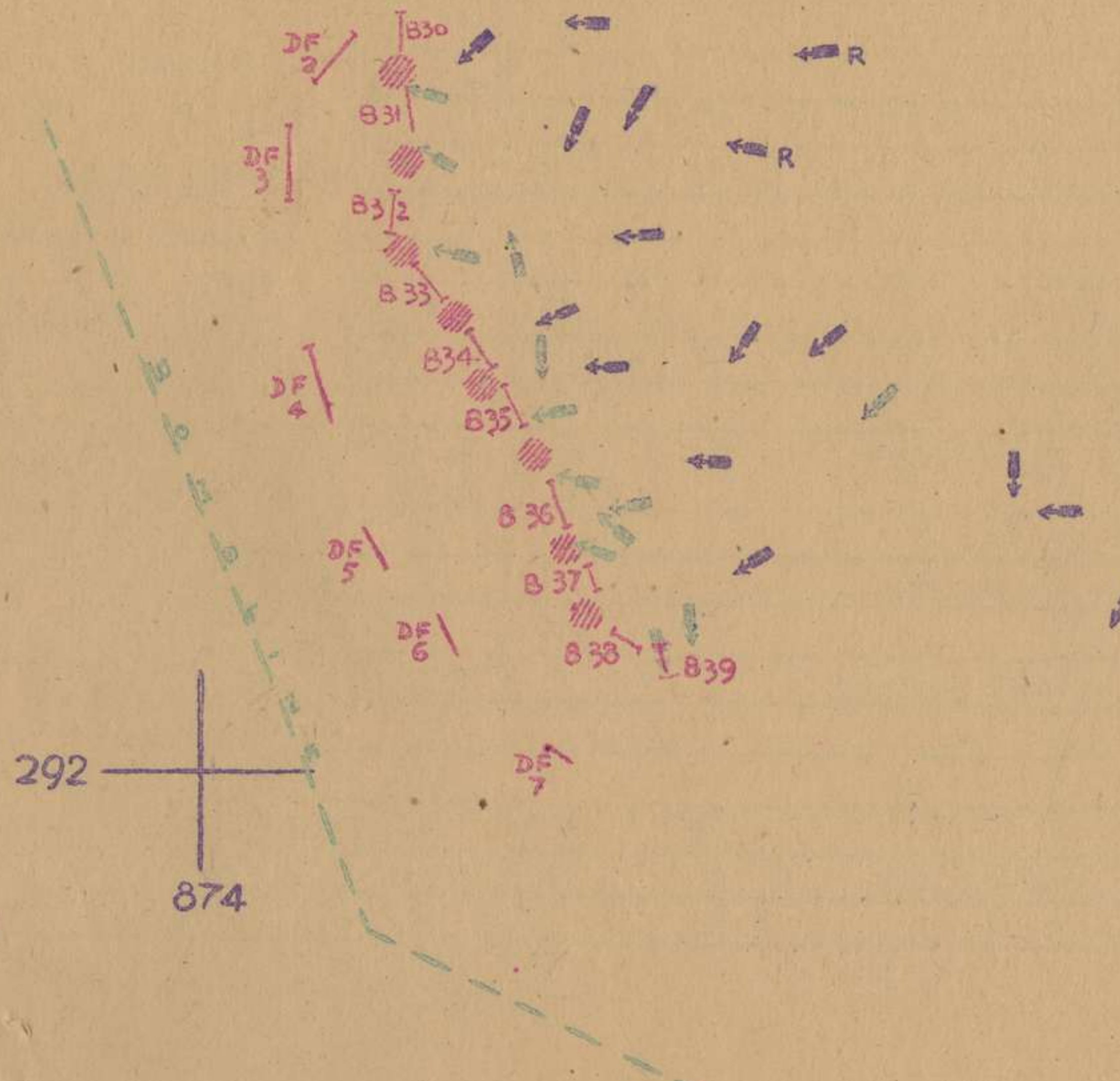
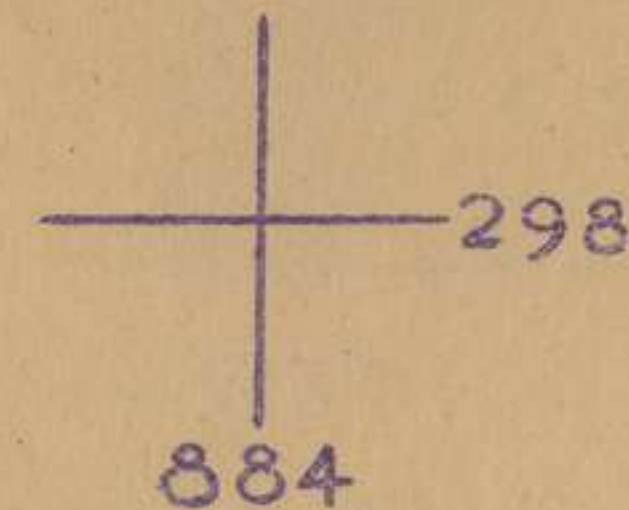
AOX

Signed at 2/43 hrs  
 Issued through Sigs

*Ed. [Signature]*  
 B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No</u>		
2/28 Bn	1	3 Aust Div	12
2/32 Bn	2	20 Aust Inf Bde	13
2/43 Bn	3	3 S.A. Bde	14
2/3 Par Bn	4	Comd	15
C Sqn 40 RTR	5	B.M.	16
2/8 Wd Regt	6	S.C.	17
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	7	L.O.	18
2/3 Fd Coy	8	Files	19-20
K Sec Sigs	9	War Diary	21-22
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	10		
2/7 Fd Amb	11		

Appx B Part I to 24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 16



2/43 Bn A/Tk PI  
(in reserve)

LEGEND

- ↑↑↑ 6 Pdr A/Tk gun (10 Bty 3 A/Tk Regt)
- ↑↑ " " " (9 Bty 3 A/Tk Regt)
- ↑↑R " sited (in reserve)
- ↑ { 2 pdr A/Tk gun
- { 47mm " "
- ▨ Mortar Tasks

APPX B Part II - ARTY DF TASKS  
 Issued with 24 Aust Inf Bde O.C. No. 16

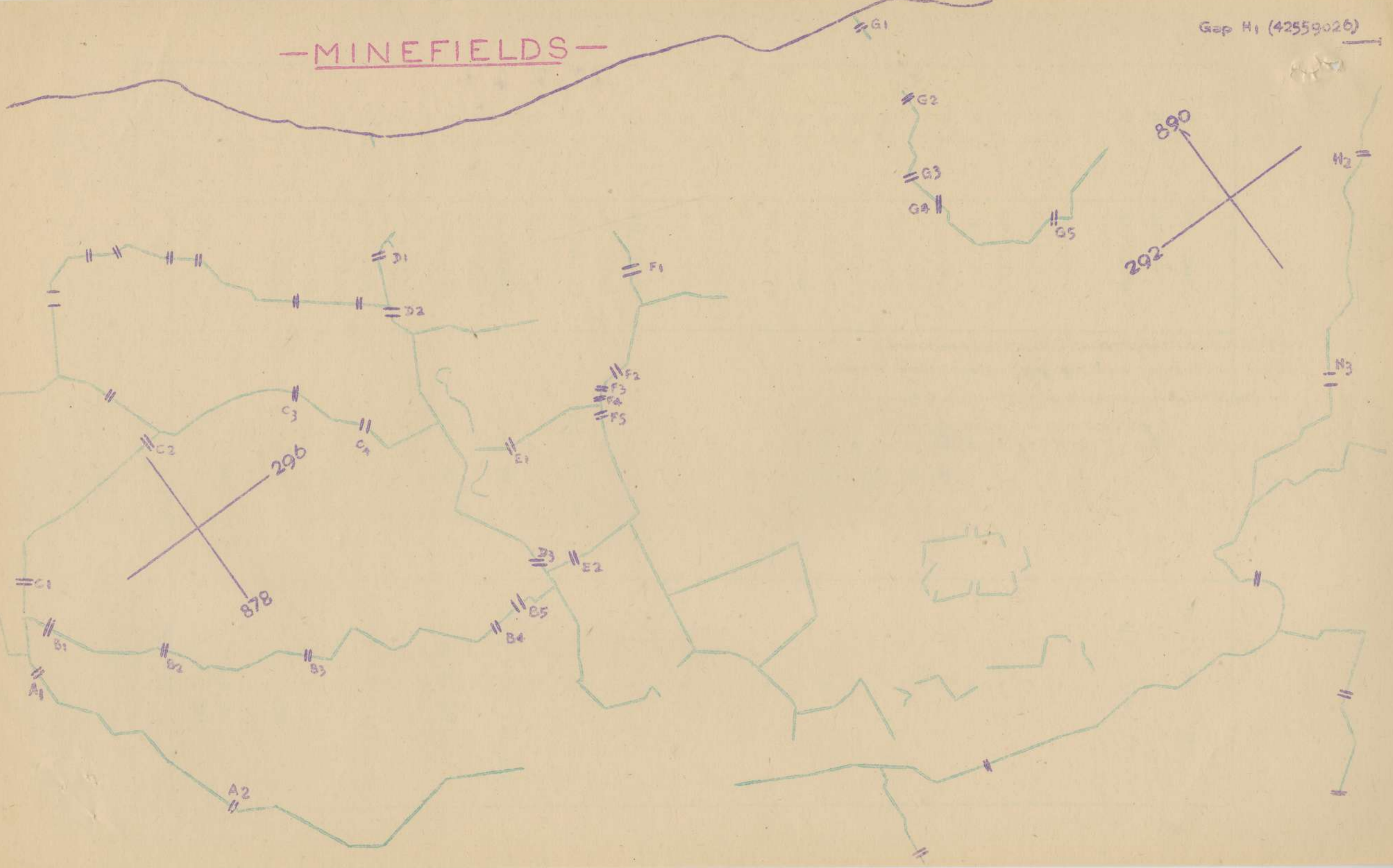
SECRET

Tgt No.	Co-ords	Nature of Tgt	No. of Tps	Bty to Engage	Arm	Rate	Remarks
DF B2	874920 296590 - 874890 296300	-	-	-	H.E.	5 Mins Rapid	DF tasks at call. All tps to be prepared to engage if asked for.
DF B3	874500 296010 - 874500 295090	-	-	-	"	" "	
DF B4	874530 294620 - 874770 294190	-	-	-	"	" "	
DF B5	874970 293510 - 875110 293280	-	-	-	"	" "	
DF B6	875580 292970 - 875510 292730	-	-	-	"	" "	
DF B7	876050 292170 - 876200 292000	-	-	-	"	" "	
<del>DF B8</del>	<del>875500 291500 - 875500 291500</del>	-	-	-	"	" "	
<del>DF B9</del>	<del>875500 291500 - 875500 291500</del>	-	-	-	"	" "	
<del>DF B10</del>	<del>875500 291500 - 875500 291500</del>	-	-	-	"	" "	
<del>DF B11</del>	<del>875500 291500 - 875500 291500</del>	-	-	-	"	" "	
DF B30	875180 296680 - 875170 296410	SOB	1	15 PA Bty	"	3 Mins Normal 5 Mins Slow	Engage on Light sig. RED-RED-GREEN from Fwd Coy HQs at - 8755 2965 8757 2957 8754 2947 8770 2936
DF B31	875200 296360 - 875260 295970	"	1	" " "	"	" "	
DF B32	875130 296600 - 875110 296330	"	1	16 PA Bty	"	" "	
DF B33	875260 295100 - 875410 294920	"	1	" " "	"	" "	
DF B34	875370 294780 - 875740 294520	"	1	2/12 PA Regt	"	" "	
DF B35	875840 294390 - 875970 294140	"	1	" " "	"	" "	
DF B36	876030 293800 - 876170 293550	"	1	" " "	"	" "	
DF B37	875215 293230 - 875315 293070	"	1	" " "	"	" "	
DF B38	876520 292820 - 876675 292745	"	1	58 PA Bty	"	" "	
DF B39	876845 292695 - 876890 292515	"	1	" " "	"	" "	

Amended Co-ordinates in Purple

- MINEFIELDS -

Gap H<sub>1</sub> (42559026)



## RESPONSIBILITY - MINED GAPS

Appx C to 24 Aust Inf Bde C.O. No. 15.

Mined Gap	Ref	Responsible for Protection & Closing	Authority to Close
A 1	87542958	2/32 Bn	2/32 Bn
A 2	87662931	2/28 Bn	2/28 Bn
B 1	87592961	2/32 Bn	2/32 Bn
B 2	87692950	"	"
B 3	87812940	2/28 Bn	"
B 4	88012930	"	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde
B 5	88052931	"	"
C 1	87602967	2/32 Bn	2/32 Bn
C 2	87812972	"	"
C 3	87982966	2/28 Bn	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde
C 4	88032957	"	"
D 1	88142974	2/3 Pnr Bn	"
D 2	88132967	"	"
D 3	88102933	"	"
E 1	88152946	"	"
E 2	88132931	"	"
F 1	88382954	"	"
F 2	88302946	"	"
F 3	88272946	"	"
F 4	88262945	"	"
F 5	88252943	"	"
G 1	88772962	2/43 Bn	"
G 2	88762952	"	"
G 3	88712945	"	"
G 4	88722939	"	"
G 5	88822930	"	"
H 1	42559026	"	HQ 9 Aust Div
H 2	42579015	"	"
H 3	88972896	"	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

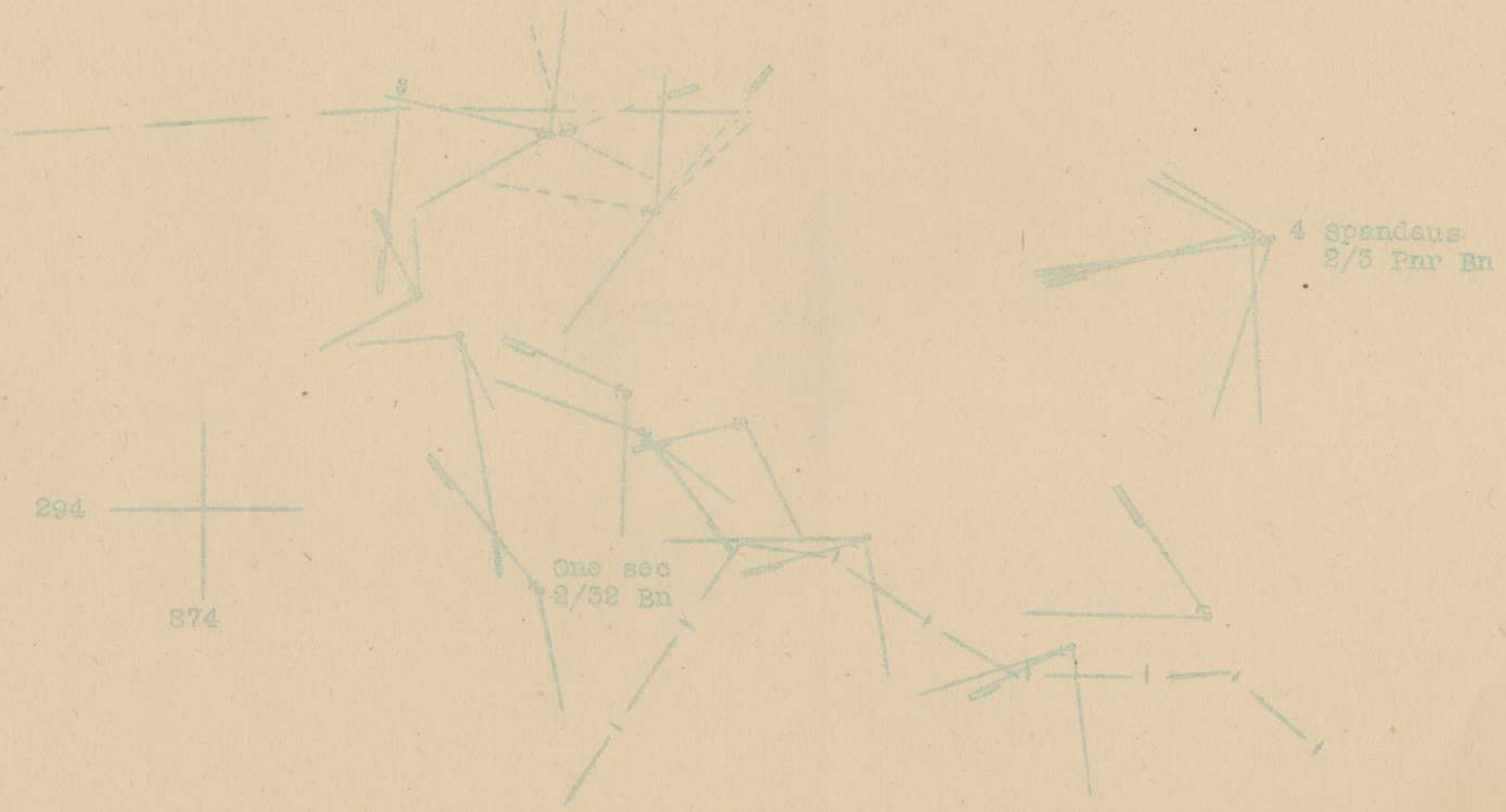
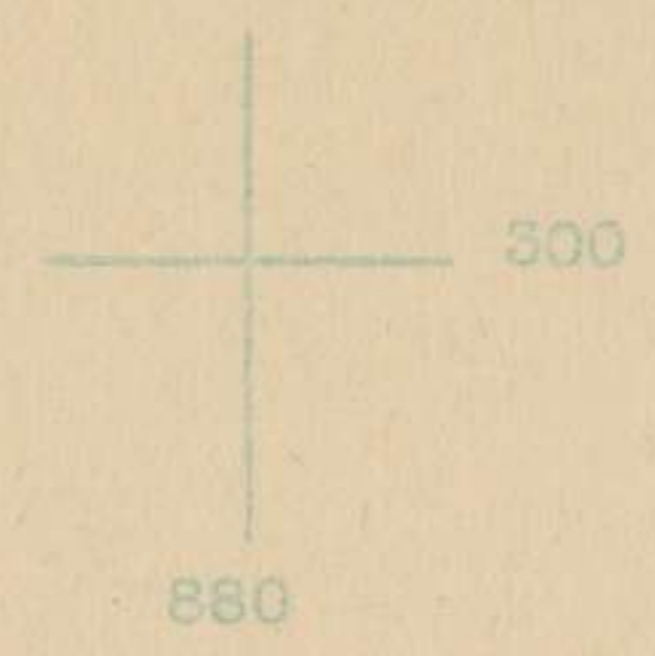
*W/ Diary*

APPX A to 24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 16

SECRET

MG FIRE PLAN

Ref map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000



File S1/592  
 Date 25-9-42  
 Time \_\_\_\_\_

*File*  
*then in Army*

9 AUST DIV TACTICAL EXERCISE WITH TPS  
No 1. NIGHT ATTACK, INF BN AND ARMY TKS.

1. OBJECT

To practise attack and exploitation, vide 9 Aust Div Trg Instruction No 21, Paras 2 and 3.

2. TPS TAKING PART

(a) One inf bn  
 40 RTR less one sqn  
 Reprs RAA  
 One A Tk Coy.  
 Reprs lt AA  
 Det fd Coy RAE  
 One MG pl

(b) Sp arms will make reprs and tps available by mutual arrangements with inf bde concerned.

3. DATES OF EXERCISES

Night 17/18 Sep 42 - One bn 26 Aust Inf Bde  
 19/20 Sep 42 - One bn ~~24~~<sup>26</sup> Aust Inf Bde  
 21/22 Sep 42 - One bn 26 Aust Inf Bde  
 23/24 Sep 42 - One bn ~~26~~<sup>24</sup> Aust Inf Bde

4. DRESS, EQPT, TPT - as arranged by bdes.

CRE is issuing special engr stores required to the fd coy concerned.

5. COMD AND ASSEMBLY

The comd of the tps taking part will be the inf bn comd. He will be responsible for any necessary preliminary conferences, reces and issue of orders and for all tps taking part in the exercise being acquainted with the object and narrative by the time laid down for the force to be assembled.

6. THE EXERCISE STARTS:

- (a) for Bn Comds R Gp at track and main rd junc 42609024 at 1400 hrs on D - 1 day (16 Sep for first exercise)  
 (b) for other Gps as Bn Comd directs  
 (c) for remainder at Assembly Posn at  $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs on the night of the exercise.

7. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

No live amn will be loaded into weapons. Blank amn not to be used during darkness except by enemy.

Blank amn will not be fired at less than 100 yds range. Bayonets will not be fixed during darkness.

8. PRESERVATIONS OF TRG AREA

All trenches dug in the trg area will be filled in at the conclusion of the exercise.

9. MINEFIELDS

- (a) Attention is directed to the previously notified existence of live minefields near the trg area in 8828 and 4389.
- (b) Dummy minefields laid for the exercise will be marked with one line of one strand cattle fencing.

10. UMPIRES etc

- (a) Director Bde comd concerned
- Assistant Directors Maj R J BARHAM HQ 9 Aust Div  
Capt G COMBES HQ 9 Aust Div
- Chief Umpire Fd offr nominated by  
26 Aust Inf Bde
- Umpires: One offr per coy and one NCO per pl Nominated by 26 Aust Inf Bde
- One offr with Bn tpt " " " " " "
- One offr to watch traffic supervision " " " " " "
- A Tk umpire Nominated by RAA
- MMG umpire Nominated by 2/2 Aust MG Bn
- Umpire with enemy Nominated by 9 Aust Div Cav
- Umpires with 40 RTR:  
One for HQ and one per sqn Nominated by 40 RTR

(b) Umpire comms

R/T net:- Chief umpire (control set), Umpire with enemy, 40 RTR HQ umpire, two rifle coy umpires.

Details to be arranged by Sigs 9 Aust Div

- (c) Umpires vehs will be marked with a white sig flag.
- (d) Umpires will wear a white band on each arm.
- (e) Umpires and CSC skeleton enemy (inf and cav) for the first exercise will report with own tpt and lunch to Maj BARHAM at 42609024 at 0930 hrs 16 Sep 42.
- (f) Umpires will be changed between exercises as little as possible. Any change will be notified immediately to chief umpire who will instruct the new umpire in his duties.

11. SKELETON ENEMY

- (a) Inf will be provided by 1 Aust Commando Pl.  
Dress - FS dress with hats with white puggarees.  
Blank amm and pyrotechnic stores as ordered separately.  
Blue flags to rep mortars.  
White flags to rep A Tk guns.  
Red flags to rep MMGs.
- (b) Two carrier tps 9 Aust Div Cav Regt will rep enemy tks.  
Carriers will fly white flags.



12. INSTRUCTIONS TO UMPIRES are being issued separately.

13. CONFERENCE OF COMDS AND ALLOTMENT OF TIME

1st Exercise (D 1 17 Sep)		12nd Exercise (D 1 19 Sep)	
0930	D-1 day	Umpires meet A/Dir- ector 42609024 at 0930	
1400	D-1 day	Bn Comds R Gp RVs 42609024 to meet A/Director	
1700	D-1 day	Umpires conference at Bde HQ	
	D1	Umpires accompany rece parties	
By dark	D1	(a) Two fwd tps of A Tk bty in posn (b) Enemy in posn	
By &	D1	Tps in Assembly Posn	
1100	D2	Chief umpires con- ference at HQ 23 Bde	1400 D-1 Bn Comds R Gp RVs 42609024 to meet A/Director
1700- 1830	D3	Chief umpire and A/Directors meet Director at Bde HQ	
	As ordered by bde	Directors conference with comds	
		D1	Umpires accompany rece party
	By dark	D1	(a) Two fwd tps of A Tk Bty in posn (b) Enemy in posn
	By &	D1	Tps in Assembly Posn
		1100 D2	Chief umpires con- ference at HQ 26 Bde
		1400 D3	(Director meets R Gp for next exercise,
		1700- 1800 D2	Chief umpire and A/Directors meet Director at HQ of bde concerned
		As ordered by bde	Directors conference with comds

Timetable for further exercise  
will follow the timings given  
above.

14. HARDENING TRG

No tp carrying tpt will be used.

Tps who normally march will march to and from the exercise

& (page 1 & 3) : Time for tps to be in assembly posn to be notified later.

*Barham Major*  
Col  
GS 9 Aust Div

DISTRIBUTION

Extra copies for umpires and enemy (to be handed out by Director)

20 Aust Inf Bde	5	
24 Aust Inf Bde	5	7
26 Aust Inf Bde		2
9 Aust Div Cav Regt	(4)	4
RMA	(3)	
RME		
Sigs		
2/2 Aust MG Bn	(2)	1
1 Aust Commando Pl		1
&..... Comd		
G	(2)	3
AQ		
File		
War Diary	(2)	
Spares	(10)	
&..... 40 RTR	-	3

S1/O/99

SECRET  
Copy No 23

24 Sept 42

LOCATION STATEMENT  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
0900 hrs 24 Sept 42

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

This statement supersedes this HQ S1/O/73 of 29 Aug 42.

Main HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	88612949
K Sec 9 Aust Div Sigs	"
2 Pl A Coy HQ Gd Bn	"
Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	"
Rear HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	88852929
76 LAD	88892932
2/28 Bn	87832948
2/32 Bn	87712959
2/43 Bn	88832939
2/3 Pnr Bn	88232940

In Support

C Sqn 9 Div Cav	87992972
2/8 Fd Regt	88612949
10 Bty 3 Atk Regt	88572951
2/3 Fd Coy	88782958
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	87922955
2/8 Fd Amb	89052943

Distribution

List B less serials 6, 23, 24	
Plus 10 Bty 3 Atk Regt	6
2/12 Fd Regt	25
4 Lt AA Regt	26

*B.R. Jackson*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

MESSAGE FORM.

Appx "F"  
Serial No. 26

CALL  
AND  
INSTRUCTIONS

IN  
OUT

No. of Groups.  
G.R.

Office Date Stamp.

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

TO

428 Bn 432 Bn 443 Bn 453 Bn 464 478 to Regt

FROM

24 Aust Inf Bde

Originator's Number

0179

Date

26

In Reply to Numbers

from  
will  
inf  
23  
O

1800

be

bde

872296

amend

has

all

enemy

to

00

today  
will

locality

87522970

16

interbde

26

at

to

par-

body  
aust

pt

87802970

3

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means.

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

Originator's instructions  
Degree of priority

IMPORTANT

Time of origin.

1245

Signed

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

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

811/PMEA/2.10/41.

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

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 17

Ref maps: EL ALAMIN 1/50,000  
EL QASABA 1/50,000

INFM

1. Following tps are to come under operational comd 9 Aust Div on relief of 24 Aust Inf Bde and att tps :-

- 152 Inf Bde
- 105 Lt AA Bty
- 242 A Tk Bty
- A & D Coys 1/7 Mx.
- one sec 275 Pd Coy
- one sec Pro

- 2. (a) Relief to be carried out 1/4 Oct.
- (b) Units 152 Inf Bde are not to pass junc BOMBAY and MAIN Rds before last light each night.
- 3. 2/8 Pd Regt is to change to sp 152 Inf Bde on passing of sector comd.

INTENTION

4. 24 Aust Inf Bde will hand over present locality to 152 Inf Bde 1/3 Oct 48, and withdraw to area EL SHAMMAMA 458901.

METHOD

- 5. 30 Sep - Adv ptys Bde HQ and each bn move to area EL SHAMMAMA.
- 1 Oct - 2/43 Bn and two coys 2/3 Pnr Bn will move to new area.
- Night 1/3 Oct - 2/32 Bn relieved by 2 Seaforth  
2/3 Pnr Bn " " 5 Camerons (less two coys)  
(less two coys)
- 2 Oct - Comd 24 Aust Inf Bde sector will probably pass.
- Night 2/3 Oct - 2/28 Bn relieved by 2 Seaforth (less one coy).

6. Sp Arms  
Relief of sp arms is to proceed independently.

7. Timings  
Following are anticipated timings for relief of fwd units :-

2/32 Bn	by	0100 hrs	2 Oct
2/3 Pnr Bn	"	0300 hrs	2 "
2/28 Bn	"	0100 hrs	3 "

- 8. Guides. Mutually arranged by pns will meet incoming units.
- 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn - junc QATTARA and MAIN Rds at 2100 hrs.
- 2/3 Pnr Bn - rd and trk junc 88732942 at 2145 hrs.
- Bde HQ - Bde Main HQ at 2145 hrs.

9. Patrols

Responsibility for patrolling to cover relief will rest -  
night, 1/2 Oct - with 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn  
" 2/5 " - " 2 Seaforth and 2/38 Bn

Patrols will withdraw each morning at stand to.

10. Rear Ptys

Small rear ptys may be left with bns 152 Inf Bde if required. Bn MMGs will be relieved under arrangements CO 2/2 MG Bn.

11. Dispersal area

Allotment of new bde area shown in Appx A.

12. Route - MAIN Rd.

13. Speed and Density - 10 mtk 30 vtm

ADM

14. Locality Stores

Following will be handed over to relieving unit -

- (a) Spigot mortars with amm.
- (b) Special issue sig equipt known as "Post Stores" (switch boards, telephones PII and BV).
- (c) Engr stores in situ.
- (d) Sanitary appliances.

Receipts will be passed for (a) and (b) and res amm.

15. Traffic Control under

T.P. (1/2 Oct) / arrangements Bde HQ at 88352955 from 2200 hrs. Priority for movement on MAIN Rd will be given -

- 2 Seaforth
- 5 Camerons
- 2/32 Bn
- 2/3 Pnr Bn

16. Medical

Det 2/3 Rd Amb will open a post at 43749022 by last light 1 Oct.

17. Ann

- (a) 1st line ann will accompany units.
- (b) 4 days res at EIGHTH Army rates in unit areas will be handed over.

18. Sup

11 Coy AASC to deliver direct to unit B Echrs.

19. POL

Normal drawing from tankers in bulk.

20. Water

WP for SHAMMAMA area 1 1/2 miles East of EL IMAYID Ry Sta.

21. B Echrs will rejoin units in new areas.

INTERCOMN

22. Bde HQ will close present location when comd passes, and reopen same time vicinity 43679022.

23. LOs with units during relief and move.

Ack

Issued through LOs and Sigs  
Time of signature 1845 hrs

*J.R. [Signature]* Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/28 Bn	1
2/32 Bn	2
2/43 Bn	3
2/3 Pnr Bn	4
K Sec Sigs	5
76 LAD	6
C Sqn 9 Aust Div Cav	7
2/8 Fd Regt	8
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	9
2/3 Fd Coy	10
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	11
2/8 Fd Amb	12
9 Aust Div	13
152 Inf Bde	14
26 Aust Inf Bde	15
3 S.A. Bde	16
Comd	17
S.C.	18
I.O.	19
T.O.	20
File	21-22
War Diary	23-24

SECRET

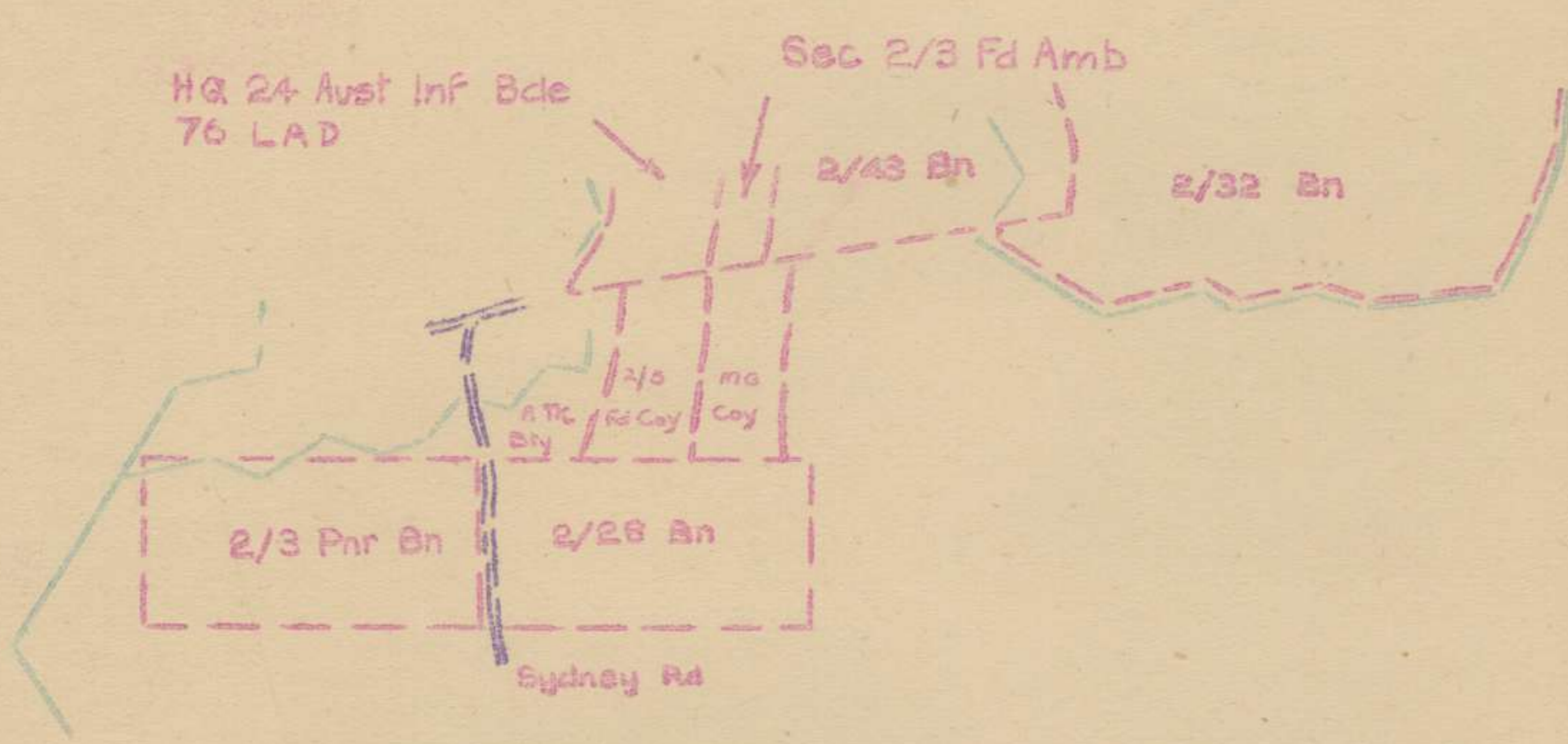
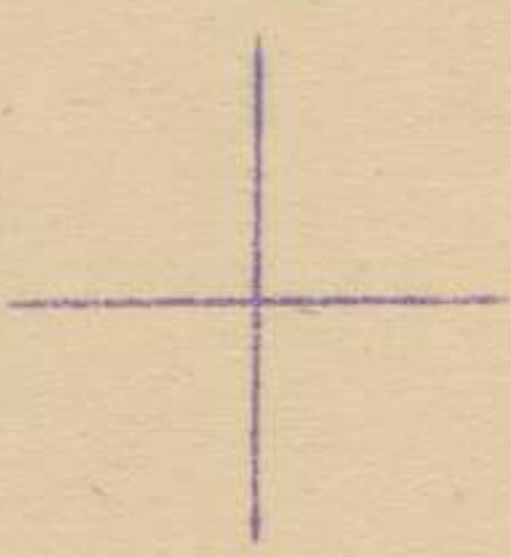
Appx A to O.O. No. 17

24 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION AREAS - EL SHAMMAMA

Superimpose on map EL QASABA 1/50,000

434

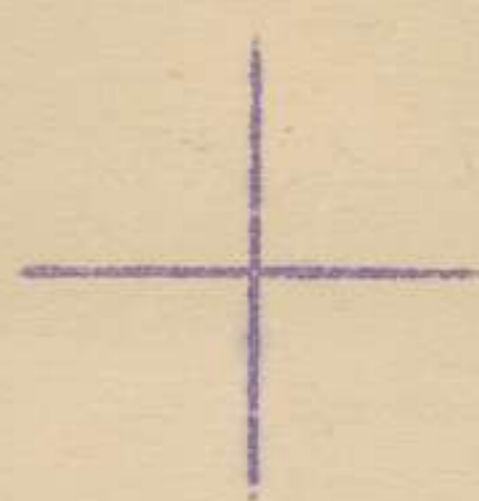
906



Minatfield

898

439



Appx A on map 1/25,000 issued to

- 2/28 Bn
- 2/32 Bn
- 2/43 Bn
- 2/3 Pnr Bn
- 2/3 Fd Coy



SEP 29  
SECRET

2/3 Aust Fd Amb  
2/8 Aust Fd Amb  
2/11 Aust Fd Amb

MOVEMENT - 24 AUST INF BDE

	INITIALS
Brig	
B.M.	
B.M.L.	
S.C.	
S.C.L.	
L.O. I	
L.O. II	
L.O. III	
I.O.	
I.O.	

9 Aust Div.,  
29 Sep 42.  
Ref: M 42/41/1

Appx 29

HQ 24 AUST INF BDE

S1/609

30/9/42

1. On the nights 1/2, 2/3 and 3/4 Oct, 24 Aust Inf Bde gp less 2/8 Aust Fd Regt will be relieved by 152 (H.D.) Inf Bde gp for trg purposes. Battle casualties or urgent sick from 152 Bde will be evacuated by a coy of 175 Fd Amb to M.D.S. 2/8 Aust Fd Amb. Normal sick will be similarly evacuated to MDS 174 Fd Amb at 449905. Adm of coy 175 Fd Amb remains under 51 (H) Div.
2. 24 Aust Inf Bde gp will move to an area bounded approximately by eastings 437 and 440 on the coast. 2/3 Aust Fd Amb will evacuate 24 Aust Inf Bde gp to present MDS, and will est a medical sta in the bde area for that purpose. This sta will NOT be larger than a coy and will be sited by last light 1 Oct 42 in an area approved by HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.
3. The amb cars from 2/3 Aust Fd Amb at present held by 2/8 Aust Fd Amb will be returned by mutual arrangements between C.Os.

B. Hanson

(B.S.HANSON) Lt.Col.  
A/A.D.M.S. 9 Aust Div.

Copy to  
HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde  
A.A.& Q.M.G. 9 Aust Div

W/D

App "A" 30

SL/86

SECRET  
Copy No 24

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.  
7 Sep 42.

DISTRIBUTION LISTS

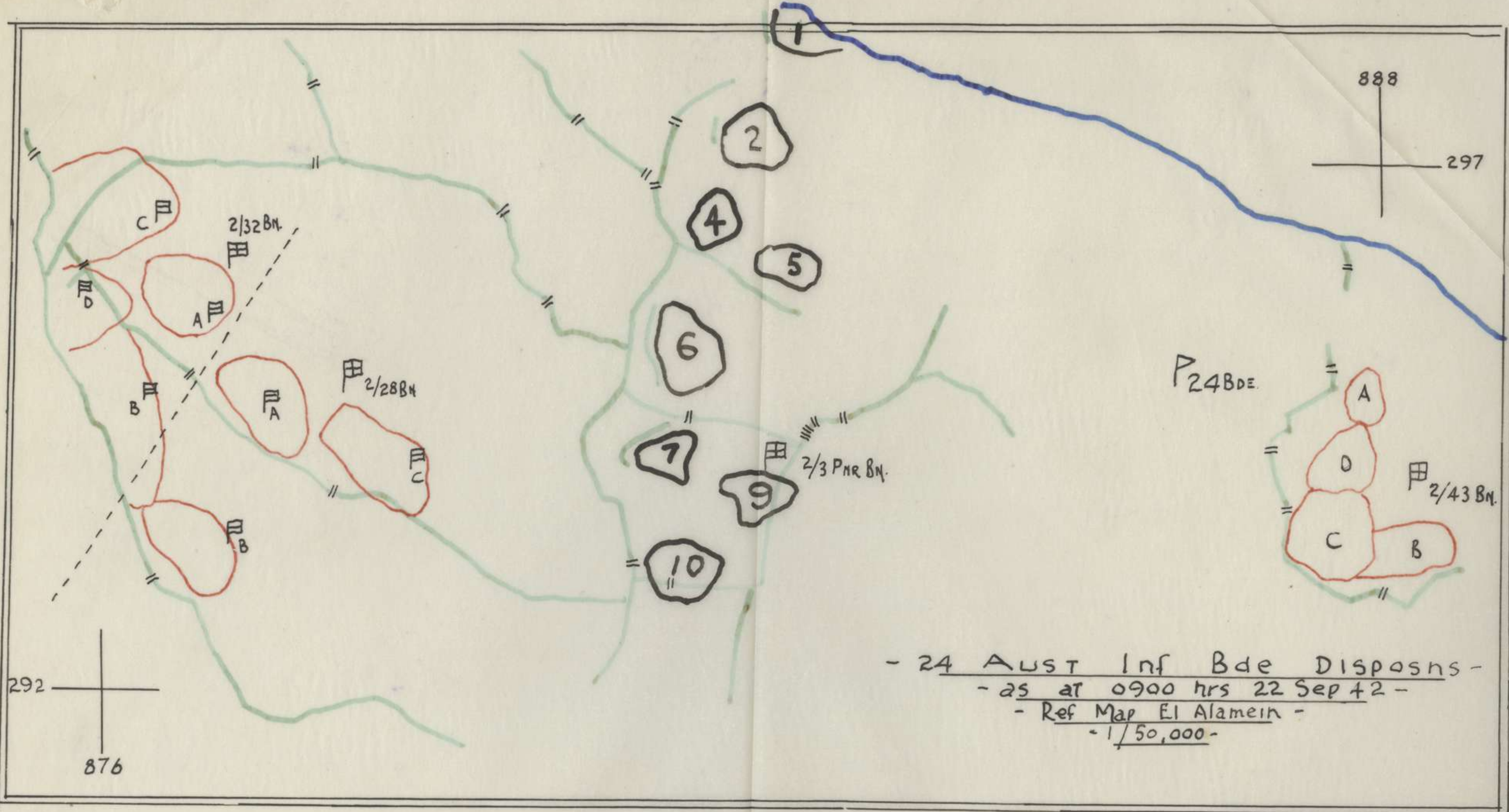
- The following distribution lists will apply as from 1200 hrs 7 Sep :-
- These lists cancel those issued on 5 Aug 42.

<u>List A</u>	<u>Ser No.</u>	<u>List B</u>	<u>Ser No.</u>
2/28 Bn	1	2/28 Bn	1
2/32 Bn	2	2/32 Bn	2
2/43 Bn	3	2/43 Bn	3
2/3 Pnr Bn	4	2/3 Pnr Bn	4
Comd	5	2/8 Fd Regt	5
File	6	11 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	6
		2/3 Fd Coy	7
		2/2 MG Bn	8
		C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	9
		2/8 Fd Amb	10
		K Sec 9 Aust Div Sigs	11
		2 Pl HQ Gd Bn	12
		Sec 9 Div Pro Coy	13
		76 LAD	14
		Rear HQ 24 Bde	15
		20 Bde	16
		26 Bde	17
		3 S.A. Bde	18
		9 Aust Div	19
		Comd	20
		File	21-22
		War Diary ✓	23-24

Distribution  
List 'B'

*E.T. Pennington*  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.



- 24 AUST Inf Bde Disposns -  
 - as at 0900 hrs 22 Sep 42 -  
 - Ref Map El Alamein -  
 - 1/50,000 -

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde* (Unit.) For Week Ending *5/9/42*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment/	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*				
*				
*				
<i>Brigadier</i>		<i>1</i>		
Lieut.-Colonels ...		<i>1</i>		
Majors ...		<i>1</i>		
Captains ...		<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>
Lieutenants ...		<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>
2nd Lieutenants ...				
Quartermasters ...				
District Officers ...				
TOTALS ...		<i>8</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3</i>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

## PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Capt</i>	<i>Bischer C.L.</i>	<i>AIF</i>	<i>30/8/42</i>	<i>Appointed S.C. Learner 24 Aust Inf Bde vice Lieut M.G. Wraithley. Remains seconded in his unit.</i>

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Lieut</i>	<i>Wraithley M.G.</i>	<i>AIF</i>	<i>30/8/42</i>	<i>Cause to be seconded resumes regimental duties - 2/4/42.</i>

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	
1		Brig		Godfrey A.M.H.	A.I.F.	Yes		Comd	
2		Major		Jackson A.R.	-	-		B.M.	
3		Capt		Bishop K.E.	-	-		R.M.L.	
4		Capt		Sangster P.W.	-	-		S.C.	
5		Capt		Tricker C.L.	-	-		S.C.L.	
6		Lieut	T/Capt	Gellibrand T.Y.	-	-		L.O.	
7		Lieut		Cook J.T.	-	-		L.O.	
8		Lieut		Pease F.T.S.	-	-		I.O.	
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									
26				<u>NO Officers attached from other Corps.</u>					
27									
28		Capt		Wickley N.V.	A.A.S.C.			R.A.S.C.O.	
29		Lieut		Bowney R.K.	2/12 Bn			Officer duty	
30		Lieut		Ruston F.V.	-				
31									
32									
33									
34									

**(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.**

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		Gard T.	A.A.C.D.		Chaplain 2/43 Bn
		Bushin J.S.A.A.	-		2/12 Bn
		Thomas J.G.	-		2/22 Bn

NO 24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Unit.)

5/9/42.  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander.)

9 Aust Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE. (Unit). 5/9/1942 (Date)

(To be furnished by all Units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.			
W.Os Class II.	2		
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	1		
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	3	1	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	4		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	48	6	
TOTALS.	58	* 7	* -

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Lt Sgt	} AAAC	1 cpl	} 2/4 7th Huss Reg
2 Ptes		1 pte	
1 cpl	} Corps Intell	1 cpl	} 2/32 Bn
1/1 cpl		3 ptes	
1 WO I	} AAOC	1 Lt	} 9 Bn Postal Unit
1 Lt		1 cpl	
4 Ptes	} 2/3 7th Aust	2 Ptes	} 9 Aust Div
1 cpl		1 cpl	
3 Ptes	AAACD	1 Lt	} HQ 21 2/1 Aust Div 9th Bn
1 pte	2/13 Bn	3 cpls	
1 cpl	HQ 26 Aust. Inf Bde	35 Ptes	
1 cpl	2/23 Bn		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks. (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS				
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Serjeants		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ...																				
Butchers. ...																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks ...																				
Cooks ...																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
> > (Wheeled) ..																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians ...																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers.. ...																				
Fitters ...																				
Machine Gunners ...																				
Masons ..																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers ...																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors. .																				
Wheelers ...																				
General duty personnel .																				
C.S.M																				
Totals ( to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																				

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

Unit.

Date of Despatch

5/9/42

Signature of Commander.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Bde, Divn, Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*44th Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.) For Week Ending *Sept 12 1942*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	<i>Brigadier</i> *	<i>1</i>		
	Lieut.-Colonels ...			
	Majors... ..	<i>1</i>		
	Captains ... ..	<i>4</i>		<i>1</i>
	Lieutenants ... ..	<i>2</i>		<i>2</i>
	2nd Lieutenants ... ..			
	Quartermasters ... ..			
	District Officers ... ..			
	TOTALS ... ..	<i>8</i>		<i>3</i>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

## PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).



**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	
1		Brig		Godfrey	AIF	yes		Brig	
2		Major		Jackson	SA	-		BM	
3		Capt		Bishop	K.E.	-		BM L.	
4		Capt		Sangster	R.W.	-		SC	
5		Capt		Fisher	C.L.	-		SC L	
6		Lieut	↑ Capt	Hillbrand	T.I.	-		LOT	
7		Lieut		Cook	J.T.	-		LOT	
8		Lieut		<del>...</del>	<del>...</del>	-		<del>...</del>	
9		Lieut		Hearse	ETS	-		IO	
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25				<u>(ii) Officers attached from other Corps</u>					
26									
27		Capt		Wickley	N.V.	AMSC		BASCO	
28		Lieut		Downey	R.K.	2/32 Bn		Act for Duty	
29		Lieut		Bruton	E.V.	2/38 Bn		✓	
30		Lieut		Lancaster	C.S.	✓		✓	
31									
32									
33									
34									

**(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.**

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		Gard	AACLD		chap 2/43 Bn
✓		Baskin	✓		2/32 Bn
✓		Thomas	✓		2/38 Bn

12<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)  
12 Sept 1942  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander.)  
9<sup>th</sup> Aust Div.  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

**H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.** (Unit) Sept 12 1944 (Date)

(To be furnished by all Units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.			
W.Os Class II.	2		
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	1		
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	3	1	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	4		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	48	6	
<b>TOTALS.</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>*7</b>	<b>*</b>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Lt/Sgt	AAASC	1 Cpl	2/4 Hygiene Sec
2 Ptes		1 Pte	
1 Cpl	Corps Intell.	1 Cpl	2/32 Bn.
1 Lt/Cpl		3 Ptes	
1 WO I	AAOC	1 Sgt	9 Div Postal Unit
1 Sgt		1 Cpl	
3 Ptes	2/3 7th Cav	2 Ptes	9 Aust Div
1 Cpl		1 Cpl	
3 Ptes	AACLD	1 Sgt	2 PL Coy 2/1 Aust 4th Div Bn.
1 Pte	2/13 Bn	2 Cpls	
1 Cpl	H.Q. 26 Aust Inf Bn	31 Ptes	
1 Cpl	2/23 Bn		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks. (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.						REMARKS				
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ...																				
Butchers. ...																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks ...																				
Cooks ...																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)..																				
> > (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians ...																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers.. ...																				
Fitters... ..																				
Machine Cunnens ...																				
Masons.. ...																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry ...																				
(other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers ...																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors. . ...																				
Wheelers ...																				
General duty personnel .																				
Totals ( to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																				

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

Unit.

Date of Despatch

12.9.42

Signature of Commander.

*Adrian King*  
9 Aust Div.

Bde, Divn, Area, etc, with which unit is serving.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde (Unit.) For Week Ending Sept 19 1942

**PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.**

War Establishment:	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*	1		
	Lieut.-Colonels ...			
	Majors ...	1		
	Captains ...	4		1
	Lieutenants ...	2		2
	2nd Lieutenants ...			
	Quartermasters ...			
	District Officers ...			
	<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>3</b>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

**PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.**

**Officers JOINED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

**Officers QUITTED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

**PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.**

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	
1		Brig	-	Godfrey A.H.L.	AIF	yes		Command	
2		Major	-	Jackson D.R.	✓	✓		BM	
3		Capt	-	Bishop K.E.	✓	✓		B.M.L.	
4		Capt	-	Saunders R.W.	✓	✓		SC	
5		Capt	-	Fisher C.L.	✓	✓		SCL	
6		<del>Capt</del> T/Capt		Gellibrand T.E.	✓	✓		LO	
7		Lieut	-	Beck J.J.	✓	✓		LO	
8		Lieut	-	Pearce G.T.S.	✓	✓		IO	
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22				<u>Officers attached from other Corps</u>					
23									
24		Capt		Weckley N.V.	AASC	yes		BASCO	
25		Lieut		Downey R.K.	2/22 Bw	-		AIF for Duty	
26		Lieut		Barton L.V.	✓	✓		✓	
27		Lieut		Lawcaston C.S.	✓	✓		✓	
28									
29									
30									
31									
32									
33									
34									

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		Sard T	AAC Lid		Chap 2/23 Bw
✓		Baskin J.B.D.A.	✓		2/22 ✓
		Thomas G	✓		3/28 ✓

All 2nd Aust Inf Bde  
(Unit.)

19-9-42

(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander.)  
9 Aust Div.

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE. (Unit). 19 Sept 1942 (Date)

( To be furnished by all Units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units ).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

Table with 4 columns: 1. Detail, 2. Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached), 3. Surplus to Establishment, 4. Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments). Rows include W.Os Class I-III, Staff Sergeants, Sergeants, Buglers, Trumpeters, etc., Corporals, Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc., and a TOTALS row.

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Table with 4 columns: Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong, Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong. Contains handwritten entries for various ranks and units such as AASC, Corp Intell, AAOC, and various Bns.

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Table with 5 columns: Army No., Rank, Name and Initials, Corps, Remarks. (e.g. present whereabouts if known). The table is mostly blank with dotted lines for text entry.

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE. Unit.

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS			
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ...																				
Butchers. ...																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks ...																				
Cooks ...																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians ...																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers.. ...																				
Fitters ...																				
Machine Cunnners ...																				
Masons .. ...																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipelitters.																				
Range Takers ...																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors. . . . .																				
Wheelers ...																				
General duty personnel .								1	1	2										
Totals ( to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)								1	1	2										

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

Unit.

Date of Despatch

19-9-42

Signature of Commander.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
9 Aust Div

Bde, Divn, Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde (Unit.) For Week Ending Sept 29 1942

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	* <i>BRIGADIER</i>	1		
	Lieut.-Colonels ...			
	Majors... ..	1		
	Captains ... ..	4		1
	Lieutenants ... ..	3		2
	2nd Lieutenants ... ..			
	Quartermasters ... ..			
	District Officers ... ..			
	TOTALS ... ..	8		3

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

## PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).



PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	
1		Brig		Godfrey A.H.	AIF	yes		Comd	
2		MAJOR		JACKSON D.R.	✓	✓		BM	
3		CAPT		BISHOP K.E.	✓	✓		B.M.L.	
4		CAPT		SANGSTER R.W.	✓	✓		SC	
5		CAPT		FISCHER C.L.	✓	✓		S.C.L.	
6		CAPT		GELLIARAND T.T.	✓	✓		L.O.	
7		Lieut		COOK J.T.	✓	✓		L.O.	
8		Lieut		PEARCE E.T.S.	✓	✓		I.O.	
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21				<u>(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS</u>					
22									
23		Capt		Weekley N.V.	AASC	yes		BASCO	
24		Lieut		Downey R.K.	2/32 BN	✓		AIF for Duty	
25		Lieut		BANTON E.V.	✓	✓		✓	
26		Lieut		LANCASTER C.G.	✓	✓		✓	
27									
28									
29									
30									
31									
32									
33									
34									

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		GARD T	AASC		Chap 2/43 Bde
✓		BASKIN J.E.D.A.	✓		2/32 ✓
✓		THOMAS S	✓		2/38 ✓

HQ 2nd Aust Inf Bde.  
(Unit.)  
26 Sept 1943  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander.)  
9 Aust Div  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

W.D. 24 AUST. INF. BDE. (Unit) Sept 26\* 1942 (Date)

(To be furnished by all Units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.			
W.Os Class II.	2		
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	1		
Staff Sergeants.	≠		
Sergeants.	3	1	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	84		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	46	1	
TOTALS.	56	*2	*

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 L/Sgt	AASC	1 S/Sgt	2/4 Hygiene
2 Pres		1 L/Cpl	
2 CPLs	Corps Intell	1 CPL	2/32 BN
1 WO2	AAOC	4 Pres	9 Div Post H Unit
1 Sgt		1 Sgt	
2 Pres		1 CPL	
1 CPL	2/3 Fd Amb	2 Pres	No 2 Ph Coy 2/1 Aust Hqs Bn
3 Pres	AACLd	1 Sgt	
1 Pte	2/13 BN	3 CPLs	
1 CPL	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	32 Pres	
1 CPL	2/23 BN		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks. (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS				
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ...																				
Butchers. ...																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks ...																				
Cooks ...																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
> > (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians ...																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers.. ...																				
Fitters... ..																				
Machine Cunnors ...																				
Masons .. ...																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry ... (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers ...																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors. . ...																				
Wheelers ...																				
General duty personnel .																				
Totals ( to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																				

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

Unit.

Date of Despatch

26 Sept 1942

Signature of Commander.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Bde, Divn, Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

9 Aust Div

W.D.  
DUPLICATE

SECRET  
Copy No 15

1 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 36  
(From information received up to 0600 hrs 1 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

At about 0030 hrs night 30/31 Aug, enemy, estimated strength 80, advanced from WEST on front of 600 yds between approx 2961 and 2967 northing grids, with apparent intention of raiding our FDLs.

This attack was preceded by hy arty fire, which began about 2330 hrs and was distributed throughout area of fwd bns, with heaviest shelling in areas 87602968, 87602962, 87652966, 87672953, 87792944, 87652966.

Attack began approx 0030 hrs, and an enemy flanking party secured the high ground 87592967, and from here used 4 automatics and 3 or 4 mortars.

Arty DF tasks B1 - B6 were fired, but enemy succeeded in passing through minefield and reaching our wire. Here enemy were stopped by MG and LMG fire, and then withdrew.

Enemy arty continued with desultory shelling.

At 0400 hrs, shelling increased, and shortly afterwards our right coy, the one which had been attacked earlier, came under fire from about 6 MGs. Movement of approx two pls of enemy was seen. Our arty fired DF tasks, and enemy MG fire ceased. Enemy then withdrew.

At first light, a patrol examined front of attack to a depth of 500 yds. They reported finding 6 posns from which MGs had fired, at least one 81mm mortar posn, a heap of 20mm shell cases and a mine detector.

Patrol found fresh blood on ground in six places, and there were signs that casualties had been dragged away.

Patrol also captured one German PW from 3 Coy I Bn 382 I.R. PW, who was born in Poland, had only been in Africa 12 days. He was vague as to composition of raiding party, but thought it consisted of whole of 3 Pl, three men per sec from 1 and 2 pls and some men from 4 Pl, sufficient to man 2 HMGs, 2 lt mortars and 2 hy mortars.

By first light enemy shelling was considerably reduced and it dwindled off during the day. It is estimated that about 1200 shells fell in Bde area during the night.

During the operation some veh movement was heard fairly close in.

Our casualties during night were:- 1 killed, 3 wounded.

Other fronts - Night 30/31 Aug

In the coastal sector there was an enemy raid similar to that on our own front. At 2335 hrs, coastal FDLs were under hy mortar and arty fire. At 0035 hrs, enemy inf advancing on wire 87543024 were beaten off by our arty, mortar and S.A. fire.

Enemy casualties were 2 killed, 3 PWs, and there were signs that casualties had been dragged away. The PWs came from 3 Bn 125 I.R.

At 0207 hrs, two tks were reported on western pt 24(873299). These tks withdrew at 0345 hrs.

At 0435 hrs, a further call was made for SOS fire in area 87473010. By 0450 hrs, situation indicated an attack imminent, but this did not develop owing to arty, mortar and S.A. fire. One man, wounded and unconscious, was found in this area, and is believed to be a pioneer.

Later information stated that a further PW captured at 875301 came from 4 Coy, 1 Bn, 125 I.R.

Div on our left flank carried out three raids, each of coy strength, during night 30/31 Aug, and captured 55 Italian PWs from 1 Bn, 61 I.R., TRENTO Div, and 1 German from 433 I.R.

On RUWEISAT RIDGE enemy attacked at 0330 hrs, and after some initial success were driven out by 0607 hrs. No tks were used.

During night, 30 Italian PWs were taken from area just South of RUWEISAT RIDGE.

Day 31 Aug

There was no enemy movement North of 260 northing grid. The main enemy thrust with 90 Lt Div on North, and 15 and 21 Armd Divs following on South, was between 250 and 255 northing grids. German armour moved East South of RAGIL 427867, and was engaged by our forces. Battle lasted till dark. At 1914 hrs 55 tks were reported at 435877. 2 PWs from 115 Panzer Grenadiers were captured 436872. Enemy tk losses during day were :- 30 certain, 20 probables. Our hy armour has NOT yet been engaged.

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

PWs confirmed the present general allotment of units on Div front. I/125 IR, previously of doubtful location is stated by PW to have elements at least between main rd and ry. This may mean that both I/125 IR and II/125 IR are between the ry and northing 300. This is borne out by the PWs statements of the depth of the posns. Layout is said to be fwd wire and minefields 1 km square with strongpts in between them. Main coy posns are then some distance to the rear (none of the PWs could give any clear idea of distance). PWs also stated that strongposts were alternatively German and Italian and further a screen of Italians was often placed fwd of the minefields and wire in dug-in posns to act as "Bait" for our patrols.

(Source - 9 Div I.S. No. 283)

4. DETAILED ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

870295 - suspected OP tower.

5. ENEMY METHODS

Sp for raid on our FDLs was provided by MGS and mortars well fwd on the flanks. Attempts had been made to dig these weapons in as far fwd as our minefields. At least one 20mm posn was found close to our lines by daylight mopping up patrols. PW states these weapons intended to give very close sp during the actual assault.

(Source - 9 Div I.S. No. 285)

PW captured night 30/31 Aug area 875296 was 19 years old. Although born in STRYJ in Poland, he had been forced to assume German nationality, serve with the Compulsory Labour Service (Dec 41 to Feb 42) and join the German Army (Apr 42). He spoke German imperfectly, but claimed fluent Polish and Ukrainian, with working knowledge of Russian.

According to PW, Coy was paraded during 30 Aug 42 and told that a raid was to be carried out during the night. Volunteers were called for without much response, so men were detailed off as required. PW attempted to evade notice, but was chosen for his youth and because he is single.

The party is estimated at about 80 strong; PW is vague as to its composition but thinks it consisted of the whole of 3 Pl, three men per section from 1 and 2 Pls, and some men from 4 Pl. 4 Pl had recently received new armament (hy MGS and mortars) and supplied this new material in support, leaving the original equipment behind.

MT was provided for about 12 km of the distance and the remaining 2-3 km were covered on foot. The party came under fire and went to ground.

The following infm has been obtained from PWs captured in coastal sector :-

Dispositions: PW's coy has its three pls laid out in triangular formation, with 1 Pl on the right, 2 Pl on the left, and 3 Pl with all hy weapons in the centre at the rear.

FDLs: FDLs have been constructed and 35-40 men are sent forward nightly to man them. These men serve as listening posts at the same time, and PW maintain that there are no men posted out further forward.

Patrols: Patrolling by night was commenced about a fortnight ago with patrols of about 6 men strong. PW had been up to our wire on two occasions previously. About 8 days ago his patrol had an encounter with one of our patrols, which ambushed the German patrol from some wrecked vehs. The Germans withdrew without loss.

Raid: A patrol 80 strong was sent forward to obtain PW for identification and infm. 3 men from 220 Engr Bn (this Bn had not previously taken part in patrols) went forward to clear a gap in our wire and lift any mines. They were followed by 1 section each from 1 and 2 Pls, and in the rear a light mortar section, a hy mortar section, and a HMG section from 3 Pl. A W/T detachment with a pack wireless set was also with the patrol. Cross fire from MGs was encountered and the patrol was forced to withdraw.

Water: There is an issue of one 20-litre canister of salty water per 10 men every two days, but distribution is not fair and there is never enough to allow of proper washing.

6. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Inf - 30 Aug

4 men in area of hummocks (87772908 to 87902915) during afternoon.

1940 hrs - 30 men in small gps behind enemy wire area 87202962 were joined by 3 small vehs.

31 Aug

0721 - 8 men at 87302926 and odd men seen at bottom of ridge.

1710 - 8 men advancing in extended line from 87352934 to 87362938 when they went to ground.

1720 - gp 10 men with gp of 5 to 6 200 yds to right advanced in same manner towards same point. These parties engaged by our arty.

7. ENEMY WORKS

30 Aug. 1045 hrs. - explosion and black smoke near derelict veh on stony ridge area 873292.

1815-1822 hrs - eight explosions accompanied by colns of white smoke occurred hummocks area (87772908 to 87902915) during afternoon.

8. MISCELLANEOUS.

31 Aug. - 1615 hrs - enemy laid smoke screen 87902910 to 87902903.

9. AIR OPERATIONS.

At 1750 hrs, 30 Aug, as a result of a dog fight over ALAMEIN area, 3 planes were brought down. One was a ME 109; pilot received burns but parachuted. Other two were Hurricanes, and pilots crashed with their planes.

1525 hrs 31 Aug, one CR 42 brought down by AA fire 888294. Pilot was seriously hurt.

1905 hrs - a MACCHI 202 made recce of Div area as far East as about 888 easting grid, then turned and flew WEST. Plane was shot down by AA, and pilot parachuted and was taken PW 889293.

1955 hrs - 15 JU 88s bombed area 886295. Some casualties were caused. It is reported that one of the planes was hit by AA and flew NORTH losing height.

During 31 Aug, 9 JU 87s divebombed our armd forces area 4288 and 2 were shot down by AA fire.

During 31 Aug our F and recce patrols were active over the fwd areas. Boston B, until grounded through extremely

poor visibility, inaugurated a "shuttle" service, and heavily bombed enemy concentrations in the South. 40 to 50 MT were destroyed.

*E. T. Pearson*  
*lieut.*  
*for Maj.*

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution  
As per Summary No. 35

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 37  
(from information received up to 1200 hrs 2 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

A bn of the Bde on our right flank yesterday attacked enemy localities in vicinity of pt 23 (872296). Bn reached objective by 0730 hrs, with exception of left fwd coy, which did not quite succeed. Many enemy were killed and wounded by our arty fire and assaulting inf, and 1 offr 101 ORs, all German, mainly from I and III Bns 382 I.R., were taken PW. Our tps encountered very hy arty, mortar and S.A. fire. Hidden and interior minefields hampered tks and amn supplies. Our hold of posns was not firm enough to commit Exploiting Force, and our tps were withdrawn. At 1120 hrs, enemy reoccupied area pt 23, and at 1140 hrs, Cav engaged enemy inf 874296.

8 tks were lost during operations, but 1 has since been recovered.

Central and Southern Sectors.

No infm has been received today as to the situation in areas of German armd thrust. At 1730 hrs, 1 Sep, the posn appeared to be as follows. There were 25 enemy tks approx 434880 and 150 about 433878. These were believed to be the total German tk force. There were 75 tks at 427878, believed to belong to ARIETE Div.

There was a concn of 500 MT 431875, some MT and A Tk guns 438873 and a coln of MT moving towards the latter from 430867. There were concns of 1000 MT at RAGIL and 2000 MT area 890255, and a few tks and much MT 422875.

The enemy were engaged by our armd forces on NORTH and EAST of main enemy armour. No details are known as to own or enemy losses yesterday. Our lt armd forces on the SOUTH were advancing NW, apparently towards concns of MT reported above.

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

PWs from 1 Coy I Bn 61 I.R. TRENTO DIV captured area 877287 state 3 and 4 Coys have been wiped out in previous actions. 200 yds to the North of 1 Coy is 433 I.R. To South of 1 Coy is 2 Coy. To South of 2 Coy is either II Bn 61 I.R. or a German unit.

PW from 10 Coy III Bn 433 I.R. captured 878290 states 10 Coy has 9 and 11 Coys to the SOUTH and 12 Coy is in support. To the left and right of the Bn are Italians.

PWs state 9 Coy III Bn 125 I.R. is on coast with an Italian coy on its right flank, and 11 and 10 coys carry on the line down to the rd. The coys are in echelon with 9 and 11 Coys further fwd than the Italians or 10 Coy. 12 Coy has been divided up between the other three coys with a corresponding increase in strength and armament.

PW from I Bn 125 I.R. captured area 875301 believes there are only two coys between the main rd and the ry.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

1 Sep. During morning, movt of small gps of men was seen from time to time round number of oval shaped mounds in sq 874291. Two MT were seen in same area.

1240 hrs - 12 men possibly a working party in area 873291.

1945 hrs - 12 trucks moved SW into sq 872295, where they divided into two gps. One gp moved NORTH, and the other SOUTH.

2 Sep. 0705 hrs - 12 men in HUMMOCK area 878290.

1020 hrs - 4 men moved to derelict plane 87542935; then a further 2 men moved to approx 87592935, where they halted in some bushes, apparently observing. When engaged with Bren gun, they moved SOUTH at the double, and 4 men also left derelict plane at double.



2 men of a carrier crew then moved on foot to derelict plane and saw 8 men 800 yds SOUTH moving SE. Our men also saw 6 vehs about 2,000 yds WEST, which were moving EAST. Haze and dust prevented the vehs being identified.

Tac R

0645 hrs, 2 Sep, showed little movement in Northern sector. 100 plus MET were reported stationary and dispersed, area 866290 to 869292. 8 guns were seen dug in in this area and there are believed to be more. 871288 50 plus MET stationary and dispersed. 873288 4 MET and 2 tks stationary in depression. 874289 6 tks stationary dispersed.

4. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE.

A short strip of minefield is revealed running 400 yds SW from 87132962 to the edge of the print.

An A Tk and field gun posn close to the minefield 87202974 has been surrounded by wire.

A rectangular area has been bounded on 3 sides from 87062922 to 87122909 to 87032908 to 87012920 by a line of what may perhaps be petrol tins. No wire can be seen.

(Interpretation by M.E.I.U. of Air Photos taken 27 Aug)

A line of cairns changing after 500 yds to two rows of wire, mark a suspected minefield from 87352902 to 87052847 and 87332923, where it joins wire.

(Interpretation by M.E.I.U. of Air Photos taken 21 Aug)

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

The noscap of a shell found in Bde area has markings (obliterated in parts) -

.....Jg .1 .57

17a DL 202 1936

The shell has not been definitely identified. Its calibre would apparently be between 150 and 170mm.

6. ENEMY SHELLING.

An A Tk gun on brg 224 deg from 87642953 was active yesterday. It fired 24 shells, thought to be 47mm.

The following is extract from C.B. Int Report compiled from infm to 2000 hrs 1 Sep 42 -

"There was intense arty activity during our attack this morning, and shelling reports enabled many HBs to be identified as active. The majority of these were located in the central sector and could not be included in the neutralisation programme in the time available. On completion of the programme nine bombards were carried out up to 0800 hrs. From 0800 to 1018 hrs, fewer shelling reports were received, but at 1018 hrs, activity broke out afresh and continued till 1330 hrs. Two further HBs were bombarded and the sq 866298 was effectively neutralised by single guns "prodding" in the area.

Apart from two bursts of activity from 1435 hrs to 1525 hrs and 1745 to 1810 hrs, his arty has been much less active this afternoon and evening."

7. PATROLS

Patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs and 2 sappers between 1930 and 0030 hrs, moved from 87802940 to 87672935 to 87502922 to 87532920 to 87802940. From 87502922 movement and voices could be heard estimated to come from area 87462922. Compressor was also heard in distance to the SOUTH. At 87532920, found 4 pits about 12 ft long, 3 ft wide and 2½ ft deep. These appeared of recent construction, but showed no signs of occupation.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY - Bde Area.

1 Sep - 0925 hrs, 2 MEs over 881294.  
1135 hrs, 6 EA divebombed arty posns area 876297.  
2 EA MGed 2/43 Bn FDLs.  
1140 hrs, 3 MEs flew NORTH very low.  
1331 hrs, 4 ME 109s divebombed area 876297.

2 Sep - 0710 hrs, 3 ME 109s flew low over area 881294.  
0930 hrs, 2 EA, possibly JU 88s, flying high  
NORTH 881294.

9. OWN ACTIVITY

Since the commencement of the enemy thrust in the South our aircraft have constantly harried the enemy, and our bombers and fighter-bombers have maintained a "shuttle" service by day and by night, except for a period when poor visibility, due to dust, made use of LGs impossible.

During night 31 Aug/1Sep, bombers heavily bombed close leaguers in areas 890259 and DEIR EL RAGIL (4286) and 50 to 60 fires were started.

*BT Pearce*  
*Unit*

Distribution  
As per Summary No. 36

for Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

5 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 38  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 3 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has remained quiet in Bde sector.

Other sectors

NZ tps in a night patrol night 1/2 Sep knocked out 5 ITALIAN ML3 tks. (From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 284)

S.A. patrol to area 87722910, night 2/3 Sep, neither saw nor heard any enemy. A gap for tpt through minefield located area 87802910.

So far in the SOUTH, no major clashes have occurred between the armed forces, but it is estimated that German tk casualties are in the neighbourhood of 40/50 tks out of action. (From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 284)

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE.

PW state area west pt 23 held by elements of I and III Bn 382 IR. 11 Coy 382 IR held a fwd posn on the northern side pt 23 with 9 and 10 Coys five kms to their rear, 10 Coy on the left. There was one 5 cm A Tk gun with 1 pl. (From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 284)

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

OPs report what appear to be sign boards at approx 87112922, 87132920, 87172917. There is a probable line of wire running from 87042925 to 87072929 to 87212914 (approx).

4 gun Fd posn previously unoccupied, now occupied, at 87132905.

Gp of weapon pits at 87272904.

(Interpretation Report of Air Photograph taken 31 Aug 42)

An undated trace captured during raid on pt 23 (872296) night 31 Aug/1 Sep to be overlaid over 1:100,000 signed by a Sgt of 6 Coy 382 IR shows :-

(i) What appears to be a minefd running from 87062972 - 87192977 - 87242970 - 87002940 - 86992938 - 87172919 - 87272928 - 87352930 - 87382932 - 87442926 - 87342900.

(ii) An arrow pointing from 87192976 to an area marked C 87502976.

(iii) What appear to be four coy areas as follows :-

C 87502976

D 87592971

B 87672966

A 87662954

(iv) Four areas (possibly coys) unnumbered as follows:-

87252956

87242943

87332935

87502922

(Source: 20 Bde I.S. No. 43)

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

2 Sep - OPs reported increased movement in area of hummocks sq 878290.

1820 hrs - 4 men in area 87102922. Movement in this area continued until dark.

5. ENEMY METHODS

Among PW captured on night 31/1 Sep were several who had fought in RUSSIA. All these had been wounded in the fighting there and on recovery had been posted to AFRICA.

Further statements by PW showed that prior to the raids carried out on our FDLs night 30/31 Aug, recce had been made of our wire and minefields by small patrols of inf. During the raids engr's had been brought fwd with the inf to blow gaps in our wire.

German anti-personnel S mines have been located at 87273018 with pulltype igniters. Mines are laid in a straight line with taut trip wires fastened to pickets. The mines are laid ten yds apart and the pickets are in between the mines. Each mine has therefore two trip wires.

(Source: 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 284)

6. ENEMY SHELLING

Enemy arty activity has been on a considerable scale today (2 Sep) and intermittent harassing fire has been put down on our FDLs and OP areas.

(From C.B. Intelligence Report No. 42)

7. OWN ARTY

Following targets were engaged with harassing fire during night 2/3 Sep :-

- 87192974 to 87212972 - wire & strongposts
- 87532919 to 87542916 - " " "
- 87332929 to 87362929 - 3/4 MG posts

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

2 Sep - 15 EA reported over Bde area during afternoon.

9. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

2 Sep - 1659 hrs - bombers attacked MT 436879, 437868, and later at 434877, 437877, 437873, 432872.

1530 hrs - fighters intercepted Stukas. Six destroyed, 1 probable, 11 damaged, 2 ME 109s damaged.

SPECIAL NOTE

As many GERMAN 17 series bomb fuzes as possible are urgently required in the UK. They are necessary for the carrying out of a series of experiments which will result in an enormous reduction in the risks involved in dealing with GERMAN clock type fuzes.

As the incidence of bombing has not been high in the UK in recent months, the ME must therefore be the main source of supply. All intact 17 fuzes and Zus 40's in the possession of any person or unit should be returned to this HQ forthwith. The desire to retain trophies should in this case be greatly outweighed by the possible enormous saving in life and property which may result from an adequate supply of these fuzes being obtained.

(From 9 Aust Div Summary No. 284)

*G.T. Brown*  
Lieut

for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As per Summary No. 37

4 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 39  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 4 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Southern Sector

During morning 3 Sep enemy appeared to have withdrawn within area 432873, 432865 SW to 427861, thence West towards HIMEIMAT. Concentration of MT was reported in RAGIL area and along escarpment to South. There were some tanks North of RAGIL and an A Tk screen with guns to the East.

Infm received 4 Sep stated that Westward movement of enemy continued. There were no enemy tks East of 430 and North of 875 grids.

The exact nature or significance of this movement is difficult to determine at this early stage, but it is known that enemy has suffered by tk casualties.

Our bombers and fighters were particularly active over the battle area 2 Sep. 500 fighter sorties and 167 bomber sorties were made during the day. A total of 19 enemy aircraft was destroyed by our fighters for the loss of 11 of our planes, 5 pilots of which are known to be safe.

Bde Sector

A party of 4 offrs, 60 ORs, with 6 sappers, endeavoured to raid enemy posns 873293 during night 3/4 Sep. At approx 87362937, two gps each of 3 to 4 enemy were seen, patrolling beats 200 to 300 yds long and meeting at the end of their beats. This made it impossible to clear gaps in minefds in this vicinity without losing surprise. Attempts were made to reach minefd outside the beats of the enemy patrols. Enemy put up frequent flares and there was fixed line fire from at least 6 MGs, and some mortar fire was encountered. About 6 rds air burst were also fired by enemy. Coy withdrew after moon had become bright. No casualties were suffered by our tps.

Flanking Sectors

Patrol from right flanking Bde struck strongly wired enemy post 87143017 which they were unable to penetrate. A party of 8 Germans at pt 24 (873299) were engaged.

A patrol night 3/4 Sep found pt 27(879288) occupied by enemy. Approx 3 MGs were observed firing from vicinity and 3/4 MT were visible. Continuous flares made it impossible to get to close quarters.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Following have been placed by air photographs -  
87312968 - single dannert running on 347 deg and 190 deg.  
87302968 - parallel to wire at 87312968 a line of round pits; nearby a newly dug trench system spit locked for extension.

(From 20 Bde I.S. No. 44)

87712922 - single dannert fence brg 305 deg (patrol).  
87552919 - well camouflaged LMG pits and slit trenches(not occupied) (patrol)  
87402940 - sec or pl post, with signs of recent occupation (patrol).  
87222969 - OP.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Except for slight increase in low country North of MITEIRIYA Ridge early morning, 3 Sep, OPs report normal movement of inf during day.

Tac R 0645 hrs 4 Sep reports :- 200 MET moving NE along rd 875288. Tks in following areas 888258 (50 in two cols moving East); 881252 (30 with AMC and MET); 884250 (with MET); 425866 (5 with MET); 882261 (10 with MET); 880258(12 with MET).

4. ENEMY ARTY

The enemy arty has shelled our FDLs periodically throughout the day. Fire has been of a light harassing nature and no concentrations or damage being done have been reported.

Further fragments of shells are required, particularly the following :-

GERMAN	105mm Gun MED	75mm Inf gun
ITALIAN	77/28mm gun	105/28 gun

Frequently fragments sent to the C.B.O. stating time of arrival and area shelled, have helped in the identification of the H.B. active, and confirmation of the calibre.

(From Counter Battery Intelligence Report 2000 hrs 3 Sep)

5. PATROLS, Night 3/4 Sep.

A raiding party of 4 offrs, 60 ORs, with 6 sappers, endeavoured to raid enemy posns 873293 during night 3/4 Sep. Patrol left own lines at 2015 hrs, and during move out, patrol had to halt twice for 15 mins owing to flares from aircraft. At approx 87402940 a sec or pl post was passed, which appeared to have been occupied recently. At approx 87362937, two gps of 3 to 4 men each were seen by coy comd who had moved 200 yds fwd to make recce. These men were patrolling beats 200 to 300 yds long on bearings approx 160 deg and 280 deg, and meeting at the end of their beats. It would have been impossible to clear gaps in suspected minefds in this vicinity without losing surprise. At this stage, a rifle shot was fired close in on the West, and a voice was heard. Then a flare was fired from SOUTH or SE, falling among coy HQ. Two pls were ordered to move off on brgs 180 deg and 260 deg, and endeavour to contact minefd outside the beats of the enemy patrols. The time was now 2400 hrs. When one pl had moved 100 yds SOUTH a flare was fired from WEST, close to pl, and 2 or 3 enemy were seen to the WEST. This pl moved 700 yds South probing to West at intervals. It was interrupted frequently by flares. Two guns believed BREDAs began firing on fixed lines, while pl was returning NORTH. Meanwhile other pl had moved 200 yds on brg 260 deg when a Bren gun to the South opened fire in direction of the pl. After a short interval 3 Spandaus opened from NW, apparently firing on fixed lines. The fire fell in general area of pl and to NORTH and NW. Pl continued until 550 yds had been covered, and a Zollothurn then opened fire from a posn slightly right of pl's line of advance. Spandau fire began to thicken in area of pl. After moving back 200 yds, at 0120 hrs, 6 rds air burst were fired over pl, and 10 mortar bombs fell in vicinity. Pl contacted coy HQ and the moon being now bright, the coy withdrew, reaching own lines at 0340 hrs. No casualties were suffered by our tps.

A patrol of 1 offr and 14 ORs moved from 88012928 to 87512919 to 88012928. At 87882926, a section post consisting of 6 weapon pits, 2 1/2 ft deep, was found. This post was sited on the reverse slope of a hillock and was not occupied. At 87712922 was a single dannert fence running on brg 305 deg. After following this fence for 50 yds a gap was found and fence continued for further 10 yds beyond this gap. At 87642921, is a track running on brg 350 deg approx with a white tracing tape on enemy side. After crossing this track a flare was put up from approx area 87552919 and 3 rifle shots were fired at patrol. At 87552919 well camouflaged LMG pits and slit trenches were found. These pits were also unoccupied. Patrol continued to 87512919, but did not encounter minefds or any further wire.

6. OWN ARTY Targets engaged by arty yesterday(3 Sep) as follows -

1354 hrs - area	87632912	87662910	Strong post
	87632905	87602907	
1412 hrs - area	87452922	87532920	A Tk guns and MGs
	87522918	87452920	
1444 hrs - area	87312929	87382929	8 Hy MGs
	87382928	87312928	
1520 hrs - area	87072962	87082961	Weapon pits
	87062960	87052960	

OP was registered at 872250 296902.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

3 Sep - 1310 hrs - 3 ME 109s bombed area 87743001 - no damage.

1638 hrs - Enemy fighter flying low machine gunned right flank FDLs area 875296.

1640 hrs - ME 109 flying NORTH dropped 5 red flares over area 882294.

4 Sep - 0405 hrs - 3 EA following respectively general line of coast, main rd and ry, flew WEST machine gunning. Each machine was firing two guns, one fore and one aft.

8. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

Our bombers and fighters were particularly active over battle area 2 Sep. 500 fighter sorties and 167 bomber sorties were made during the day. A total of 19 EA were destroyed by our fighters for the loss of 11 of our planes, 5 pilots of which are known to be safe.

Bomber and fighter aircraft continue to attack enemy veh concentrations. The main concentration attacked today(3 Sep) was at 889256 - 892259, and consisted of 2500 MT.

Fighter aircraft 3 Sep report the destruction of 1 Armd C and several tks.

(From 9 Aust Div I. S. No. 285)

*E. T. Pearson*  
Lieut

for Maj.

B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distributi

As for Summary No. 38

WAR DIARY

SECRET  
Copy No 30

5 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 40  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 5 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Patrols night 4/5 Sep found enemy vigilant. Working parties were heard areas 875291 and 875290.

Patrol from Bde on right flank exchanged fire with enemy at 87443026.

Patrol from formation on left flank found pt 27(879288) unoccupied by enemy. On the previous night enemy with automatic weapons had been found at this pt.

In the southern areas enemy withdrawal is apparently continuing. The enemy has been subjected to extremely heavy air attack. Bombers and fighters have attacked them 18 hrs out of every 24. 4000 lb bombs have been amongst those dropped by our aircraft. It has been reported that yesterday afternoon there were no enemy EAST of 426 grid line.

A formation of Arm'd Cs report a successful engagement of MT in RAGIL area morning 3 Sep. They estimate that at least 100 vehs were destroyed.

During morning 4 Sep, NZ tps advanced south of former FDLs and by 1000 hrs had reached area of 264 northing, presumably about 880 easting. They repulsed three enemy counter attacks during the day, taking some 400 PWs including about 40 Germans and destroying 3 tanks. Night 4/5 Sep 42 on this front was reported as quiet.

The following paragraphs are taken from 9 Div I.S. No. 286 of 4 Sep :-

"It is now known that over 80 German tks are in our hands having been either destroyed by RE or found too badly damaged to need further attention. This means that one-third of the present German tk force is out of action for good. Italian losses are not known at all accurately, but it is thought that their runners may not be more than 50 per cent of the 245 tks with which they started. It is thought fair to add that many of these will probably have been mechanical casualties only."

"With the losses the enemy has sustained a further advance was clearly impossible until some reorganisation had been carried out. This reorganisation could not be done in the face of harassing fire from three sides and continual bombing. It seems that the enemy has decided to reduce the first risk at least and at the same time to concentrate his forces more compactly by withdrawing the main body of his attacking tps west of the minefd. Here they will be protected by the cliffs of the QATTARA depression on their right, by the minefd and no doubt a strong screen of tks and A Tk guns to the east. It remains to be seen whether the effects of the RAF attacks can be made good. If they can, the enemy's objective is likely to remain unaltered; for him speed is essential, he surely appreciates that if the DELTA is to be reached at all, it must be reached soon."

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

The enemy's dispositions between the coast and incl RUWEISAT Ridge do not seem to have changed much since the attack in the south began.

On 1 Sep, 11 Coy III Bn 382 I.R. which held fwd posn north of pt 23 (872296) was practically wiped out by our attacking tps. According to some of our tps who returned from this action on the following day, the lost coy in this area was replaced in part by Italians. Recently there have been signs of a second line of defences in area 868299 and 868298 and it is possible that the Italians have been busy building them.



3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

MMG fired on fixed line along single dannert fence at 87602910.

87602919 - MMG firing night 4/5 Sep (patrol).

87492935 - 12 pits on southern side of double mound.

About half the pits were partly roofed with galvanised iron.

4. WIRE AND MINEFIELDS.

87732923 - 2 rows of devitalised mines a few yds West of QATTARA trk and parallel to trk.

87602910 - single dannert wire fence running approx EAST-WEST (patrol).

OPs report one row of angle iron pickets at 87382904; from 87572891 to 87622895; also in approx area 873293.

5. OBSERVED MOVEMENT.

Visibility yesterday was impaired by dust.

OPs report there has been a marked decrease in MT movement during the last two days on MITEIRIYA RIDGE. It is thought enemy are using tracks further West.

1930 hrs - movement of 3 men was observed area 87572910. This is the first time movement has been observed in this area for at least a week.

Patrol to area 87602910 night 4/5 Sep heard working parties behind wire and also in area 875291.

0700 hrs this morning there was an increase in movement of men in "HUMMOCK" area 878290. Total of 22 men were seen.

6. ENEMY ARTY

Enemy arty activity has been very slight during the day (4 Sep), consisting principally of light harassing fire directed against our OP areas by Fd and Inf guns sited in the central sector. No medium guns have been reported active.

(C.B. Int. Report No. 43)

During morning 5 Sep, 23 shells fell in area 876293 (near OP), 8 shells in area 879296 and 8 in area 879295. All these were 75mm.

7. ENEMY METHODS.

Patrol to area 873293 night 3/4 Sep, during outward journey observed light to NORTH which patrol considered to be flashing morse. Patrol was not in direct beam but are of opinion that it was flashing towards enemy lines. It was estimated to come from general area E or SE of pt 23 (873296).

A patrol night 4/5 Sep while at 87392929 heard what appeared to be a morse key being worked, beyond a low ridge.

8. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Particulars are given in C.B.O. Int Report No. 43 of the Italian 149/40 gun. Range 24,000 yds; weight of shell 112 lbs; traverse 60 deg.

This gun appears to have entirely replaced the 149/35 in this zone. It has a high MV of 2,620 f.p.s. so that the shells arrive before their sound.

9. PATROLS, Night 4/5 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 14 ORs left 88012928 at 2000 hrs on brg 260 deg. At 87822925 encountered devitalised minefd reced by previous patrols. Old trenches at 87782924 showed no sign of recent occupation. QATTARA track was crossed at 87732923 and here 2 rows of devitalised mines running parallel to the track and a few yds west of it were found. There was no wire in vicinity. At 87672922 patrol changed direction to 212 deg. When patrol was at 87642916 white flares were put up and a MMG opened fire from approx 87602919. Working parties could be heard in same general direction as MMG fire, and sounds of these working parties could be heard during remainder of leg. Patrol continued to 87602910 where a single dannert fence running approx east-west was encountered. Further working parties

could be heard working within the wire. A MMG opened up, firing on fixed line along dannert fence. Flares were fired continuously from right and left rear and from front, and patrol began return along same route. While patrol was cutting a length from a cable which runs east-west alongside track at 87622913, flares were put up by enemy and MMG at approx 87602919 opened fire and some mortar bombs fell in vicinity of patrol. Patrol returned to starting point at 0300 hrs.

A patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs and 2 sappers, left 87682949 at 1930 hrs, and proceeded to 87672935, and thence to derelict Hurricane 87542935. Continuing, patrol found 12 pits on southern side of double mound at 87492935. About half the pits were partly roofed with galvanised iron. Patrol cut a cable running approx NW from the mounds. At 87442935, patrol changed course to 225 deg, and moved on this brg to 87392929. At this point, a sound like that of a morse key was heard about 100 yds away WNW beyond a low bare ridge, and a voice (believed Italian) was also heard in approx the same place. Enemy put up flare from about 87382927, and a voice called out what sounded like "Martino" slightly beyond the flare. Call was answered from same locality. A LMG fired 3 bursts from WNW, and then a single rifle shot was heard. Flares were fired from WEST and SOUTH. Patrol returned to 87682949, reaching this point at 0130 hrs.

10. OWN ARTY

Our arty engaged targets yesterday in areas 87632912 and 87312929.

5 Sep - H.B. at 87042950 was neutralised.

11. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

There has been no hostile action by EA in this area since yesterday's Summary.

12. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

RAF fighters and bombers maintained constant and by attacks on enemy in Southern areas throughout 4 Sep.

*J.T. Pearson*  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 39

6 Sep 42.

W/D  
24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 41  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 6 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet on Bde front. Patrol last night (5/6) reported enemy working parties approx 87642921 and 87562908.

The following paras are taken from 9 Div I.S. dated 5 Sep:-

The action in the south continues favourably for our forces, the enemy being forced to withdraw slowly westwards under constant pressure from ground and air.

In the south there are now no enemy forces east of 888 easting. The enemy is concentrated in the area sq 880260 availing himself of the protection offered by our minefield. The enemy forces used in the attack are thought to have been -

<u>German</u>	15 Armd Div
	21 Armd Div
	90 Lt Div
	3 Recce Unit
	33 Recce Unit
	and possibly BRIEHL Gp

<u>Italian</u>	ARIETE Armd Div
	TRIESTE Div and elements at least of
	BRESCIA
	FOLGORE
	LITTORIO

Our maximum tk losses are considerably less than those known to be definitely lost to the Germans. They amount to maximum total of 50 tks many of which are recoverable. This works out to something under 50% of German losses.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Weapon pits 87672920 with cattle fence about 100 yds in front - unoccupied.

Sangars 87652918 and weapon pits 87632915 unoccupied.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

87722922 - 2 rows of Mk IV mines approx 40 yds east of QATTARA track and 2 rows EP Mk II along east edge of track.

Patrol encountered fence of two barbed wires on long pickets at 87672921 and 87672920.

87612912, barbed trip wire 6 ins above ground, running EAST-WEST.

Single dannert at 87592909 runs on brg 115 deg.

OP reports place lines of pickets at following points:- from 87072927 to 87042925; from 87042925 to 87232912 (with sign posts at 87112922, 87132920, 87172917, and prominent marks, probably double 40 gall drums, about 50 yds apart at 87152918); approx line from 87182917 to 87302930 then East for approx 200 yds; 87352905; 87432912; from 87572891 to 87632893; 87702897 to 87722898; 87712904 to 87692901.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

During morning 5 Sep rising dust SOUTH and SW of MITTIRIYA Ridge suggested light traffic moving EAST and WEST.

MT movement in other areas was normal.

1800-1900 hrs - total of 27 men appeared to be working on fence in areas 870292, 871292.

Night 5/6 Sep patrol reported working parties approx 87642921 and 87562908.

0650 6 Sep - total of 20 men observed in area 87182922.

5. ENEMY ARTY

C. B. Int Report to 2100 hrs 5 Sep reports customary morning strafe on TEL EL EISA cutting. In the evening there was an increase in enemy harassing fire directed mainly against the fwd areas between 290 and 292, 285 and 288 Northing grid lines. Inf guns joined in. H.B. at 86742867 whose range is 18,000 yds caused more trouble and registered a F.S. tower. Bombard of th's H.B. by our arty was observed to fall in the target area.

0735-0855 hrs 6 Sep, enemy shelled areas 875296 (10 shells 150mm), 879294 (2 shells med), 87592953 to 87732942 (possible 88mm), 879294 (6 shells 25 pdr), TEL EL EISA area (105 mm)

6. ENEMY METHODS

An Italian PW captured in area 877286 stated that 50 yds in front of his coy's posn are 4 or 5 rows of AP mines set in gps of three. The gps are connected by a trip wire, so that when the trip wire is pulled all three mines go up. The distance between the rows of mines is approx 3 yds. A black tube 50 cm (20 in) long, is put into the ground above each mine. This is intended to guide their tps going out on patrol. These minefields extend in a semicircle in front of the strong points. In front of the minefield is a trip wire.

By day, the Italians sleep, keeping one or two sentries out. By night, all tps are awake, digging or standing to. To give the alarm at night, sentries fire a white very light and pull a string leading to coy HQ. This sets the Alarm Bell ringing.

Between 2000 and 2200 hrs this system of warning is augmented by a patrol of 4 men with a Breda machine gun. This patrol is supposed to go out in front of the minefields but in practice the patrols prefer to remain close in.

From 0400 to 0600 hrs, the Germans patrol outside the minefield. PW has often seen a German patrol of 50 or so men returning at first light. When German patrols go out the Italians are warned not to shoot for a specified time, i.e. 2 hrs.

(From 3 S.A. Bde Int Summary No. 13)

Two stragglers from the raiding force of 1 Sep report having seen mines or boobytraps which looked like our ST grenade, attached by string to bushes. They were sure that these objects were NOT ST grenades, although they had that appearance.

(From 20 Bde Int Summary No. 44)

At 87463043 there is a scooped furrow running approx SW-NE from which the spoil has been removed. This furrow is 30 yds to the east of a B.4 A/P minefd. This is laid as follows:-

5 short pickets running along the front of the fd, then a gap then 5 more short pickets. The B4 mines are attached to the 2nd and 4th pickets with trip wires to the 1st, 3rd and 5th pickets.

(From 20 Bde Int Summary No. 46)

7. ENEMY ORGANISATION

German: PW from 382 and 433 IRs state that coys have now received A Tk guns. The general consensus of statements indicate that each coy has one 5 cm gun and one or more 3.7 cm, but some coys may have two 5 cms as well as the 3.7 cm.

It appears that the conversion of the MG Coys to rifle coys and the distribution of their former armaments has proceeded further. The change has been effected in 4 Coy of all three Regts, according to recent PW.

(From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 287)

8. PATROLS, Night 5/6 Sep.

A recce patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs left 88012928 at 2000 hrs on brg 260 deg. Devitalised minefd with single dannert was passed at 87782924. QATTARA track was crossed at 87722922. 2 rows of Mk IV mines were found approx 40 yds east of track and 2 rows of EP Mk II along east edge of track. On reaching 87682922 patrol heard a working party which they estimated to be at about 87642921. Patrol then moved on brg 212 deg for 150 yds, and then on 260 deg for 150 yds. Bursts of MMG and LMG, apparently firing East, were heard in the South. At 87672921 patrol encountered fence of 2 barbed wires on long pickets. At 87672920 there are weapon pits unoccupied. Patrol then changed direction to 212 deg and at 87662919, passed through a similar fence. It is thought this fence runs on a circular course round these weapon pits. Sangars were seen at 87652918 and weapon pits at 87632915, all unoccupied. At 87622914 crossed East-West track. At 87612912, there is a barbed trip wire approx 6 ins above ground running East-West. At 87592909 patrol encountered single dannert running on brg of 115 deg. Three white flares were fired from direction of pt 21. Working party estimated at 87562908, was heard. A MMG fired bursts at intervals from the vicinity of the working party, but direction of fire could not be determined. Patrol moved back on same course, and while crossing QATTARA Track at 87722922, voices were heard in a SE direction estimated 500 yds away. Voices were also heard to the South. Patrol reached 88012928 at 0500 hrs.

Observers who went to area of crashed plane 87542935 late afternoon 5 Sep reported no enemy in vicinity of plane. Party was fired on by enemy.

A party moving out before first light to establish OP heard movement and coughing near the plane.

9. OWN ARTY

5 Sep - Harassing fire on following areas :-

- area 87112932-87152928-87142927 - 87102930 - A Tk guns and MGs.
- area 87302929 - 87372929 - 87372927 - 87302927 - Hy MGs.
- area 87462923 - 87522919 - 87512918 - 87442920 - A Tk guns and diggings.
- area 87622913 - 87662910 - 87612905 - 87592906 - defended area.

10. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

Several single planes flew WEST or NW over Bde sector. No hostile action reported.

11. OWN AIR ACTIVITY.

RAF is continuing bomber attacks and fighter sweeps over enemy lines in the SOUTH. It is reported that the morale of the German armed forces has been lowered by our constant air attacks.

(From 9 Aust Div Int Summary No. 287)

*E.T. Pearce*  
Lieut  
for Maj.

Distribution

As per Summary No. 40

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

7 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 4  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 7 Sep 42)

SPECIAL NOTE

On two occasions in the recent fighting individuals dressed in the uniform of a British Capt entered the lines of a fwd British unit and told it to be ready to move off at five minutes notice. The tpt used was in one case a Bantam and in the other a Morris 15 cwt. Similar incidents have occurred before and in all cases the visitors have been allowed to get away. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that ALL persons entering a unit or formation area MUST be challenged whenever there is any doubt as to identity. Failure to do so will lead to the enemy gaining valuable infm and may jeopardise the Comds plan and lead to serious loss of life.

A note drawing attention to such breaches of security will be repeated in all Intelligence Summaries.  
(From 9 Div I. S. No. 288)

1. GENERAL

Period remains quiet in Bde sector. Enemy are very vigilant at night.

In the main action to the south the enemy withdrawal westwards is reported to have taken him west of HIMEIMAT, our forces having reached the 880 easting grid during morning 6 Sep. During the morning there were continued signs of a thinning out westwards and our arty shelled NAQB RALA 877250. During this operation the enemy left a covering screen of tks and inf to the east of his main body as a rear gd.

The enemy armd forces yesterday(5 Sep) in the area of our minefds in the south are now shown from air reports to be west of these minefds and the general impression is gained that the westward movement of the enemy forces continues.

The enemy withdrawal is covered with a strong screen of A Tk guns supported by some tks and inf.

It is estimated that 500 MT have been left in the area evacuated by the enemy.

Further details are now available of the action by NZ Div during night 3/4 Sep and morning 4 Sep. The following casualties were inflicted :-

Total killed 515  
of which 150 to 200 German.

The following eqpt was destroyed:

36 MMGs  
3 A Tk guns  
1 Hy mortar  
Some lt tks and probably 2 88mm guns .

An interesting side issue was the now customarily abortive sabotage of the ry. This time it was the turn of the Italians. On 4 Sep 14 San Marco Marines landed from a MTB in rubber boats at BIR MAHDI (477918). They blew a break of 15 ins in the ry and a breach in the pipeline. The latter was rapidly mended, the marines made prisoner and four trains passed successfully along the ry before their effort was noticed. Perhaps their attempt was planned to coincide with the enemy's hoped for success at ALAM EL HALFA and somebody forgot to cancel it.

(Source: 9 Div I. S. No. 288)

At 1025 hrs 6 Sep vehs in the area of SIDI RAHMAN were observed apparently attempting to lay a smoke screen. As a screen for any possible movement it was not a success and no further movement was reported from the area.

(Source: 9 Div I.S. No. 288)

2. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Normal during day.

Right flanking Bde reported increased movement on track on skyline ridge running approx from area 867300 to trig 30 87002927. From 0800 to 1400 hrs and from 1600 to 1800 hrs 61 vehs moved SOUTH and 165 moved NORTH.

1940 hrs - 30/40 enemy assembled fwd of bn on coast beyond arty range and 50 between rd and ry. The latter were engaged by arty.

0650 hrs, 7 Sep - approx 40 men observed area 873292.

Tac R 1515 hrs 6 Sep reported general impression in southern area considerable internal activity within concentrations of MET. In northern area (to 292 Northing grid) no activity.

0640 hrs 7 Sep - no movement seen, no AA encountered and no activity observed EAST of 866 Easting and NORTH of 288 Northing.

0645 hrs 7 Sep - MT concentrations in sq 8725. No movement observed in Southern area.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

87302978 - mines seen by one member of a patrol, but NOT seen by patrol comd.

87302973 to 87282979 - burnt out tks and vehs indicate the eastern edge of concealed minefield.

OP reports line of pickets, possibly wired, estimated to extend from 87282909 to 87392904.

4. ENEMY ARTY

C. B. O. report to 2000 hrs 6 Sep reads as follows :-

Enemy arty activity has not been on a large scale today. Between 0705 and 1348 hrs, the trig 33 area and our FDLs between 287 and 289 Northings were subjected to intermittent harassing fire of a light nature. Activity broke out again between 1810 and 1930 hrs and concentrations were put down on the trig 33 - pt 24 - TELL EL EISA cutting area.

HBS at 87022950, 86972942 were bombarded. HBS at 86683037 and 86643042 were out of range.

Areas shelled yesterday (6 Sep) in Bde area were :- 87682935 (2 shells - air burst); 877292 (1 shell); 874292 (1 shell); 874292 to 875292 (6 shells).

5. ENEMY METHODS

It is reported that the enemy has been leaving "crowsfeet" in the areas recently evacuated by him. "Crowsfeet" consist of sharp spikes which are scattered on the ground to puncture tyres. They are often difficult to see owing to dust and if found, their locality should be reported at once.

(Source: 9 Div I.S. No. 288)

On night 3/4 Sep an enemy aircraft dropped 5 white flares fwd of S.A. Div FDLs. Immediately afterwards red verrey lights were put up along the length of the enemy FDLs. It is thought that this is the enemy signal indicating the posn of his FDLs to his aircraft.

(Source: 9 Div I.S. No. 288)

6. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Fragments of a shell which landed at 87772940 at

6840 hrs 5 Sep have been identified as from an Italian 149/40.

Notes on NEBELWERFER d. and SCHWERE WURFGERAT and "Compressed air amn" are attached as Appx A.

7. PATROLS, Night 6/7 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 9 ORs took up posns at 2015 hrs near derelict plane 87542935, with the object of ambushing an enemy party which had been seen recently in this vicinity. Patrol remained till 0500 hrs, and no movement was seen or heard.

A recce patrol of 1 offr, 14 ORs left 88012928 at 2000 hrs, crossed QATTARA track 87722922 and then moved on brg 212 deg parallel to QATTARA trk about 50 yds WEST of track. At 87672918, a covering party was left and patrol leader and 3 men went fwd. When they reached 87662913, flares were fired from east side of track and also from approx 100 yds to the West. Two LMGs approx 87682913, apparently firing on fixed lines approx NW, opened up. MT was heard apparently moving on QATTARA trk south of pt 21. Voices were heard from vicinity pt 21 (87662912). Covering party at 87672918 reported having seen a small party not exceeding 6 men moving along Eastern side of track towards the North. This gp appeared to go to ground, when flares were fired. The patrol leader endeavoured to locate them, but the enemy had apparently moved away. Patrol returned at 0100 hrs.

8. OWN ARTY

During 6 Sep arty put down harassing fire on same areas as were engaged 5 Sep.

9. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

Confined to single planes over Bde area. 1815 - 1818 hrs - 3 ME 109s circled over area 876293, then flew WEST.

10. AIR OPS

The high level of our Air Force's activity on 2 Sep was surpassed on 3 Sep, when a record number of 200 sorties were made by day bombers against enemy MT contained by our forces in southern sector. Total fighter sorties was 574. Fighter-bombers attacked a gp of armd vehs 890248 and scored direct hits on 3 Mk III and 2 unidentified tks, one Armd C and one lorry. During the day, enemy losses were 4 aircraft destroyed, 11 probably destroyed, 7 damaged. We lost 12 planes, 5 of the pilots being safe.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

List 'B'



NOTES on SCHWERE WURFGERAT and NEBELWERFER d.

Infm from PWs and from censorship sources tends to indicate the imminent use in the WESTERN DESERT of SCHWERE WURFGERAT and NEBELWERFER d.

The following notes on these weapons have been prepared from various sources, so that all tps may be forewarned, so reducing the surprise effect of these weapons.

Infm has been received that Germans have three SMOKE TROOPS on the African front. Each tp is equipped with 6 rocket producing weapons of the type NEBELWERFER.

NEBELWERFER d.

The NEBELWERFER d, also known as the "DO-GERAT", is a six-barrelled rocket projector mounted on a split trail mounting like that of a fd gun. It is served by a crew of an NCO and 6 men. The six barrels are each of 15 cm (6 in) calibre, and are arranged like the chambers of a revolver, supported by a metal framework. Barrels are about 4 ft long.

Into each of the six barrels is loaded from the muzzle a shell-shaped "charge" with a rounded nose which projects beyond the muzzle. These "charges" are rocket-type propellants and weigh approx 10 kg (22 lb) each.

The weapon is capable of firing a salvo of six rounds every 90 secs. The rounds are fired electrically at intervals of one second.

Different sources give different figures for the weapon's maximum range, varying from 3,500 yds to 9,000 yds. One source states effective range is 800 yds. Apparently it is not an accurate weapon; dispersion is considerable and there is evidence that a target of less than 240 yds by 500 yds should not be engaged.

The weapon fires a liquid incendiary charge with burster and smoke. Smoke, gas and H.E. amn are reported to be available.

One PW whose reliability has been shown to be good, described a variation in the use of the weapon. This PW had served formerly in Nbl.Ers.Abt.2 and his infm was therefore not up to date. To his knowledge, experiments had been in progress with the weapon since 1938.

PW described a large projectile of about 60 cm (24 ins) calibre and shaped like the nose-cap of a shell, which has six recesses in its base into which the projecting ends of the six charges fit. This projectile, which is separate from the six "charges" requires three men to lift it, and is placed over the ends of the projecting noses of the six charges. The six charges are initiated simultaneously and electrically, and operating on the rocket principle, propel the projectile for a considerable distance.

PW thought the range was about 11,000 or 13,000 yds. Casualties from blast could be caused within a radius of 50-100 metres from point of impact.

A sketch made by this PW is attached.

SCHWERE WURFGERAT

In this equipment a rocket projectile is fired from a fixed stand or from an armoured semi-tracked veh, with a crew of four - one NCO, 2 gnrs and one dr. The projectors apparently consist of adjustable frames which are set up before firing. There are six projector stands on the veh, three on either side. Six rounds are carried, 5 being 28 cm (11 $\frac{1}{4}$  in) H.E. and the sixth 32 cm (12 $\frac{3}{4}$  in) incendiary. Although the only amn so far reported is H.E. and incendiary, the projectiles would be readily adaptable to smoke or chemical warfare purposes.

Maximum range with H.E. is believed 2,000 yds and with incendiary 2,200 yds. Minimum safe range is reported to be 1100 yds. 50% zone is believed to be approx 87 yds long and 98 yds wide.

A captured document is remarkable for its insistence on safety precautions. During practice shoots, for example, it is forbidden to fire over one's own troops in any circumstances. Everyone in the

area covered by the firing point and the area 600 metres on each side of the line of fire, for a distance of 2,400 metres from the firing point, must be in cover proof against a direct hit. For a further 800 metres all round this area everyone must be either below ground or protected against splinters. The inaccuracy normal to rocket projectiles in an early stage of development might possibly account for the large danger area.

Infm received from the Russian front states that two types of projectiles have been actually encountered there.

The HE projectile weighs 82 Kgs (180 lb) and contains 50 Kgs (110 lb) of TNT. It has a powerful blast effect and is said to be designed for the demolition of field defences.

The Incendiary projectile weighs 79 Kgs (174 lb) and contains 50 litres (11 galls) of oil. A single hit is said to ignite an area of up to 200 square metres, oil being scattered over an area of 20/25 metres long by 10/15 metres wide. In both these projectiles the propellant is contained in the tail and the filling in the nose.

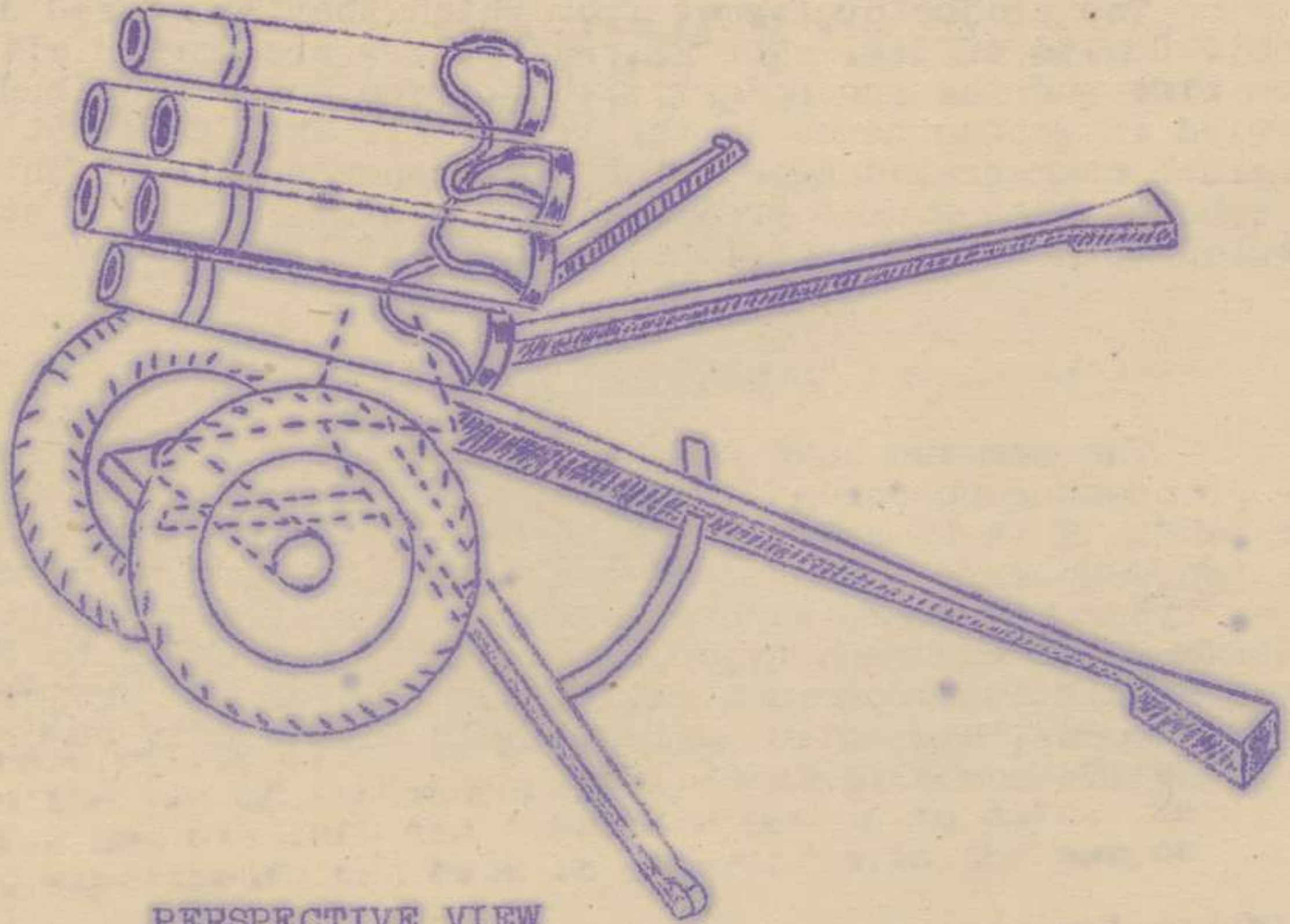
The projector frames from which they are fired can be elevated from 5 deg to 42 deg. The HE projectiles are marked with a pink band 3 cm wide and the Incendiary with a green and yellow band. They are carried in wooden cases in the veh. This infm does not bear out the original exaggerated stories of the weapon's effect, but it must be remembered that rocket projectiles are still in early stages of development and have considerable potentialities.

#### "COMPRESSED AIR AMN"

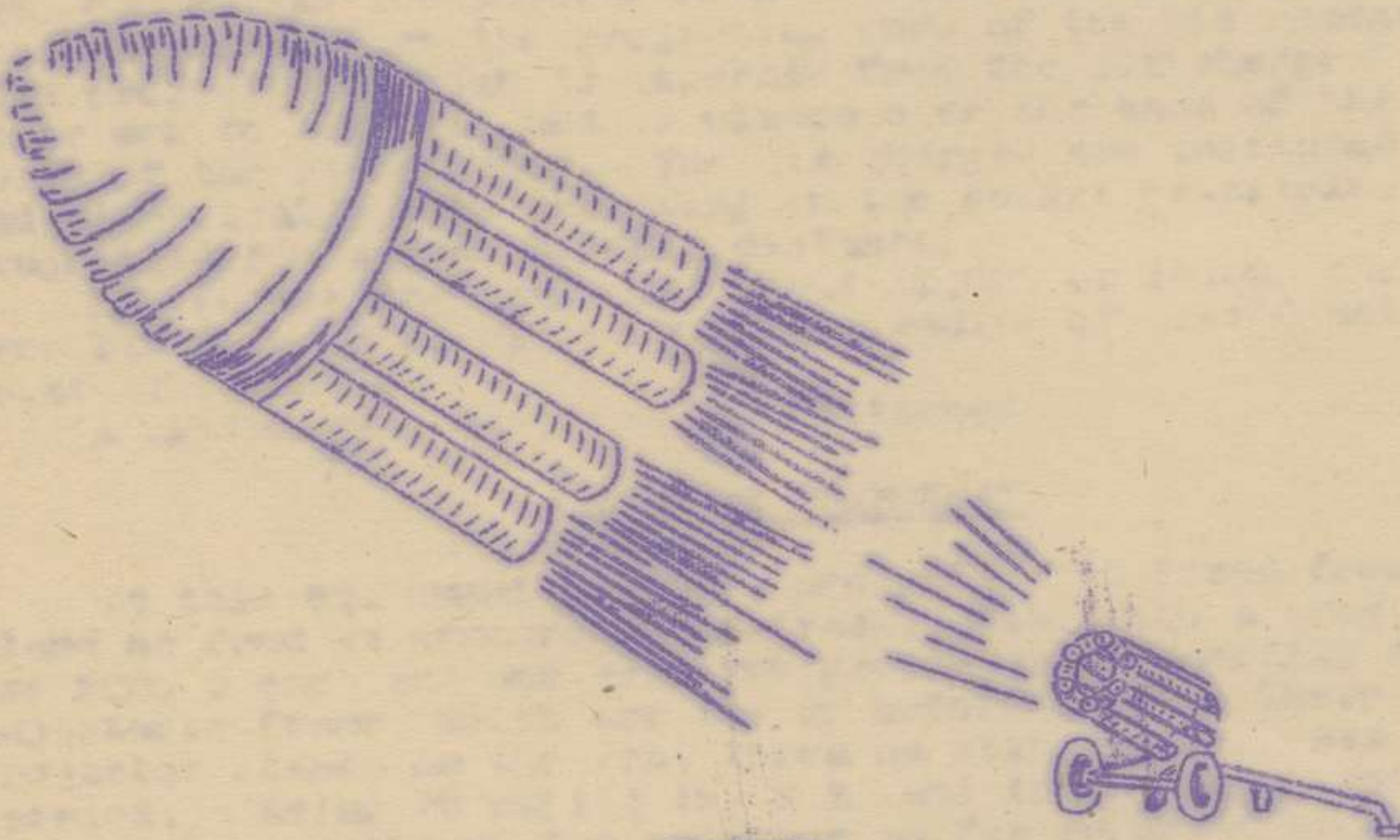
The Germans have recently been widely disseminating for propaganda purposes details of what they describe as "compressed air amn". This is supposed to have a terrific blast effect. The two weapons described above are said to fire this amn, and other types have been reported. There is so far no confirmation whatever that any such type of amn exists but owing to the large H.E. content in comparison with the weight of the projectile of these weapons, high blast effect would undoubtedly be produced by using the normal H.E. filling.

.....

NEBELWERFER "d" or DOGERAT



PERSPECTIVE VIEW



FIRING

8 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 43.  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 8 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Patrols night 7/8 Sep did not make contact with enemy, but one patrol located an unmarked minefd at 87372934 fwd of main enemy minefds previously encountered. A patrol night 27/28 Aug found a similar new and unmarked field at 87552918.

The indications in the south are that the enemy intends to retain some of his forces at least in the area east of the minefds. He still has his strong A Tk screen to protect him from the constant pressure from our lt armd forces.

The enemy morning 7 Sep was reported to be on the general line 882262 - 885250 with strongpts at 880259, 882252 and in the vicinity of HIMEIMAT. Fwd armd patrols are maintained to a distance of one to two thousand yds. This gives him forces east of our minefds which he apparently intends to try to hold. He is in fact laying more mines.

(From 9 Div I.S. 289)

PW has stated that Maj.Gen. von BISMARCK, GOC, 21 Armd Div was killed in action 2 Sep.

(From 9 Div I.S. 289)

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

Post 86912958 (9 Div I.S. 289)  
2 LMGs about 87682912  
2 MMGs approx 87302938

3. MINEFDS AND WIRE.

Patrol night 7/8 Sep found an unmarked minefd at 87372934. There were 3 rows consisting of an assortment of Mk II, Mk IV and Mk V mines, laid with 10 yds between mines. Mines were laid in sandy ground, majority were buried and difficult to locate. Sappers reported some mines were booby trapped to prevent lifting. The fd was followed to 87372932, and continued southwards from there.

Although Defences Overprint map shows no mines in this area, our patrols have shown the area to be heavily mined. Three fds of different constitutions have now been reported.

On night 14/15 Aug encountered a fd of 4 rows of mixed Mk IV and Mk V mines, 5 yds between rows and 4 yds between mines. There was a single coil of dannert 15 yds away on enemy side of fd. Fd ran on brg 340 deg. A flare left by patrol near wire was located by flash spotters at 87352934.

Then on night 16/17 Aug a fighting patrol encountered at 87372936 a fd of 4 rows Mk V mines about 5 yds apart, with one coil of dannert on enemy side. This was probably portion of same fd as was located by flash spotters at 87352934. 6 ft inside dannert was a trip wire with A.P. mines attached. Owing to the circumstances of this patrol, the brg of the fd was not accurately noted, but a sketch by patrol leader later showed it running on approx 295 deg.

This same patrol also encountered another fd about 150 to 200 yds further SW, running approx 340 deg. This fd was of 6 rows Mk IV and Mk V mines, and was unusually dense, rows being 6 ft apart and mines 6 ft apart. There was one coil of dannert on enemy side.

The patrol which reported the unmarked fd referred to in first paragraph of this section also moved west to 87352935, where it found a single row of dannert running approx North-South, but curving to West as though part of a large circle of wire. Ground was searched for 20 yds on both sides of the wire but no mines were found.

/patrol

What appears to be a row of small pickets and wire, possibly dannert, extends from 87082925 to 87152921 (OP report).

4. WORKS

Night 7/8 Sep, large working party apparently wiring about 87302935. Was joined by a party from the south.

5. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

7 Sep - normal in Bde area

Tac R 1515 hrs 7 Sep reported MT concentrations in usual areas in the SOUTH, general impression being that all indications pointed to general movement SE towards centre of sq 8725.

0800 hrs 8 Sep, normal MT concentrations in SOUTH. Only movement 6 MET area 861266; gps of 40 and 10 on-trk area 856278, all moving North.

6. ENEMY ARTY

Enemy arty activity today(7 Sep) has been of the usual nature as in the last few days. HBS (unfixed) at 86512917, 86482913 are now considered to be ITALIAN 149/40

(C.B. Int Report No. 47)

7 Sep. Areas shelled included 882294 (20 shells Italian 149/40); 879294(2 shells); 881294(6 shells, probably 25 pdr); 878294(25 pdr); 878292(15 shells 75 mm); 877292(8 shells 75mm); 87452929 to 87462942(one gun firing single rds, apparently registering DF tasks).

7. ENEMY METHODS

Night 3/4 Sep enemy bombers believed JU 88s carried out bombing and strafing attacks against NZ forces in the south. One aircraft is reported to have been fitted with a "siren". Many yellow flares were used and red sig lights were fired by the enemy when targets were bombed in their lines.

Enemy working parties have been reported by patrols to work only for about 5 mins and then cease for a similar length of time. This is apparently done to prevent our patrols surprising them under cover of the noise of their efforts.

(From 9 Div I.S. No. 289)

8. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

German parachutists other than parachute inf, besides the yellow facings and pipings of the GAF, wear also the colour of their arm of the service. Thus a dead German found on RUWEISAT Ridge with shoulder straps consisting of a khaki strip with yellow piping and a red band  $\frac{1}{2}$  in wide running across the shoulder strap, belonged to the Parachute Arty.

(From 9 Div I.S. No. 289)

9. PATROLS, Night 7/8 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 9 ORs, 2 sappers between 1930 hrs and 0330 hrs moved from 87792940 to 87672935 to 87372935 to 87372930 back to 87792940. When at 87382935 patrol observed 2 MMGs, resembling Bredas, both firing tracer from area estimated to be approx 87302938. From 87382935, sounds of a large working party were heard to WEST and comd and one sapper went fwd to investigate. At 87352935, struck single dannert fence running on approx NORTH-SOUTH line, but curving to WEST as if portion of large circle of wire. Ground for 20 yds on inside and outside of wire was examined but no mines were found. At same time main body of patrol at 87372935 heard enemy party moving noisily from SOUTH. Party turned WEST and passed beyond wire towards sounds of enemy working party about 400 yds away from where patrol leader was. At 87372934 patrol contacted minefd, details of which appear in para 3. From 87372930 patrol heard to WEST sounds resembling those made when wiring with spools of barbed wire, and movement of a considerable number of men. When at 87462932 on return journey, large blast occurred behind, but patrol could not estimate distance.

A patrol of 1 offr, 14 ORs left 88012928 at 2000 hrs, reached QATTARA trk 87722922, then followed a course parallel to the track about 100 yds to the east. At 87722920 struck a field of Mk V mines, some mines being buried but unarmed, others being on the surface. This field has been previously reported. Patrol followed course parallel to track to 87692915. No movement was seen or heard. At intermittent periods flares were put up from areas on both sides of the road, and LMG fire was heard. Patrol returned to 88012928 at 0400 hrs.

10. OWN ARTY

7 Sep, harassing fire in following areas :-

area 87602907 - 87672906 - 87632901 - 87582902  
" 87332929 - 87402927 - 87402925 - 87322927  
" 87422926 - 87432922 - 87412922 - 87412926  
" 87462923 - 87492920 - 87482919 - 87452922

11. MISCELLANEOUS

A survey has shown TELL EL EISA sta to be placed incorrectly on 1/50,000 sheet. Correct posn of signal pole near sta is 876114 299178

(20 Bde Int Summary No. 48)

*E.T. Pearson*  
Lieut.

for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

List B less serials 11, 12, 13, 15

9 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 44.  
(From information received up to 1300 hrs 9 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet. Our arty, both fd and med, has been active on harassing and counter battery fire. In accordance with programme, there were only protective patrols on Bde sector during the night.

In the south it is considered that DEIR EL MUNASSIB and HIMEIMAT are held by German tps with some Italians in between these two points. Enemy arty is sited round about easting 875.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Flanking Bde reports:- Occupied area - 87082966;  
Working parties - 87212982;  
87352971; 87172985(Italian).

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE.

There is a wired enclosure at approx 87052925, and another at 87082922. In the first case the wire is very thick and the pickets very high, and the enclosure looks rather like a compound. There is a fence like a double apron connecting these two points and continuing to 87182917.

Line of pickets running approx NE from 87172917 is confirmed and links up with fence just mentioned.

Line of pickets from 87082922 runs roughly East into low ground approx 87252925.

The lines of pickets mentioned in preceding three paragraphs form a practically complete triangle. Traffic into depression from ridge frequently leaves ridge at 87192915.

Pickets, apparently with one strand of wire runs approx N-S for 500 yds at approx 87002940, and probably extends further in both directions.

Wire previously reported by OP at 87352929 has been removed.

Line of pickets from approx 87442912 to 87402914 then turns and runs North or NNE.

A line of pickets runs from 87372905 North or NNE towards the pickets at 87402914, but link up cannot be seen.

All the above are observations from OPs.

Flanking Bde on our right report :-

87242986 - one British Mk IV mine set, two small stacks nearby.

87182984 - single dannert. To the south the wire runs NE-SW. To the north it seems generally N-S. Wire forms a bay at 87182985, with 3 right angle bends.

87152985 - single dannert running generally E-W. No mines located.

87212985 - single row dannert.

87352962 - concertina wire in bad shape.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Ground observers report movement normal.

Tac R 1505 hrs 8 Sep reported:- On track between 863302 and 862268 total 40 MET moving south. Area 872284 500 MET dispersed. Area 867293 100 MET dispersed. On track between 865273 and 875289 30 MET moving NE.

5. ENEMY ARTY

About 46 shells were reported falling in Bde area 8 Sep; areas shelled being 878294, 876293, 879293.

C.B. Int Report 8 Sep states that most valuable infm is being provided by duds and shell fragments. Today, apart from the identification of 25 pr HB, it has been found that the enemy is using .106 fuzes for 25 prs.

In the North there has been a slight shuffle of positions, but the strength has remained the same.

6. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

The Germans are apparently making extensive use of British respirators, several of which have been found on derelicts. The Germans have produced a new type of anti gas cape, made of strong semi-transparent fabric, somewhat similar to oiled silk. It is obviously an improvement on the old type of cape which was of thin sheet rubber.

(7 Mot Bde Gp Int Summary No. 50)

A new German mine has been reported. This mine is adjustable and may be set A Tk, Anti-MT, Anti-personnel or Booby Trap. Fuller details will be promulgated as soon as they come to hand.

(9 Div I.S. No. 290)

7. OWN ARTY.

During the day our arty put down harassing fire in areas 87602908 and 87422926, and during night 8/9Sep in areas 87652905, 87522917, 87352920, 87072953.

C.B. Int Report states that at 1050 hrs 7 Med Regt R.A., carried out a systematic purge of 7 troublesome HBs, and the reply fell principally on pt 33(875301), TELL EL EISA and the QATTARA trk(878294). Fighter protection was provided by the RAF and our guns were unmolested. The Med Regt altogether fired 654 rds during this Neutralisation Programme. An observer on RUWEISAT Ridge observed the bombard on one HB to fall within 10 feet of the target and states that great consternation was caused amongst the enemy.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

1910 hrs a JU 52 escorted by an ME 109 flew very low NW along FDLs towards TELL EL EISA. It was engaged by AA and disappeared low over enemy lines with port engine smoking.

*E.T. Pearce*  
Lieut.  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 43



24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 45.  
(From information received up to 1030 hrs 10 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Period remains quiet in Bde sector. Patrols night 9/10 Sep did not contact enemy.

Bde on our right flank reports patrolling North of the ry is becoming increasingly difficult and the enemy is ambushing our patrols.

There is no change in the south. The line set out yesterday as being held by the enemy is being developed by the inf and Tac R reports show about 90 tks dispersed in the area GEBEL KALAKH. There are no large concentrations reported.

It is appreciated that MT losses alone will prevent the enemy initiating any immediate ops on a large scale.

Previous estimates of tk casualties have proved over optimistic. A careful count of derelicts in the area North of the 870 northing grid as far west as the junc of the purple and red grids gives a total of 38 of which 3 are Mk IIs. In addition, one Mk III long has been evacuated by us intact.

South of this area it is estimated that there are a further 13 tks which may be in our hands, making a total of 52. The area concerned is still being searched.

Senior offrs who took part in the battle on 31 Aug-2 Sep confirm that 11 tks were towed out of action by other tks.

In addition, the enemy may have recovered a further 40 odd tks making a total off the rd or irrecoverable at the moment of approx 100.

As to Italian tks, a total of six M13s have so far been destroyed by the REs. A further four are probably in our hands but are not yet confirmed.

PWs have already stated that many Italian tks suffered damage on our minefds during the night 30/31 Aug.

Two L6s have also been destroyed.

(9 Div I.S. No. 291)

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Interpretation of air photos taken 6 Sep reports the following:-

87132906 to 87282898 - defended locality with MG & A Tk.

86882974 to 86872965 - 4 by A Tk guns

86892924 - 1 by A Tk gun.

OP reports:- 87752889 - probable OP

Tac R 0750 hrs 10 Sep reported :- Between 872284 and 875289 considerable diggings just west of track. Large area 869295 nothing special to report. General impression great increase MET in south, decrease in north. No activity but very considerable increase in diggings along whole front.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

An engr patrol to 875291 recced minefds in that area. Details will be given later.

A patrol night 9/10 Sep encountered known minefd at 87732919. Sappers with patrol found a number of French type mines. This is the first report of French mines in this vicinity.

A TELLER minefd has been encountered by a patrol at 87263024 between two chest high wires approx 100 yds apart.

The minefd which hampered movement of tks and MT in attack on pt 23(872296) 1 Sep was in three sections, each of four rows of mines. Two sections were parallel, but the third diverged from a parallel course and ran at an angle of about 30 deg forward from the course of the other two sections. It was this diverging section that was so troublesome.

Flanking Bde reports new double dannert fence at 87792903, which was followed to 87802905. Patrol night 9/10 Sep also encountered double dannert at 87792900 running approx N - S.

4. ENEMY ARTY

Shelling in Bde area was very light, 10 rds being reported at 0850 hrs area 879295.

A shell which fell in area 881297 9 Sep, on exploding, gave off greenish smoke. It is suspected that the shell was from a French 155mm gun, the shells of which have this peculiarity.

TEL EL BISA came in for less attention again today and activity generally was of a light harassing nature throughout morning and afternoon. This evening, however, saw a sudden burst of activity directed mainly on to FDLs and OP areas between the coast and the ry. Later, range was increased and rds fell close to a gun area. This activity lasted about an hour (from approximately 1810 to 1910 hrs) and was heavier than usual. Several air-bursts were reported and there were again numerous reports that 25 pdrs were active (including 4 rds smoke).

(From C.B. Int Report No. 49)

5. PATROLS, Night 9/10 Aug.

A patrol of 1 offr, 14 ORs and 2 sappers left 88012928 and moved to 87782922. Here a party of 1 Sgt, 5 ORs were left and remainder proceeded to K 9 (87682916). No enemy were seen or heard. Patrol returned to 88012928 at 0310 hrs. During patrol old minefids were encountered at 87762923 and 87732919.

6. OWN ARTY

During 9 Sep our arty put down harassing fire on areas 86992968, 87062961, 87072952, 87172952, 87452922, 87342920, 87592906, 87642905.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

1010 hrs 10 Sep - 4 ME 109s flying SW over 881294 at 10000 ft.

8. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

A new enemy mine has been encountered; weight of mine complete 8 - 9 lbs; weight of filling 3 - 4 lbs; it consists of a circular metal body 8" diameter by 1½" deep and in the centre of the top of the lid the brass fuze assembly is screwed; a domed metal mushroom-shaped pressure plate, diameter 10", is positioned over the body and takes the load causing pressure to come on to the fuze assembly, thus detonating the mine. The fuze is a neat workshop job and has almost certainly been made in EUROPE; it has settings to use the mine as AP or A Tk, or as a booby trap operated by a trip wire.

Samples of this mine are urgently required and their location should be reported to the nearest RE offr.

The chief interest of this mine is the fact that it contains only 3 - 4 lbs of explosive (compared with Tellermine 12½ lbs) and it thus comes into line with our mines in this respect; it has no special holes to accept additional anti-lifting devices like the Tellermine, but these devices can be readily att to ANY mine, and care should be exercised accordingly.

Mines so far reported have been laid flush with the ground.

(From 9 Div I.S. No. 291)

*OT Penney*  
*lieut.*  
*for Maj.*

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 44

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 46  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 11 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Period remains quiet.

Bde on our right reports active enemy patrolling. During night 9/10 Sep an enemy patrol of 10 to 20 men was seen moving NE across coy front about 400 yds from FDLs in sq 875298. A fighting patrol was sent out but could see no sign of enemy.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

87352966 - 87362965 - fresh diggings - narrow slit trenches ✓  
and weapon pit.

Posts at 87722883, 87702885, 87622890 have been registered ✓  
by arty.

MG - 87762894. ✓

✓ Working parties 87782905, 87322968, 87352966, approx  
87472927.

Old diggings 87492930, 87492928, 87452949. ✓

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE.

87222986 - scattered field Br Mk IV mines running generally  
N-S.

87363025 - a strand of barb wire coiled to resemble dannert,  
standing 8 or 9 ins high.

(Comment: a patrol night 21/22 Aug found at 87552916 two  
low coils of wire like dannert, but about 5-in in diameter)

Engr patrol night 9/10 Sep, went to derelict vehs 87552916.  
Seven vehs were examined and no booby traps or mines were found.  
From the derelict vehs a minefield ran NW on brg 320 deg. This  
was followed for 150 yds. On the northern side of the field is  
one row British Mk IV mines, at 8 yds spacing. 20 yds beyond  
these was a line of Italian B4 A.P. mines, spaced at 12 yd intervals.  
Three trip wires were attached to each B4 mine, each wire being  
approx 5 yds in length and anchored to either stones or bushes.  
8 yds beyond the line of B4 mines there are 3 rows British Mk V  
mines, pattern undetermined, approx spacing 6 yds. Patrol had  
withdrawn 150 yds when they heard voices on brg 240 deg. Patrol  
moved in direction of sounds, passed through minefield at approx  
87542916 and encountered an irregular mat of barbed wire on short  
pickets.

(Comment: A patrol night 15/16 Aug encountered similar wire  
plus dannert in area 875291. Flash spotters located a flare left  
by this patrol as at 87532919. The field recced by the engr is  
apparently the same as that placed by patrol night 27/28 Aug from  
87552918 to 87572918. Behind this field there is a further field  
of 6 rows with wire on both sides, which a patrol night 21/22 Aug  
reported running from 87552916 to 87592915 on brg 110 deg.)

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

OP reports show normal activity. For a considerable  
portion of the day visibility was very poor.

Tac R 1045 hrs 11 Sep reported slight movement both ways  
on track 861270 to 857284. General impression was very little  
movement throughout area. Little or no MET north of 285 northing.

5. ENEMY ARTY

Counter Battery Intelligence Report 10 Sep states :-  
The enemy arty has been fairly active today, the main times of  
activity being from 0700 to 0945 hrs and 1815 to 1945 hrs. Single  
HBs were also active between 1110 and 1130 hrs, 1205 and 1215 hrs,  
and at 1435 hrs. The trig 33 - pt 24 - TELL EL EISA cutting area  
came in for most of the shelling, but the HBs mainly responsible  
were out of range of our guns and could not be bombarded.

During evening's activity Flash Spotting Tp located a HB  
at 87332894, which was engaged by three tps of a fd regt.

6. PATROLS, Night 10/11 Sep

A patrol of 1 offr, 3 ORs left 87672935 at 2100 hrs and moved to 87542935, thence to old diggings at 87492930. Changing direction, patrol encountered six trenches, very narrow and approx 12 ft long, at 87492928. Sounds of digging were heard on a brg of 240 deg, thought to be at 87472927. Planes flew over and digging ceased. An effort was made to locate diggings and working party, but without success. Patrol reported in at 0230 hrs.

A patrol of 1 offr, 2 ORs left 87582957 at 2230 hrs, and at 87452949 crossed well-worn track running on approx brg 150 deg. Found some diggings 50 yds past track. When patrol reached 87442948, enemy put up flares, and MGs on brgs 248 and 230 deg opened fire. A sentry was heard about 70 yds ahead. Owing to flares and MG fire patrol could not progress further, and returned to starting point at 0315 hrs.

A patrol of 1 offr, 16 ORs and 2 sappers left 88012928 at 2200 hrs, and moved to pt 23 (87772921). Here a portion of patrol was left and 1 offr, 2 ORs and the 2 sappers went forward to 87772918. Here a party of 4 men were seen to the rear, and 15 men were seen approaching from the South. These were South Africans, but before the identities of the respective parties were established, our patrol was fired on with a TSMG and the leader of our patrol threw a grenade. There were, unfortunately, three wounded in the S.A. patrol.

7. OWN ARTY

During 10 Sep our arty put down harassing fire on areas 86992959, 87072958, 86942959, 87062950, 87222951, 87372927, 87422926, 87362917, 87522917, 87652905.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 45

*E.T. Bance*

*lieut*  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

W/ Diary

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 47  
(From information received up to 1130 hrs 12 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet. Our arty carried out HF tasks up to 0100 hrs. Recce patrols after that time reported NMS. In southern areas enemy arty harassed on whole front during 10 Sep; there was no ground activity evening 10 Sep.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

It has been reported that AA fire at our planes crossing enemy lines fwd of this Bde's FDLs is from MAs only. This has been observed on both 10 and 11 Sep. Rec post 87482915 with row of pickets behind it and track leading to post from MITIRIYA Ridge.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Normal 11 Sep. largest gps seen being 10 men at 87352914, 10 men at 87642898. At 0900 hrs, movement of men above normal at 87302918 and 87292920. Flanking Bde reports working parties 87092970, 87252973, 87012965.

4. ENEMY ARTY

In Bde sector shelling was light, and mainly in areas 875295 and 876295. Four casualties were caused. Counter Battery Int Report states that enemy arty carried out air burst ranging shoots on following points :- pt 24, TELL EL RISA Sta, 878399 and 875297. Shelling was of a harassing nature. Fragments of a shell received in the C B. Office showed that a German 17cm gun had been active on this front during the last two days.

5. PATROLS, Night 10/11 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 4 ORs from flanking bde moved from 87532972 to 87422965. At 87422965 movement was noticed and voices were heard on the right. In an effort to move round to the left, bird whistles were heard from the left and were answered in a similar manner from further ahead of the patrol, in rear of the first whistle. A Breda LMG opened from the left and fired 4 bursts. While attempting to move round the right flank further movement was seen. On withdrawing 20-30 men were seen to follow, but ceased when one of our protective patrols fired. Subsequently, a stronger standing patrol was sent forward but no further sign was seen of the enemy.

11/12 Sep. A patrol of 1 offr, 2 ORs left 87672955 at 0100 hrs, and moved to 87472955, returning to 87582955 at 0430 hrs. A number of diggings were encountered but none showed signs of occupation. Near 87542955, a cough was heard; this may have come from a listening post. Listening post was not, however, located.

Patrol of 1 offr, 17 ORs at 0115 hrs, went from 88012928, established listening post at pt 25 (87772921) and returned through gap at 0540 hrs. Single damnest wire fence was struck at 87782922. Search of area round pt 25 revealed no sign of enemy.

6. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire on targets in following areas :-  
0800 - 1500 hrs 11 Sep

- 87172982, 87012976, 87182978, 87812977,
- 87112971, 87082966, 87002968, 87002964,
- 87012963, 87052961, 87072953, 87002950,
- 87172958, 87342929, 87462932, 87352920,
- 87592906, 87552908, 87462907;

2100 - 0100 hrs night 11/12 Sep

- 87222951, 87342929, 87422956, 87342920, 87322917,
- 87652905, 87472906.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

11 Sep; 1230 hrs - 12 to 15 JU 87s, escorted by fighters, divebombed area 880300, causing 3 casualties and setting one truck on fire.

1847 hrs - 6 Me 109s bombed area 880299. No damage was caused.

*ET Pearce*  
Lieut.

for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 46

13 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 48  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 13 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet.

Bde on coast reports about 400 shells during 24 hrs up to 0800 hrs 13 Sep, but shelling in our sector has been light, though one fatal casualty was caused (area 881295).

This morning two bombing attacks were made astride MAIN Rd in Bde area.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

A number of sangars between 87752900 and 87812900. MG fire heard from area of derelict tk 87652910. Possible OP at derelict tk 87652910.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE.

87332963 single dannert. To the south this is new and on new pickets. To the north the wire is old and broken.

A line of dannert runs in front of sangars from about 87772901 to 87862901; at 87802901 this dannert makes a junc with a cattle fence running to the south. Men seen walking in front of the dannert were picking their way carefully as if they were in vicinity of a minefield.

Short length single dannert running roughly East-West 87762913.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

(i) Tks 1242 hrs 2 tks and 1 Armd C moved north over MITEIRIYA Ridge and took up a posn in area 876290, covering QATTARA Trk. They remained there till last light, but were NOT there this morning.

(ii) Inf Movement in small gps was observed at 87492915, 87442909, 87632889 and 87672890 around sangars 87612894, near derelict tk 87652910, 87732885 (2 men moved into dugout) and in HUMMOCKS area 878290.

5. ENEMY WORKS

Blasting area 876289 and over ridge on brgs 285 and 295 deg from 87712922.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Enemy fired on area of derelict tks 87812915 with MGs and mortars at 0900 hrs.

7. PATROLS, Night 12/13 Sep

A recce patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs left 88012928 at 2030 hrs and moved through 87922925 and 87762921 to a derelict Ford truck at 87732914, where 7 Bren mags were salvaged. Patrol then moved to unoccupied earthworks at 87762913, and encountered here a short length of single dannert running approx EAST-WEST. Flares were fired from approx 87762911, and continued for 30 mins. Voices were heard but could not be distinguished. Patrol then moved to gp of 4 derelict tks at 87822915. Several flares were fired from approx 87762905, and a Spandau fired in direction of patrol. Patrol returned to 88012928, which was reached at 0330 hrs

8. OWN ARTY

During daylight 12 Sep, arty put down harassing fire on targets in areas 871296, 870296, 869295, 870295, 872295, 873292, 874292, 873291, 875291, 875290, 876290.

During night 12/13 Sep, arty harassed enemy with fire on targets in areas 872297, 870296, 873291, 873292, 874292, 874290, and 874294.

9. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

0833 hrs 13 Sep - 2 or 3 EA bombed area 88602945.  
1045 hrs - 9 JU 87s, with escort of 10/12 ME 109s,  
carried out shallow bombing attack on area 881296.  
So far no damage or casualties have been reported  
from these attacks.

10. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

1100 hrs 12 Sep - OP reports our planes bombed  
enemy lines in vicinity of QATTARA track south of MITEIRIYA  
Ridge.

*E. T. Prangley*  
Lieut.

for Maj.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 47

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.



24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 49  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs, 14 Sep)

1. GENERAL

There was sporadic enemy harassing bombing by day. There were no night patrols from Bde. Our arty produced by harassing fire at 0500 hrs. Right bde took one PW of 3 Coy 2 Bn 68 IR at approx 87182983. He was a member of a patrol of 15.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

- (a) OP 87462966. Suspect CP well sited, dug and camouflaged. (20 Aust Inf Bde I.R. No. 54)  
- CPs report -  
(b) suspected gaps at 87782900, 87802900 and 87822900 in line of dammed wire reported in yesterday's summary to extend in front of line of sangars in area 877290, and  
(c) suspected section post 87342891 with minefield and then D.A. fence in front.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

One slight casualty was suffered but no damage was sustained by following :-  
1135 hrs - 3 JU 87s dropped 9 bombs area 88152965.  
1710 hrs - 4 planes dropped bombs vicinity sta 887293.  
1820 hrs - 2/11 JU 87s, escorted by 4 MEs, dive bombed post 7; dropped 15-20 bombs.  
1849 hrs - 4 JU 87s bombed 882393; dropped 12 to 15 bombs.

4. ENEMY ARTY

On 13 sep, light shelling in our area caused no casualties. On right flanking bde front shelling commenced at 0802 hrs and continued to 1025 hrs, mainly directed against our TDIs between Northcote 886 and 888. Howitzer batteries "PO", "PV" and "JY" were the most active, and the First Spotters Tp ranged a tp of 1.5d Rest 888 onto the latter, the subsequent bombardment falling in the target area. After 1025 hrs, there was only slight activity apart from short bursts of activity at 1343, 1427, 1532 and 1753 hrs.  
(Counter Battery I. Report No. 53)

5. OWN ARTY

0500-0630 hrs, our arty put down harassing fire on targets in areas 8737529266, 8741829266, 8743229288, 8751825170, 8759529065, 8764829050. This caused appreciable enemy action, namely, firing of some arty, MEs, mortars and flares, and on right flanking bde front, this amounted to approx full S.A. DP tanks, and on that front an enemy anti tank was set alight.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 48

*[Signature]*  
Maj.  
P.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

15 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 50.  
(From information received up to 1430 hrs 15 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet in Bde sector.  
Patrols did not contact enemy.  
There have been several reports of tk movement in areas north of MITEIRIYA Ridge.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Pt 23 (87832901) - suspect 3 Spandaus.  
Area 87762902 - suspect 4 MGs.  
OP reports man seen at 87642891 was in ITALIAN uniform.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

(i) Tks - 14 Sep. Tac R 1740 hrs reported that some tks were believed to be in concentration of 200 MET between 866287 and 871287.

1830 hrs - 4 tks moving NW on SKYLINE TRACK.

15 Sep. 0930 hrs - 15 Sep - flanking bde reported what appeared to be 55 tks on brg 280 deg from 87592981. These came from the North and turned East towards enemy FDLs.

1255 hrs - 6 tks were observed moving NW in area 871293. Their further movement NW was obscured by dust.

(ii) MT. Bde on our right reported that from 1500 hrs to last light 14 Sep there was abnormal movement on SKYLINE track. An average of 100 vehs per hr were seen and 80 percent moved NW. 9 guns moved NW.

Tac R 1740 hrs 14 Sep reported:- 877291 100 MET dispersed (NOT confirmed by our ground observers). 875287 100 MET dispersed. From 866287 to 871287 200 MET stationary and dispersed; some tks believed to be in this concentration. 861289 to 865287 100 MET dispersed. 868281 100 MET dispersed. General impression movement by many isolated vehs and definite increase in MET in northern area. No movement and no activity except for intense AA fire in southern area.

(iii) Inf. Approx 30 men seen between 87502913 and 87342921 moving in and out of poens; movement above normal 87752899.

4. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

A patrol night 14/15 Sep examined minefield at 87552918, running on brg approx 45 deg. This is probably same field which patrol night 27/28 Aug encountered at approx 875529185, running on brg approx 220 deg. (see Summary No. 33). The descriptions of the field by the two patrols differ slightly. Last night's patrol reported 5 rows of G. S. Mk V mines, buried but fairly prominent, rows 12 paces apart and mines 8 paces apart. There was a single strand of barbed wire lying on the ground 12 to 14 paces from minefield. No A.P. mines were seen.

Patrol by bde on left night 14/15 Sep followed darnert wire fence from 87862906 to 87922902 to 87942903, where there is a gap. Wire continues to 87952904 to 87982904. Along full length of wire on enemy side is a minefield of 2 rows of Mk IV mines. This infm tends to confirm that shown by latest overprint map in area 878290 and 879290.

OP reports double apron fence in front of sangars 87642891. A man who passed through it picked his way carefully, as if there were mines in the vicinity.

5. ENEMY AFTY

42 shells reported in Bde area 14 Sep; areas shelled being 876295 (15 shells); 876293, 876294 (14 shells); 881295 (8 shells) and 880293.

6. PATROLS, Night 14/15 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs moved from OP 87672935 at 0125 hrs. At the OP, movement was heard apparently from QATTARA track; this movement, however, could not be definitely located. At 87582918, patrol found minefield of 5 rows G.S. Mk V, running on brg approx 45 deg. Patrol then moved to 87582916. The time being then 0435 hrs, patrol moved back to 87672935.

Patrol of 1 offr, 19 ORs who followed route 88012928 to 87832921 to 87792915, thence back to starting point, struck single dannert fence and part of old devitalised minefield area 87812921. This is the wire and minefield contacted by previous patrols to this area. With exception of normal flares from behind enemy lines, there was no sign of enemy.

A patrol of 1 offr, 7 ORs moved from 87582957 to 87452948 to 87452953 to 87502955 and returned to starting point. Numerous old diggings were encountered but none showed any signs of recent occupation. Reported MGs firing on brgs 210 and 240 deg from 87472953.

7. OWN ARTY

During the day 14 Sep our arty brought down harassing fire on enemy areas along front, and further harassing shoots were carried out up to 0100 hrs.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

Increased activity has been maintained.

14 Sep 1140 hrs - 2 or 3 ME 109s dropped 3 bombs 87733002.

1740 hrs - 2 JU 52 landed near SKYLINE track south of MOSQUE (865308) and took off again 1850 hrs.

1900 hrs - FIESELER STORCH flew low over enemy FDLs.

15 Sep 0955 hrs - 3 ME 109s bombed area approx 887294.

1100 hrs - 2 EA bombed 888293 from high level; casualties - 1 killed, 2 wounded.

1250 hrs - 12 or 13 JU 87s dive bombed area 881295 and southern portion of sq 881296. An escort of 11 to 15 Me 109s was observed. 3 men were injured in this bombing but none seriously.

9. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

1635 hrs - RAF bombed 19 vehs on SKYLINE track.

*St. P...*  
*for Maj.*

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 49  
plus 155 Highland Bde

16 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 51  
(From information received up to 1500 hrs 16 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Night 15/16 Sep, a sec at 87852918, which was part of a pl covering engra, engaged an enemy party estimated 40 to 50 in number. A sharp encounter ensued before enemy withdrew. At least 4 casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and a Spandau MG was recovered from the area this morning. A German tunic, which apparently belonged to one of the wounded enemy, was also found. Our sec sustained 2 casualties.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

MG - 87852945 (patrol report)

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT.

15 Sep; usual movement of men behind FOLs, North of MITIRIYA Ridge and on ridge itself.

1400 hrs - MT were observed in sq 861298. These built up during afternoon and were estimated 50 plus at 1800 hrs. At first light number had increased to 75, well dispersed; beyond arty range.

Tag R 1605 hrs reported 1000 plus MET scattered over area 870294, 877292, 872275, 864277; also 30 odd MET moving NORTH on track between 865274 and 847293.

0718 hrs 16 Sep, two white flare lights fired from approx 87732909. When first light went up, 4 men emerged from sengars and manned weapon pits. When second light went up, further 8 men went fwd into same gp of pits and 3 more doubled fwd with rifles to a posn fwd of the other parties. This was probably caused by the presence of our carriers and a foot patrol in 876291.

4. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. reports during 15 Sep enemy resumed his harassing fire, covering wide area SOUTH of ry.

40 shells reported in Bde area 15 Sep. Areas shelled included 87792941 (12 shells); 88012938 (5 air burst); 87642953 (7 shells); 87832947 (3 shells); 87862945 (1 shell); 87802945 (2 shells); 879294 (3 shells); 87632953 (3 shells).

5. PATROLS, Night 15/16 Sep.

A pl which acted as covering party to engra took up posn with sec at 87952912, 87892917 and 87322918. At 0220 hrs, a party of men estimated 40 to 50 in number approached sec at 87852918. On being challenged, this party did not give reply; portion went to ground and others remained standing. The sec opened fire, and enemy replied with rifle fire, Spandau fire and grenades. The enemy endeavoured to work round flanks of our men but gave this up and withdrew. Cries and roars came from enemy party. Sec leader thought that some of the enemy were Italians.

After first light pl comd and sec examined area where engagement took place. A Spandau MG was recovered complete, and a German cap and a bloodstained German tunic were found. There were marks on ground where at least 4 men had been dragged away.

Patrol of 1 offr 7 ORs between 0001 hrs and 0530 hrs went from 87672950 to 87672935 to 87542932 to 87542935 to 87672950. Examined diggings between 87542932 and 87542934. A recce gp moved to 87612919 without encountering minefield. Before returning patrol examined area for 200 to 300 yds round derelict plane at 87542935 but no movement was seen or heard.

Between 2400 hrs and 0530 hrs patrol 1 offr, 10 ORs reccecd area from trig 27 (87672950) to 87452937 to 87452944, then back to 87592968. Diggings were examined at 87552943 and 87452940. German sig cable running roughly EAST-WEST was cut at 87462944. During patrol MG fired from approx area 87332945.

6. OWN ARTY

15 Sep. Harassing fire in areas 87212972, 87152974, 87082965, 87042968, 87012965, 87222951, 87372927, 87412926, 87522917, 87652905, 87532908, 87372917.

Night 15/16 Sep? Harassing fire on areas 87092988, 87152978, 87212971, 87152974, 87032968.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

As the result of a fight at approx 1800 hrs, 4 unidentified aircraft were shot down well forward of our FDLs. One Kittyhawk landed area 880292, and burst into flames immediately. Pilot escaped, suffering burns.

0845 hrs 16 Sep - one EA dropped six bombs which fell between 87682938 and 87712929.

Distribution

As per Summary No. 50

*E.T. Peary*

for Maj.

B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 52.  
(From information received up to 1500 hrs 17 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet but shelling increased 16 Sep to about 60 shells in Bde area.

At 1215 hrs, 17 Sep, 9 JU 87Bs bombed area 882298. No damage or casualties.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Observers report 87742897 as centre of pl posn. Occupied posns extend 500 yds NS from this point. During day our arty scored several direct hits on pl posn, but damage done not known.

Tac R reports 4 large gun pits area 871293 to 870289.

MG (Spandan) at 87382945 (approx)

MG (thought Breda or Fiat) at 87378947 (approx)

3. MINEWIRE AND WIRE

Single barbed wire, on long pickets or suspended on bushes, running east-west 87512917.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Inf movement of inf was normal.

Patrol night 15/16 Sep to area of West pt 23 (872296) heard working party behind enemy lines.

Tks & MT

1130 hrs - 12 tks and 200 MT stationary area 865298 to 865303. These thinned out during afternoon, and at last light 15 tks and 70 MT were reported in this area.

Traffic on SKYLINE track was reported normal during 16 Sep.

Tac R 1530 hrs, with visibility good, reported: - area 857299 to 859297 to 855295 to 853297 50 possibly large MET or tks dug in and dispersed. On track from 852278 to 856294 50 MET moving North in gps. Area 851300 30 MET stationary and dispersed. Area 862295 30 MET stationary and dispersed. Area 864204 to 870303 to 869292 to 865294 700 MET stationary and well dispersed. NMS on main rd 874303 WEST.

5. ENEMY ARTY

About 60 shells fell in Bde area during day. The main shelling was in area 881293, where a concentration of about 25 shells was reported. This area had received 15 shells earlier in the day. Other areas shelled were 879293 - 879294 (15 shells) and 876296 - 876297 (11 shells).

6. PATROLS, Night 16/17 Sep 42.

A recon patrol of 1 pltr 7 OMs left 87192958 at 1015 hrs and moved to 87412944 to 87392948 and back to 87592958. When patrol had reached 87422954, enemy put up flares. At 87492952, there are 13 unoccupied weapon pits. On second leg a further flare was put up by enemy and when patrol was at 87402950, a single shot was fired from about 70 yds away. Shot passed close to patrol and then 2 automatics opened fire, firing 4 or 5 bursts. One was a Spandan, sited at about 87382945; the other was at approx 87372947 and was thought to be a BREDA or FIAT. Their fire came close to patrol. These guns had been heard to fire several times during evening at about 30 min intervals. On return journey, patrol encountered 10/12 pits and 4 sangers, all unoccupied, in area 87412949. Patrol returned to starting point at 0420 hrs.

A patrol of 1 pltr 3 OMs left 87622935 at 2230 hrs. At 87612917, 4 long pickets were found with a single strand of barbed wire 3 ft above ground. Wire was approx east-west. Only 4 pickets were seen, and wire was suspended on bushes, running down in places to 6 ins from ground. Patrol searched South to approx 87592912 but did not find mines. While at this point, flares were put up from both left rear and right rear, about 1500 yds apart.

A Spandau fired one burst from vicinity of QATTARA track. Patrol moved back to 87612917, then to 87582918 and back through 87672935, returning at 0430 hrs.

7. OWN ARTY

During 15 Sep, harassing fire was brought down onto enemy posns in sqs 871297, 869296, 870296, 871296, 869295.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

1215 hrs - 17 Sep - 9 JG87Bs carried out shallow dive bombing attack on post area 882298. The bombers were escorted by 8 ME 109s. During the attack, one or more planes sounded a siren. The bombing caused no damage or casualties.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 51

*ET Pearson*  
*Lieut*

for Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

18 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 53  
(From information received up to 1400 hrs 18 Sep)

1. GENERAL

-ing

A patrol fired on 2 men man/listening post at 87422934 and at 87522935, on return journey, patrol came under what appeared to be DF from 6 MGs, 1 mortar and 1 A Tk gun. No casualties were sustained.

Morning 18 Sep, 2 EA carried out recce at low altitude of area fwd of present PDLs.

Shelling has been light.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Gps of weapon pits including MG and A Tk posns between 87022918 and 87362895.

Wire runs from 87022918 to 87072915 and from 87182908 through 87362895 to 87392909 (limit of cover).

Wire runs from 86952975 through 86852962 to 86922958 (limit of cover).

(Air Photo Interpretations)

87332971 - single demerit due north for 60 yds, then on 350 deg. From 87332971 demerit appeared to run due south. No mines found.

Probable sec posts 87352922, 87182917, 87292909, 87192949, 87202944, 87202942.

OP tower approx 87252925.

A Tk guns - 87082937, 86972930, 87082954.

(C.B. Int Report)

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Tks - 1830 hrs, 1 tk near pt 24 87732902.

0820 hrs, 1 tk moved SOUTH over ridge 87312909.

MT - 0945 hrs 17 Sep, 100 vehs moving NW incl 10 guns.

1200 hrs 17 Sep, further 6 guns moving NW.

Inf - At first light 1 man vicinity 87762918 walked back to enemy lines.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Approx 1500 hrs - one white flare put up approx 87472924.

1700 hrs - coln of smoke 87312906.

A reel of tape erected on a box about 87552915.

5. ENEMY ARTY

Shelling in Bde sector light, only 21 shells being reported. Counter Battery Intelligence Report states :- During the day there was little activity. Harassing fire was resumed this evening on TELL EL BISA and pt 26, about 8 HBS taking part. These were nearly all field, although again he included a few medium guns as seasoning.

The 25 pdr battery, 'PX', 'RN' and 'NL' appears to have been replaced by 105 gun-bows, of which there are thought to be 9, which are distributed between the 3 troop posns in a different manner each day.

6. PATROLS, Night 17/18 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 10 ORs between 0015 and 0500 hrs moved from 87592957 to 87422933 to 87462930 to 87732945. At approx 87422934 patrol was challenged with a short phrase, with "ISS" among the words. Then 2 men moved away; patrol tried to cut them off, and fired at them with TSMGs but enemy escaped to west or SW. At about 87442954 one member of the patrol reported seeing wire to the SW, in the light of a flare. Patrol comd moved SW 60 yds but could see no signs of wire. At about 87462930 a voice was heard in direction of movement but no one could be located. When patrol was at 87522935 on return journey, enemy put up



flares and at least 6 MGs, 1 mortar and 1 A Tk gun opened up and firing continued for 20 mins. Patrol leader considered this was an enemy DF task; much of the fire fell in vicinity of patrol. Fire apparently came from western half sq 874292, NE portion of sq 873292 and southern half of 873293. Our patrol suffered no casualties.

A patrol of 1 offr, 7 ORs between 0001 hrs and 0500 hrs, moved from 87672950 to 87452923 to 87512920 to 87662934 to 87672950. Patrol examined a number of diggings, none of which showed signs of recent occupation.

Protective patrols near pt 23 (87772921) and 87952917 made no contact with enemy.

7. OWN ARTY

During 17 Sep arty harassed enemy posns in areas :-  
871297, 871296, 870296, 869296, 870296, 869295, 870295,  
872295, 873292, 874292, 873291, 875291, 875290, 876290,  
874290.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

1025 hrs 18 Sep - 2 ME 109s flew from west between 750 and 1000 ft above areas fwd of our FDLs, crossing QATTARA trk about K 8. They then flew west and returned flying at 500 ft. They turned north and on being engaged by AA moved away west.

*E. T. Pearson*  
for Maj.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 52

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

SECRET  
Copy No. 23  
19 Sep 48

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 54  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 19 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Period very quiet.

During the night, our line of FDLs was advanced to 87602940 - 87722922 - 87952917. Digging and occupation of new posts was carried out without incident, and with complete absence of enemy interference.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

87602903 - possible HQ (coy or pl).

Suspect AA gun 87222920.

Sec posts 87482916, 87432924, 87672900, 87302922.

3. WIRE

87312968 - small knoll single damert running due SOUTH.

87312967 - gap in wire with track running E - W.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

18 Sep - normal movement of men behind enemy FDLs.

19 Sep - 2/3 gps of 12 men each reported moving about in area of hummocks (87762897).

5. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. reports 18 Sep as comparatively quiet with light harassing fire over the whole width of the front.

Shelling on this Bde area was light - area 87622964 (3 shells); 87672934 (1 shell); 8762295 (20 shells).

The following is an extract from C.B.O. Intelligence Report of 18 Sep :- In conditions where flash bearings are scarce, it is noteworthy that the majority of sound bearings pass within 3 degrees on either side of the HB active.

Distribution as per Summary No. 53

*C.T. Barrow*  
Maj.  
B.M., 24 Aust Inf Bde.

20 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 54<sup>S</sup>  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 20 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet.

Shelling increased with some attention to our new line of FDLs.

Patrols made no contact but attempts of patrol to penetrate to enemy FDLs in areas 873295 and 873294 were met with MG fire.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Attempts of a patrol night 19/20 Sep to get through to enemy minefd between northings 2953 and 2934 were frustrated by flares and MG fire. Of MGs firing, three were estimated to be at 87372953, 87342948, 87342945 respectively.

87202925 - OP tower more accurately located at this point.

OP at 87742925 reported spandau firing brg 185 deg. This weapon probably in area 87762905. Patrol observed flares and spandau firing from this area night 11/12 Sep.

87272912 - signpost on top of drum.

87172918 - AA gun in sangar.

Sec posts at 87472916, 87592909, 87302909.

87322957 - Spandau (20 Bde Int Summary No. 60)

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Normal in usual areas.

4. WIRE

87342964 - gap in old single dannert fence (20 Bde I.S. No. 60)

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

The following is a brief description of an enemy Circular Variable Pressure Mine. This mine can be employed in an A Tk or anti-personnel role. The body of the mine, which is of steel, is circular and is approx 8" in diameter and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins in depth. The igniter assembly screws into the top of the body and projects upwards from it. A steel pressure plate 10 ins in diameter and slightly domed rests on the top of the striker pin which projects upwards from the body of the igniter assembly. The pressure plate is fitted with three studs equally placed round the circumference which fit into slits in three lugs which project sideways from the body of the mine, thus holding the pressure plate in posn. The igniter assembly is fitted with a knurled ring with a red pointer which can be set to the following readings :-

H, N, 3, 2, 1, K.

The settings N to K control the pressure at which the igniter is actuated. These settings represent the following pressures :-

K =	a pressure of	35	kg.
1 =	"	100	"
2 =	"	200	"
3 =	"	300	"
N =	"	350	"

When set at H, the mechanism operates as a pull igniter. This is actuated by a trip wire which is att to an eye in the projecting end of a cutting blade. A brass safety pin projects from a socket diametrically opposed to that of the cutting blade. The filling is 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of what appears to be poor quality TNT.

(From 9 Div I.S. No. 301)

6. ENEMY ARTY

C. B. O. reports light HF throughout the day (19 Sep). 35 shells fell in Bde area - 87712963 (12 shells); 87672950 (5 shells) 876295 (6 shells including 3 Air Burst); 87662953 (8 shells); 87502950 (1 Air Burst); 87602950 (2 HE); 88202945 (1 shell). 10 mortar bombs fell in area 87742925.

7. PATROLS, Night 19/20 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs between 2100 hrs and 0510 hrs followed route 87592958 to 87392953 to 87352950 to approx 87362934, back to 87602943. At 87422954 Spandau fired on brg 225 deg. As patrol continued bursts were fired from MGs estimated to be at 87342948 and 87342945; also verey lights from 87342948. Because of enemy fire, patrol was forced to turn SOUTH at 87352950 and when attempting to get through to enemy minefd from 87352946 was fired on by further MGs. Patrol continued SOUTH to approx 87352936, and during this period enemy MGs opened up 4 or 5 times. Patrol reported enemy line appeared to be continuous. A further attempt to approach enemy line from 87352934 was prevented by MG fire and verey lights. From this point patrol returned.

At 2100 hrs patrol of 1 offr 7 ORs went out from 87672935 to 87552926 to 87542932 and back to SP, which was reached at 0430 hrs. Weapon pits, some old, some in good state of repair, were examined at 87572929. MG fire was observed but no weapons could be located, otherwise nothing was seen of enemy.

Protective patrols covering areas from K 9 (876291) to 87802915 and 87802915 to 87952915, saw no sign of enemy.

8. OWN ARTY

During 19 Sep harassing fire on areas 871297, 870296, 869295, 871295, 870295, 870294, 873292, 874292, 874290, 873291, 875290, 876290.

*ET Pearson*  
Lieut  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 53.

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 56

( From information received up to 1400 hrs 21 Sep)

SPECIAL NOTE

Details are required of GERMAN tentage with particular reference to any special "black-out" devices or material. Any infm on this subject is required urgently.

1. GENERAL

Shelling increased further to about 100 shells for the day, nearly all shells falling on new areas occupied by Bde night 18/19 Sep.

Patrol to area 874292 saw ITALIAN working party behind minefield in area 87412926.

In the South the enemy posns on the minefield appear to have been thinned out. DEIR EL ANQAR is unoccupied and DEIR EL MUNASSIB east of the 882 easting, but there are strongpoints in the area 881264. South of HIMEIMAT, the only posn reported is at 881242 where there is a post covering the escarpment.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

87402925 (approx) MG.  
87582910 and 87542896 - sangars

3. OBSERVED MOVMT

Normal on Bde front.

1915 hrs 20 Sep working party seemed to be laying mines area 87502916

4. ENEMY ARTY

103 shells including 25 air bursts fell in Bde sector yesterday (20 Sep) in areas 87882926 (14 shells incl 7 A.B.) 87622945 (6 shells) 87672950 (24 shells incl 12 A.B.) 87772935 (12 shells) 87662940 (7 shells incl 6 A.B.) 878293 (20 shells) 87632942 to 87702942 (20 shells) No damage reported.

5. PATROLS

Night 20/21 SEP

At 2130 hrs patrol of 1 Offr 8 ORs 2 sappers went out from 87592954 and followed route to 87412926 to 87442925 returning to 87632953 at 0530 hrs. At 87482937 MG was heard firing on brg 280°. Another MG was seen firing on bearing 295°. A group of 5 derelict vehs dispersed at about 60 yds interval was seen at 87442933. At 87432930 were signs of what appeared to be a dummy minefield. From this point patrol came down on to a sandy flat covered with low desert bush at 87412926 which extends to MITEIRIYA Ridge. In the bright moonlight ITALIAN working parties were observed moving backwards and forwards from a vehicle apparently unloading mines. On this flat about 87412926 was found enemy minefield and about 30 yds from working party was single dannert fence running on brg 340°. As patrol approached work ceased and flares were put up making further recon in that area impossible.

6. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire on following areas :-

870297, 871297, 871296, 870296, 869295, 870295, 872295,  
873292, 874292, 875291, 875290, 876290.

7. AIR ACTIVITY

1730 hrs 20 Sep - British aircraft crashed in flames area  
87302927. Pilot was not seen to bale out.

1730 hrs - Kittyhawk force landed area sq 877297. Pilot safe.

*C. T. Pearce*  
*Lieut.*

for Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As per Summary 55.

SECRET

Copy No. 23  
22 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 57  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 22 Sep)

1. GENERAL

All patrols night 21/22 Sep encountered automatic fire. Patrol to 874292 again reported large working party apparently laying mines. Shelling showed a reduction to 56 shells.

Enemy arty were yesterday registering DF tasks astride QATTARA trk between pt 21 (87662912) and foot of MITEIRIYA ridge.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

MGs approx 87432922 and 87472922 (patrol report).

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

A patrol from flanking bde night 20/21 Sep reported that a large GERMAN working party could be heard working in vicinity of West pt 23 (872296) on a wide front, driving pickets fairly widely spaced, possibly marking a minefd.

Patrol night 21/22 Sep reported that minefd at 8755029145 runs on brg 111 deg and consists of 3 rows mixed Mk IV and Mk V GS mines staggered and NOT buried. On northern side of field, 10 yds from first row of A Tk mines, there is a row of ITALIAN B4 A.P. mines 12 yds apart.

(A patrol night 9/10 Sep reported a minefd at 87552916 which ran on brg 140 deg. This field was similar in composition to the one reported by last night's patrol with the exception that there was a further row of GS Mk IV mines 8 yds apart and 20 yds NORTH of row of A.P. mines. It seems probable that last night's patrol encountered the field further EAST than the patrol of 9/10 Sep).

Patrols to area 874292 on each of last two nights have reported enemy working parties laying mines over a wide front.

4. ENEMY METHODS

Flanking bde reports that on night 20/21 Sep a party of 18 enemy spaced 2 yds apart approached a recce patrol which was observing from 87302970. When enemy were within 150 yds our patrol withdrew 100 yds and as the enemy continued to advance with 6 men moving round one flank, our party withdrew a further 200 yds after which the enemy was lost to view. The enemy could be seen in detail by the naked eye. Every man wore a great-coat and carried either a sub-machine gun or automatic of some kind; no rifles were seen.

5. ENEMY ARTY

56 shells in Bde area yesterday, areas shelled being 87672950 (18 shells); 87652957 (21 shells); 87572956 (6 shells); 87702954 (10 shells); 87352944 (1 shell).

At about 1215 hrs 21 Sep enemy arty were registering DF tasks between pt 21 (87662912) and foot of MITEIRIYA ridge.

A fragment of a nose-cap obtained yesterday identified HB "SA" as a 25 pr bty; location of this HB is 87332894.

6. PATROLS, Night 21/22 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 3 ORs and 3 sappers left 87672933 at 2300 hrs and encountered minefd at 8755029145, as described in para 3. While examining field patrol was fired on by a MG and rifles, and a party of at least 8 men were seen some 80 yds SSW. The enemy party then ran away, but 4 men returned about 5 minutes later. In the meantime, MG fire apparently on fixed line along minefd passed over our patrol. The patrol then withdrew 150 yds and enemy put up 3 white flares. Enemy continued to put up lights at fairly long intervals during our patrol's further withdrawal.

A patrol of 1 offr, 10 ORs incl 3 sappers, moved from 87552957 to 87392935 to 87372935 to 87372936 to 87322936 to 87332936 to 87552957; no minefds or wire were reported by the patrol. At 87332936 heard voices and coughing immediately ahead, and 3 Spandaus and 1 Fiat fired several bursts. The brgs to these weapons were 235, 266 and 190 deg respectively. At 87322936, enemy post was seen

approx 100 yds ahead and at least 7 men were observed moving about the post. Numbers of pits seen during patrol showed no signs of recent occupation.

A patrol of 1 sgt, 10 ORs, incl 3 sappers, moved from 87622946 to 87452923, where patrol was fired on by two LMGs approx 87432922 and 87472922. These LMGs appeared to be near derelict tks. Enemy was very alert and put up many flares. A working party of unknown strength was heard, extending over a considerable distance on both flanks. Sappers considered this enemy party was engaged in laying mines. Enemy voices were heard, but were NOT loud enough to distinguish nationality.

7. SALVAGE

A party using a carrier endeavoured last night to bring in a Hurribomber which crashlanded some weeks ago at 87542935. The party worked from 2200 to 0350 hrs, and succeeded in moving the plane about 200 yds. The presence of soft sand made the work very slow without further equipment.

8. OWN ARTY

• During day 21 Sep, our arty carried out harassing fire programme, bringing down fire on enemy posns in areas 871297, 869296, 870296, 870295, 869295, 870294, 871295, 872295, 873292, 874292, 875290, 876290, 874290.

During night up to 2330 hrs HF was brought down on areas from 872295 to 875290.

*C. T. Pearson*  
*Lieut*  
*for Maj.*

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 56



24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 58.  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 23 Sep 42).

1. GENERAL

Period quiet.

There was a decrease in enemy shelling.

Patrol from left flanking bde, night 22/23 Sep, was pinned down by two MGs firing from 87802899 while attempting to investigate area 87842900, where voices, thought to be GERMAN, were heard.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

87802899 - two MGs (patrol report).

Interpretation of air photos taken 18 Sep and 19 Sep shows the following :- Possible minefd runs from 87632893 through 87532877 to 87332888 (edge of strip). Wire and weapon pits run from 87642852 (limit of cover) through 87802874, 87782878, 87822878, 87742887, 87802897, 87822900, 87792905, 87772903 and 87752904 to 87742897. (Patrol from bde holding FDLs EAST of this line struck wire on 5 ft stakes at approx 87822900 which was probably part of the line shown in air photos).

Suspected wire from 87872906 through 87812908 to 87802932.

Defensive wire through 87252908, 87232903, 87162905; also between 87182917 and 87032923. (This is probably wire reported by OPs as extending from 87052925 to 87182917).

Strongpoint at 87282904 consisting of double line of wire.

3. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. reports enemy unusually quiet morning 22 Sep, but resumed harassing programme during afternoon. (Most of fire fell on right flanking bde area).

19 shells fell in this Bde area yesterday (22 Sep) in areas 87832948 (12 shells); 87662950 (7 shells).

2 mortar bombs (81 mm) fell in area 87642946.

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

(C.B. Int Report No. 62)

4. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire on areas 870298, 870297, 871297, 870296, 874292, 873292, 875290, 874290.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 58

*K.E. Bishop Capt*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 59.  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 24 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL.

Period was again quiet.

During night 23/24 Sep a recovery vehicle, with a covering party of 1 Offr 16 ORs, brought back to our lines a Hurribomber which crashed landed in area 87542935 on 25 Aug. The recovery was completed without enemy interference.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

While it is not thought there is any drastic change in enemy disposns on the Div front, air photographs show considerable thickening of defences in depth. This may mean some changes in unit disposns to man the new posns as they are completed. In this respect it is considered that tps will be placed so that all vital or commanding ground is held by Germans

( 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 305)

Ops report an occupied line from 87382935 to 87402931 with probable sec posts at 87382934, 87392933, 87392932, 87402931.

Comment This line is probably further WEST behind FDLs which latest air photos show to run from approx. 87362934 to 87372930. in this area.

Following weapons were located by right flanking Bde when they opened fire at about 1830 hrs 22 Sept:-

- 87142987 - Post with at least 2 MGs and 1 Mortar
- 87162985 - Breda LMG
- 87182985 - MG
- 87042988 - 20 mm

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Visibility was obscured for the greater part of day 23 Sep by haze.

1730 hrs - approx 15 MT moved along fwd slope of MITEIRIYA RIDGE from approx 87382910 to 87722899.

4. MINEFIELDS.

Patrol night 19/20 Sep, located possible dummy minefd, EAST of enemy wire, at approx 87332937. Fd ran on brg 160 deg and was marked by a furrow on its eastern edge. Some 24 mounds of earth which appeared to be mines were examined, but no mines were found. Though the fd could not be examined for any length owing to the vigilance of the enemy, it appeared about 100 yds deep with 10 yds spacing.

Details have now been received of minefd struck by patrol night 20/21 Sep in area 87412926. An examination of fd revealed that the point where it was first met was one extremity of it, and from this point it was followed for a distance of 30 yds. The fd consisted of 3 rows of E.P. Mk II mines 5 yds apart, with 10 yds between rows; there followed a space of 10 yds, then 4 rows of British Mk V and Mk Vc mines 10 yds apart, with 10 yds between rows. On the enemy side of fd was a two strand cattle fence on a brg of 340 deg. This fence merges into a single dannert fence at approx point where minefd was found to end. This fence continues on a brg of 340 deg. Area on minefd side of this fence was examined for a distance of 150 yds along fence and was found free of mines. The mines were buried, some deep, and some 3 ins above ground, and were not distinguished or found till wire was located. (Note: The most recent information from air photos of this area shows wire without mines in this area, but minefd is shown to commence further EAST in area 87452923).

Patrol night 23/24 Sep contacted enemy minefd at 87532921. There were no markings of any kind on our side of this fd. Owing to bright moonlight and presence of enemy sentries, no detailed recce could be made of it. The fd consisted of at least two rows with a possible third. The first four mines contacted lay on approx NORTH-SOUTH line and were spaced at 4 yds, 12 yds, and 4 yds.

At an interval of 6 yds towards the enemy was a second row staggered, but pattern could not be obtained. The fd consisted of Mk V and Mk Vc mines as far as it was examined. The first mine examined, a Mk Vc, was found to have the sheer pin removed. (Note: Patrol night 27/28 Aug reported an unmarked fd which ran from 8754029185 to 87532919, consisting of Mk II, Mk V and E.P. Mk II, rows 8 yds apart and mines 6 yds apart. Though fd ended at that date at 87532919 there was evidence of its having been recently laid at this point. It is possible that fd contacted by patrol may be part of this fd.)

5. ENEMY ARTY

CBO report harassing fire 23 Sep was directed mainly against TEL EL EISA and OP areas in the NORTH.

13 shells only fell in Bde area - 87832948 (1 shell); 87752943 (2 shells).

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

(From C.B. Int Report No. 63)

6. PATROLS

Night 23/24 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 5 ORs and 2 sappers left FDLs at 2300 hrs from pt 87632937 and proceeded to enemy minefd at 87532921, details of which appear in para 4. En route a knocked out British tk was examined at 87532926. At 87542923 talking was heard on a brg 304 deg; language could not be distinguished. From pt where minefd was struck two sentries on beat were observed 100 to 150 yds away on enemy side of fd. Presence of these sentries and bright moonlight made recce of fd in this area impossible. Patrol continued to 87552920. From this pt 2 sappers moved on to approx 87542919, but no mines were located. Patrol then returned to own lines which were reached at 0410 hrs.

7. OWN ARTY.

Harassing fire in areas :- 871297, 870296, 869295, 870295, 870294, 873292, 874292, 875290, 874290.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 58

9. *[Signature]* Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

25 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 60  
(From information received up to 1600 hrs 25 Sep)

SPECIAL NOTE:

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

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

(From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 306)

1. GENERAL

Period has again been quiet.

Night 24/25 Sep one patrol engaged enemy party at 87422943 but could not be certain if casualties were inflicted.

Another patrol was pinned by MG fire in vicinity of unmarked minefd area 87412933.

Two men wounded in our patrols.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

87652904 - enemy strong point behind minefd mentioned in para 4.

87642901 - occupied post.

87702906 - strong point.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Visibility 24 Sep was again impaired by morning mist which lasted to approx 0930 hrs and later by usual haze.

0730 hrs 25 Sep - 50 enemy in small gps were dispersed by arty as they moved towards their FDLs from MITEIRIYA Ridge in sq 873291. Movement continued after firing till men disappeared into dead ground.

4. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

Patrol from bde on left flank night 23/24 Sep came upon enemy minefd at 87652904. Fd was estimated 30 yds deep and contained AP mines. On enemy side of fd was single row of dannert wire.

At 87662903 same patrol found small fd consisting of 3 rows 6 yds apart. Each row consisted of 8 mines 6 yds apart.

Patrol night 24/25 Sep struck trip wire, barbed 3 in high at 87582915. A possible continuation of this wire was later found at 87622912. Approx 200 yds SOUTH of wire at 87582915, a second trip wire running on brg of 185 deg was contacted; about 30 yds on our side of this wire on brg 60 deg was found a block of 16 concealed GS Mk IV mines spaced in the form of a square, each side of 4 mines, 5 yds apart. This block was found to be completely detached from the main fd which was struck further SOUTH. Main fd was struck about 60 yds beyond trip wire at approx 8757529120. At point where it was struck it ran on brg 190 deg, changing about 30 yds to NORTH to brg of 310 deg. Fd consisted of 8 rows Mk V mines staggered, spaced at varying distances from 5 to 14 yds apart. Mines were partially buried. No booby traps or wire were found to a distance of 50 yds on enemy side of fd.

At 87592912 two single rows each of 3 Mk IV mines, 5 yds apart, were found laid in the shape of a "V". Legs were on brgs 255 deg and 360 deg respectively. This gp of mines was found to be detached from any other fd.

Patrol night 24/25 Sep while moving to engage enemy party found themselves in minefd in area 87412933. Fd at this point runs on brg 330 deg and consists of 4 rows of British Mk V and Mk Vc mines. Spacing between rows and mines is 10 yds. At point where fd was found and examined there were no visible markings.

5. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. reports that following activity from Fd and medium guns 23 Sep, by guns opened up during night 23/24 Sep. The 149/40 guns fired singly from different posns. (Note: one of these guns was identified by shell splinter as having shelled area of Post 2 (882297) during this period).

Enemy arty activity 24 Sep was on a small scale.

29 shells were reported on this Bde area - 87672950 (6 shells); 87632947 (4 shells); 87672934 (3 shells); 87642944 (3 shells); 87642948 (3 shells 75 mm 2 shells 88 mm); 87552954 (5 shells); 87722959 (3 shells).

6. PATROLS, Night 24/25 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 3 ORs, 3 sappers between 2200 hrs and 0245 hrs, followed route 87702931 to 87582913 to 87612910, thence back to 87742930. Details of wire and minefds struck and examined in sq 875291 appear in para 4. Voices and noise of truck were heard estimated about 700 yds away while patrol was examining minefd area 87582913. Later fire from LMG using tracer and rifles came from direction voices had been heard. Fire was not directed at patrol. Completely wrecked plane was found at 87602917.

Patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs left FDLs at 87552954 at 2130 hrs and proceeded to area 87422943, from which point what appeared to be atleast 6 vehs, spaced at 300 yds intervals, were observed on skyline, estimated 300/400 yds away in approx area 87382942. At same time an enemy patrol estimated strength 25 approached in close formation preceded by a scout about 30 yds fwd of his patrol. When enemy were approx 150 yds away a single shot was fired. Our patrol went to ground and opened fire with TSMGs. Enemy replied with a Spandau and rifles. No estimate was possible of casualties inflicted on the enemy. Enemy could not be distinguished as German or Italian. Own casualties as a result of encounter were one wounded. Patrol returned to own lines at 2340 hrs.

Patrol of 1 offr, 11 ORs moved out from 87602942 at 2100 hrs and proceeded to 87452930 where an enemy working party extending over a front of approx 400 yds was observed directly ahead at approx 87422927. Party appeared to be laying mines. When patrol turned right and moved along front of party, work ceased, two whistles were heard and an enemy party was observed moving towards patrol, but did not move far enough out to be engaged. Patrol proceeded to 87412933. From this point an enemy party of 6/8 men identified as German was seen to move towards rear of enemy lines. This party was followed by a second, identified as Italian, who stopped and remained at a posn approx 150/200 yds from patrol, area 87402934. As patrol moved into posn to engage enemy, they found themselves in a minefd. Patrol was then withdrawn while a recce was made of fd. By this time enemy were very vigilant and any movement drew MG fire from enemy. As result of enemy fire one man was wounded. Details of minefd appear in para 4.

7. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire in areas - 870299, 871298, 872297, 871297, 869296, 869295, 870294, 873292, 873291, 875290, 873293, 870298, 870297, 871296, 870296, 868297.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 59

*BR [Signature]* Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 61

(From information received up to 1200 hrs 26 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period again quiet.  
Enemy arty active to last light 25 Sep.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

87642890 - Strongpost  
87422913 - Occupied posns  
87232968 - OP.

3. ENEMY WORKS

1130 - 1730 hrs 25 Sep at irregular intervals blasting occurred along MITEIRIYA Ridge in areas 873290, 872291, 871292, 874289, 875289.

Compressor heard working morning 26 Sep in area sq 872295.

4. OBSERVED MOVT

1830 hrs (approx) 25 Sep truck observed to move into dead ground about 1000 yds fwd of our FDLs area sq 876293. Mortar fired 4 bombs into area 87652933 then truck departed.

Otherwise movt normal in usual areas.

5. ENEMY SHELLING

In Bde sector enemy arty was quiet on 25 Sep till 1700 hrs.

1700 - 1845 hrs 79 shells fell in Bde area - 87682952 (7 shells) 87762955 (38 shells) 87672950 (34 shells)

G.B.O. report a group of medium guns sited about 870290 plus one tp of D.P. and one of 75 mm were responsible for this fire. Again synchronised firing of HBs made definite location difficult. To combat this, OPs should report accurate time of flash brgs as well as the duration of fire.

The enemy has discovered that we are using Sound Ranging and is counteracting it by firing a number of Troops simultaneously. The enemy is also reported to possess Sound Rangers. So far no evidence has come to light of enemy ranging by this method. Sound ranging is distinctive from other methods of ranging in that there is no bracketing. Each round getting nearer and nearer to the target. Any evidence of such ranging should be reported immediately to the C.B.O.

(From CB Int Report No. 65)

6. OWN ARTY.

Harassing fire on areas :- 870299, 871298, 870297, 871297, 870296, 870295, 869295, 871295, 868298, 868297, 873293, 871291, 873291, 875291, 875290, 873292, 874292, 874290. 1625 hrs 25 Sep OPs report explosion area 87292915 as result of our arty fire.  
0900 hrs 26 Sep - Strongpost engaged 87642890.  
0930 hrs OP at 87232968.

7. AIR ACTIVITY

1015 hrs - EA (German) flew low over area 881295 in NE direction then turned EAST.

British aircraft crash landed in area 883293. Pilot safe.  
Another British aircraft crash landed to SOUTH estimated approx area 879291.

Distribution

As per "I" Sum No. 60.

*DK* Maj  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

27 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No.62  
( From information received up to 1100 hrs 27 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet

In accordance with programme, there were no deep patrols last night, but arty carried out harassing shoots.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

87202921 - Possible strongpost  
87222919 - Sec post

3. OBSERVED MOVT

Normal during periods of good visibility. 87202921 - 20 men observed in possible strongpost.

4. ENEMY ARTY

During morning 26 Sep C.B.O. reports there was a certain amount of ranging followed by harassing fire from medium and fd guns. Again about last light there was harassing fire from enemy guns of different calibres firing all at once from between 300 and 295 northing grid lines.

An observation tower has appeared in sq 872291 and is possibly responsible for the increase in ranging shoots.

In Bde area there were 20 plus shells in the following areas :-  
87582967 (3 shells) 875296 (9 shells) 876293 (8 shells incl 2 airburst)

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

"Echeloned Troop fire" can be used in order to ascertain quickly the range to opportunity Targets, and to cover the flanks of a tank attack.

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

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

Note. The amount of echelon is normally 100 m.

(From CB Int report No.66)

5. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire on the following areas :- 872297, 871297, 871296, 869295, 870294, 873292, 874292, 873291, 875290, 870292, 870295, 873293.

6. AIR ACTIVITY

26 Sep there was increase in air activity both of own and enemy aircraft over fwd areas. In addition to those mentioned in Sum No.61 between 0900 and 1000 hrs 5 EA flew over FDLs 4 being at altitudes below 1000 ft.

At 2330 hrs 1 EA dropped 2 bombs in sq 882297. Bombs were dropped from about 1000 ft and made craters 18 ft in diameter and 2 ft deep. No damage was caused.

During the night a plane also dropped incendiary bombs in vicinity of ALAKEIN ry sta.

*ET Pearson*  
Lieut

for Maj

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As per "I" Summary No.61.

28 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 63  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 28 Sep)

1. GENERAL

A patrol from flanking Bde captured PW from I Bn, 388 Inf Regt, in approx area 873297.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Dummy gun 87702910 (patrol report)

Mortar 8741829145 fired about 14 bombs into area 876294 between 1000 and 1100 hrs 27 Sep. No damage resulted.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Visibility during 27 Sep was poor.

At 1935 hrs 20 AFVs, some identified as tks, were moving around in area 874289. No general direction of movement could be discerned. Soon after they were observed, visibility became nil, and arty could therefore not engage them.

4. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

Patrol encountered at 8755529140. (near cluster of derelict vehs) minefield of 3 rows Mk V GS mines with uneven spacing varying from 5 to 12 yds. The field runs on bearing 111 deg and is marked on northern side by a shallow furrow. A further 35 yds south there is a single dannert fence stretched so that it is only about 15 ins high. 26 yds beyond this fence is a field of 6 rows Mk V mines spaced 6 to 14 yds and staggered, the mines being only partially buried. Close to the most southerly row of this field is a dannert fence about 2 ft high. The total distance between these two concertina fences is 46 yds and both fences and minefield run on bearing 112 deg.

A further 20 yds south is a third dannert fence which is of normal height and appears recently laid. No mines were found between the second fence and this more southerly one.

(Comment:- A patrol 20/21 Aug reported a 6 row field running on brg 110 deg from 87552916 to 87592915, but patrol on that occasion reported considerably closer spacing)

Patrol which examined minefield and wire reported above moved next to approx 87532913, where it found a trip wire running on brg 181 deg. This was followed south for 150 yds, where a field of 8 rows Mk V mines, spaced irregularly 5 to 14 yds apart, was found. This field runs on brg 310 deg and is apparently portion of the field reported by patrol night 24/25 Sep as running on brgs 310 and 190 deg from 8757529128.

Last night's patrol also confirmed small block of mines at 87592912, reported in Int Summary No. 60.

At 87622915 patrol found 6 GS Mk IV mines in a sandy scrub patch.

Same patrol also confirmed presence of trip wire running on brg 275 deg at 87592921.

Another patrol found tripwire connected with some A.P. mines at 87682909.

5. ENEMY ARTY

Shelling in Bde area was light - 11 shells in the following areas :- 876294 (3 shells) 87632941 (5 shells) 88162945 (1 shell) 876293 (2 shells).

C.B.O. Intelligence Report 27 Sep states :- The O.P. Tower (872291) reported yesterday was again visible this morning. The flash spotters ranged a gun of a medium bty deliberately on to the impudent structure. One warmer and five ranging rounds were too much for it; after the sixth round it vanished from the ridge and the fire for effect was never called for. This loss should prevent the enemy from carrying out his ranging shoots in areas other than the FDLs.



6. ENEMY METHODS

Bde on our right reports a booby trap as follows :- wire 6 in above ground was stretched between two shell holes 3 ft 6 in apart. Protruding from ground underneath this wire was a sheet of tin 6 in high and 8 in long.

7. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

The plane which dropped bombs in sq 882297 night 26/27 Sep (reported in Int Sum No.62) also dropped a number of "butterfly bombs" in the same area. A proportion of these exploded on impact with ground, while others did not so explode. The "wings" of these bombs are painted yellow, with a red stripe on each of the smaller wings. The bomb itself has a yellow stripe on each end and on each side.

8. PATROLS

Night 27/28 Sep

A recce patrol of 1 offr 1 OR with a Spr Sgt moved from 87672933 and reced minofields at 87552914 , 8752029115, 87592912 and 87622915 as reported in para.4

A patrol of 1 offr and 10 ORs, with 2 offr and 1 OR from flanking Bde, moved from 87762925 to 87702910, where a dummy gun was found. There was a working party in the area who moved away South in a veh. at approx 2215 hrs. Patrol moved to derelict Australian carrier at 87722912, but found the carrier was beyond salvage in present circumstances. A slightly damaged Bren, with spare barrel, was taken from the carrier.

A patrol of 1 offr and 7 ORs moved from 87532962 at 2030 hrs and waited in ambush at 87372948 from 2135 hrs to 2330 hrs. No enemy were seen. Patrol then took up position in old diggings at 87452944 from 0030 hrs to 0200 hrs but again no movement was seen. On return patrol found a well dispersed dump of 105 cases 25 pr amn at 87472945.

A patrol of 1 offr 7 ORs left 87612949 at 2300 hrs and moved to 87452926 to 87482924 and then back to own lines at 87612949. Patrol saw a derelict truck at 87552942 and 3 derelict tanks at 87462928. There are diggings at 87472930. At 87442924 patrol saw at least 5 groups of men, each of 2 to 4 men, extending over approx 200 yds. From their voices enemy were judged to be Italians. Sentries were patrolling in pairs continuously and there were always 4 sentries on duty at any time.

9. OWN ARTY

27 Sep - Harassing fire on areas 871297, 870296, 869296, 869295, 870295, 872295, 868297, 873292, 874292, 873291, 875291, 875290, 874290.

Night 27/28 Sep - Harassing fire on areas 870299, 871298, 870297, 871297, 871296, 869296.

One of our patrols reported that at 2310 hrs a shell from our arty caused a great flash and a momentary blaze on approx brg 290 deg from 87372948.

*E T Pearson*  
Lieut  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As per "I" Summary No.62.

29 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 64.  
(From information received up to 1230 hrs 29 Sep 42.)

1. GENERAL

Period remains quiet.

Patrols made no contact with enemy. A 2 pdr gun was recovered from S7572922.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Standing patrol from flanking Bde, established at 87392960 on 26 Sep, made following observations during daylight:-

Occupied posns 87202962, 8722029595, 87222957, 8727029525

Concertina wire 87332964 to 87342965

Patrol reported that all occupied posns were on the reverse slopes of low mounds.

Patrol also located various landmarks as follows:- Single drum 87302965; three drums 87282962; knoll 87232953; derelict veh facing west 87252957; derelict ambulance 87402959; plane wreckage 87392959; one drum 87302956.

Interpretation by A.A.P.I.U. of air photos taken 26 Sep reports the following:-

Large camp consisting of 1230 MT and 92 tents dispersed in area bounded by M.Rs. 86852863 - 86282878 - 86702961 - 86343020.

A stretch of single wire is seen between M.Rs. 8740297D and 87432972.

A stretch of single wire is seen between M.Rs 87332972, 87352971, 87352963, and 87322962.

A stretch of single wire is seen between M.Rs. 87382934, 87402932 and 87382928.

A single stretch of wire from M.R. 87222838 to M.R. 87082884 with a gap at M.R. 87132887.

Two stretches of wire are observed from M.R. 87182915 - 87142914 - 87122918 and 87042920, and from M.R. 87092906 to 87072919 with a gap at M.R. 87112913.

A single stretch of wire between the following M.Rs 87432916 - 87372912 - 87402920

Short stretch of wire enters strip at M.R. 86782972 runs west for 900 yds before turning east and leaves the strip at M.R. 86722977.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

At 1300 hrs movement of approx 12 men was reported in area 874292 They were engaged by arty and a veh moved away when first shelling occurred. The area was again shelled by our arty, corrected co-ordinates being 874801, 292256. There are 3 derelict tks in the area.

On each occasion when our arty opened fire the enemy immediately replied with shelling onto our O.P. It is thought there may be an arty O.P. in the vicinity of the tks.

4. ENEMY SHELLING

28 Sep - 37 shells in Bde area - 87582940 (4 shells) 87652937 (7 shells) 876293 (18 shells incl 2 AB) 87612936 (3 shells)

C.B.O. Int Report states that fragments of shell show that the 17 cm gun is again sited to fire on this front (area shelled 878300). A groove bearing shows it to be North of the railway. There may be others about 290 Northing grid line. A dud shell which landed well behind our FDLs shows that the Italian must have run his 100/17 Hows well forward. The only explanation for this appears to be that he is copying our methods of running guns up to deal with troublesome HBs, because no other guns are sited to reach our gun posns in that area.

5. PATROLS

Night 28/29 Sep

A patrol of 1 offr and 9 ORs moved from 87552955 to 87382949 to 87332958 and back to 87552955. 4 weapon pits at 87352954 showed some signs of recent use. No enemy were encountered.

A patrol of 2 offr 5 ORs followed route from 87592941 to 87412932 to 87472928 back to 87592941.

While patrol was at 87412932 a recce gp moved to 87402929. No enemy were encountered. Derelict vehs were passed as follow :- Italian truck 87422933; truck with 2 pdr gun 87402930; Mk III tk 87482929.

A salvage party together with a covering party moved from 87632935 to 2 pdr gun and portee at 87572922. The portee was found to be completely wrecked. The 2 pdr gun had a broken axle, but this was wired to main body of gun, and a new wheel was fitted to the gun. The gun was then dragged back to own lines. There was no enemy interference.

6. OWN ARTY

During 28 Sep our arty carried out harassing fire onto targets in areas 871297, 870296, 870295, 870294, 868298, 873292, 874292, 875290, 874290.

During night 28/29 Sep, targets in following areas were harassed:- 870298, 872297, 871297, 871296, 870296.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

There were a number of enemy planes over Bde area during late afternoon. The only hostile action reported was the dropping of 2 bombs in area 881287 by a Me 109. No damage resulted.

*C. T. Pearce*  
Lieut  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No 63

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No.65  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 30 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Shelling increased to 84 shells for the day.

Salvage party during night 29/30 Sep recovered 250 cases of 25 pr  
amm from 87472945.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Section post 87232949.

Section post and possibly pl HQ 87352930.

Occupied posn 87292889.

Daylight patrol confirmed that PW taken by flanking Bde night 28/  
29 Sep was captured in listening post at 87292970.

3. MINEFIELDS

Air photos taken 27 Sep show a suspected single row of mines from  
86902981 running SW to 86852974 and then SE to 86862970 to form an "L".

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Tks Tac R 1215 hrs 29 Sep reported 20 tks at 873292, but this was  
NOT confirmed by arty and inf OPs which have observation over this area.  
The same TacR also reported 200 MET dispersed 873292. The area given  
must be too far NORTH; their position is probably south of MITEIRIYA  
ridge.

MT Tac R 1215 hrs also reported 100 MET dispersed 869298.

Inf Small groups of men on skyline between 87092924 and 87252910;  
8 men at 87242914; truck stopped at 87142919. All these points are  
along a line of wire previously reported.

O P party of 4 men and 1 veh at 87222916 dispersed by our arty.

8 men shaking blankets 87292889 fired on by our arty. A further  
15 men appeared and were dispersed.

5. REAR AREAS

Interpretation of Air Photos taken 27 Sep reveals following:-

In-area bounded by MRs 86133134, 86693104, 86272927, 86132928,  
86102913, 85912911 :-

576 MT.

260 tents

There are a number of tanks and the presence of tank tracks confirms  
this, but no positive identification can be made.

A store dump and tents dispersed over a large area MRs 86122999,  
86222997, 86132969, 86052970.

A suspected store dump at 86223028 with W/P on the eastern  
perimeter for local defence.

2 field hospitals at 86272980 and 86222982.

Another strip flown 27 Sep shows that a Geneva cross has been  
marked on the roof of the railway building at 87083039 and another  
placed on the ground to the N.W. of it.

6. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. Int Report 29 Sep reports :-

"Enemy arty activity has not been on a large scale today. Single  
guns have been mainly active, and apart from a break between 1330 and  
1715 hrs, they have put intermittent harassing fire down on our FDLs  
throughout the day."

In this Bde's area there was a marked increase to 84 shells dur-  
ing the day. The areas shelled were 877294 (37 shells), 875294 (12  
shells), 876293 (6 shells), 876294 (11 shells), 875296 (10 shells),  
876295 (8 shells). Two casualties were caused.

Between 1800 and 1900 hrs enemy arty registered DF tasks on a line  
running NW through 87452935. Most of the shells fell on a line 150 yds  
through that point and a few fell further NW and SE.

Some mortar bombs fell in area 87612945 at 1810 hrs.

7. ENEMY METHODS

Flanking Bde reports:- "In sangar 87523041 previously occupied by us, a blanket and a tin box 6" x 6" were found. As these items were not there when outpost was occupied by our tps it was thought that they may be booby traps".

8. PATROLS

Night 29/30 Sep

A party was sent out to recover amm from area 874294. A covering party of 1 NCO 2 ORs moved out from 87552954 at 2045 hrs and a loading party of 6 ORs with an offr in charge moved out with trucks at 2230 hrs. The amm dump was located at 87472945 and 250 cases of 25 pr amm were recovered.

At 87472944 a dump of Australian clothing and equipment (lost in attack 22 July) was found, and from here 16 respirators and 12 greatcoats and some signal cartridges and groundsheets were recovered. MG fire was heard on brg 275 deg but no enemy were encountered by our party, which returned to own lines at 0210 hrs.

9. OWN ARTY

During day 29 Sep, targets in areas 871297, 871296, 870296, 869295, 871295 were subjected to harassing fire.

During night 29/30 Sep, the targets selected were in areas 873292, 874292, 875290 and 873293.

10. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

1645 hrs - 5 bombers bombed enemy lines fwd of our FDLs.

*DT Payne*  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf. Bde.

Distribution

As for summary No. 64

DUPLICATE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

A.M.R. & O. 1537

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIG A.H.L. GODFREY, DSO, MC, ED

COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

NO 6

IN THE FIELD

3 SEP 42

32. SECURITY

(a) Photography. Despite previous instructions numerous breaches of GHQ MEF GO 1242 of 28 Nov 41 have been reported. All cameras other than those held by official unit photographers should have been withdrawn and returned to the kit store. This will be done under unit arrangements and a certificate rendered to this HQ by 10 Sep 42 that all cameras other than those of unit photographers have been withdrawn from personnel.

(b) Strangers. Units are reminded of the necessity for checking the identity of strangers moving about their areas or asking directions, especially at night. Each area should be carefully watched for strays and too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity for a constant and careful check.

(Ref DRO No. 497)

33. Weapon State

Ref 9 Aust Div RO 503

Units will submit a weekly weapon state as at 2359 hrs each Saturday to reach this HQ by 1200 hrs on Sunday.

All foreign or captured weapons will be shown.

34. PAYBOOKS

Attention is directed to DRO 321

Paybooks will not be collected from individuals under any circumstances, except to obtain a continuation paybook, when the receipt supplied will be carried on the man at all times. The practice adopted in some units of collecting paybooks from tps desiring pay will be discontinued forthwith. (Ref Div RO No. 500)

35. ECONOMY OF FORMS

A considerable saving in message forms can be made by the use of scrap paper, cut to size, in place of AF C2123 for office and spare copies of messages. (Ref Div RO No. 504)

36. MT VEHS - SCREENING OF LIGHTS

Div ROs No 208 and 404 are cancelled.

Units will immediately submit indents through ADOS 9 Aust Div in accordance with Div RO 159 of 10 Mar 42.

(Ref Div RO No. 505)

37. PURCHASES BY AIF FROM EFI

A report has been received from EFI Bulk Issue Store at BURG EL ARAB that AIF units have attempted to purchase beer from that store. NO purchases of any kind will be made by 9 Aust Div units from EFI until authority is given to do so. EFI has received instns to this effect. (Ref Div RO 505)

38. ARMING 69 GRENADES

Force must NOT be used to insert detonators in 69 grenades. Any of these grenades which will not readily accept detonators without force being used will be reboxed and returned to APs, together with a report, a duplicate of which will be sent to Main 9 Aust Div.  
(Ref Div RO No. 506)

*R. S. Sangster* Capt  
S.C. 24 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION :-

As per R.O. No. 3.

NOTICES

LOST

Marked Map EL ALAMEIN sheet 1 : 50,000, mounted in a strong wooden frame approx 2'6" x 2'0".  
Fell from an office truck in convoy at approx 44259032 between 1300 hrs and 1400 hrs 26 Aug 42.  
The loss is serious and until it is found and returned to Main HQ 9 Aust Div, security may be imperilled.

LOST

Haversack containing messing and toilet articles in area West of Main HQ 9 Aust Div.  
Finder please return to DAQMG, 9 Aust Div.

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIG A. H. L. GODFREY, DS, MC, ED.COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 7

IN THE FIELD

8 SEP 43.

39. GROUND TO GROUND RECOGNITION SIGNALS - MT

Our MT carry blue flags for use as recognition signals when challenged. If challenged, MT show a blue flag held either horizontally or vertically as notified from time to time.

The flags will not be flown except when answering or anticipating a challenge.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 516)

40. ORDNANCE PROCEDURE

(a) Cases have been reported of units going direct to Ordnance Depots at ALEXANDRIA for ordnance stores without authority from ADOS and without approved indents. This practice will cease.

(b) Normally ADOS will arrange collection of stores from depots but in special cases he may authorize units to draw direct. On such occasions indents approved by ADOS will be required.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 518)

41. SALVAGE

(a) AIF units will NOT remove any items of salvage or eqpt from either the corps salvage dump EL RANMAM or the army salvage dump BURG EL ARAB. Units will not send tpt to these dumps unless directed to do so by Div HQ.

(b) Empty food tins will not be returned to salvage dumps. These will be disposed of, by burning and burying if practicable, or burying only.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 520)

42. WITHDRAWAL OF JERRICANS

(a) All jerricans are to be withdrawn from units and sent to BAHIG pet depot, for reissue on priority laid down by GOC Eight Army.

(b) All units of 9 Aust Div will take immediate action to return jerricans to PPs. AASC will arrange delivery to BAHIG from PPs.

(c) Certificates, signed by COs and OSC of all units, stating that no jerricans are held by the unit, will be forwarded through normal channels to reach this HQ by 12 Sep. As HQ 9 Aust Div has to send a certificate to higher authority, based on units' certificates, accuracy and punctuality is essential.

(d) AASC 9 Aust Div will render a certificate that all jerricans received from units or held by HQ AASC, AASC Coys and 101 Aust Gen Tps Coy have been delivered to BAHIG Pet Depot. A receipt for all jerricans returned will be obtained from BAHIG, and held by HQ AASC.

(e) Should any unit acquire, by any means, any further jerricans, these will be returned to BAHIG through the channels set out above.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 521)

43. C.O.'s AWARDS - SEPERATE OFFENCES

(a) Where at the time of holding an orderly room a C.O. deals with two or more offences committed by the one soldier, he must impose a punishment in respect of all the offences together, which is not in excess of his powers as laid down in AMR & O 418.

(b) All charges pending against a soldier must be heard at the one orderly room and the award must be as laid down in para (a) of this order.

(c) The practice of dealing with two offences on two separate days in order to increase the power of the C.O. will therefore cease forthwith.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 522)



44. AMMUNITION RETURNS

Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 491 dated 21 Aug 42.

This return will now be submitted as at 2359 hrs 12 Sep 42 to reach this HQ by 1600 hrs 13 SEP 42.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 523)

*[Signature]* Capt.  
S.O. 24 AUST INF BDE.

DISTRIBUTION

As per R.O. No 3.

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIG A.H.L. GODFREY, DSO, MC, ED.

COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 8

IN THE FIELD

11 SEP 42.

45. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following punishments imposed by Courts Martial recently held in this area are published for information :-

1. A private soldier convicted of stealing property belonging to a person subject to military law (£S35) was sentenced to 120 days detention.
2. A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged with ignominy.
3. A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged.
4. A lieutenant convicted of striking a soldier and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (using obscene language to the soldier) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to the loss of 12 months seniority.
5. A private soldier convicted of one charge of desertion and two of AWL was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for 18 months and to be discharged.
6. A private soldier convicted of three charges of AWL was sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour.
7. A Staff Sergeant convicted of neglect to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (negligently leaving a military vehicle unattended in ALEXANDRIA) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to forfeit 28 days pay.
8. A private soldier convicted of failing to appear at a place of Parade and disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 90 days Field Punishment with forfeiture of pay for that period.

(To be repeated in Unit Orders) (Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 524)

46. RESTRICTIONS UPON MOVEMENT OUT OF ARMY AREA

All ranks are forbidden to proceed on or EAST of the CAIRO-ALEXANDRIA Road unless in possession of a duty pass issued by their unit.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 527)

47. EIGHT ARMY ROUTINE ORDERS Nos 218 and 359 of 1942 ARE REPUBLISHED FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE

Motor Vehicles - Discipline - Control of. A.R.O. 218/42.

(a) No army MT Vehicles may leave the Army Area unless on duty and with a written authority signed by a Staff Officer of a Formation not below Bde.

This authority will be made out in the following form :-

#..... is/are authorised to proceed out of the Eighth Army Area, on duty, in Motor Vehicle No .....

Period of Absence .....  
(Office stamp of Formation  
etc., with date).

.....  
Signature of Staff Officer

# To give names of all individuals in the vehicles.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 528)

*War Diary*

48. BLOOD GROUPING - ENTRIES IN PAYBOOKS AND ON IDENTITY DISCS

Units will arrange for all paybooks and identity discs to be examined without delay to ascertain that the blood group number of each man appears inside the back cover of the paybook and on the reverse side of the identity disc.

Nominal rolls of personnel whose blood groups are not known will be forwarded to reach this HQ by 1000 hrs 16 Sep 42. Action will then be taken to ascertain the blood groups and to inform units.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 529)

49. FD AMB VEHICLES - PASSING ON RDS

All MT drs will be instructed to "make-way" for motor ambcs at all times. It should be explained to drs that the ambcs may be carrying wounded men who should be carried without delay and with the least possible discomfort to the next medical installation.

Vehicles meeting an amb on a narrow rd should be driven well over to the side of the road and if necessary should be driven off the rd and stopped until the amb has passed.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 530)

50. DISCIPLINE

1. The undermentioned sentences by courts martial are published for information :-

(i) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer (A.A. Sec 9 (2)), was sentenced to 60 days' field punishment and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 60 days.

(ii) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of obtaining rations by false pretences contrary to Section 32 (1) of the Larceny Act 1916 (A.A. Sec 41) and of an offence of fraudulently misapplying rations, public property (A.A. Sec 18(4)), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for 23 months.

2. To be repeated in Unit Routine Orders.

(Ref A.I.F. Orders No 1246)

 Capt.  
S.C. 24 AUST INF BDE.

DISTRIBUTION

2/28 Bn  
2/32 Bn  
2/43 Bn  
2/3 Pnr Bn  
I Sec Sigs  
2 Pl Gd Bn  
76 L.A.D.  
Rear Bde H.Q.  
Comd  
Notice Board  
File (2)  
War Diary (2)

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIG A.N.L. GODFREY, DSO, MC, ED.COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 10

IN THE FIELD

18 SEP 42

54. LOSS OF DENTURES

(a) Too many dentures have been lost in the past three months. Dental Officers working under field conditions are unable to supply large numbers of dentures and preference will be given to personnel not previously supplied.

(b) In many cases dentures have been lost while swimming. This will not be accepted as an excuse for free replacement.

(c) Unit Comds will be thoroughly satisfied that no negligence has occurred before recommending that dentures be replaced at public expense.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 538)

55. OIL AND WATER COOKING

Replacement parts for Hydra burners are almost unobtainable. To prolong the life of burners it is essential that the maximum number of units and sub-units should employ oil and water cooking, for which the use of AGO is approved.

Excellent results can be obtained by the use of improvised oil and water cookers. These cookers will be constructed at once by all units and dets whose position in relation to the enemy does not make their use impracticable. Any unit which does not know how to make or operate oil and water cookers will contact "Q" Main 9 Aust Div.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 539)

56. DISCIPLINE

(a) The C-in-C has noted that when driving in a car his flag is not being saluted.

(b) All Unit Commanders will warn their men that cars flying the authorised flags on the bonnet must be saluted.

(c) The flags flown by various Commanders are laid down in Middle East G.O. 495 of 42, as amended by G.O. 757 of 42, and must be made known to all ranks.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 541.)

57. AMM HOLDINGS

(a) Examination of half yearly amm returns reveals that some units are in possession of as much as 3½ times authorized entitlements while the holdings of some are dangerously low.

(b) Immediate steps will be taken by all units to adjust holdings to the correct figures, based on W E or the number of weapons held, whichever is the greater, plus reserves authorized by 24 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instrn No 5 of 21 Aug 42. For Boyes Rifles, the amm entitlement will be based on the number of Rifles actually held.

(c) Surplus amm will be returned to APs by units and a certificate to the effect that amm holdings are in accordance with para (b) above will be rendered to reach Bde HQ by 1000 hrs 23 Sep 42. Loose rds and opened boxes will be retained by units, ONLY sealed boxes being returned to APs.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 542)

58. TPT WITH BATHING PARTIES

When MT is used to carry bathing parties, one man will be detailed to disperse each veh and remain with it while personnel are swimming. 150 yds dispersion will be maintained approaching, while at and leaving beaches.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 543)

*[Handwritten Signature]* Capt.  
S.O. 24 AUST INF BDE.

Distribution

As per R.O. No 3

NOTICES

FOUND In area 42969022 - small silver watch. "Imperial" branded on  
face. The above watch is held at REAR HQ 9 AUST DIV.

ROUTINE ORDERSBYBRIG A.H.L. GODFREY, DSO, MC, ED.COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 11

IN THE FIELD

19 SEP 42

59. TELEGRAPH LINES

Telegraph poles, insulators and telephone lines whether in use or not, will on no account be removed or converted to uses other than those for which they were designed. This order will be repeated in unit orders and all ranks impressed with the necessity for maintaining signal equipment intact at all times.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 544)

60. PAYBOOKS - LOSS OF

(a) Attention is directed to AIF (ME) Orders 503 and 876 and in particular to para (b) of 503 which states :-

"Cases of loss occasioned by the negligence or carelessness of the soldier are to be severely dealt with as breaches of military discipline."

(b) Information received indicates that thieving of paybooks by pickpockets in CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA is still prevalent.

(c) All ranks will be reminded that every soldier is responsible for the safe custody of his paybook, and that AIF (ME) Order 503 (b) will be enforced in every case of loss of paybook.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 550)

*A. H. L. Godfrey* Capt.  
S.C. 24 AUST INF BDE.

Distribution

As per R.O. No 8

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIG A. H. L. GODFREY DSO, MC, EDCOMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 12

IN THE FIELD

29 SEP 42

61. WASTE OF PAPER

(a) The shortage of paper has become very serious and every endeavour must be adopted to eliminate waste.

(b) The following are some methods by which economy can be exercised.

- i. Avoid wide margin.
- ii. "Close up" headings and space for signature.
- iii. Selection of the smallest size of paper for each letter etc.
- iv. Use both sides of duplicating paper.
- v. Use of old drafts and out of date correspondence for scribblers etc.
- vi. Omission of double spacing between paragraphs.

(c) The attention of all clerks will be directed to this matter which must receive constant supervision.

(9 Aust Div R.O. No 560)

62. COURTS MARTIAL- RECORDS OF SERVICE

9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 88 is amended by adding after Para 9, the following para :-

"9A. Immediately after remanding an accused person for trial by Court Martial, the unit will signal 2nd Echelon AIF (ME) in the following form :

"Forward urgently statement of service

No..... Rank..... Units..... Name.....

This record will accompany the application for Court Martial if received in time. Otherwise, it will be forwarded to the confirming authority with the completed proceedings when forwarded for confirmation.

Nothing in this para effects the provisions of para 9 hereof.

(Ref 9 AustDiv R.O. No 562)

63. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS - ALEXANDRIA

The following Orders are in force in ALEXANDRIA.

(1) CAR PARKS

The official military Car Parks now in ALEXANDRIA are :-

i. Military Car Park. (Accommodation 600 vehicles)

This is situated 700 yds WEST of the Cecil Hotel on the CORNICHE overlooking the EASTERN HARBOUR, and can be approached after dark from the SHARI SAID EL AUWAL. This Park is wired in, has a guard and also a small NAAFI for drivers.

ii. Kom el Dik. (Accommodation 120 vehicles)

To be used only when the Military Car Park is full.

(2) UNATTENDED VEHICLES

No military vehicles will be left unattended in ALEXANDRIA, except at one or other of the official military car parks, and then only if immobilised. Arms must not be left in vehicles in either of these car parks. 173 vehicles were stolen in ALEXANDRIA during the month of July alone.

(3) AIR RAIDS

Owing to improvement the noise of traffic no longer interferes with A/A instruments. In future military vehicles which are on duty may continue to circulate during air raid alerts and need not stop. A Military Arrete is being published by the Governate to this effect.

(4) PROHIBITED ROADS

For operational reasons the CORNICHE (sea front road running whole length of ALEXANDRIA approx 11 miles ) is out of bounds to ALL vehicle traffic between the hours of 2000 and dawn. C.Os. are responsible for the promulgation of this to all officers and O.Rs in their units.

(5) LIGHTS

Lights of all vehicles will be screened as laid down in Middle East G.O. 221 of 42 (see D.R.Os 159,203, and 404 of 42.)

(6) SPEEDING

There is a speed limit of 20 mph throughout ALEXANDRIA.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 564)

64. INJURIES - ACCIDENTAL

(a) Attention is directed to A.R.O. 381 of 42, which is republished :

"381 INJURIES - ACCIDENTAL

(a) The number of accidental injuries , causing absence from duty , has reached serious proportions. In the case of British Troops it gives rise to 20% of the admissions to hospital, and it is the greatest single cause of admission in the Army as a whole.

(b) The main causes of these accidental injuries are :-

- i. Improper use of petrol.
- ii. Unauthorised interference with enemy ammunition and explosives, etc.

Frequent orders have been issued in regard to each of the above causes , and it is clear that these Orders are not being enforced by all Commanding Officers.

(c) Immediate steps will be taken by all Comds to stop this useless waste of manpower . The attention of all ranks will be drawn to the matter .

(d) Numerous accidents are being caused by the use of petrol in Stoves, Oil, Wickless (Primus Stoves). Paraffin is the authorised fuel for these stoves and they are not constructed for use with petrol. The use of petrol in these stoves is forbidden.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 565)

*R. Angelus* Capt.  
S.C. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

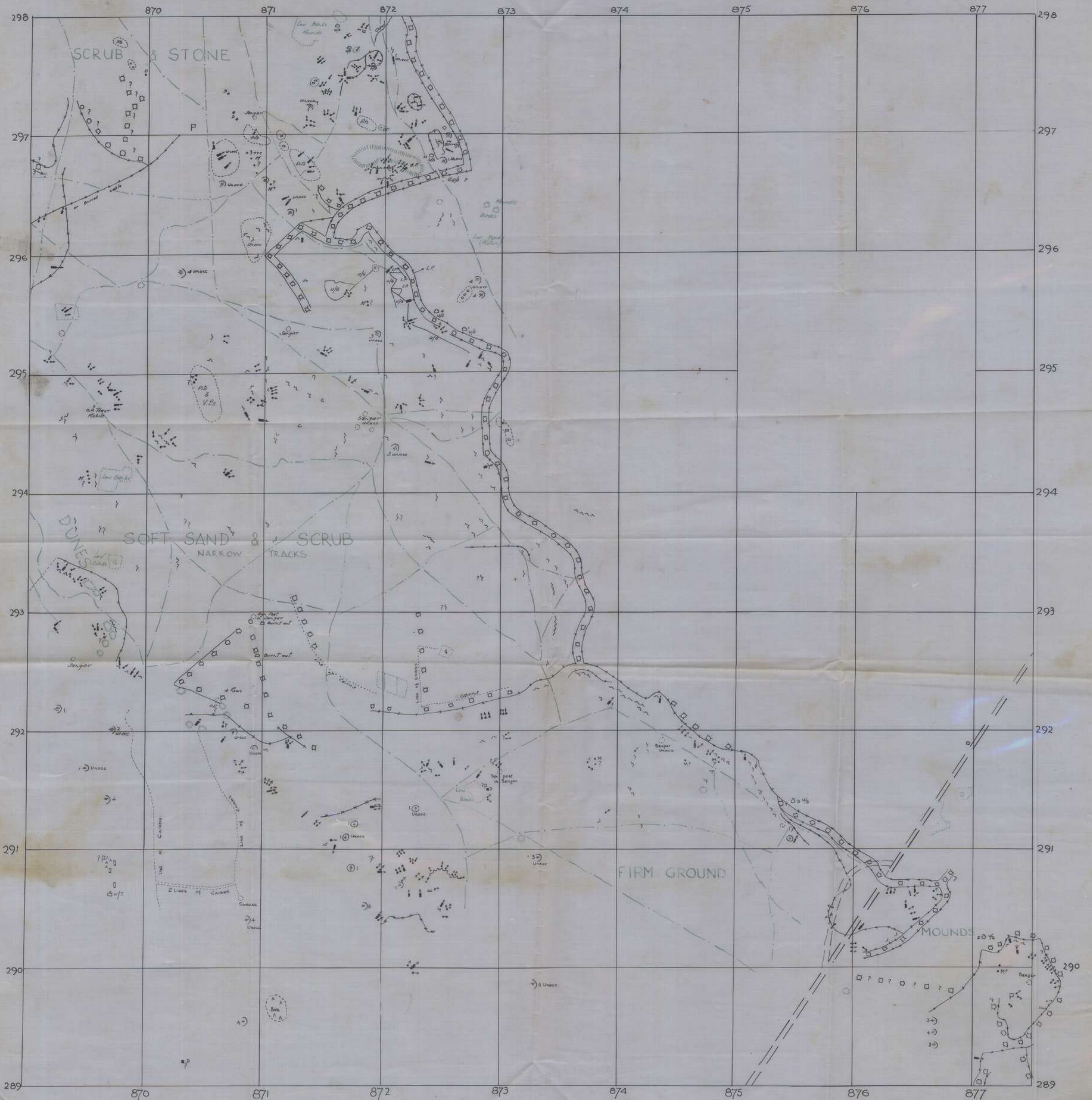
AS per R.O. No 11.

NOTICE :- Jewish Divine Service will be held at Rear HQ 9 Aust Div Court Martial Room, 1000 hrs Saturday 3 Oct 42. on the occasion of the Feast of Tabernacles.



# ENEMY DISPOSNS

Compiled From Air Photographs Taken 31 Aug '42



H. G. 28. AMT. INF. S.P.E.

File 4 copies sent (1 to each bn)

Date 2 SEP, 1942

Time 1409 hrs

1409/2 Sep

Appx "B"  
3

# Special Order of the Day

by

**General Sir Claude J. E. Auchinleck, G.C.I.E., C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., O.B.E.,  
Commander-in-Chief, The Middle East Forces.**

*The following message has been received from  
His Highness, the Duke of Gloucester:—*

THE PALACE,  
KHARTOUM.  
3rd August, 1942.

At the close of my long and extensive visit to the Middle East, I wish to tell you and all ranks under your command how pleased I have been with all I have seen.

The size, distances and varying conditions in the Middle East made my tour intensely interesting and I was most impressed with the cheerfulness, efficiency and physical fitness of all the numerous formations that I have visited.

Since I saw the Eighth Army in April and May they have been fighting a long and ceaseless battle in most trying conditions and with the utmost endurance and gallantry.

I was therefore particularly glad to have the opportunity of again visiting some of the formations during my short visit to the Western Desert on July 19th, and I was greatly inspired by their excellent morale and eager confidence in the outcome of the battles that face them.

I wish you all the best of luck.

*General Sir Claude Auchinleck, G.C.I.E., D.S.O., O.B.E.,  
Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.*

*C. Auchinleck*  
General

Brig.	
B. M.	
B. M. (L).	K&C
S. C.	
S. C. (L).	
L. O. (1).	
L. O. (2).	
L. O. (3).	
I. O.	<del>                    </del>
T. O.	
Am. O.	
B. C. O.	

Special Order of the Day

The first of the day was spent in the field. The weather was very hot and the ground was very dry. The men were very tired and the horses were very hot. The day was very long and the men were very tired. The horses were very hot and the men were very tired. The day was very long and the men were very tired.

*[Faint handwritten signature]*

N. G. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

File 25 Copies Need

Date - 2 SEP. 1942

Time 0900h

(Copies to units) APP "#"  
"0"  
"4"

Rear HQ 9 Aust Div.  
Ref: A110/1/726  
1 Sep '42.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

1. H.M. the KING has directed that Thursday 3 Sep '42 shall be a National Day of Prayer.
2. Formations and units will as far as local conditions permit, arrange for short services to be held at some convenient time during the day.
3. The need for dispersion makes it impossible for Chaplains to officiate at the number of separate Services which it will be necessary to hold and for this reason a short form of service for Protestant personnel has been prepared and is attached as an appendix to this circular. It is written in a form which is suitable for pl and Soc Comds to read to small bodies of men, or for larger parades where possible.
4. R.C. Chaplains are arranging services for R.C. personnel.

*Robert Lullach Day* Col.  
A.A. & Q.M.G., 9 Aust Div.

Distribution:

List 'C'

Brig.	<i>pl.</i>
B. M.	<i>by</i>
B. M. (L).	<i>1000</i>
S. C.	<i>1000</i>
S. C. (L).	
L. O. (1).	
L. O. (2).	
L. O. (3).	
I. O.	
T. O.	
Ant. O.	
B. S. O.	

*to arrange Bde HQ parade. If no Chaplain available, SC to officiate. All ranks to be advised of time of parade.*

*A.B.  
0830 hrs Sunday 14/9  
CSM advised.*

A SHORT SERVICE FOR SMALL GROUPS OF SOLDIERS

LESSON  
Joshua (i) 8

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:  
for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Let us pray for the Royal Family:

Almighty God, we humbly beseech thee to bless our most gracious  
Sovereign Lord, King George, our gracious Queen Elizabeth, Mary the Queen Mother,  
the Princess Elizabeth, and all the Royal Family: Endue them with thy holy spirit;  
enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring  
them to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen.

Let us pray for our King and Country and our Allies:

O Lord God Almighty, guide, we pray thee, our King and all those to  
whom thou hast committed the government of our Nation and Empire, and the Leaders  
of our Forces and to those to whom has been committed the government of the nations  
of our Allies; Grant them at this time special gifts of wisdom and understanding,  
of counsel and strength; that upholding what is right; and following what is true  
they may obey thy holy will, and fulfil thy divine purpose; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord - Amen.

Let us pray for our comrades:

O God, the Protector of all that trust in thee, we commend to thy  
fatherly goodness our comrades who are serving on land at sea, or in the air;  
beseeching thee to take into thine own hand both them and the cause wheroin their  
King and Country send them. Help each of us to play the man, to show mercy in  
victory and patience in reverses. Make us strong in the faith that thou wilt  
defend the right; and restore to all mankind the blessings of true brotherhood and  
peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen.

The Lord's Prayer to be said together:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom  
come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily  
bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the  
Kingdom, the Power and the glory; For ever and ever - Amen.

Leader. The Lord bless us and keep us and all whom we love in the grace of Jesus  
Christ, by the power of the Holy Ghost, now and for ever - Amen.

---

App "4" 5

Recd 5 Sep 42

---

---

# THE KING'S MESSAGE TO THE EIGHTH ARMY

---

I pray that God may bless the Desert Army in the important battle which has now begun, from which great results may flow to the cause of the United Nations in every part of the world. I have the utmost confidence in the troops from all parts of my Empire and in their Commanders.

All my thoughts are with you.

**GEORGE R.I.**

---

---

Prq.	
B.M.L.	
B.M.L.	
S.C.	
S.C.L.	
L.O.I	
L.O.II	
L.O.III	
I.O.	
T.O.	
A.O.	

51/517  
 - 5 SEP. 1942  
 1550 hrs

Recd 1525

*Sealed*

SECRET

Ref. No 773

5 Sep 42

Appx 6

NOTES ON CONFERENCE OF COs AT 0930 hrs 5 SEP 42

Ref Maps EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000 " " " .22  
 EL DABA - EL ALAMEIN }  
 EL HAIRIAN " } 1/100,000 .212

INFORMATION

1. Enemy dispositions and recent moves were pointed out on map.
2. 26 Aust Inf Bde with 2/12 Aust Fd Regt, 12 Aust A.Tk Bty and 11 Aust Lt AA Bty, at present holding Area "A", may move from Area "A".
3. In event of 2, a Bde Gp (less one Bn and one Fd Bty) from either 20 Bde and 2/7 Fd Regt or 24 Bde and 2/8 Fd Regt may be withdrawn from EL ALAMEIN area to defend area "A".  
 2/2 MGs and 10 Aust A.Tk Bty may be given task of forming a defensive screen along grid 289 and 899 Northing between Area "A" and EL ALAMEIN.

OBJECT OF CONFERENCE

4. To consider possible re-distribution and roles of Arty.

CRA's INSTRUCTIONS

5. RAA 9 Aust Div (less Tps under command 26 Aust Inf Bde) will continue preparations for alternative tasks in defence of the Div Sector.
6. A.TK REGT. (a) Recce with CO 2/2 Inf Bn to cover gap between EL ALAMEIN and area "A" roughly along line of 289 and 899 Northing grid  
 (i) with Div Cav North of this line and in sp  
 (ii) without Div Cav but with minimum inf. instead.  
 (b) Continue to recce and prepare with 24 Aust Inf Bde posn to defend EASTERN sector of EL ALAMEIN defences from telegraph line to sea with Res Bty plus whatever A.Tk resources 24 Bde is prepared to make available.  
 (c) Recce and prepare with 24 Bde A.Tk defence of posns of ALAMEIN gas bn on Ridge while defending present FDLs.  
 (d) Recce and prepare gun posns for employment of Res Bty in sp of 20 Aust Inf Bde or of 24 Aust Inf Bde or of both in present posns.

FD REGTS

- 2/8 (a) Continue to recce Gun Areas and OPs to cover EASTERN Sector of EL ALAMEIN defences in addition to WESTERN on assumption of one Fd Regt plus one Fd Bty available plus, in 3 SA Bde area, twelve or sixteen SA Fd guns.

Tasks in the event of occupation:-

To sp defence of WESTERN FDLs and at the same time

/.....





*Copy*

Appx "D" 7  
"E"

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO: 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn, 2/43 Bn, 2/3 Pnr Bn, K Sec Sigs,  
76 LAD, Pro Sec, Rear Bde, HQ Gd Pl

FROM: 24 Aust Inf Bde I 366 6

following message from army comd for promulgation to all ranks begins (.) the battle of ALAMEIN has now lasted six days and the enemy has slowly but surely been driven from eighth army area (.) tonight 5 Sep his rear gds are being driven west through the minefds area nowthrough HIMEIMAT (.) all formations and units both armd and unarmoured have contributed towards this striking victory and have been magnificently supported by the RAF (.) I congratulate all ranks of eighth army on devotion to duty and good fighting qualities which have resulted in such a by defeat of the enemy and which will have far reaching results (.) I have sent a message to the AOC western desert expressing our thanks to the RAF for their splendid sp (.) all informed

*W. S. Milner  
Capt*

TOO 1130 1315

Appx "H" 8

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO: 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn, 2/43 Bn, 2/3 Pnr Bn, K Sec Sigs,  
rptd 2/8 Fd Regt, 11 Bty 3A Tk Regt, 2/3 Fd Coy,  
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn, 2/8 Fd Amb, 75 LAD, 20 Aust Inf Bde,  
3 S.A. Bde, 9 Aust Div.

FROM: 24 Aust Inf Bde 0 162 7

warning order (.) 2/28 bn and 2/32 bn will relieve 2/43 bn  
and A Coy 2/3 pnr bn darkness 8/9 Sep (.) adv ptys report  
7/8 sep (.) right 2/32 bn to excl QATTARA RD and incl  
STRONGPOINT 2 (.) left 2/28 bn incl QATTARA RD to excl  
POST 10 (.) rear 2/3 pnr bn POSTS 1 - 10 incl (.) 2/43 bn  
to res and will take over present locality and task 2/32 bn  
(.) no withdrawal of arms (.) review fireplans immediately  
(.) traffic control - routes through mined gaps J K L  
to 2/43 bn and 2/32 bn N P to 2/28 bn 2/3 pnr bn (.)

ack. all informed  
if liable to be  
intercepted or  
fall into enemy  
hands this message  
must be sent IN  
CIPHER

TOO 1115

IMMEDIATE  
to underlined

RECIPIENTS OF DECORATIONS TO BE PRESENTED on 7 SEP 42.

HQ 24 AUST INF BDE PERSONNEL

D.S.O.

Lt.-Col D.A. WHITEHEAD, M.C.  
Maj. D.R. JACKSON

2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

M.C.

X SX 9364 Capt M.R. JEANES  
SX 9822 Capt J.D. GORDON

2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn

D.C.M.

QX 3026 Cpl LEESON H.T.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn

M.M.

X SX 6339 Sgt SHEPARDSON E.W.  
NX 11889 Sgt GARNSEY K.A.  
X SX 10558 L/Cpl MADDOCKS J.G.S.  
SX 6162 L/Cpl WRIGHT A.S.  
SX 6842 Pte FRANKLIN D.  
SX 5282 Pte DEAN H.J.  
VX 45046 Pte HYNES D.T.  
WX 12098 Pte LANGFORD T.

2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/43 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn  
2/32 Aust Inf Bn

X Not with unit

App "G" 10

SECRET  
Copy No 24

8 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 12.

Ref map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

No change from verbal orders.

INFM

1. Enemy. Bde Intelligence Summary No. 43 issued herewith.
2. Own Tps.
  - (a) Relief of 24 Aust Inf Bde by 26 Aust Inf Bde will not take place.
  - (b) 7 Med Regt RA has returned to sp 9 Aust Div. 2/12 Fd Regt returned to sp fwd bdes 7/8 Sep, of which two btys to be superimposed on SOS tasks.

INTENTION

3. 24 Aust Inf Bde will carry out interunit relief on night 8/9 Sep 42.

METHOD

4. 2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn will be relieved in FDLs by -
 

Right	-	2/32 Bn
Left	-	2/28 Bn
5. 2/43 Bn will move to res and take over present locality and tasks 2/32 Bn (Bde O.O. No. 10 para 12).
6. 2/3 Pnr Bn will reoccupy and hold western perimeter ALAMEIN defended locality from coast to incl post 10.
7. Inter-bn Boundary

Between 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn	-	QATTARA Rd incl to 2/28 Bn
" 2/28 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn	-	minefd 88152975 - 88102949 excl to 2/28 Bn.
8. Strongpoint No. 2. will be manned by 2/32 Bn.
9. Time of relief. Units will exchange adv ptys 7/8 Sep and reliefs will be arranged mutually to take place during darkness 8/9 Sep. Rear ptys may be left if required.
10. Fire plan. No withdrawal of sp arms. Fire plans will be revised immediately.
11. Patrols
  - (a) Patrolling during relief will be responsibility of 2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn.
  - (b) Patrol policy is unchanged. In view of enemy's development of warning system and AP minefds, until further notice patrols will be planned to ambush, capture or destroy enemy's listening posts and patrols, rather than to raid into his FDLs.  
Ground fwd of his FDLs will remain in our control.

ADM

12. Amm

- (a) WE scale will be taken by each unit.
- (b) AP unchanged.

13. Sup

} unchanged.

POL

Water

14. Fortress Res

- (a) 2/28 Bn will take over all res now held by 2/32 Bn and draw 2 days res from Bde Res on 8 Sep.
- (b) 2/32 Bn will take over all res now held by 2/43 Bn.
- (c) Res for 2/43 Bn will be held in Div Res.
- (d) No change 2/3 Pnr Bn.
- (e) Receipts will be given and copies fwded this HQ by 1800 hrs 10 Sep.

15. B Echis

Unit B Echis remain present posns.

16. Traffic Control

- (a) Minefd gaps J K L and Main Rd will be used by 2/43 Bn, 2/32 Bn and if desired, by HQ 2/28 Bn.
- (b) Minefd gaps N and F by 2/28 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn.

INTERCOMN

17. Codewords for progress of relief to be sent to this HQ -

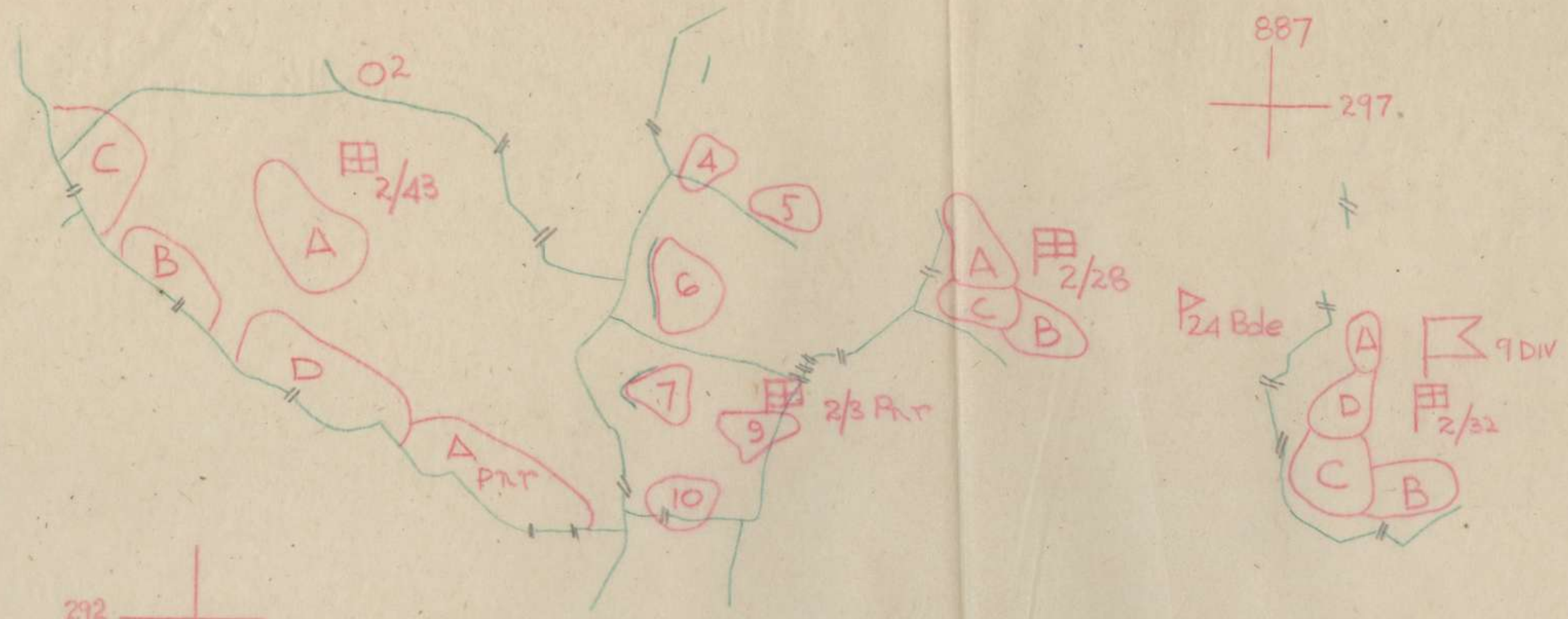
- HUNG - completion relief 2/32 Bn - 2/43 Bn.
- DRAWN - " " 2/28 Bn - 2/3 Pnr Bn.
- QUARTERED - arrival 2/43 Bn in res locality.

18. Normal wireless activity during relief.

Ack

Issued through Sigs in confirmation of verbal orders to Bn Comds 1930 hrs 6 Sep. *John* Maj. B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.  
 Time of signature 21200 hrs

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>		<u>Copy No.</u>
2/28 Bn	1	9 Aust Div	13-14
2/32 Bn	2	20 Aust Inf Bde	15
2/43 Bn	3	26 Aust Inf Bde	16
2/3 Pnr Bn	4	3 S.A. Bde	17
K SecSigs	5		
76 LAD	6	Comd	18
		B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde	19
		S.C.	20
2/8 Fd Regt	7	I.O.	21
11 Bty 3A Tk Regt	8	T.O.	22
12 Bty 4 Lt AA Regt	9		23
2/6 Fd Coy	10	War Diary	24-25
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	11		
2/8 Fd Amb	12		

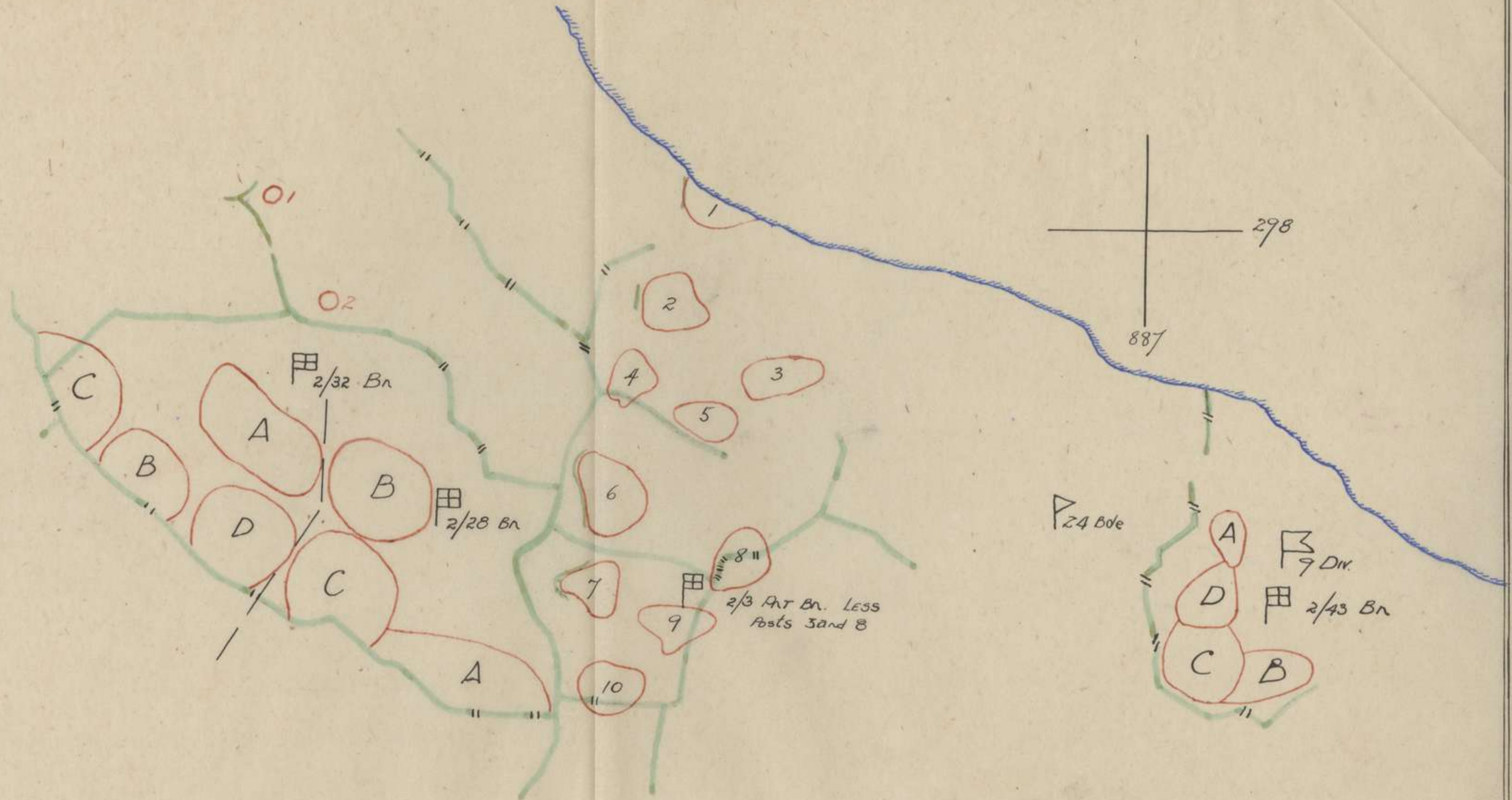
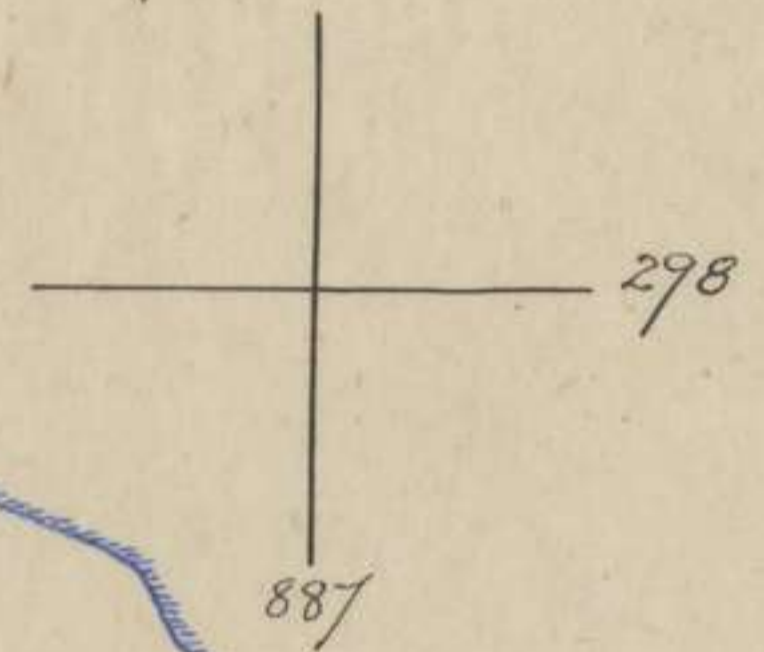
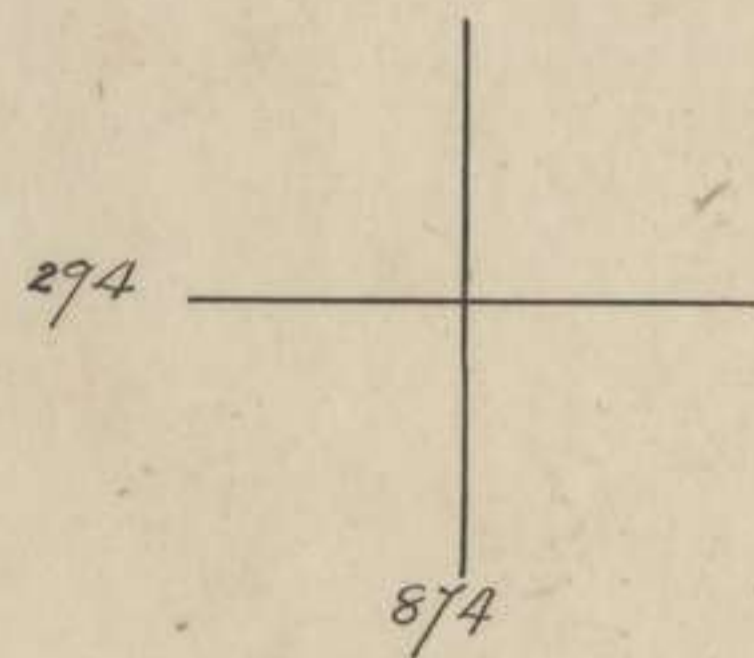


292  
 877

887  
 297

24 Aust Inf Bde Dispositions as at 8 Sep '42  
Superimpose on EL ALAMEIN sheet 1/50000

24 Aust Inf Bde Disposns as at 1800 hrs 9 Sep '42  
Superimpose on EL ALAMEIN sheet 1/50,000



W/...

24 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN No 6

GENERAL

1. Paras 2 (a), 2 (b) and 3 of 24 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN No 5 are cancelled.
2. Res of rations and water will now be held and disposed of in accordance with the succeeding paras of this Instn.

SCALE OF RES

3. RATIONS

3 days held under Div control in dumps at 88802945.

4. WATER

Sufficient res water is held in cisterns at ALAMEIN STA and no res will be held other than that which can be held in containers normally in possession of units.

5. POL

100 miles carried in all vehs.

6. AMN

As already held by units with the exception of 2/8 Fd Regt who will be notified by HQ RAA 9 Aust Div of holdings.

CENTRALIZATION OF 3 DAY RES

7. RATIONS

(a) All units will retain 2 day's ration, less biscuits based on ration strength on 15 SEP 42.

(b) All res rations in excess of 2 days plus the biscuits of the 2 days rations being retained, will be delivered by units to Div dump at 88802945 on 16 SEP 42 as follows :-

(i)	Bde H.Q.	)	1300 hrs
(ii)	Bde Res	)	
(iii)	2/28 Bn	)	1430 hrs
(iv)	2/32 Bn	)	
(v)	2/3 Pnr Bn	)	1530 hrs
(vi)	2/8 Fd Regt	)	
(vii)	11 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	)	1630 hrs
(viii)	12 Bty 4 Lt A A Regt	)	
(ix)	2/3 Fd Coy	)	1730 hrs
(x)	C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	)	

To facilitate the quick returning of res, units will ensure that the above times are adhered to.

(c) AASC 9 AUST DIV will be providing personnel to assist in checking and receiving rations.

(d) Res rations from each unit will be checked into the dump by reps of the unit concerned, Bde HQ and AASC on behalf of Div HQ. Any shortages between rations received and rations originally issued, after those mentioned in para 7 (a) above have been deducted, will be recorded. Issue and receipt vouchers signed by the abovementioned three reps will be completed and a copy retained by each rep.

8. Either a debit will be raised against units to cover the cost of rations previously issued and not returned, or such units will be short issued over a brief period until the deficiencies are made good.

Decision on this matter will be promulgated when the extent of shortages is known by 9 AUST DIV.



DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RES

9. RATIONS

(a) The two days rations retained by units will be consumed on 17 and 20 SEP. As the biscuits of these 2 days will have been returned, vide para 7 (b) above, bread will be drawn in lieu from Sup pt at the normal time. NO rations other than bread will be issued on 16 and 19 SEP.

(b) Units which do NOT at present hold 2 days res rations will draw on res rations scale from Div dump at 88802945, under arrangements to be notified.

10. WATER

(a) All 2 gall water containers issued as per Appx "B" to 24 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN No 5 will be delivered to Div Dump when EMPTY.

(b) Return of all the above mentioned containers must be completed by 21 SEP 42.

 Capt.  
S.C. 24 AUST INF BDE.

Distribution

2/28 Bn  
2/32 Bn  
2/43 Bn  
2/3 Pnr Bn  
K Sec S,gs  
2 Pl 2/1/Aust HQ Gd Bn  
76 L.A D  
2/8 Fd Regt  
11 Bty 3 A Tk Regt  
12 Bty 4 Lt A.A. Regt  
2/3 Fd Coy  
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn  
9 Aust Div  
Comd  
S.C.  
Bde AASC Offr  
C.Q.M.S.  
File (2)  
War Diary (2)

Brig ✓  
 E.M.V. ✓  
 B.M.L. ✓  
 S.C. ✓  
 S.C.L. ✓  
 L.O.I ✓  
 L.O.II ✓  
 L.O.III ✓  
 I.G. ✓  
 T.O. ✓  
 A.O. ✓

*Sec*  
*14/3*  
*[Signature]*

H.Q. 74 INF BDE.

*51/539*

*Appx 14*

File *14 Sep 42*

G731/50/6

*0820 hrs*

SECRET

13 Sep 42

9 AUST DIV GENERAL STAFF INSTN No 74

Affiliation 51 Highland Div.

1. 51 Highland Div has been affiliated with 9 Aust Div, the object being to assist 51 Highland Div in gaining desert and battle experience as rapidly as possible.

2. The Div Comd desires that every opportunity be granted to units of 51 Highland Div to gain such experience. To facilitate arrangements, affiliation has been continued down to units in accordance with the table given below and approval is granted for arrangements between units to be made through the bdes concerned or between affiliated units direct.

HQ 9 Aust Div

HQ 51 Highland Div

20 Aust Inf Bde

152 Bde

2/13 Aust Inf Bn -  
 2/15 Aust Inf Bn -  
 2/17 Aust Inf Bn -

2 Seaforth.  
 5 Seaforth  
 5 Camerons

24 Aust Inf Bde

153 Bde

2/28 Aust Inf Bn -  
 2/32 Aust Inf Bn -  
 2/43 Aust Inf Bn -

5 Black Watch  
 1 Gordons  
 5/7 Gordons

26 Aust Inf Bde

154 Bde

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

1 Black Watch  
 7 Black Watch  
 7 A & SH

9 Aust Div Cav Regt -

51 Highland Recce Regt

RAA 9 Aust Div

RA 51 Highland Div

2/7 Aust Fd Regt -  
 2/8 Aust Fd Regt -  
 2/12 Aust Fd Regt -

128 Fd Regt  
 127 Fd Regt  
 126 Fd Regt

RAE 9 Aust Div

RE 51 Highland Div

2/3 Aust Fd Coy -  
 2/7 Aust Fd Coy -  
 2/13 Aust Fd Coy -

274 Fd Coy  
 275 Fd Coy  
 276 Fd Coy

2/2 Aust MG Bn -

1/7 Middlesex

Distribution :-

List B less serials 10, 11, 14, 24, 25, 29  
 plus 51 Highland Div, Main 30 Corps.

*[Signature]* for Col.,  
 GS 9 Aust Div.

*Have serials had copy?*

*2/28 have*  
*2/32 names*  
*2/43 copies*  
*2/28th. 800*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

24 Aust Inf Bde Notes on Future Ops No. 2.

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

1. These notes are issued to enable further planning by comds whilst coordination with 3 S.A. Bde and sp arms is being completed. Written orders for ops covered by the notes will be issued 15 Sep 42.
2. 24 Aust Inf Bde will advance its line of FDLs to 87602940 - 87722922 - 87952917 during night 18/19 Sep 42.
3. 3 S.A. Bde is advancing its right flank from present posns in Posts 11 and 13 to conform.
4. Inter div boundary is to be decided, but point of junc between 24 Aust Inf Bde and 3 S.A. Bde will be 87952917.
5. Interbde boundary - QATTARA RD incl to 2/28 Bn.
6. (a) Occupation of new posns will be done on one night, 18/19 Sep. 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn will move fwd as planned previously and dig in, covered by protective dets from 2/3 Pnr Bn.  
(b) 2/3 Pnr Bn will at the same time occupy the present fwd coy areas vacated by 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn.  
(c) On occupation of new posns by 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn, 2/3 Pnr Bn will occupy present areas of B, D, A Coys 2/32 Bn and C Coy 2/28 Bn. Posns to be reced in detail.  
(d) 2/43 Bn will relieve 2/3 Pnr Bn in Posts 1 - 10 ALAMEIN Defences.
7. All movement of personnel will be done by night and any necessary preliminary work by day done under cover. No wire or pickets will be erected fwd of present FDLs before night 18/19 Sep.
8. Engr personnel and equipment will be available for assistance. Requirements will be reported on, and allotment of effort planned in detail by 15 Sep.
9. Minefd from QATTARA Rd will be laid to join with 3 S.A. Bde minefd in vicinity 87952917 by night 18/19 Sep. New minefds will be marked initially by cairns and not by fences or posts.
10. Verbal orders to Bde O Gp at Main HQ at 1100 hrs 15 Sep 42.

ACK  
Issued by LO and Sigs  
Time of signature 2115 hrs

*B.M. 24* Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/28 Bn	1	2/8 Rd Amb	10
2/32 Bn	2	76 LAD	11
2/43 Bn	3	9 Aust Div	12
2/3 Pnr Bn	4	30 Arst Inf Bde	13
2/8 Rd Regt	5	3 S.A. Bde	14
10 Bty 5 A Tk Regt	6	Comd	15
12 Bty 4 Lt AA Regt	7	B.M.	16
2/3 Rd Coy	8	File	17-22
A Sec Sigs	9	War Diary	23-24

W.R.

App 'A'

16

*Scwd Appx 17*

WDW

G742/60/2

S E C R E T

9 AUST DIV OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Copy No *2*  
17 Sep 42

Ref EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

1. (a) 1 SA Div (3 SA Bde) is moving FDLs fwd on night 18/19 Sep in conformity with 9 Aust Div (24 Aust Inf Bde). Pt of junc incl 3 SA Bde BIR EL MAQBU'A 879292.
- (b) 1 SA Div (3 SA Bde) is taking over 9 Aust Div (24 Aust Inf Bde) FDLs to incl QATTARA Rd on night 20/21 Sep.

2. Bndys

- (a) For period night 18/19 Sep to night 20/21 Sep. All incl 9 Aust Div - Trig 33 876288 - excl BIR EL MAQBU'A minefield gap 88022929 - thence old bndy.
- (b) After take over on night 20/21 Sep. Excl 9 Aust Div - QATTARA Rd to minefield at 87822939 - incl minefield to 88092929 thence old bndy.

A C K N O W L E D G E

*↓ still ours.*

Issued through Sigs and LO

Time of signature 1340 hrs

*St. Hodgkinson*  
for Col  
GS 9 Aust Div

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

20 Aust Inf Bde	1
24 Aust Inf Bde	2
26 Aust Inf Bde	3
9 Aust Div Cav Regt	4
RAA	5
RAE	6
Sigs	7
2/2 Aust MG Bn	8
C Sqn 40 RTR	9
30 Corps	10
1 SA Div	11
3 SA Bde	12
Comd	13
G	14 - 15
Q	16
File	17 - 18
War Diary	19 - 20
Spares	21 - 25

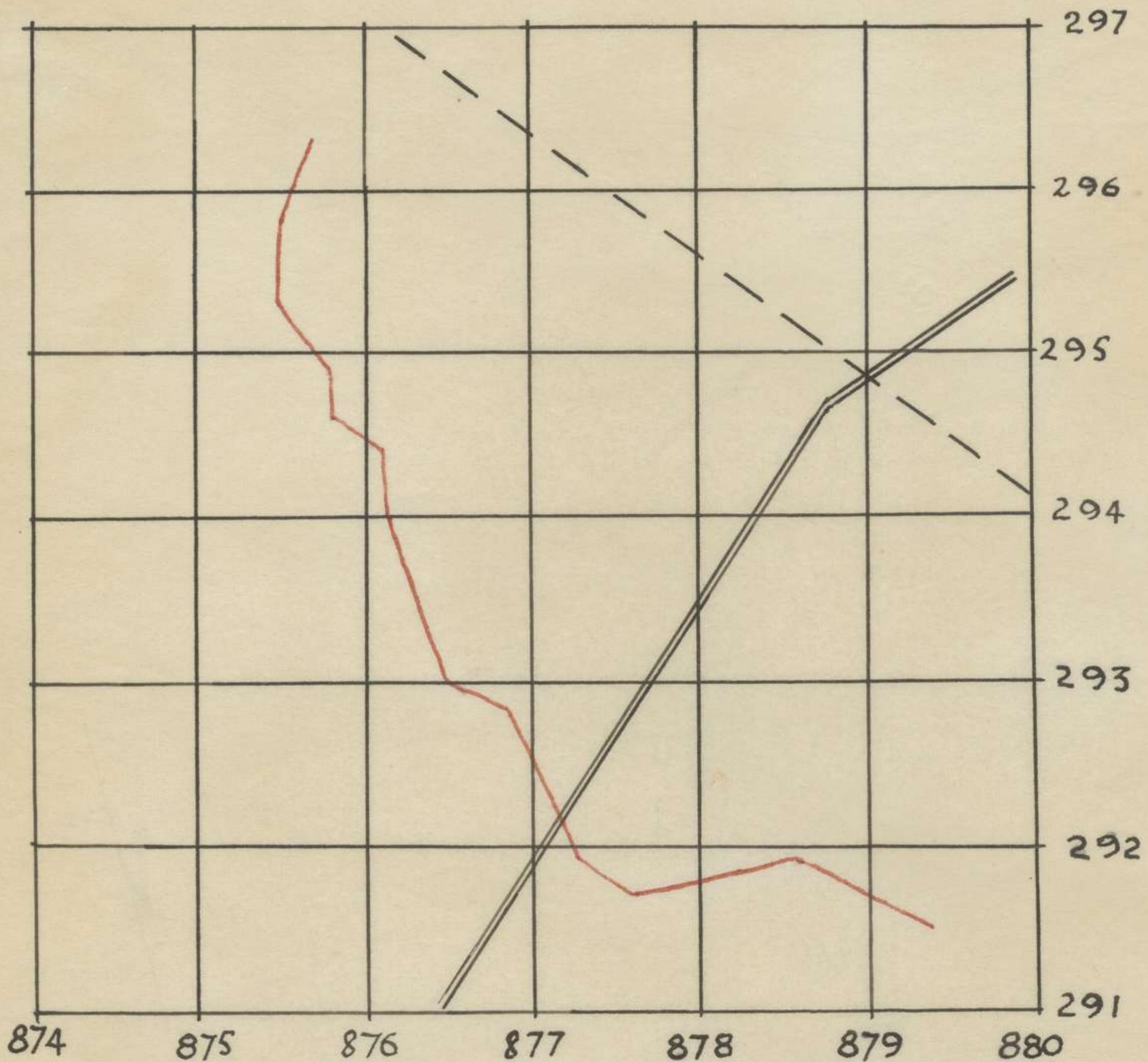
*off file*

# R. A. E. MINEFIELD TRACE E/3/10

REF MAP 1:50,000

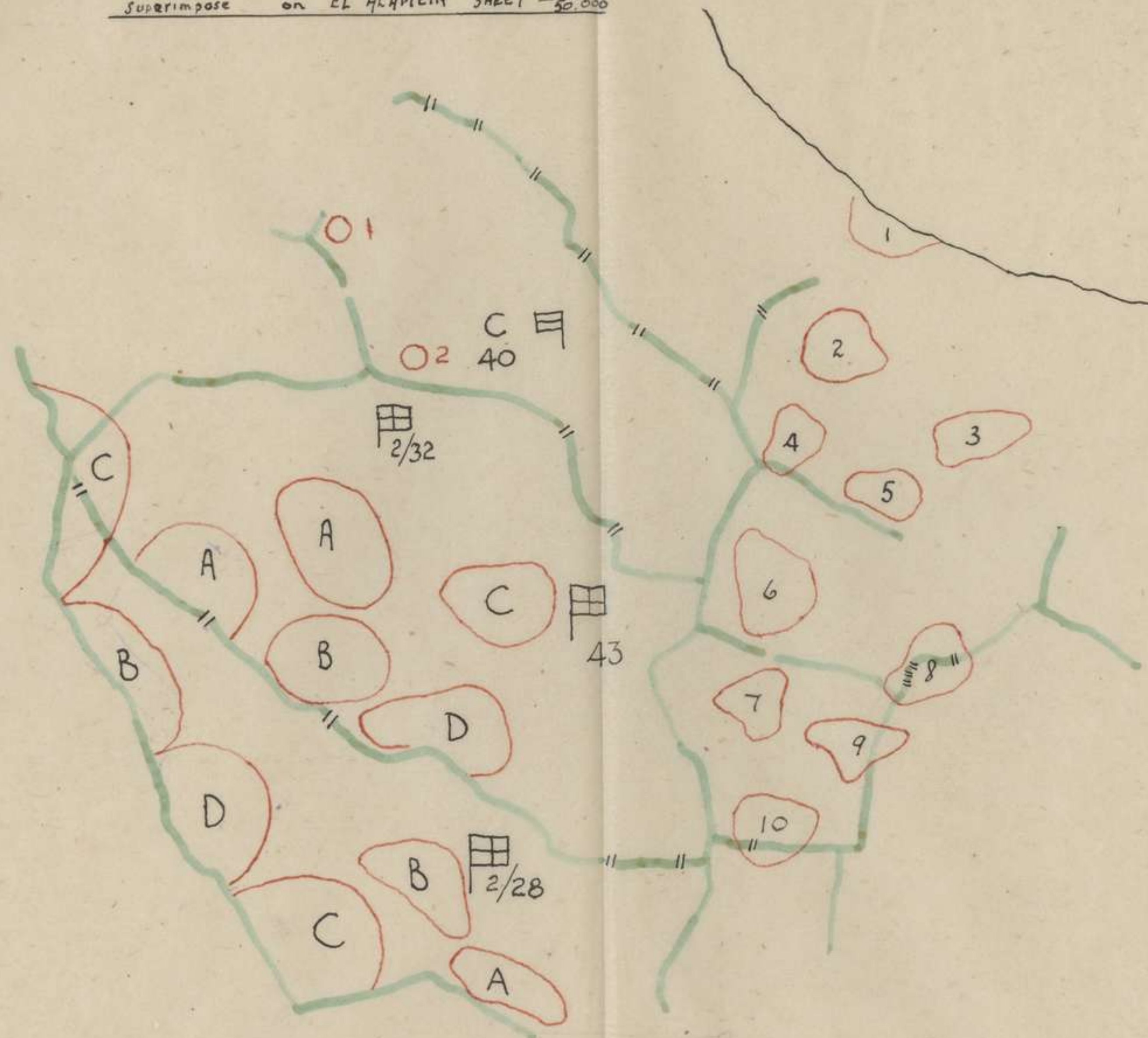
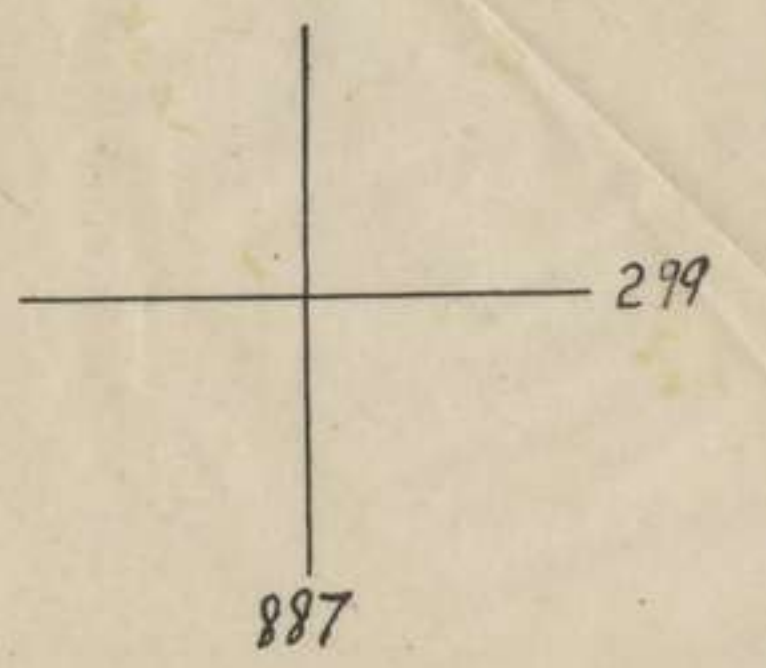
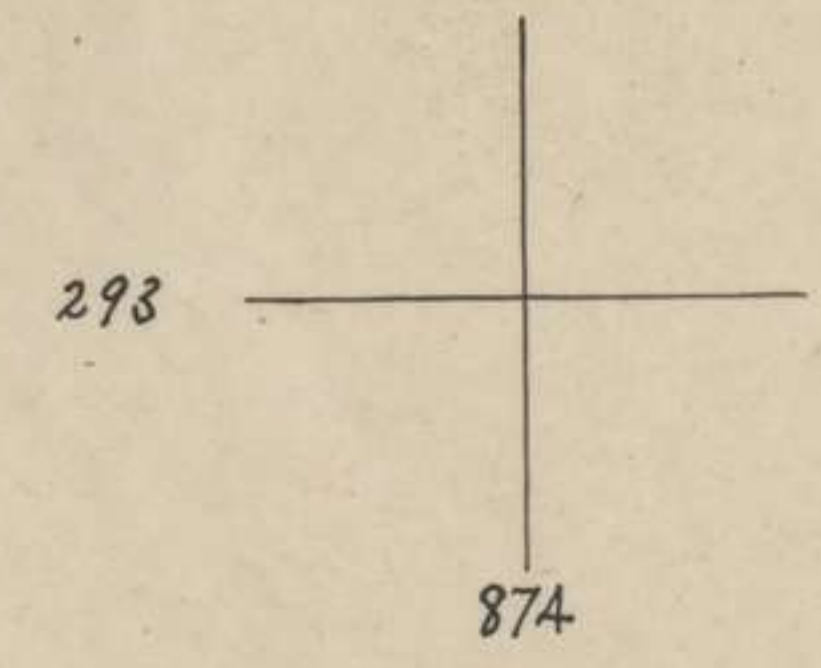
18.9.42

INFORMATION FROM 2/3 AUST F.O. Coy



24 AUST. INF. BDE. DISPOSITIONS AS AT 1800 Hrs. 20 SEP. '42

Superimpose on EL ALAMEIN SHEET 50,000



P 24 BDE.

WD

App "M"

SECRET

Copy No 22

20

19 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 14  
(Superseding O.O. No. 10 of 25 Aug 42).

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

INFM

1. 30 Corps is to defend present FDLs at all costs.
2. 26 Aust Inf Bde is to be made mobile with tasks -
  - (a) to hold defended area A.
  - (b) be prepared to counter attack to restore the situation in either 20 or 24 Aust Inf Bde areas.
3. (a) Interbde bndy incl to 24 Aust Inf Bde is Trig 30 (870292) - CALHM 875295 - 8752970 - 87602970.  
 (b) Inter div bndy incl to 24 Aust Inf Bde, Trig 33 (876288) - excl BIR EL MAGBU'A minef3 gap 88022929 - thence old bndy.
4. 5 S.A. Bde is taking over 24 Aust Inf Bde FDBs to incl QATTARA RD on night 20/21 Sep.
5. 24 Aust Inf Bde responsibility for defence against airborne and paratro -
  - (a) West of FDLs ALAMEIN defended locality, area bounded by FDLs 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn - inter bde bndy - ry line - inter div bndy.
  - (b) Area enclosed by defences ALAMEIN defended locality and North of telegraph line 881295 - 886289.
6. Following tps are in sp 24 Aust Inf Bde -
  - C Sqn 40 RTR
  - 2/3 Pd Regt
  - two btys 2/12 Pd Regt
  - 10 Bty 5 A Tk Regt
  - one sec 4 Lt AA Regt
  - 2/3 Pd Coy
  - C Coy 2/2 MG Bn
  - 2/8 Pd Amb

INTENTION

7. 24 Aust Inf Bde will defend present FDLs.

METHOD

8. Pwd bns - Right 2/32 Bn  
Left 2/28 Bn
9. Line of FDLs  
 87562964 - 87572950 - 87632931 - pt 23 (87762921)
10. Inter bn bndy  
 QATTARA rd incl to 2/28 Bn
11. Res  
 2/45 Bn in res, with tasks -
  - (a) to hold res posn
  - (b) counter attack to restore Bde FDLs



12. Fire Plan - issued in Appxs A & B.

13. Strongpoint No. 2 will not be manned.

14. Patrols

Patrol programme will be issued at intervals from this HQ to ensure coordination of patrolling with HF. Object of patrolling will be -

- (a) to inflict damage upon enemy and take prisoners.
- (b) identifications.
- (c) location and plotting of enemy minefds and FDLs.

15. Anti paratp defence

2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn will hold mob res to deal with paratp landings.

Areas of responsibility -

- (a) 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn - FDLs to bn rear bndys.
- (b) 2/43 Bn - area west of Posts 6 - 10 ALAMEIN defended locality, and bounded by rear bndys of fwd bns, interbdy bndy and ry line.
- (c) 2/3 Pnr Bn - ALAMEIN defended locality North of telegraph line 881293 - 883289.

16. Minefds

(a) Fwd bns will recommend gaps in fwd minefd at earliest.

(b) New minefd trace and allotment of responsibility for guarding and closing gaps will be issued subsequent to readjustment of FDLs 21 Sep.

For the present, fwd bns will be responsible for gaps in fwd minefd and gaps A, B, C.

2/43 Bn responsible for gaps D - K incl, and 2/3 Pnr Bn responsible for gap L - O incl and U1 - W incl.

ADM.

17. No change from 24 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instn No. 5 as amended by Instn No. 6.

INTERCOMM

18. Bde Main HQ at 88612949.  
Rear HQ at 88352929.  
Tac HQ, when formed, in 882296.

19. S. D. F.

2/32 Bn - verey lights RED RED GREEN  
2/28 Bn - verey lights GREEN GREEN RED

ACK

Signed at 11.24 hrs  
Issued through Sigs

*B.M.*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

Copy No.

2/28 Bn	1	9 Aust Div	12
2/32 Bn	2	20 Aust Inf Bde	13
2/43 Bn	3	3 S.A. Bde	14
2/3 Pnr Bn	4		
C Sqn 40 RTR	5	Comd	15
2/8 Fd Regt	6	B.M.	16
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	7	S.C.	17
2/5 Fd Coy	8	I.O.	18
K Sec Sigs	9	File	19-20
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	10	War Diary	21-22
2/8 Fd Amb	11		

App 21

SECRET  
Copy No 21

19 Sep 48

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 15

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

INFM

1. 3 S.A. Bde is taking over 24 Aust Inf Bde FDLs to incl QATTARA Rd on night 20/21 Sep.
2. Inter div body after take over, QATTARA Rd to 87882959 excl, thence inland to 86092922 incl 9 Aust Div, thence old body.

INTENTION

3. 24 Aust Inf Bde will hand over FDLs from incl QATTARA Rd to 87352917 to 3 S.A. Bde on night 20/21 Sep and readjust dispositions within new body.

METHOD

4. Fwd Bns will remain
 

<u>Right</u>	2/32 Bn
<u>Left</u>	2/28 Bn
5. Inter ba body - incl to 2/32 Bn, 87652970 - 87702950 - 87502920.
6. Outline of operation night 20/21 Sep.
  - (a) 2/28 Bn will hand over present FDLs to 3 S.A. Bde (R.D.B.I.) and relieve left fwd coy 2/32 Bn and fwd coy areas 2/43 Bn.
  - (b) 2/32 Bn will readjust dispositions within new body.
  - (c) 2/43 Bn on relief of its fwd coys will return in tot to defended locality at 87222, and reassume their role in that locality.
  - (d) 2/3 Par Bn will not move.
7. Fire Plan  
Proposed fire plans for 21 Sep will be submitted to this HQ by 1500 hrs 20 Sep.
8. Arty  
Arty fire plan issued in O.O. No. 14 will remain in force until daylight 21 Sep.
9. Engr Stores  
Locality stores will be left intact by withdrawing units.
10. Covering patrols  
2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn will maintain covering patrols on their present fronts until reliefs are complete. Relieving units then assume responsibility.
11. ADM  
Tp carrying out for 2/43 Bn under arrangements this HQ, and will be drawn from Bde B Gen area when required by 2/43 Bn.

INTERCOMM

12. No change location Bde HQ

13. Codewords to report completion of reliefs.

SODP	2/28 Bn	relieved by 3 S.A. Bde
FISH	2/28 Bn	complete in new locality.
ENTREE	2/32 Bn	" " " "
JOINT	2/43 Bn	" " " "

AGK

Issued through Sigs  
Time of signature 1950 hrs

*DR J. J. J.*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/28 Bn	1
2/32 Bn	2
2/43 Bn	3
2/3 Pnr Bn	4
C Sqn 40 MTR	5
2/8 Fd Regt	6
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	7
2/3 Fd Coy	8
K Sec Sigs	9
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	10
2/8 Fd Amb	11
9 Aust Div	12
20 Aust Inf Bde	13
3 S.A. Bde	14
Comd	15
B.M.	16
S.C.	17
I.O.	18
File	19-20
War. Diary	21-22

Appx A to 24 Aust Inf Bde O.C. No. 14.

MG FIRE PLAN

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

LEGEND

MMG  
Posn.

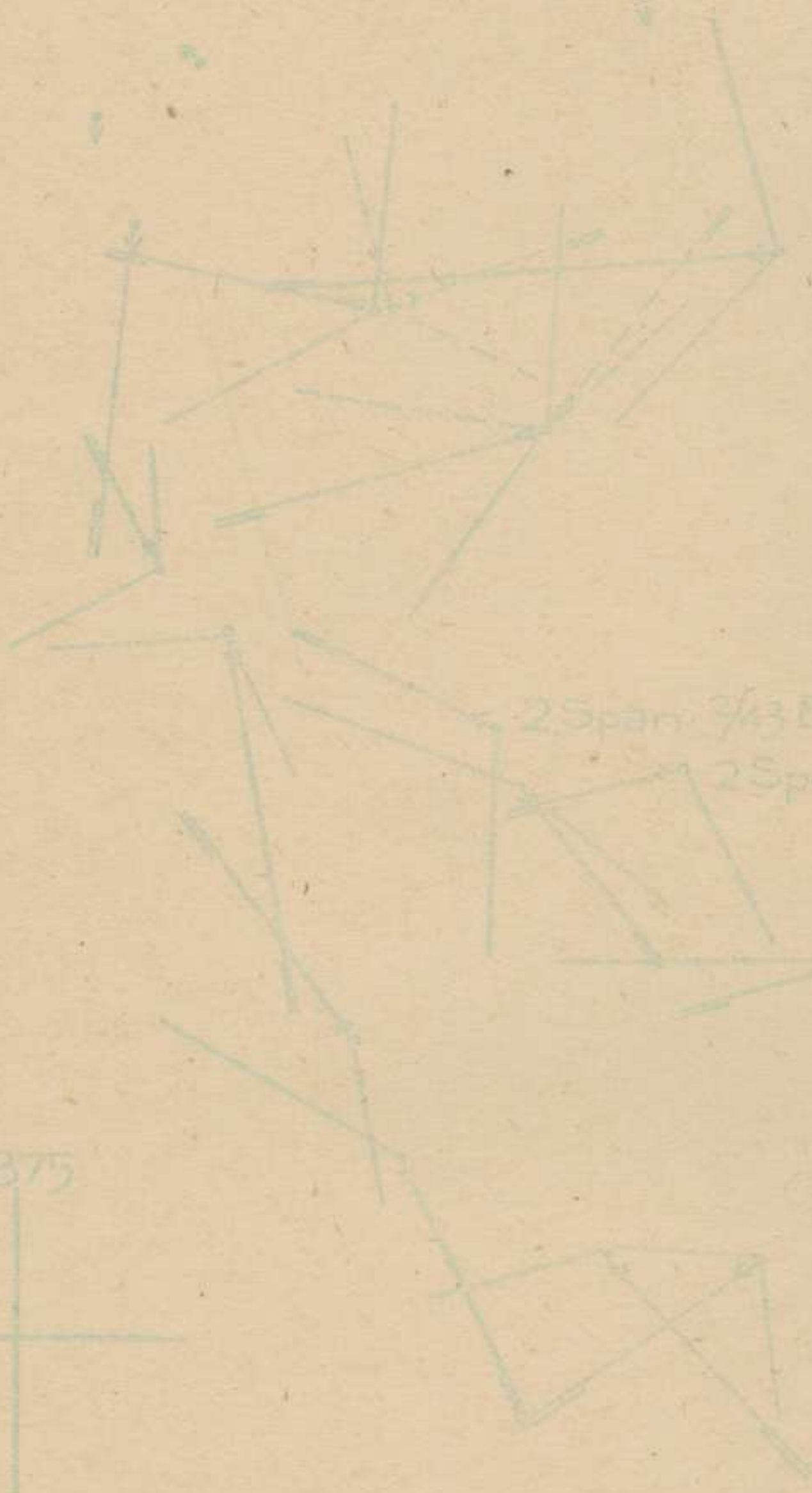


Alternate  
Penetration  
Tasks



880

300



2 Spen. 3/43 Bn

2 Spen 3/43 Bn

3/3 Pnr Bn  
MGs 3 Guns

(1 MG only)

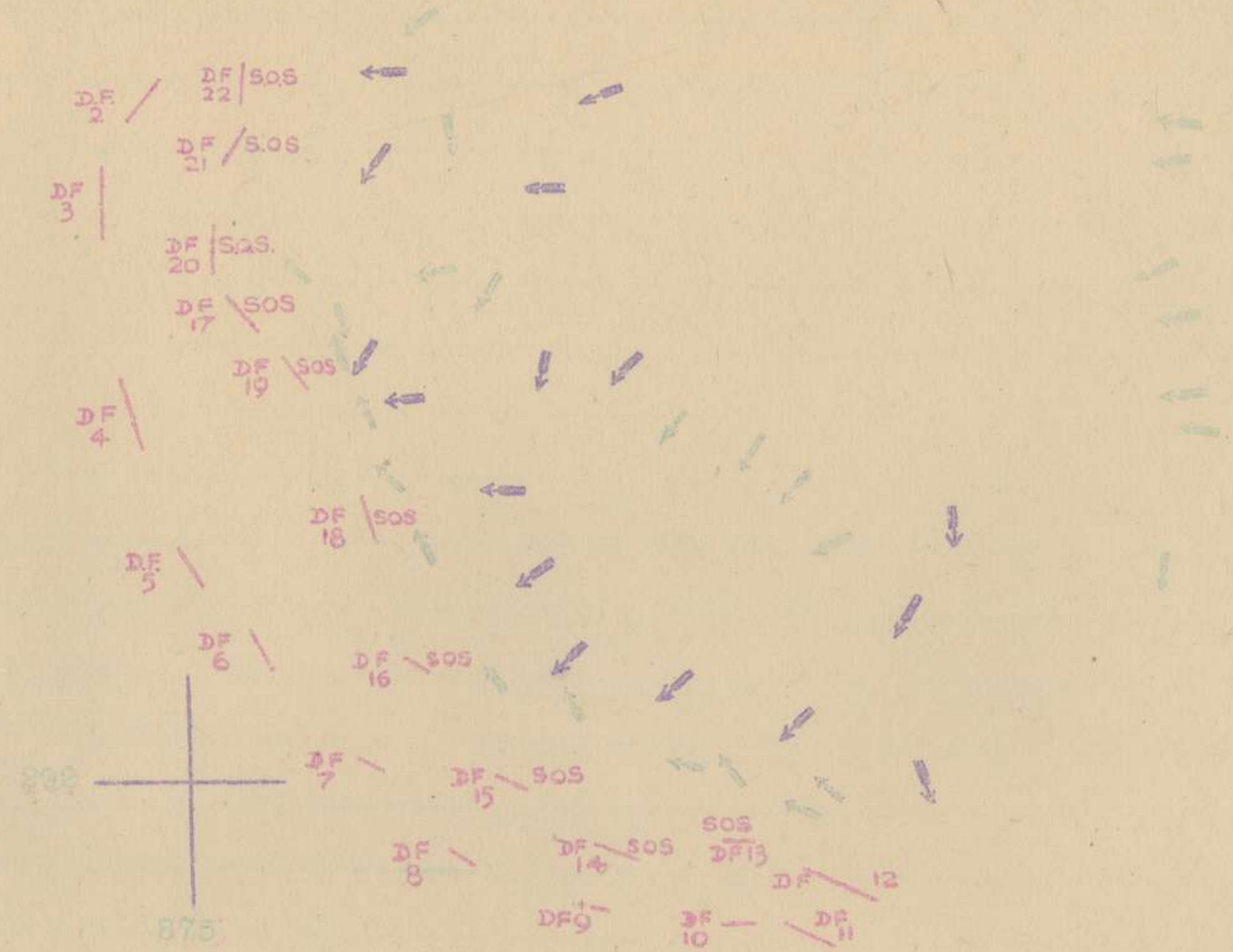
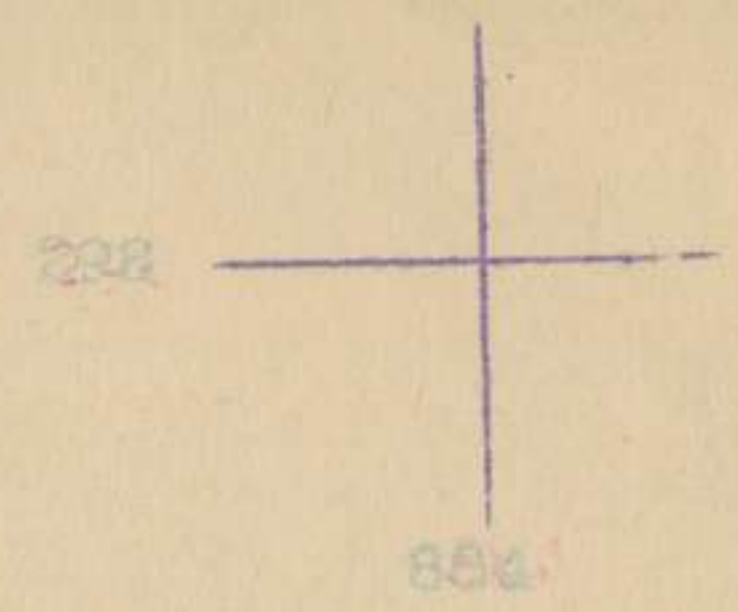
875

292

8  
APPX 'N' Part I to 24 Aust Inf Bde O.C. No. 14

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

A TK GUN POSNS & DF TASKS



- LEGEND
-  6 pair A Tk gun
  -  2 pair A Tk gun
  -  47 mm A Tk gun

Appx B Part II - ARTY DF TASKS  
 Issued with 24 Aust Inf Bde O.C. No. 14

SECRET

Tgt No.	Co-ords	Nature of Tgt	No. of Tps	Bty to Engage	Ann			Remarks
					H. E.	Rate		
DF B2	874930 296590 - 374590 296300	-	-	-	H. E.	5 Mins	Rapid	DF tasks at call. All tps to be prepared to engage if asked for.
DF B3	874500 296010 - 874500 295090	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B4	874630 294620 - 874770 294190	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B5	874970 293510 - 875110 293280	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B6	875380 292970 - 875510 292750	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B7	876050 292170 - 876200 292070	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B8	876670 291550 - 876840 291450	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B9	877420 291210 - 877580 291150	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B10	878380 291050 - 878600 291050	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B11	878780 291550 - 879100 290900	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B12	878930 291400 - 879400 291170	-	-	-	"	"	"	
DF B13	879400 291530 - 878530 291570	SOS	1	2/12 Pd Regt	"	5 Mins Normal	5 Mins Slow	
DF B14	877550 291600 - 877230 291590	SOS	1	2/12 Pd Regt	"	"	"	
DF B15	876980 293030 - 877170 291900	SOS	1	2/12 Pd Regt	"	"	"	
DF B16	876380 292770 - 876550 292650	SOS	1	2/12 Pd Regt	"	"	"	
DF B17	875300 295150 - 875500 294920	SOS	1	58 Pd Bty	"	"	"	
DF B18	875130 293790 - 876230 293490	SOS	1	58 Pd Bty	"	"	"	
DF B19	875630 294750 - 875810 294510	SOS	1	15 Pd Bty	"	"	"	
DF B20	875170 295580 - 875170 295280	SOS	1	16 Pd Bty	"	"	"	
DF B21	875430 296220 - 875270 295950	SOS	1	15 Pd Bty	"	"	"	
DF B22	875410 295540 - 875380 296340	SOS	1	15 Pd Bty	"	"	"	

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 16,  
(Superseding O.O. No. 14 of 19 Sep 42)

Ref map: WL ALAMBIN 1/50,000

INFM

1. 30 Corps is to defend present FDLs at all costs.
2. 20 Aust Inf Bde is to be made mobile with tasks -
  - (a) to hold defended area A.
  - (b) be prepared to counter attack to restore the situation in either 6 or 24 Aust Inf Bde areas.
3. (a) Interbde bndy incl to 24 Aust Inf Bde is Trig 30 (870292) - CAIRN 875296 - 87652970 - 87802970.  
 (b) Inter div bndy - excl QATTARA Rd to 87622959, thence incl minefd to 88092929 - telegraph line to 880289.
4. 24 Aust Inf Bde responsibility for defence against airborne and paratps -
  - (a) West of FDLs ALAMBIN defended locality, area bounded by FDLs 2/28 Bn, 2/32 Bn - inter bde bndy - ry line - inter div bndy.
  - (b) Area enclosed by defences ALAMBIN defended locality and North of telegraph line 881293 - 888289.
5. Following tps are in sp 24 Aust Inf Bde -
  - One Sqn 9 Div Cav
  - 2/8 Fd Regt
  - two btyes 2/12 Fd Regt
  - 10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt
  - one sec 4 Lt AA Regt
  - 2/3 Fd Coy
  - C Coy 2/2 MG Bn
  - 2/8 Fd Amb

INTENTION

6. 24 Aust Inf Bde will defend present FDLs.

METHOD

7. Fwd bns - Right 2/32 Bn  
Left 2/28 Bn
8. Line of FDLs  
CAIRN 875296 - 87552953 - 87652950.
9. Inter bn bndy  
Incl to 2/32 Bn, 87852973 - 87702950 - 87502920.
10. Rear bn  
2/3 Pnr Bn will hold Posts 1 - 10 ALAMBIN defended locality.

- 2-
11. Res - 2/43 Bn  
Task (a) Counter attack to restore FDLs.  
 (b) Occupation of, or counter attack on, any section of ALAMEIN defended locality.  
 (c) Counter attack on air or seaborne landings within ALAMEIN defended locality.
12. Fireplan - issued in Appxs A and B.
13. Patrols  
 Patrol programme will be issued at intervals from this HQ to ensure coordination of patrolling with HF.  
 Object of patrolling will be -  
 (a) to inflict damage upon enemy and take prisoners.  
 (b) identifications  
 (c) location and plotting of enemy minefds and FDLs.
14. Anti paratro defence  
 2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn will hold mob res to deal with paratro landings.  
 Areas of responsibility  
 (a) 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn - FDLs to bn rear bndys.  
 (b) 2/3 Pnr Bn - area bounded by rear bndys of fwd bns, interbde bndy, ry line and own rear bndy.  
 (c) 2/43 Bn - ALAMEIN defended locality East of rear bndy 2/3 Pnr Bn, and North of inter div bndy.
15. Minefds  
 Minefd trace and responsibility for guarding, closing and ordering closing of gaps given in Appx C.  
 Engr assistance will be provided where required for closing gaps.

ADM

16. No change from 24 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instn No. 5 as amended by Instn No. 6.

INTERCOMM

17. Bde Main HQ at 88612949  
 Rear HQ at 88852929  
 Tac HQ, when formed, in 882295.

18. S.D.F. - verey lights RED RED GREEN

ACK

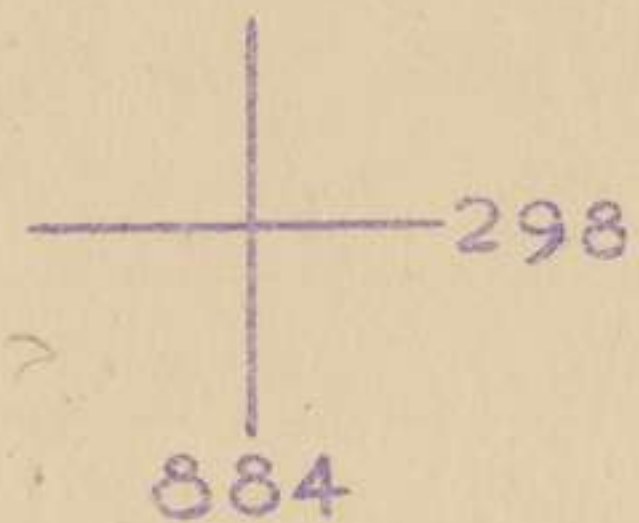
Signed at 1205 hrs  
 Issued through Sigs

*OR Jackson*  
 Maj.  
 B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No</u>		
2/28 Bn	1	9 Aust Div	12
2/32 Bn	2	20 Aust Inf Bde	13
2/43 Bn	3	3 S.A. Bde	14
2/3 Pnr Bn	4	Comd	15
<del>2/3 Pnr Bn</del> <i>Abwlan</i>	5	B.M.	16
2/8 Fd Regt	6	S.C.	17
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	7	I.O.	18
2/3 Fd Coy	8	File	19-20
K Sec Sigs	9	War Diary	21-22
C Coy 2/8 MG Bn	10		
2/8 Fd Amb	11		



Appx B Part I to 24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 16



2/43 Bn A/Tk PI  
(in reserve)

— LEGEND —

- ↑↑↑ 6 Pdr A/Tk gun (10 Bty 3 A/Tk Regt)
- ↑↑ " " " (9 Bty 3 A/Tk Regt)
- ↑↑R " sited (in reserve)
- ↑ { 2 pdr A/Tk gun
- ↑ { 47mm " "
- ▨ Mortar Tasks

APPX B Part II - ARTY DF TASKS  
 Issued with 24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 15

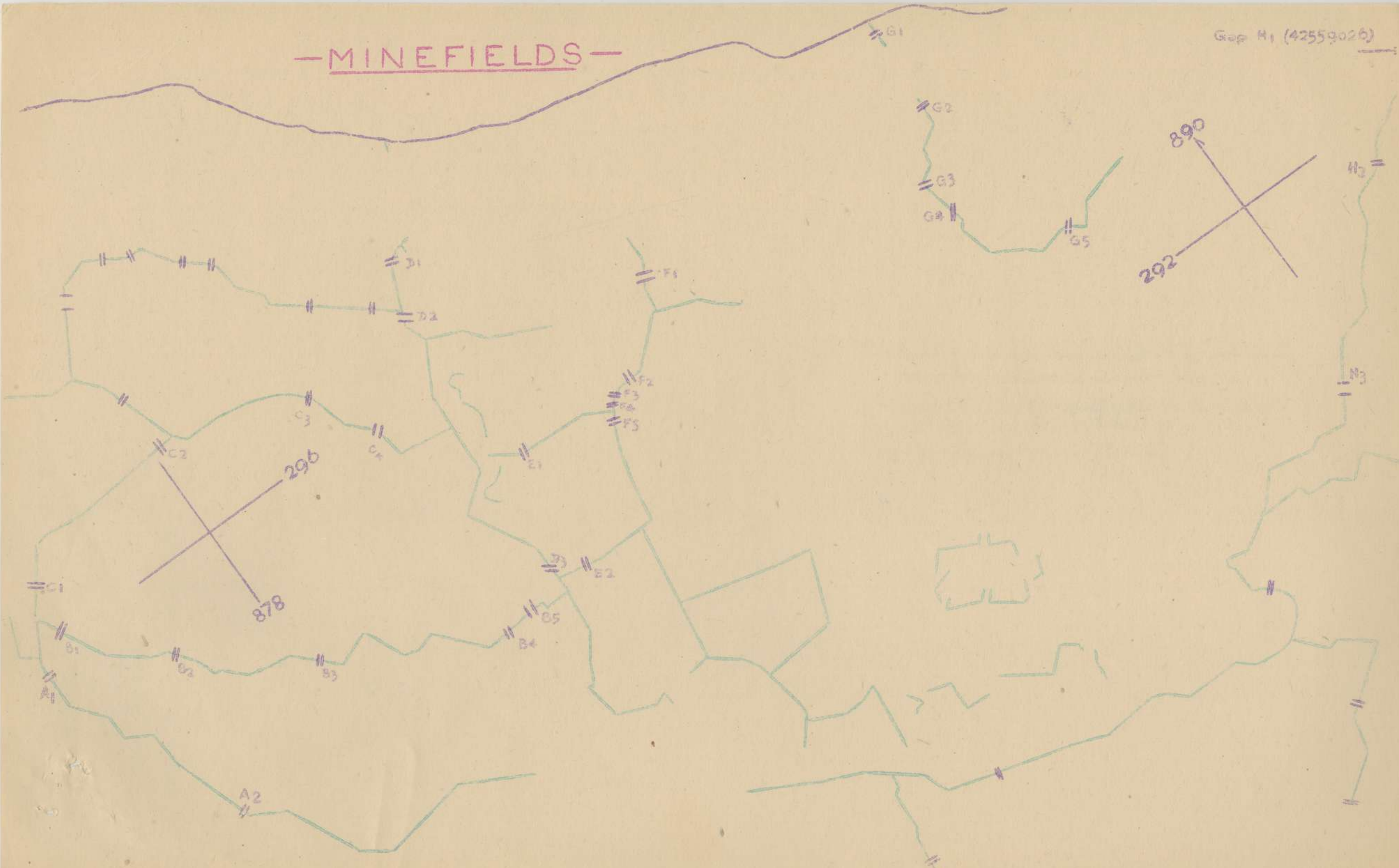
SECRET

Tgt No.	Co-ords	Nature of Tgt	No. of Tps	Bty to Engage	Amn	Rate	Remarks
DF B2	874920 296530 - 874990 296500	-	-	-	H.E.	5 Mins Rapid	DF tasks at call All tps to be prepared to engage if asked for.
DF B3	874500 296010 - 874500 296090	-	-	-	"	"	
DF B4	874650 294630 - 874770 294190	-	-	-	"	"	
DF B5	874970 293510 - 875110 293280	-	-	-	"	"	
DF B6	875380 292970 - 875510 292730	-	-	-	"	"	
DF B7	876050 292170 - 876200 293070	-	-	-	"	"	
<del>DF B8</del>	<del>876100 292100 - 876200 292100</del>	-	-	-	"	"	
<del>DF B9</del>	<del>876100 292100 - 876200 292100</del>	-	-	-	"	"	
<del>DF B10</del>	<del>876100 292100 - 876200 292100</del>	-	-	-	"	"	
<del>DF B11</del>	<del>876100 292100 - 876200 292100</del>	-	-	-	"	"	
DF B30	875180 296680 - 875170 296410	SOS	1	15 FA Bty	"	5 Mins Normal 5 Mins Slow	Engage on Light Sig. RED-RED-GREEN from Fwd Coy HQs at - 8766 2965 8767 2967 8764 2947 8770 2966
DF B31	875200 296850 - 875260 296970	"	1	" " "	"	"	
DF B32	875130 296800 - 875110 296530	"	1	10 FA Bty	"	"	
DF B33	875260 296100 - 875410 294320	"	1	" " "	"	"	
DF B34	875870 294780 - 875740 294530	"	1	8/12 FA Regt	"	"	
DF B35	875840 294730 - 875970 294140	"	1	" " "	"	"	
DF B36	876080 295800 - 876170 295660	"	1	" " "	"	"	
DF B37	876255 293230 - 876355 293070	"	1	" " "	"	"	
DF B38	876520 292820 - 876675 292745	"	1	58 FA Bty	"	"	
DF B39	876845 292695 - 876890 292515	"	1	" " "	"	"	

Amended Co-ordinates in Purple

- MINEFIELDS -

Gap H1 (42559026)



## RESPONSIBILITY - MINED GAPS

Appx C to 24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 16.

Mined Gap	Ref	Responsible for Protection & Closing	Authority to Close
A 1	87542958	2/32 Bn	2/32 Bn
A 2	87662931	2/28 Bn	2/28 Bn
B 1	87592961	2/32 Bn	2/32 Bn
B 2	87692950	"	"
B 3	87812940	2/28 Bn	"
B 4	88012930	"	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde
B 5	88052951	"	"
C 1	87602967	2/32 Bn	2/32 Bn
C 2	87812972	"	"
C 3	87982966	2/28 Bn	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde
C 4	88032957	"	"
D 1	88142974	2/3 Par Bn	"
D 2	88132967	"	"
D 3	88102933	"	"
E 1	88152946	"	"
E 2	88132931	"	"
F 1	88382954	"	"
F 2	88302946	"	"
F 3	88272946	"	"
F 4	88262945	"	"
F 5	88252943	"	"
G 1	88772962	2/45 Bn	"
G 2	88762952	"	"
G 3	88712945	"	"
G 4	88722939	"	"
G 5	88822930	"	"
H 1	42559026	"	HQ 9 Aust Div
H 2	42579015	"	"
H 3	88972896	"	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

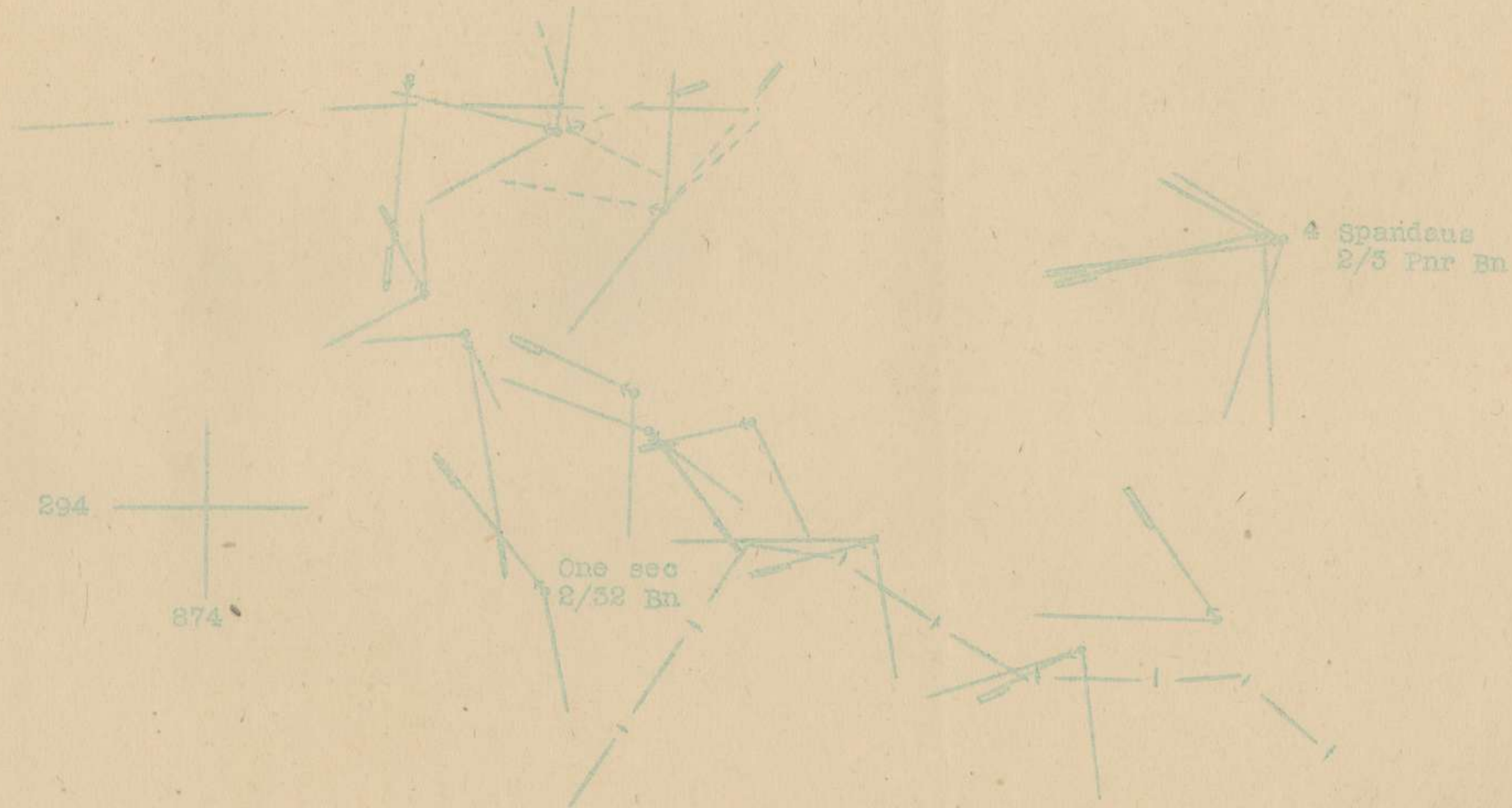
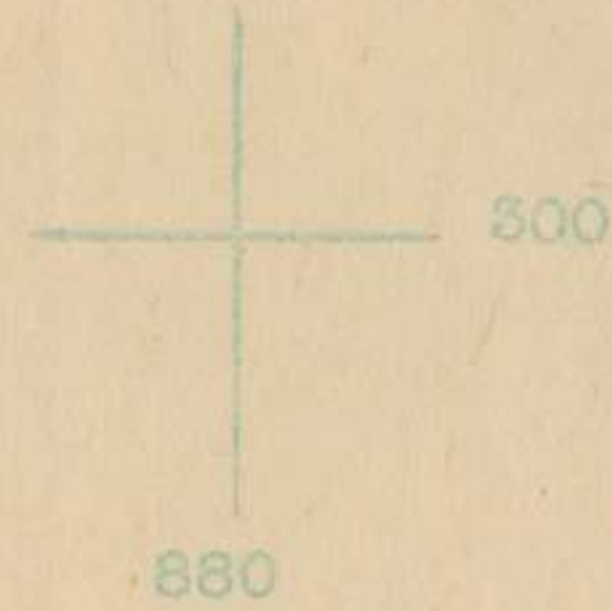
w/ Diary

APPX A to 24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 16

SECRET

M3 FIRE PLAN

Ref map EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000



File 51/595

Date 26/9/47

Time 1900

PROFORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO:- 20 AUST INF BDE : 24 AUST INF BDE : 26 AUST INF BDE :  
9 AUST DIV CAV REGT : RAA : RAE : SIGS : 2/2 JST MG BN :  
1 AUST COMMANDO PL : 40 RTR : COMD : G(2) : AQ : FILE(2)  
WAR DIARY (2) rptd 1 SA DIV : 2 SA BDE

FROM:- MAIN 9 AUST DIV. 0877 26 --

FIRST (.) ref my G738/80/2 (.) tactical exercise will be carried out by 2/17 bn 28/29 sep with HQ and one sqn 40 RTR plus sp arms as hitherto 2/13 bn 30 sep/1 Oct and 2/15 bn 3/4 oct (.) latter two bns with <sup>carrier sqn representing</sup> one/tk sqn from 9 aust div cav and sp arms as hitherto (.)

SECOND (.) demonstration inf and tks for pl comds 20 bde on 4 oct under div arrangements (.) THIRD (.) bde exercise for 20 bde and 40 RTR 5/6 oct (.) FOURTH (.) lectures and general introduction to tks (.) 2/17 bn at 40 RTR 27 sep (.) 2/15 bn lecture at 2/15 bn 1700 hrs 29 sep (.) 2/13 bn morning 30 sep lecture and general at 40 RTR (.) 2/15 bn general at 40 RTR afternoon 30 sep (.) FIFTH (.) 2 SA bde are using 30 corps trg area and 5 kilos to east of it night 29/30 sep without tks day 1 oct with tks night 2/3 oct with tks

*R. D. Barkham* Major

ELS TOO 1420

9 AUST DIV TACTICAL EXERCISE WITH TPSNo 1. NIGHT ATTACK, INF BN AND ARMY TKS.

Distribution please

1. OBJECT

To practise attack and exploitation, vide 9 Aust Div Trg Instruction No 21, Paras 2 and 3.

2. TPS TAKING PART

- (a) One inf bn  
40 PTR less one sqn  
Reps RAA  
One A Tk Coy  
Reps 1t AA  
Det fd Coy RAE  
One MG pl

H. O. 24 AUST. INF. BDE

File 51/549 (5 Copies)

Date 16-9-42

Time 0845

Brig.	Seen
B. M.	DM
B. M. (L).	RAB
S. C.	RAB
S. C. (L).	X
L. O. (1).	FFA
L. O. (2).	RAB
L. O. (3).	RAB
I. O.	
T. O.	
Am. O.	
B. S. O.	

- (b) Sp arms will make reps and tps available by mutual arrangements with inf bde concerned.

3. DATES OF EXERCISES

- Night 17/18 Sep 42 - One bn 26 Aust Inf Bde  
19/20 Sep 42 - One bn <sup>26</sup>~~24~~ Aust Inf Bde  
21/22 Sep 42 - One bn 26 Aust Inf Bde  
23/24 Sep 42 - One bn <sup>24</sup>~~26~~ Aust Inf Bde

4. DRESS, EQPT, TPT - as arranged by bdes.

CRE is issuing special engr stores required to the fd coy concerned.

5. COMD AND ASSEMBLY

The comd of the tps taking part will be the inf bn comd. He will be responsible for any necessary preliminary conferences, recess and issue of orders and for all tps taking part in the exercise being acquainted with the object and narrative by the time laid down for the force to be assembled.

6. THE EXERCISE STARTS:

- (a) for Bn Comds R Gp at track and main rd junc 42609024 at 1400 hrs on D - 1 day (16 Sep for first exercise)  
(b) for other Gps as Bn Comd directs  
(c) for remainder at Assembly Posn at  $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs on the night of the exercise.

7. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

No live amn will be loaded into weapons. Blank amn not to be used during darkness except by enemy.

Blank amn will not be fired at less than 100 yds range. Bayonets will not be fixed during darkness.

8. PRESERVATIONS OF TRG AREA

All trenches dug in the trg area will be filled in at the conclusion of the exercise.

Date  
17/18 Sep 42Copy passed to  
7/43 on 16/9/42

DM

9. MINEFIELDS

- (a) Attention is directed to the previously notified existence of live minefields near the trg area in 8828 and 4389.
- (b) Dummy minefields laid for the exercise will be marked with one line of one strand cattle fencing.

10. UMPIRES etc

- (a) Director Bde comd concerned
- Assistant Directors Maj R J BARHAM HQ 9 Aust Div  
Capt G COMBES HQ 9 Aust Div
- Chief Umpire Fd offr nominated by  
26 Aust Inf Bde
- Umpires: One offr per coy and one NCO per pl Nominated by 26 Aust Inf Bde
- One offr with Bn tpt " " " " " "
- One offr to watch traffic supervision " " " " " "
- A Tk umpire Nominated by RAA
- MMG umpire Nominated by 2/2 Aust MG Bn
- Umpire with enemy Nominated by 9 Aust Div Cav
- Umpires with 40 RTR:  
One for HQ and one per sqn Nominated by 40 RTR

(b) Umpire comms

R/T net:- Chief umpire (control set), Umpire with enemy, 40 RTR HQ umpire, two rifle coy umpires.

Details to be arranged by Sigs 9 Aust Div

- (c) Umpires vehs will be marked with a white sig flag.
- (d) Umpires will wear a white band on each arm.
- (e) Umpires and OSC skeleton enemy (inf and cav) for the first exercise will report with own tpt and lunch to Maj BARHAM at 42609024 at 0930 hrs 16 Sep 42.
- (f) Umpires will be changed between exercises as little as possible. Any change will be notified immediately to chief umpire who will instruct the new umpire in his duties.

11. SKELETON ENEMY

- (a) Inf will be provided by 1 Aust Commando Pl.  
Dress - FS dress with hats with white puggarees.  
Blank amm and pyrotechnic stores as ordered separately.  
Blue flags to rep mortars.  
White flags to rep A Tk guns.  
Red flags to rep MMGs.
- (b) Two carrier tps 9 Aust Div Cav Regt will rep enemy tks.  
Carriers will fly white flags.



12. INSTRUCTIONS TO UMPIRES are being issued separately.

13. CONFERENCE OF COMDS AND ALLOTMENT OF TIME

1st Exercise (D 1 17 Sep)		2nd Exercise (D 1 19 Sep)	
0930	D-1 day	Umpires meet A/Dir- ector 42609024 at 0930	
1400	D-1 day	Bn Comds R Gp RVs 42609024 to meet A/Director	
1700	D-1 day	Umpires conference at Bde HQ	
	D1	Umpires accompany recee parties	
By dark	D1	(a) Two fwd tps of A Tk bty in posn (b) Enemy in posn	
By &	D1	Tps in Assembly Posn	
1100	D2	Chief umpires con- ference at HQ 23 Bde	1400 D-1 Bn Comds R Gp RVs 42609024 to meet A/Director
1700- 1830	D3	Chief umpire and A/Directors meet Director at Bde HQ	
	As ordered by bde	Directors conference with comds	
			D1 Umpires accompany recee party
	By dark		D1 (a) Two fwd tps of A Tk Bty in posn (b) Enemy in posn
	By &		D1 Tps in Assembly Posn
			1100 D2 Chief umpires con- ference at HQ 26 Bde
			1400 D3 (Director meets R Gp for next exercise,
			1700- D2 Chief umpire and 1800 A/Directors meet Director at HQ of bde concerned
			As Directors conference ordered with comds by bde

Timetable for further exercise will follow the timings given above.

14. HARDENING TRG

No tp carrying tpt will be used.

Tps who normally march will march to and from the exercise

& (page 1 & 3) : Time for tps to be in assembly posn to be notified later.

*William May* Col  
GS 9 Aust Div

DISTRIBUTION

Extra copies for umpires  
and enemy (to be handed out by Director)

20 Aust Inf Bde	5	
24 Aust Inf Bde	5	7
26 Aust Inf Bde		2
9 Aust Div Cav Regt	(4)	4
RAA	(3)	
RAE		
Sigs		
2/2 Aust MG Bn	(2)	1
1 Aust Commando Pl		1
&..... Comd		
G	(2)	3
AQ		
File		
War Diary	(2)	
Spares	(10)	
&..... 40 RTR	-	3

WD

Appx 24

SI/O/99

SECRET  
COPY No 21

24 sept 42

LOCATION STATEMENT  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
0900 hrs 24 Sept 42

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

This statement supersedes this HQ SI/O/73 of 29 Aug 42.

Main HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	88612949
K Sec 9 Aust Div Sigs	"
2 Fl A Coy HQ Gd Bn	"
Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	"
Rear HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	88852929
76 LAD	88892932
2/28 Bn	87832948
2/32 Bn	87712959
2/43 Bn	88832939
2/3 Pnr Bn	88232940

<u>In Support</u>	
C Sqn 9 Div Cav	87992972
2/8 Fd Regt	88612949
10 Bty 3 Atk Regt	88572951
2/3 Fd Coy	88782958
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	87922955
2/8 Fd Amb	89052943

Distribution  
List B less serials 6, 23, 24  
Plus 10 Bty 3 Atk Regt 6  
2/12 Fd Regt 25  
4 Lt AA Regt 26

*B.K. Jackson*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

2/43 AUST INF BN TACTICAL EXERCISE - 25 SEP 42.

Ref Map QASABA 1:50000

*Appx 25  
G. Selwyn*

1. OBJECT

- (a) To exercise Coys in close co-operation with tanks in the following:-
- (1) Assaulting enemy strong-posts.
  - (2) Mopping up.
  - (3) Rapid re-organisation.

2. TROOPS TAKING PART

Sub-units of 40 R.T.R.  
A, B, C, D Coys and dets HQ Coy 2/43 Bn.

3. TIME OF ARRIVAL ON EXERCISE AREA (Pt.17 42578991)

C.Coy 1030 hrs  
D " 1130 "  
B " 1400 "  
A " 1500 "

4. UMPIRES ETC

Director - Maj.H.J.Williamson  
Chief Umpire - Capt.M.R.Jeanes  
Umpires - 2s I/C of Coys

5. ENEMY

O.C. - Lt.R.Easton  
20 ORs to be supplied by HQ.Coy and 1 NCO per Rifle Coy

6. ADMN AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Given verbally to Comd concerned.

Brig.	✓	
B.M.	✓	
B.M.L.	✓	Kas
S.C.		
S.C.L.		
L.O.I		
L.O.II		
L.O.III		
IG.		
T.O.		
AO.		

*H. J. Williamson*

Maj.  
Adm. Comd 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.

2/43 AUST INF BN TACTICAL EXERCISE - 25 SEP 42.

Ref Map CASABA 1:50000

1. OBJECT

- (a) To exercise Coys in close co-operation with tanks in the following:-  
(1) Assaulting enemy strong-posts.  
(2) Mopping up.  
(3) Rapid re-organisation.

2. TROOPS TAKING PART

Sub-units of 40 R.F.R.  
A, B, C, D Coys and deta HQ Coy 2/43 Bn.

3. TIME OF ARRIVAL ON EXERCISE AREA (Pt.17 42778991)

C.Coy	1630	hrs
D "	1130	"
B "	1400	"
A "	1500	"

4. UMPIRES ETC

Director - Maj.H.J.Williamson  
Chief Umpire - Capt.M.R.Jeanes  
Umpires - 2s I/C of Coys

5. ENEMY

O.C. - Lt.R.Easton  
20 ORs to be supplied by HQ.Coy and 1 NCO per Rifle Coy

6. ADMN AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Given verbally to Comd concerned.

*H. J. Williamson*

Maj.  
Adm. Comd 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.

# MESSAGE FORM.

APPX "3"  
Serial No. 26

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

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

TO 2/28 Bn 2/32 Bn 2/43 Bn 2/3 Pn Bn rpld 2/8 7d Regt

FROM 24 Aust Inf Bde

Originator's Number: 0179  
Date: 26  
In Reply to Numbers:

from will inf 23 0 accordingly	1800 be bde 872296 amend	has all enemy to oo	today incl locality 87522970 16	interbde 26 at to para	bndy aust pt 87802970 3
---	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means.

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

Originator's instructions Degree of priority: **IMPORTANT**

Time of origin: 1245

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

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

T.H.I.  
T.O.R.  
811/PMEA/2.10/41.

SECRET

HQ RAA 9 Aust Div

Ref No 26

27 Sep 42.

Appx 27

- 2/7 Aust Fd Regt
- 2/8 Aust Fd Regt
- 3 Aust A TK Regt
- 4 Aust Lt AA Regt
- 20 Aust Inf Bde (for information)
- 24 Aust Inf Bde ( " " )
- HQ 9 Aust Div ( " " )

*Sec WD*

Brig.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E.M.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B.M.L.	<input type="checkbox"/>
S.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
S.C.L.	<input type="checkbox"/>
L.O. I	<input type="checkbox"/>
L.O. II	<input type="checkbox"/>
L.O. III	<input type="checkbox"/>
I.O.	<input type="checkbox"/>
T.O.	<input type="checkbox"/>

TRAINING

1. Further to this HQ No 987 22 Sep 42.
2. Amend Para 2 Serial 5.

Delete Night 27/28 Sep  
 Insert Night 28/29 Sep  
 Add to para 2 -

Serial	Date	Bn	Regt	Control
6	Night 30 Sep/1 Oct	2/13	2/7	Div
7	Night 3/4 Oct	2/15	2/7	Div

*OH*

*A. Sullivan* Maj  
 HQ RAA 9 Aust Div

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

File 51/581

Date 23.9.42

Time 0815

SECRET

HQ RAA 9 Aust Div

Ref No 987

22 Sep 42

2/7 Aust Pd Regt  
 2/8 Aust Pd Regt  
 3 Aust A TK Regt  
 4 Aust Lt AA Regt  
 20 Aust Inf Bde (for information)  
 24 Aust Inf Bde ✓ ( " " )  
 Hq 9 Aust Div ( " " )  
 2/3 Pnr Bn ( " " )

TRAINING

1. "Bn with sp arms" exercises are to be continued as hereunder. Pd Regts, as indicated, will supply personnel to co-operate.

2.

Serial	Date	Bn	Regt	Control
4	<del>Night 25/26</del>	<del>2/3 Pnr Bn</del>	2/3	Div
5	Night 27/28	20 Aust Bde	2/7	Div

3. Pd Regts will provide :-

Bty Comd (or offr to represent) RCA and Veh  
 POC OPA " "  
 OPC OPA " "  
 GPCAs (or if desired GPOs) two  
 W/T and cable laying vehs  
 Sigs (as necessary)

to enable comd and sig lay out to be established as would be required by a bty in support of a Bn attack.  
 20 Aust Inf Bde and 4 Aust Inf Bde are each providing two No 18 W/T sets for their respective Bn's exercise for experimental purposes. It is desired to ascertain the practicability of using these sets for comd between arty and inf in the fwd areas.

4. 3 Aust A TK Regt will (at dis ret on of CO) provide one or two A.Tk Tps to co-operate on each occasion.

5. 4 Aust Lt AA Regt will arrange with Bdes concerned for the provision of token AA details.

*A. E. Williams*

Maj.

B. RAA 9 Aust Div.

	INITIALS
Brig. ✓	<i>AW</i>
B.M. ✓	<i>AW</i>
B.M.L.	
S.C.	
S.C.L.	
LO.I	
LO.II	
LO.III	
CO.	
CO.	
CO.	



24 Aust Inf Bde O. O. No. 17

Ref maps: EL ALAMAIN 1/50,000  
EL QASABA 1/50,000

INFM

1. Following tps are to come under operational comd 9 Aust Div on relief of 24 Aust Inf Bde and att tps :-

- 152 Inf Bde
- 105 Lt AA Bty
- 242 A Tk Bty
- A & D Coys 1/7 Mx.
- one sec 275 Fd Coy
- one sec Pro

- 2. (a) Relief to be carried out 1/4 Oct.
- (b) Units 152 Inf Bde are not to pass junc BOMBAY and MAIN Rds before last light each night.
- 3. 2/3 Fd Regt is to change to sp 152 Inf Bde on passing of sector comd.

INTENTION

4. 24 Aust Inf Bde will hand over present locality to 152 Inf Bde 1/3 Oct 42, and withdraw to area EL SHAMMAMA 438901.

METHOD

- 5. 30 Sep - Adv. ptys Bde HQ and each bn move to area EL SHAMMAMA.
- 1 Oct - 2/43 Bn and two coys 2/3 Pnr Bn will move to new area.
- Night 1/2 Oct - 2/32 Bn relieved by 2 Seaforth  
2/3 Pnr Bn " " 5 Camerons (less two coys)  
(less two coys)
- 2 Oct - Comd 24 Aust Inf Bde sector will probably pass.
- Night 2/3 Oct - 2/28 Bn relieved by 5 Seaforth (less one coy).

6. Sp Arms  
Relief of sp arms is to proceed independently.

7. Timings  
Following are anticipated timings for relief of fwd units :-

2/32 Bn	by	0100 hrs	2 Oct
2/3 Pnr Bn	"	0300 hrs	3 "
2/28 Bn	"	0100 hrs	3 "

- 8. Guides. Mutually arranged by bns will meet incoming units.
- 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn - junc QATTARA and MAIN Rds at 2100 hrs.
- 2/3 Pnr Bn - rd and trk junc 88732942 at 2145 hrs.
- Bde HQ - Bde Main HQ at 2145 hrs.

9. Patrols

Responsibility for patrolling to cover relief will rest -

night 1/2 Oct - with 2/32 Bn and 2/28 Bn  
" 2/3 " - " 2 Seaforth and 2/28 Bn

Patrols will withdraw each morning at stand to.

10. Rear Plys

Small rear plys may be left with bns 153 Inf Bde if required. Bn MMGs will be relieved under arrangements CO 2/3 MG Bn.

11. Dispersal area

Allotment of new bde area shown in Appx A.

12. Route - MAIN Rd.

13. Speed and Density - 10 mph 30 vtm

ADM

14. Locality Stores

Following will be handed over to relieving unit -

- (a) Spigot mortars with amm.
- (b) Special issue sig equipt known as "Post Stores" (switch boards, telephones PII and DV).
- (c) Engr stores in situ.
- (d) Sanitary appliances.

Receipts will be passed for (a) and (b) and res amm.

15. Traffic Control under

T.P. (1/2 Oct) / arrangements Bde HQ at 88352955 from 2200 hrs. Priority for movement on MAIN Rd will be given -

2 Seaforth  
5 Camerons  
2/32 Bn  
2/3 Fur Bn

16. Medical

det 2/3 Fd Amb will open a post at 43749022 by last light 1 Oct.

17. Amn

- (a) 1st line amn will accompany units.
- (b) 4 days res at EIGHTH Army rates in unit areas will be handed over.

18. Sup

11 Coy AASC to deliver direct to unit B Echgs.

19. POL

Normal drawing from tankers in bulk.

20. Water

WP for SHAMMAMA area 1 1/2 miles East of EL IMAYID Ry Sta.

21. B Echgs will rejoin units in new areas.

INTERCOMM

22. Bde HQ will close present location when road passes, and reopen same time vicinity 43679022.

23. LOs with units during relief and move.

Ack

Issued through LOs and Sigs  
Time of signature 1545 hrs

*FK* Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

Copy No

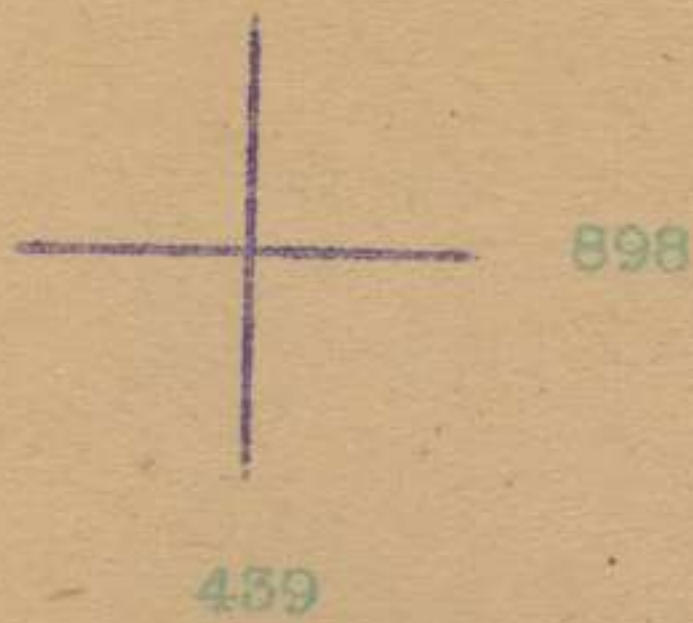
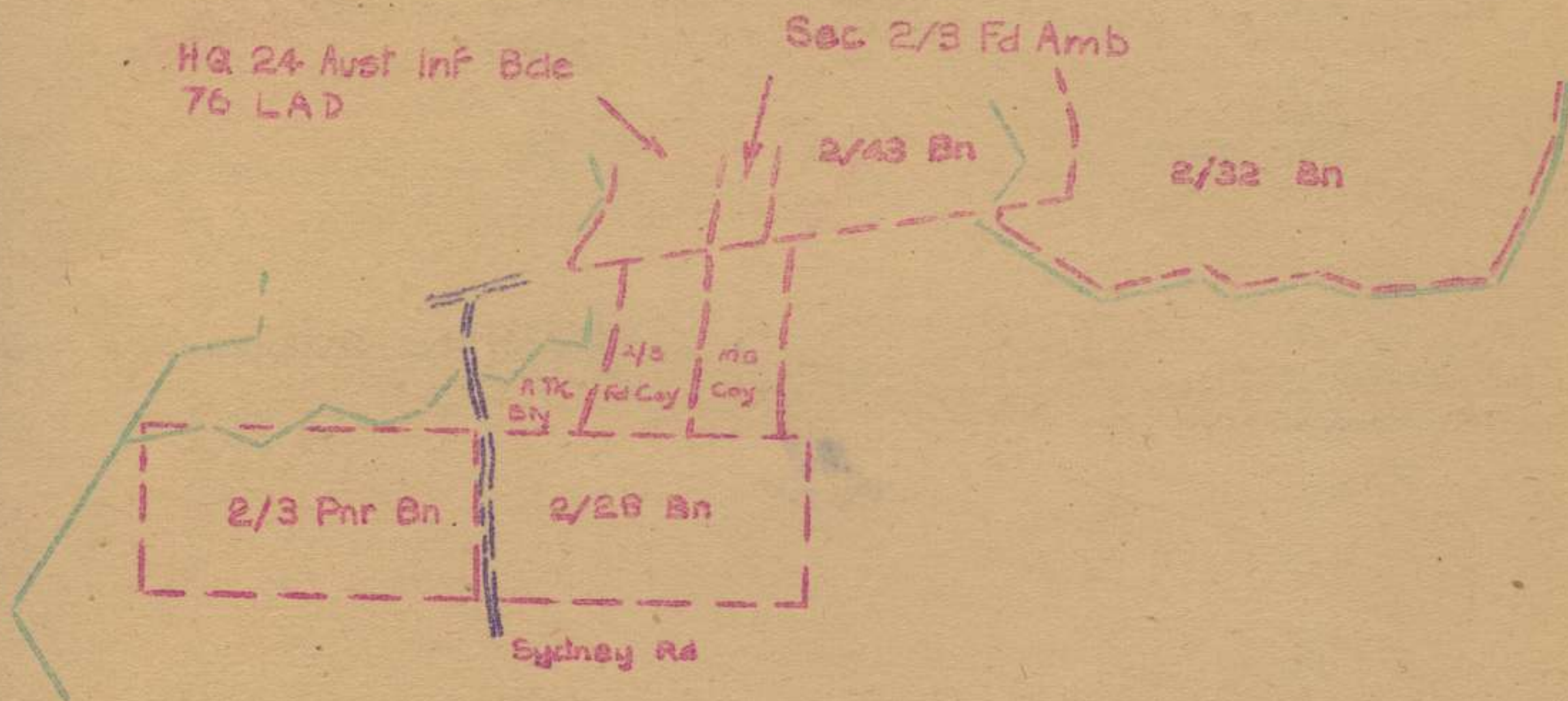
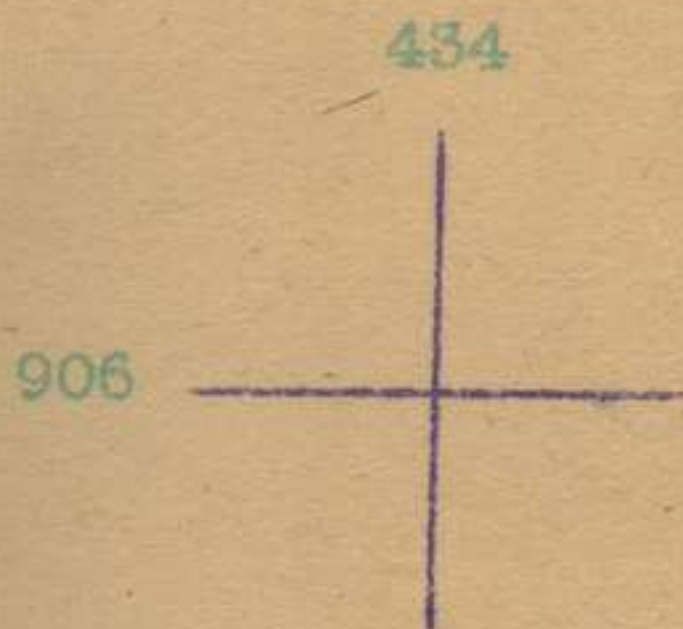
2/28 Bn	1
2/32 Bn	2
2/43 Bn	3
2/3 Pnr Bn	4
K Sec Sigs	5
76 LAD	6
C Sqn 9 Aust Div Cav	7
2/8 Fd Regt	8
10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	9
2/3 Fd Coy	10
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	11
2/8 Fd Amb	12
9 Aust Div	13
152 Inf Bde	14
26 Aust Inf Bde	15
3 S.A. Bde	16
Comd	17
S.C.	18
I.O.	19
T.O.	20
File	21-22
War Diary	23-24

SECRET

APPX A to O.O. No. 17

24 AUST INF BDE AREAS - EL SHAMMAMA

Superimpose on map EL QASABA 1/50,000



Appx A on map 1/25,000 issued to

- 2/28 Bn
- 2/32 Bn
- 2/43 Bn
- 2/3 Pnr Bn
- 2/3 Fd Coy

Sep WD

H.Q. 9 Aust Div., Appx 29  
29 Sep 42.

Ref: M 42/41/1

**SECRET**

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

2/3 Aust Fd Amb  
2/8 Aust Fd Amb  
2/11 Aust Fd Amb

File 51/609  
Date 30-9-42  
Time 1100

MOVEMENT - 24 AUST INF BDE

1. On the nights 1/2, 2/3 and 3/4 Oct, 24 Aust Inf Bde gp less 2/8 Aust Fd Regt will be relieved by 152 (H.D.) Inf Bde gp for trg purposes. Battle casualties or urgent sick from 152 Bde will be evacuated by a coy of 175 Fd Amb to M.D.S. 2/8 Aust Fd Amb. Normal sick will be similarly evacuated to MDS 174 Fd Amb at 449905. Adm of coy 175 Fd Amb remains under 51 (H) Div.
2. 24 Aust Inf Bde gp will move to an area bounded approximately by eastings 437 and 440 on the coast. 2/3 Aust Fd Amb will evacuate 24 Aust Inf Bde gp to present MDS, and will est a medical sta in the bde area for that purpose. This sta will NOT be larger than a coy and will be sited by last light 1 Oct 42 in an area approved by HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.
3. The amb cars from 2/3 Aust Fd Amb at present held by 2/8 Aust Fd Amb will be returned by mutual arrangements between C.Os.

*B.S. Hanson*  
(B.S.HANSON) Lt.Col.  
A/A.D.M.S. 9 Aust Div.

Copy to  
HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde  
A.A.& Q.M.G. 9 Aust Div

	INITIALS
Brig. ✓	AS
B.M. ✓	[Signature]
B.M.L.	[Signature]
S.C. ✓	[Signature]
S.C.L.	[Signature]
L.O. I	
L.O. II	
L.O. III	
I.O.	[Signature]
T.O.	
A.O.	

w/d  
sl/86

Appx "B" 30

SECRET

Copy No 22

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.  
7 Sep 42.

DISTRIBUTION LISTS

1. The following distribution lists will apply as from 1200 hrs 7 Sep :-

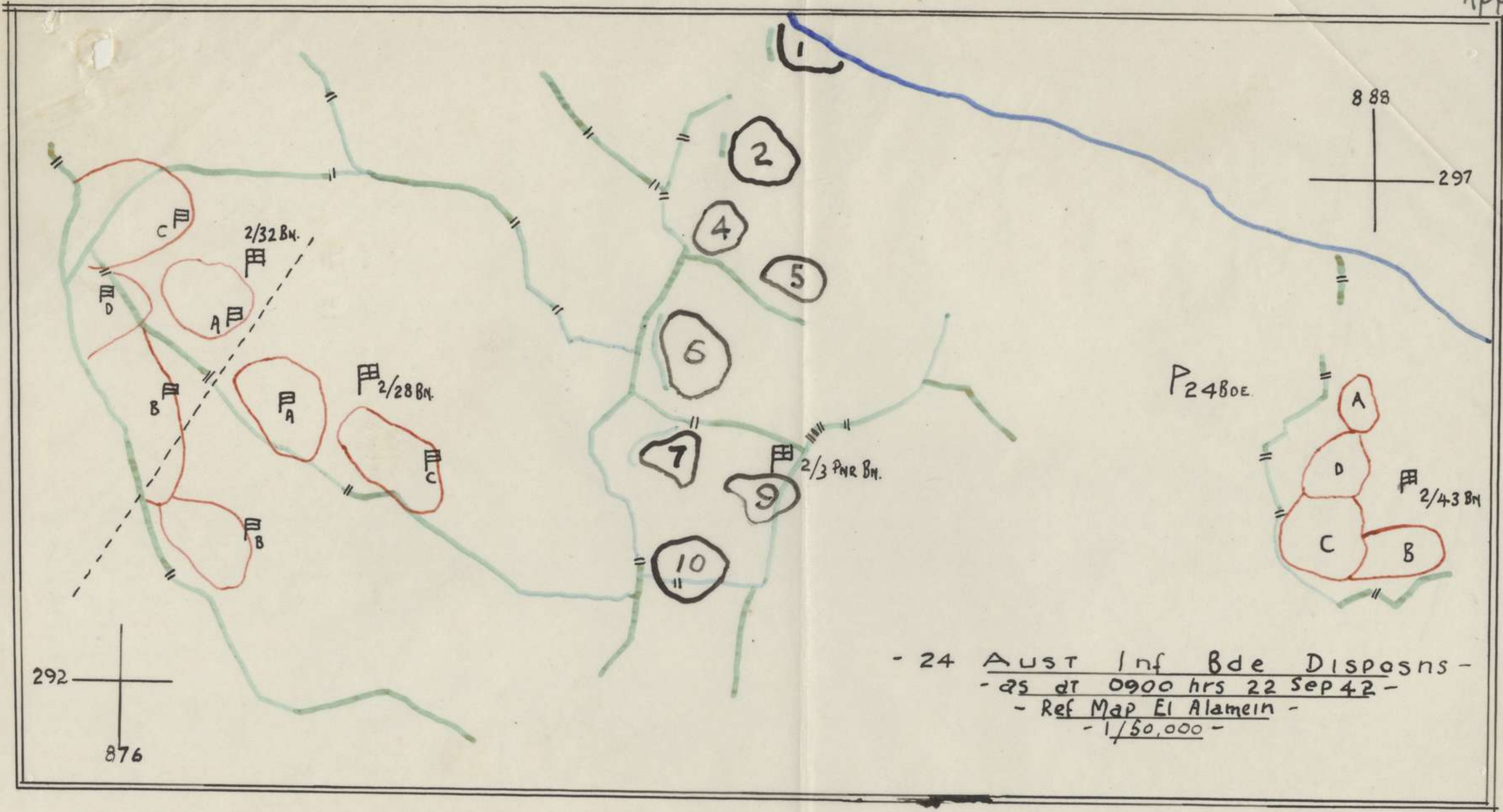
2. These lists cancel those issued on 5 Aug 42.

<u>List A</u>	<u>Ser No.</u>	<u>List B</u>	<u>Ser No.</u>
2/28 Bn	1	2/28 Bn	1
2/32 Bn	2	2/32 Bn	2
2/43 Bn	3	2/43 Bn	3
2/3 Pnr Bn	4	2/3 Pnr Bn	4
Comd	5	2/8 Fd Regt	5
File	6	11 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	6
		2/3 Fd Coy	7
		2/2 MG Bn	8
		C Coy 2/2 MG Bn	9
		2/8 Fd Amb	10
		K Sec 9 Aust Div. Sign	11
		2 Pl HQ Gd Bn	12
		Sec 9 Div Pro Coy	13
		76 LAD	14
		Rear HQ 24 Bde	15
		20 Bde	16
		26 Bde	17
		3 S.A. Bde	18
		9 Aust Div	19
		Comd	20
		File	21-22
		War Diary ✓	23-24

Distribution  
List 'B'

*E. T. Pearson*  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.



- 24 Aust Inf Bde Disposns -  
 - as at 0900 hrs 22 Sep 42 -  
 - Ref Map El Alamein -  
 - 1/50,000 -

1 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 36  
(From information received up to 0600 hrs 1 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

At about 0030 hrs night 30/31 Aug, enemy, estimated strength 80, advanced from WEST on front of 600 yds between approx 2961 and 2967 northing grids, with apparent intention of raiding our FDLs.

This attack was preceded by arty fire, which began about 2330 hrs and was distributed throughout area of fwd bns, with heaviest shelling in areas 87602968, 87602962, 87652966, 87672953, 87792944, 87652966.

Attack began approx 0030 hrs, and an enemy flanking party secured the high ground 87592967, and from here used 4 automatics and 3 or 4 mortars.

Arty DF tasks Pl - B6 were fired, but enemy succeeded in passing through minefield and reaching our wire. Here enemy were stopped by MG and LMG fire, and then withdrew.

Enemy arty continued with desultory shelling.

At 0400 hrs, shelling increased, and shortly afterwards our right coy, the one which had been attacked earlier, came under fire from about 6 MGs. Movement of approx two pls of enemy was seen. Our arty fired DF tasks, and enemy MG fire ceased. Enemy then withdrew.

At first light, a patrol examined front of attack to a depth of 500 yds. They reported finding 6 posns from which MGs had fired, at least one 81mm mortar posn, a heap of 20mm shell cases and a mine detector.

Patrol found fresh blood on ground in six places, and there were signs that casualties had been dragged away.

Patrol also captured one German PW from 3 Coy I Bn 382 I.R. PW, who was born in Poland, had only been in Africa 12 days. He was vague as to composition of raiding party, but thought it consisted of whole of 3 Pl, three men per sec from 1 and 2 pls and some men from 4 Pl, sufficient to man 2 HMGs, 2 lt mortars and 2 hy mortars.

By first light enemy shelling was considerably reduced and it dwindled off during the day. It is estimated that about 1200 shell fell in Bde area during the night.

During the operation some veh movement was heard fairly close in.

Our casualties during night were:- 1 killed, 3 wounded.

Other fronts - Night 30/31 Aug

In the coastal sector there was an enemy raid similar to that on our own front. At 2335 hrs, coastal FDLs were under hy mortar and arty fire. At 0035 hrs, enemy inf advancing on wire 87543024 were beaten off by our arty, mortar and S.A. fire.

Enemy casualties were 2 killed, 3 PWs, and there were signs that casualties had been dragged away. The PWs came from 3 Bn 125 I.R.

At 0207 hrs, two tks were reported on western pt 24(873299). These tks withdrew at 0345 hrs.

At 0435 hrs, a further call was made for SOS fire in area 87473010. By 0450 hrs, situation indicated an attack imminent, but this did not develop owing to arty, mortar and S.A. fire. One man, wounded and unconscious, was found in this area, and is believed to be a pioneer.

Later information stated that a further PW captured at 875301 came from 4 Coy, 1 Bn, 125 I.R.

Div on our left flank carried out three raids, each of coy strength, during night 30/31 Aug, and captured 55 Italian PWs from 1 Bn, 61 I.R., TRENCO Div, and 1 German from 433 I.R.

On RUWEISAT RIDGE enemy attacked at 0330 hrs, and after some initial success were driven out by 0607 hrs. No tks were used.



During night, 30 Italian PWS were taken from area just South of RUWEISAT RIDGE.

Day 31 Aug

There was no enemy movement North of 260 northing grid. The main enemy thrust with 90 Lt Div on North, and 15 and 21 Armd Divs following on South, was between 250 and 256 northing grids. German armour moved East South of RAGIL 427867, and was engaged by our forces. Battle lasted till dark. At 1914 hrs 55 tks were reported at 435877. 2 PWS from 115 Panzer Grenadiers were captured 436872. Enemy tk losses during day were :- 30 certain, 20 probables. Our hy armour has NOT yet been engaged.

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

PWS confirmed the present general allotment of units on Div front. I/125 IR, previously of doubtful location is stated by PW to have elements at least between main rd and ry. This may mean that both I/125 IR and II/125 IR are between the ry and northing 300. This is borne out by the PWS statements of the depth of the posns. Layout is said to be fwd wire and minefields 1 km square with strongpts in between them. Main coy posns are then some distance to the rear (none of the PWS could give any clear idea of distance). PWS also stated that strongposts were alternatively German and Italian and further a screen of Italians was often placed fwd of the minefields and wire in dug-in posns to act as "Bait" for our patrols.

(Source - 9 Div I.S. No. 283)

4. DETAILED ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

870295 - suspected OP tower.

5. ENEMY METHODS

Sp for raid on our FDLs was provided by MGS and mortars well fwd on the flanks. Attempts had been made to dig these weapons in as far fwd as our minefields. At least one 20mm posn was found close to our lines by daylight mopping up patrols. PW states these weapons intended to give very close sp during the actual assault.

(Source - 9 Div I.S. No. 283)

PW captured night 30/31 Aug area 875296 was 19 years old. Although born in STRYJ in Poland, he had been forced to assume German nationality, serve with the Compulsory Labour Service (Dec 41 to Feb 42) and join the German Army (Apr 42). He spoke German imperfectly, but claimed fluent Polish and Ukrainian, with working knowledge of Russian.

According to PW, Coy was paraded during 30 Aug 42 and told that a raid was to be carried out during the night. Volunteers were called for without much response, so men were detailed off as required. PW attempted to evade notice, but was chosen for his youth and because he is single.

The party is estimated at about 80 strong; PW is vague as to its composition but thinks it consisted of the whole of 3 Pl, three men per section from 1 and 2 Pls, and some men from 4 Pl. 4 Pl had recently received new armament (by MGS and mortars) and supplied this new material in support, leaving the original equipment behind.

MT was provided for about 12 km of the distance and the remaining 2-3 km were covered on foot. The party came under fire and went to ground.

The following infm has been obtained from PWS captured in coastal sector :-

Dispositions: PW's coy has its three pls laid out in triangular formation, with 1 Pl on the right, 2 Pl on the left, and 3 Pl with all hy weapons in the centre at the rear.

FDLs: FDLs have been constructed and 35-40 men are sent forward nightly to man them. These men serve as listening posts at the same time, and PW maintain that there are no men posted out further forward.

Patrols: Patrolling by night was commenced about a fortnight ago with patrols of about 6 men strong. PW had been up to our wire on two occasions previously. About 8 days ago his patrol had an encounter with one of our patrols, which ambushed the German patrol from some wrecked vehs. The Germans withdrew without loss.

Raid: A patrol 80 strong was sent forward to obtain PW for identification and infm. 3 men from 220 Engr Bn (this Bn had not previously taken part in patrols) went forward to clear a gap in our wire and lift any mines. They were followed by 1 Section each from 1 and 2 Pls, and in the rear a light mortar section, a hy mortar section, and a HMG section from 3 Pl. A W/T detachment with a pack wireless set was also with the patrol. Cross fire from MGS was encountered and the patrol was forced to withdraw.

Water: There is an issue of one 20-litre canister of salty water per 10 men every two days, but distribution is not fair and there is never enough to allow of proper washing.

6. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Inf - 30 Aug

4 men in area of hummocks (87772908 to 87902915) during afternoon.

1940 hrs - 30 men in small gps behind enemy wire area 87202962 were joined by 3 small vehs.

31 Aug

0721 - 8 men at 87302926 and odd men seen at bottom of ridge.

1710 - 8 men advancing in extended line from 87352934 to 87362938 when they went to ground.

1720 - gp 10 men with gp of 5 to 6 200 yds to right advanced in same manner towards same point. These parties engaged by our arty.

7. ENEMY WORKS

30 Aug. 1045 hrs - explosion and black smoke near derelict veh on stony ridge area 873292.

1815-1822 hrs - eight explosions accompanied by cols of white smoke occurred hummocks area (87772908 to 87902915) during afternoon.

8. MISCELLANEOUS.

31 Aug - 1615 hrs - enemy laid smoke screen 87902910 to 87902903.

9. AIR OPERATIONS.

At 1750 hrs, 30 Aug, as a result of a dog fight over ALAMEIN area, 3 planes were brought down. One was a ME 109; pilot received burns but parachuted. Other two were Hurricanes, and pilots crashed with their planes.

1525 hrs 31 Aug, one CR 42 brought down by AA fire 888294. Pilot was seriously hurt.

1905 hrs - a MACCHI 202 made recce of Div area as far East as about 888 easting grid, then turned and flew WEST. Plane was shot down by AA, and pilot parachuted and was taken PW 889293.

1955 hrs - 15 JU 88s bombed area 886295. Some casualties were caused. It is reported that one of the planes was hit by AA and flew NORTH losing height.

During 31 Aug, 9 JU 87s divebombed our armd forces area 4288 and 2 were shot down by AA fire.

During 31 Aug our F and recce patrols were active over the fwd areas. Boston B, until grounded through extremely

poor visibility, inaugurated a "shuttle" service, and heavily bombed enemy concentrations in the South. 40 to 50 MT were destroyed.

*E. T. Pearson*  
*capt.*

*for Maj.*

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution  
As per Summary No. 35

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 37  
(from information received up to 1200 hrs 2 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

A bn of the Bde on our right flank yesterday attacked enemy localities in vicinity of pt 23 (872296). Bn reached objective by 0730 hrs, with exception of left fwd coy, which did not quite succeed. Many enemy were killed and wounded by our arty fire and assaulting inf, and 1 offr 101 ORs, all German, mainly from I and III Bns 382 I.R., were taken PW. Our tps encountered very heavy arty, mortar and S.A. fire. Hidden and interior minefields hampered tks and amm supplies. Our hold of posns was not firm enough to commit Exploiting Force, and our tps were withdrawn. At 1120 hrs, enemy reoccupied area pt 23, and at 1140 hrs, Cav engaged enemy inf 874296.

8 tks were lost during operations, but 1 has since been recovered.

Central and Southern Sectors.

No infm has been received today as to the situation in areas of German armd thrust. At 1730 hrs, 1 Sep, the posn appeared to be as follows. There were 25 enemy tks approx 434880 and 150 about 433878. These were believed to be the total German tk force. There were 75 tks at 427878, believed to belong to ARIETE Div.

There was a conen of 500 MT 431875, some MT and A Tk guns 438873 and a coln of MT moving towards the latter from 430867. There were conens of 1000 MT at RAGIL and 2000 MT area 890255, and a few tks and much MT 422875.

The enemy were engaged by our armd forces on NORTH and EAST of main enemy armour. No details are known as to own or enemy losses yesterday. Our lt armd forces on the SOUTH were advancing NW, apparently towards conens of MT reported above.

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

PWs from 1 Coy I Bn 61 I.R. TRENTO DIV captured area 877287 state 3 and 4 Coys have been wiped out in previous actions. 200 yds to the North of 1 Coy is 433 I.R. To South of 1 Coy is 2 Coy. To South of 2 Coy is either II Bn 61 I.R. or a German unit.

PW from 10 Coy III Bn 433 I.R. captured 878290 states 10 Coy has 9 and 11 Coys to the SOUTH and 12 Coy is in support. To the left and right of the Bn are Italians.

PWs state 9 Coy III Bn 125 I.R. is on coast with an Italian coy on its right flank, and 11 and 10 coys carry on the line down to the rd. The coys are in echelon with 9 and 11 Coys further fwd than the Italians or 10 Coy. 12 Coy has been divided up between the other three coys with a corresponding increase in strength and armament.

PW from I Bn 125 I.R. captured area 875301 believes there are only two coys between the main rd and the ry.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

1 Sep. During morning, movt of small gps of men was seen from time to time round number of oval shaped mounds in sq 874291. Two MT were seen in same area.

1240 hrs - 12 men possibly a working party in area 873291.

1945 hrs - 12 trucks moved SW into sq 872295, where they divided into two gps. One gp moved NORTH, and the other SOUTH.

2 Sep. 0705 hrs - 12 men in HUMMOCK area 878290.

1020 hrs - 4 men moved to derelict plane 87542935, then a further 2 men moved to approx 87592935, where they halted in some bushes, apparently observing. When engaged with Bren gun, they moved SOUTH at the double, and 4 men also left derelict plane at double.

2 men of a carrier crew then moved on foot to derelict plane and saw 8 men 800 yds SOUTH moving SE. Our men also saw 6 vehs about 2,000 yds WEST, which were moving EAST. Haze and dust prevented the vehs being identified.

Tag R

0645 hrs, 2 Sep, showed little movement in Northern sector. 100 plus MET were reported stationary and dispersed, area 866290 to 869292. 8 guns were seen dug in in this area and there are believed to be more. 871288 50 plus MET stationary and dispersed. 873288 4 MET and 2 tks stationary in depression. 874289 6 tks stationary dispersed.

4. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE.

A short strip of minefield is revealed running 400 yds SW from 87132962 to the edge of the print.

An A Tk and field gun posn close to the minefield 87202974 has been surrounded by wire.

A rectangular area has been bounded on 3 sides from 87062922 to 87122909 to 87032908 to 87012920 by a line of what may perhaps be petrol tins. No wire can be seen.

(Interpretation by M. E. I. U. of Air Photos taken 27 Aug)

A line of cairns changing after 500 yds to two rows of wire, mark a suspected minefield from 87352902 to 87052847 and 87332923, where it joins wire.

(Interpretation by M. E. I. U. of Air Photos taken 21 Aug)

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

The noscap of a shell found in Bde area has markings (obliterated in parts) -

.....Jg .1 .57

17a DL 202 1936

The shell has not been definitely identified. Its calibre would apparently be between 150 and 170mm.

6. ENEMY SHELLING.

An A Tk gun on brg 224 deg from 87642953 was active yesterday. It fired 24 shells, thought to be 47mm.

The following is extract from C. B. Int Report compiled from infm to 2000 hrs 1 Sep 42 -

"There was intense arty activity during our attack this morning, and shelling reports enabled many HBs to be identified as active. The majority of these were located in the central sector and could not be included in the neutralisation programme in the time available. On completion of the programme nine bombards were carried out up to 0800 hrs. From 0800 to 1018 hrs, fewer shelling reports were received, but at 1018 hrs, activity broke out afresh and continued till 1330 hrs. Two further HBs were bombarded and the sq 866298 was effectively neutralised by single guns "prodding" in the area.

Apart from two bursts of activity from 1435 hrs to 1525 hrs and 1745 to 1810 hrs, his arty has been much less active this afternoon and evening."

7. PATROLS

Patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs and 2 sappers between 1930 and 0030 hrs, moved from 87802940 to 87672935 to 87502922 to 87532920 to 87802940. From 87502922 movement and voices could be heard estimated to come from area 87462922. Compressor was also heard in distance to the SOUTH. At 87532920, found 4 pits about 12 ft long, 3 ft wide and 2½ ft deep. These appeared of recent construction, but showed no signs of occupation.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

H Q OF JUST INF BDE (Unit) Sept 26 1942 (Date)

( To be furnished by all Units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps , Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units ).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

Table with 4 columns: 1. Detail, 2. Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached), 3. Surplus to Establishment, 4. Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments). Rows include W.Os Class I-III, Staff Sergeants, Sergeants, Buglers, Corporals, Troopers, etc., and a TOTALS row.

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Table with 4 columns: Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong, Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong. Lists various ranks and their parent units, such as AASC, AAOC, and various battalions.

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularity requested.

Table with 5 columns: Army No., Rank, Name and Initials, Corps, Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in  
Part A of Army Form W.3009

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS				
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL
Bricklayers ...																				
Butchers. ...																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks ...																				
Cooks ...																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
> > (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians ...																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers.. ...																				
Fitters ...																				
Machine Cunnners ...																				
Masons ..																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipelitters.																				
Range Takers ...																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors. .																				
Wheelers ...																				
General duty personnel .																				
Totals ( to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																				

H. O. 24 AUST INF. BDE.

Unit.

Date of Despatch

26 Sept 1942

Signature of Commander.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Bde, Divn, Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

9 Aust Div

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIG A.H.L. GODFREY, DSO, MC, EDCOMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

NO 6

IN THE FIELD

3 SEP 42

32. SECURITY

(a) Photography. Despite previous instructions numerous breaches of GHQ MEF GO 1242 of 28 Nov 41 have been reported. All cameras other than those held by official unit photographers should have been withdrawn and returned to the kit store. This will be done under unit arrangements and a certificate rendered to this HQ by 10 Sep 42 that all cameras other than those of unit photographers have been withdrawn from personnel.

(b) Strangers. Units are reminded of the necessity for checking the identity of strangers moving about their areas or asking directions, especially at night. Each area should be carefully watched for strays and too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity for a constant and careful check.

(Ref DRO No. 497)

33. Weapon State

Ref 9 Aust Div RO 503

Units will submit a weekly weapon state as at 2359 hrs each Saturday to reach this HQ by 1200 hrs on Sunday.  
All foreign or captured weapons will be shown.

34. PAYBOOKS

Attention is directed to DRO 321

Paybooks will not be collected from individuals under any circumstances, except to obtain a continuation paybook, when the receipt supplied will be carried on the man at all times. The practice adopted in some units of collecting paybooks from tps desiring pay will be discontinued forthwith. (Ref Div RO No. 500)

35. ECONOMY OF FORMS

A considerable saving in message forms can be made by the use of scrap paper, cut to size, in place of AF C2128 for office and spare copies of messages. (Ref Div RO No. 504)

36. MT VEHS - SCREENING OF LIGHTS

Div ROs No 208 and 404 are cancelled.

Units will immediately submit indents through ADOS 9 Aust Div in accordance with Div RO 159 of 10 Mar 42.

(Ref Div RO No. 505)

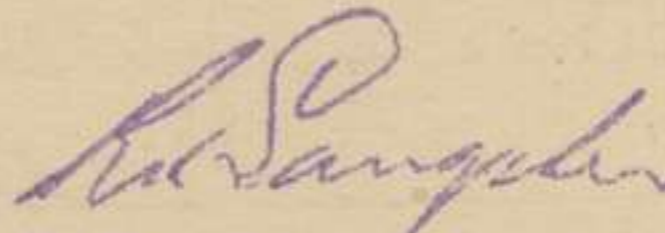
37. PURCHASES BY AIF FROM EFI

A report has been received from EFI Bulk Issue Store at BURG EL ARAB that AIF units have attempted to purchase beer from that store. NO purchases of any kind will be made by 9 Aust Div units from EFI until authority is given to do so. EFI has received instns to this effect. (Ref Div RO 505)



38. ARMING 69 GRENADES

Force must NOT be used to insert detonators in 69 grenades. Any of these grenades which will not readily accept detonators without force being used will be reboxed and returned to APs, together with a report, a duplicate of which will be sent to Main 9 Aust Div.  
(Ref Div RO No. 506)

  
Capt  
S.C. 24 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION :-

As per R.O. No. 3.

NOTICES

LOST

Marked Map EL ALAMEIN sheet 1 : 50,000, mounted in a strong wooden frame approx 2'6" x 2'0".  
Fell from an office truck in convoy at approx 44259032 between 1300 hrs and 1400 hrs 26 Aug 42.  
The loss is serious and until it is found and returned to Main HQ 9 Aust Div, security may be imperilled.

LOST

Haversack containing messing and toilet articles in area West of Main HQ 9 Aust Div.  
Finder please return to DAQMG, 9 Aust Div.

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIG A. H. L. GODFREY, DS, MC, ED.COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 7

IN THE FIELD

8 SEP 42.

39. GROUND TO GROUND RECOGNITION SIGNALS - MT

Our MT carry blue flags for use as recognition signals when challenged. If challenged, MT show a blue flag held either horizontally or vertically as notified from time to time.

The flags will not be flown except when answering or anticipating a challenge.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 513)

40. ORDNANCE PROCEDURE

(a) Cases have been reported of units going direct to Ordnance Depots at ALEXANDRIA for ordnance stores without authority from ADOS and without approved indents. This practice will cease.

(b) Normally ADOS will arrange collection of stores from depots but in special cases he may authorize units to draw direct. On such occasions indents approved by ADOS will be required.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 513)

41. SALVAGE

(a) AIF units will NOT remove any items of salvage or eqpt from either the corps salvage dump EL HAMMAM or the army salvage dump BURG EL ARAB. Units will not send tps to these dumps unless directed to do so by Div HQ.

(b) Empty food tins will not be returned to salvage dumps. They will be disposed of, by burning and burying if practicable, or burying only.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 520)

42. WITHDRAWAL OF JERRICANS

(a) All jerricans are to be withdrawn from units and sent to BAHIG pet depot, for reissue on priority laid down by GOC Eight Army.

(b) All units of 9 Aust Div will take immediate action to return jerricans to PPs. AASC will arrange delivery to BAHIG from PPs.

(c) Certificates, signed by COs and OSG of all units, stating that no jerricans are held by the unit, will be forwarded through normal channels to reach this HQ by 12 Sep. As HQ 9 Aust Div has to send a certificate to higher authority, based on units' certificates, accuracy and punctuality is essential.

(d) AASC 9 Aust Div will render a certificate that all jerricans received from units or held by HQ AASC, AASC Coys and 101 Aust Gen Tps Coy have been delivered to BAHIG Pet Depot. A receipt for all jerricans returned will be obtained from BAHIG, and held by HQ AASC.

(e) Should any unit acquire, by any means, any further jerricans, these will be returned to BAHIG through the channels set out above.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 521)

43. C.O.'s AWARDS - SEPERATE OFFENCES

(a) Where at the time of holding an orderly room a C.O. deals with two or more offences committed by the one soldier, he must impose a punishment in respect of all the offences together, which is not in excess of his powers as laid down in AMR & O 418.

(b) All charges pending against a soldier must be heard at the one orderly room and the award must be as laid down in para (a) of this order.

(c) The practice of dealing with two offences on two separate days in order to increase the power of the C.O. will therefore cease forthwith.

(Ref 9 AUST DIV R.O. No 522)

44. AMMUNITION RETURNS

Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 491 dated 21 Aug 42.

This return will now be submitted as at 2359 hrs 12 Sep 42, to reach this HQ by 1600 hrs 13 SEP 42.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 523)

*[Signature]* Capt.  
S.O. 24 AUST INF BDE.

DISTRIBUTION

As per R.O. No-3.

ROUTINE ORDERSBYBRIG A. H. L. GODFREY, DSO, MC, ED.COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDENo 8IN THE FIELD11 SEP 42.45. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following punishments imposed by Courts Martial recently held in this area are published for information :-

1. A private soldier convicted of stealing property belonging to a person subject to military law (£S35) was sentenced to 120 days detention.

2. A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged with ignominy.

3. A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged.

4. A lieutenant convicted of striking a soldier and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (using obscene language to the soldier) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to the loss of 12 months seniority.

5. A private soldier convicted of one charge of desertion and two of AWL was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for 18 months and to be discharged.

6. A private soldier convicted of three charges of AWL was sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour.

7. A Staff Sergeant convicted of neglect to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (negligently leaving a military vehicle unattended in ALEXANDRIA) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to forfeit 28 days pay.

8. A private soldier convicted of failing to appear at a place of Parade and disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 90 days Field Punishment with forfeiture of pay for that period.

(To be repeated in Unit Orders) (Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 524)

46. RESTRICTIONS UPON MOVEMENT OUT OF ARMY AREA

All ranks are forbidden to proceed on or EAST of the CAIRO-ALEXANDRIA Road unless in possession of a duty pass issued by their unit.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 527)

47. EIGHTH ARMY ROUTINE ORDERS Nos 218 and 359 of 1942 ARE REPUBLISHED FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE

Motor Vehicles - Discipline - Control of. A.R.O. 218/42.

(a) No army MT Vehicles may leave the Army Area unless on duty and with a written authority signed by a Staff Officer of a Formation not below Bde.

This authority will be made out in the following form :-

#..... is/are authorised to proceed out of the Eighth Army Area, on duty, in Motor Vehicle No .....

Period of Absence .....

(Office stamp of Formation etc., with date).

.....  
Signature of Staff Officer

# To give names of all individuals in the vehicles.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 528)

48. BLOOD GROUPING - ENTRIES IN PAYBOOKS AND ON IDENTITY DISCS

Units will arrange for all paybooks and identity discs to be examined without delay to ascertain that the blood group number of each man appears inside the back cover of the paybook and on the reverse side of the identity disc.

Nominal rolls of personnel whose blood groups are not known will be forwarded to reach this HQ by 1000 hrs 16 Sep 42. Action will then be taken to ascertain the blood groups and to inform units.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 529)

49. FD AMB VEHICLES - PASSING ON RDS

All MT drs will be instructed to "make-way" for motor ambes at all times. It should be explained to drs that the ambes may be carrying wounded men who should be carried without delay and with the least possible discomfort to the next medical installation.

Vehicles meeting an amb on a narrow rd should be driven well over to the side of the road and if necessary should be driven off the rd and stopped until the amb has passed.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 530)

50. DISCIPLINE

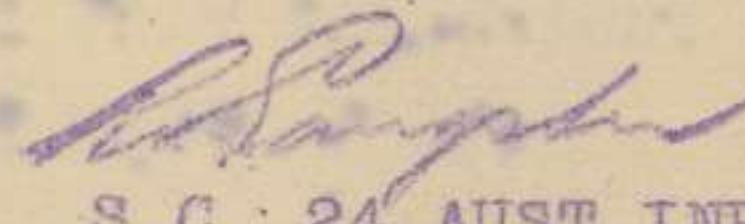
1. The undermentioned sentences by courts martial are published for information :-

(i) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer (A.A. Sec 9 (2)), was sentenced to 60 days' field punishment and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 60 days.

(ii) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of obtaining rations by false pretences contrary to Section 32 (1) of the Larceny Act 1916 (A.A. Sec 41) and of an offence of fraudulently misapplying rations, public property (A.A. Sec 18(4)), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for 23 months.

2. To be repeated in Unit Routine Orders.

(Ref A.I.F. Orders No 1246)

 Capt.  
S.C. 24 AUST INF BDE.

DISTRIBUTION

2/28 Bn  
2/32 Bn  
2/43 Bn  
2/3 Pnr Bn  
K Sec Sigs  
2 Pl Gd Bn  
76 L.A.D.  
Rear Bde H.Q.  
Comd  
Notice Board  
File (2)  
War Diary (2)

ROUTINE ORDERSBYBRIG A.H.L. GOLDFREY, DSO, MC, ED.COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 10

IN THE FIELD

18 SEP 42

54. LOSS OF DENTURES

(a) Too many dentures have been lost in the past three months. Dental Officers working under field conditions are unable to supply large numbers of dentures and preference will be given to personnel not previously supplied.

(b) In many cases dentures have been lost while swimming. This will not be accepted as an excuse for free replacement.

(c) Unit Comds will be thoroughly satisfied that no negligence has occurred before recommending that dentures be replaced at public expense.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 538)

55. OIL AND WATER COOKING

Replacement parts for Hydra burners are almost unobtainable. To prolong the life of burners it is essential that the maximum number of units and sub-units should employ oil and water cooking, for which the use of AGO is approved.

Excellent results can be obtained by the use of improvised oil and water cookers. These cookers will be constructed at once by all units and detts whose posn in relation to the enemy does not make their use impracticable. Any unit which does not know how to make or operate oil and water cookers will contact "Q" Main 9 Aust Div.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 539)

56. DISCIPLINE

(a) The C-in-C has noted that when driving in a car his flag is not being saluted.

(b) All Unit Commanders will warn their men that cars flying the authorised flags on the bonnet must be saluted.

(c) The flags flown by various Commanders are laid down in Middle East G.O. 498 of 42, as amended by G.O. 757 of 42, and must be made known to all ranks.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 541.)

57. AMM HOLDINGS

(a) Examination of half yearly amm returns reveals that some units are in possession of as much as 3½ times authorized entitlements while the holdings of some are dangerously low.

(b) Immediate steps will be taken by all units to adjust holdings to the correct figures, based on W E or the number of weapons held, whichever is the greater, plus reserves authorized by 24 Aust Inf Bde Adm Insn No 5 of 21 Aug 42. For Boyes Rifles, the amm entitlement will be based on the number of Rifles actually held.

(c) Surplus amm will be returned to APs by units and a certificate to the effect that amm holdings are in accordance with para (b) above will be rendered to reach Bde HQ by 1000 hrs 25 Sep 42. Loose rds and opened boxes will be retained by units, ONLY sealed boxes being returned to APs.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 542)

58. TPT WITH BATHING PARTIES

When MF is used to carry bathing parties, one man will be detailed to disperse each vsh and remain with it while personnel are swimming. 150 yds dispersion will be maintained approaching, while at and leaving beaches.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 543)

*[Handwritten Signature]* Capt.  
S.O. 24 AUST INF BDE.

Distribution

As per R.O. No 8

NOTICES

FOUND In area 42969022 - small silver watch. "Imperial" branded on  
face. The above watch is held at REAR HQ 9 AUST DIV.

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIG A.H.L. GODFREY, DSO, MC, ED.COMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 11

IN THE FIELD

19 SEP 42

59. TELEGRAPH LINES

Telegraph poles, insulators and telephone lines whether in use or not, will on no account be removed or converted to uses other than those for which they were designed. This order will be repeated in unit orders and all ranks impressed with the necessity for maintaining signal equipment intact at all times.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 544)

60. PAYBOOKS - LOSS OF

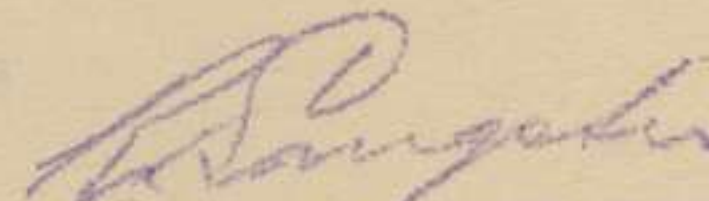
(a) Attention is directed to AIF (ME) Orders 503 and 876 and in particular to para (b) of 503 which states :-

"Cases of loss occasioned by the negligence or carelessness of the soldier are to be severely dealt with as breaches of military discipline."

(b) Information received indicates that thieving of paybooks by pickpockets in CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA is still prevalent.

(c) All ranks will be reminded that every soldier is responsible for the safe custody of his paybook, and that AIF (ME) Order 503 (b) will be enforced in every case of loss of paybook.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 550)

 Capt.  
S.C. 24 AUST INF BDE.

Distribution

As per R.O. No 8



ROUTINE ORDERSBYBRIG. A.H.L. GODFREY DSO, MC, EDCOMMANDING 24 AUST INF BDE

No 12

IN THE FIELD

29 SEP 42

61. WASTE OF PAPER

(a) The shortage of paper has become very serious and every endeavour must be adopted to eliminate waste.

(b) The following are some methods by which economy can be exercised.

- i. Avoid wide margin.
- ii. "Close up" headings and space for signature.
- iii. Selection of the smallest size of paper for each letter etc.
- iv. Use both sides of duplicating paper.
- v. Use of old drafts and out of date correspondence for scribblers etc.
- vi. Omission of double spacing between paragraphs.

(c) The attention of all clerks will be directed to this matter which must receive constant supervision.

(9 Aust Div R.O. No 560)

62. COURTS MARTIAL- RECORDS OF SERVICE

9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 88 is amended by adding after Para 9, the following para :-

"9A. Immediately after remanding an accused person for trial by Court Martial, the unit will signal 2nd Echelon AIF (ME) in the following form:

"Forward urgently statement of service

No.... Rank.... Units.... Name.....

This record will accompany the application for Court Martial if received in time. Otherwise, it will be forwarded to the confirming authority with the completed proceedings when forwarded for confirmation.

Nothing in this para effects the provisions of para 9 hereof.  
(Ref 9 AustDiv R.O. No 562)

63. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS - ALEXANDRIA

The following Orders are in force in ALEXANDRIA.

(1) CAR PARKS

The official military Car Parks now in ALEXANDRIA are :-

i. Military Car Park. (Accommodation 600 vehicles)

This is situated 700 yds WEST of the Cecil Hotel on the CORNICHE overlooking the EASTERN HARBOUR, and can be approached after dark from the SHARI SAID EL AUWAL. This Park is wired in, has a guard and also a small NAAFI for drivers.

ii. Kom el Dik. (Accommodation 120 vehicles)

To be used only when the Military Car Park is full.

(2) UNATTENDED VEHICLES

No military vehicles will be left unattended in ALEXANDRIA, except at one or other of the official military car parks, and then only if immobilised. Arms must not be left in vehicles in either of these car parks. 173 vehicles were stolen in ALEXANDRIA during the month of July alone.

(3) AIR RAIDS

Owing to improvement the noise of traffic no longer interferes with A/A instruments. In future military vehicles which are on duty may continue to circulate during air raid alerts and need not stop. A Military Arrete is being published by the Governate to this effect.

(4) PROHIBITED ROADS

For operational reasons the CORNICHE (sea front road running whole length of ALEXANDRIA approx 11 miles ) is out of bounds to ALL vehicle traffic between the hours of 2000 and dawn. C.Os. are responsible for the promulgation of this to all officers and O.Rs in their units.

(5) LIGHTS

Lights of all vehicles will be screened as laid down in Middle East G.O. 221 of 42 (see D.R.Os 159,203, and 404 of 42.)

(6) SPEEDING

There is a speed limit of 20 mph throughout ALEXANDRIA.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 564)

64. INJURIES - ACCIDENTAL

(a) Attention is directed to A.R.O. 381 of 42, which is republished :

"381 INJURIES - ACCIDENTAL

(a) The number of accidental injuries , causing absence from duty , has reached serious proportions. In the case of British Troops it gives rise to 20% of the admissions to hospital, and it is the greatest single cause of admission in the Army as a whole.

(b) The main causes of these accidental injuries are :-

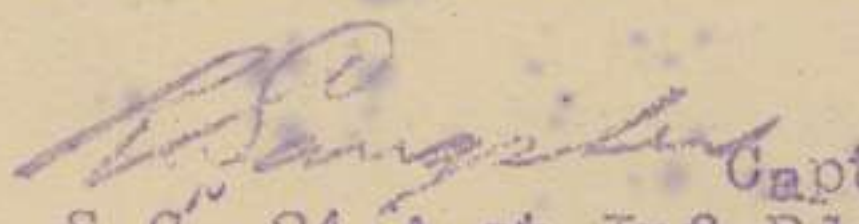
- i. Improper use of petrol.
- ii. Unauthorised interference with enemy ammunition and explosives, etc.

Frequent orders have been issued in regard to each of the above causes , and it is clear that these Orders are not being enforced by all Commanding Officers.

(c) Immediate steps will be taken by all Comds to stop this useless waste of manpower . The attention of all ranks will be drawn to the matter .

(d) Numerous accidents are being caused by the use of petrol in Stoves, Oil, Wickless (Primus Stoves). Paraffin is the authorised fuel for these stoves and they are not constructed for use with petrol. The use of petrol in these stoves is forbidden.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 565)

  
Capt.  
S.C. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

AS per R.O. No 11.

NOTICE :- Jewish Divine Service will be held at Rear HQ 9 Aust Div Court Martial Room, 1000 hrs Saturday 3 Oct 42, on the occasion of the Feast of Tabernacles.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde (Unit.) For Week Ending Sept 26 1942

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	* BRIGADIER	1		
	Lieut.-Colonels ...			
	Majors... ..	1		
	Captains ... ..	4		1
	Lieutenants ... ..	2		2
	2nd Lieutenants ... ..			
	Quartermasters ... ..			
	District Officers ... ..			
	TOTALS ... ..	8		3

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

## PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Brig		Godfrey AHL	AIF	yes		Comd
2		MAJOR		JACKSON DR	✓	✓		BM
3		CAPT		Bishop KE	✓	✓		BML
4		CAPT		SANGSTER RW	✓	✓		SC
5		CAPT		Fischer CL	✓	✓		SCL
6		CAPT		GELLI BRAND TI	✓	✓		LO
7		Lieut		Cook JT	✓	✓		LO
8		Lieut		PEARCE FTS	✓	✓		IO
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21	<u>(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS</u>							
22								
23		CAPT		Weekley NV	AASC	yes		BASCO
24		Lieut		Downey RK	2/32 Bn	✓		Att for Duty
25		Lieut		BRUTON EV	✓	✓		✓
26		Lieut		LANCASTER CS	✓	✓		✓
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
32								
33								
34								

**(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.**

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		GARD T	AACHD		Chap 2/43 Bn
		BASKIN JEDA	✓	2/32	✓
		THOMAS S	✓	2/38	✓

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.

(Unit.)

26 Sept 1942

(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*

(Signature of Commander.)

9 Aust Div

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS**

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE. (Unit). 19 Sept 1942 (Date)

(To be furnished by all Units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.			
W.Os Class II.	2		
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	1		
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	3	1	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	4		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	46	1	
<b>TOTALS.</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>*</b>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 L/Sgt 3 Ptes	} AAASC. Corp Intell	1 Cpl 1 Pte	} 2/4 Hygiene Sec
2 Cpls		1 Cpl 3 Ptes	
1 WO I 1 Sgt 3 Ptes	} AAOC 2/3 Fd AMB	1 Sgt 1 Cpl 2 Ptes 2 Ptes	} 9 Div Postal Unit 9 Aust Div
1 Cpl 3 Ptes		2/13 BN.	
1 Pte 1 Cpl	HQ 2B Aust INF Bde		
1 Cpl	2/23 BN		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks. (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

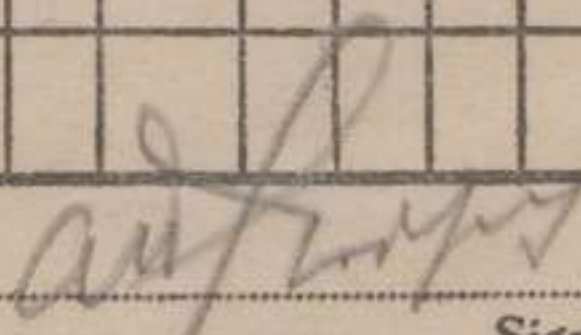
Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in  
Part A of Army Form W.3009

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.						REMARKS					
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.		Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers. ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders. ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)..																				
> > (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ... ..																				
Driver-Operators. ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers.. ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons .. ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneer, Infantry ... ..																				
(other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors. . ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel .						1		1	2											
Totals ( to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)						1		1	2											

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

Unit.

Date of Despatch 19-9-42

  
 Signature of Commander.

9 Aust Div.  
 Bde, Divn, Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde (Unit.) For Week Ending Sept 19 1942.

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment:	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*				
*				
*				
*	<i>Brigadier</i>	1		
	Lieut.-Colonels			
	Majors...	1		
	Captains	4		1
	Lieutenants	2		2
	2nd Lieutenants			
	Quartermasters			
	District Officers			
	TOTALS ...	8		3

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.):

## PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	
1		Brig	-	Godfrey A.H.I.	RAF	yes		bound	
2		Major	-	Jackson D.R.	✓	✓		BM	
3		Capt		Bishop K.E.	✓	✓		B.M.L.	
4		Capt		Sangster R.W.	✓	✓		SC	
5		Capt		Fischer C.W.	✓	✓		SCL	
6		<del>Capt</del>	T/Capt	Gellibrand T.I.	✓	✓		LO	
7		Lieut		Book J.J.	✓	✓		LO	
8		Lieut		Harce E.T.S.	✓	✓		IO	
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22				<u>Officers attached from other Corps.</u>					
23									
24		Capt		Weekley N.V.	RAFSC	yes		BASCO	
25		Lieut		Downey R.K.	2/32 Bw	✓		ATT for Duty	
26		Lieut		Bruton E.V.	✓	✓		✓	
27		Lieut		Lancaster C.G.	✓	✓		✓	
28									
29									
30									
31									
32									
33									
34									

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		Sard T Baskin J.E.D.A. Thomas S	RAFCLD		Chap 2/23 Bw 2/32 2/28 ✓
		<p>2nd Aust Inf Bde (Unit.)</p>		<p>Brig (Signature of Commander.) 2nd Aust Div.</p>	
		<p>19-9-42 (Date of Despatch.)</p>		<p>(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)</p>	



FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE. (Unit) Sept 12 1944 (Date)

(To be furnished by all Units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.			
W.Os Class II.	2		
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	1		
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	3	1	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	4		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	48	6	
TOTALS.	58	*7	*

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Lt Sqr	} AAASC	1 Cpl	} 2/4 Hygiene Sec
2 Ptes		1 Pte	
1 Cpl	} Corps Intell.	1 Cpl	} 2/30 Bn.
1 Lt Cpl		3 Ptes	
1 WOI	} AAOC	1 Sqr	} 9 Div Postal Unit
1 Sqr		1 Cpl	
3 Ptes	} 2/3rd Inf Amb	2 Ptes	} 9 Aust Div
1 Cpl		1 Cpl	
3 Ptes	} AAAD	1 Sqr	} 2 Pl A Coy
1 Pte		3 Ptes	
1 Cpl	2/13 Bn	31 Ptes	2/1 Aust HQ Gen Bn
1 Cpl	HQ 26 Aust Inf Bn		
1 Cpl	2/23 Bn		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks. (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS				
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners																				
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)																				
» » (Wheeled)																				
Driver-Mechanics																				
Driver-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary & Water Duties																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel																				
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																				

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

Unit.

Date of Despatch

12.9.42

Signature of Commander.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Bde, Divn, Area, etc, with which unit is serving.

*9 Aust Div*

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*Ad 24 Aust Inf Bde* (Unit.) For Week Ending *Sept 12 1942*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment:	1	2	3	4
	Ranks..	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	<i>Brigadier</i> *	<i>1</i>		
	Lieut.-Colonels ...			
	Majors... ..	<i>1</i>		
	Captains ... ..	<i>4</i>		<i>1</i>
	Lieutenants ... ..	<i>2</i>		<i>2</i>
	2nd Lieutenants ... ..			
	Quartermasters ... ..			
	District Officers ... ..			
	TOTALS ... ..	<i>8</i>		<i>3</i>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

## PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	
1		Brig		Godfrey	AIF	yes	-	band	
2		maj		Jackson	DR	-		BM	
3		capt		Bishop	KE	-		BML	
4		capt		Sangster	RW	-		SC	
5		capt		Fischer	CL	-		SC L	
6		Lieut	T/capt	Hillibrand	TI	-		LOT	
7		Lieut		Book	JT	-		LOT	
8		Lieut		<del>Book</del>	<del>JT</del>	-		<del>LOT</del>	
9		Lieut		Searcy	KTS	-		IO	
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25				<u>(ii) Officers attached from other Corps</u>					
26									
27		capt		Weekley	NV	AMSC		BASCO	
28		Lieut		Dowling	RK	2/32 Bn		act for duty	
29		Lieut		Bruton	EV	2/32 Bn		✓	
30		Lieut		Lancaster	CS	✓		✓	
31									
32									
33									
34									

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		Gard	AACLD		Chap 2/43 Bn
✓		Baskin	✓		2/32 Bn
✓		Thomas	✓		2/28 Bn

Adjut. Aust Inf Bde  
12 Sept 1942  
(Unit.)  
(Date of Despatch.)

Adjut. Brig  
9 Aust Div.  
(Signature of Commander.)  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE. (Unit) 5/9/1942 (Date)

(To be furnished by all Units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

Table with 4 columns: 1. Detail, 2. Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached), 3. Surplus to Establishment, 4. Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments). Rows include W.Os Class I, II, III, Staff Sergeants, Sergeants, Buglers, Trumpeters, etc., Corporals, Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc., and a TOTALS row showing 58 strength, 7 surplus, and 0 reinforcements.

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Table with 4 columns: Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong, Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong. Lists various ranks and their assigned units, such as AAOC, AAAC, and various battalions and units.

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Table with 5 columns: Army No., Rank, Name and Initials, Corps, Remarks. (e.g. present whereabouts if known). This table is currently blank.

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.						REMARKS					
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III,	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.		Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ...																				
Butchers. ...																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks ...																				
Cooks ...																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
> > (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians ...																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers.. ...																				
Fitters... ...																				
Machine Gunners ...																				
Masons .. ...																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry ... (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers ...																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors. . ...																				
Wheelers ...																				
General duty personnel .																				
C.S.M																				
Totals ( to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																				

H. Q. 24 AUST. INF. BDE.

Unit.

Date of Despatch

5/9/42

Signature of Commander.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
9 Aust Av.

Bde, Divn, Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde* (Unit.) For Week Ending *5/9/42*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*				
*				
*				
*	<i>Brigadier</i>	<i>1</i>		
	Lieut.-Colonels ...			
	Majors... ..	<i>1</i>		
	Captains ... ..	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>
	Lieutenants ... ..	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>
	2nd Lieutenants ... ..			
	Quartermasters ... ..			
	District Officers ... ..			
	TOTALS ... ..	<i>8</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3</i>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

## PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Capt</i>	<i>Fischer C.L.</i>	<i>AIF</i>	<i>30/8/42</i>	<i>Appointed S.C. Learner 24 Aust Inf Bde vice Lieut M.G. Worthley. Remains seconded in his unit.</i>

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Lieut</i>	<i>Worthley M.G.</i>	<i>AIF</i>	<i>30/8/42</i>	<i>Cause to be seconded &amp; resumes regimental duties - 2/43 Bn.</i>

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	
1		Brig		Godfrey A.H.	AIF	Yes		Comd	
2		Major		Jackson A.R.	-	-		B.M.	
3		Capt		Bishop K.E.	-	-		B.M.	
4		Capt		Sangster R.W.	-	-		S.C.	
5		Capt		Fischer C.L.	-	-		S.C.L.	
6		Lieut	T/Capt	Gellibrand T.G.	-	-		L.O.	
7		Lieut		Cook J.T.	-	-		L.O.	
8		Lieut		Pease F.T.S.	-	-		I.O.	
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									
26				<u>(ii) Officers attached from other Corps.</u>					
27									
28		Capt		Weekly N.V.	AASC			BASCO	
29		Lieut		Bowney R.K.	2/32 Bn			Att for duty	
30		Lieut		Burton F.V.					
31									
32									
33									
34									

**(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.**

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Chaplain		Gard T.	AA Ch D		Chaplain 2/43 Bn
-		Basher J.E.A.	-		2/32 Bn
-		Thomas G.	-		2/28 Bn

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde

(Unit.)

5/9/42.

(Date of Despatch.)

Ad/lt Brig

(Signature of Commander.)

G Aust Bde

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)



24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No.65  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 30 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Shelling increased to 84 shells for the day.

Salvage party during night 29/30 Sep recovered 250 cases of 25 pr amm from 87472945.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Section post 87232949.

Section post and possibly pl HQ 87352930.

Occupied posn 87292889.

Daylight patrol confirmed that PW taken by flanking Bde night 28/29 Sep was captured in listening post at 87292970.

3. MINEFIELDS

Air photos taken 27 Sep show a suspected single row of mines from 86902981 running SW to 86852974 and then SE to 86862970 to form an "L".

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Tks Tac R 1215 hrs 29 Sep reported 20 tks at 873292, but this was NOT confirmed by arty and inf OPs which have observation over this area. The same TacR also reported 200 MET dispersed 873292. The area given must be too far NORTH; their position is probably south of MITEIRIYA ridge.

MT Tac R 1215 hrs also reported 100 MET dispersed 869298.

Inf Small groups of men on skyline between 87092924 and 87252910; 8 men at 87242914; truck stopped at 87142919. All these points are along a line of wire previously reported.

O P party of 4 men and 1 veh at 87222916 dispersed by our arty.

8 men shaking blankets 87292889 fired on by our arty. A further 15 men appeared and were dispersed.

5. REAR AREAS

Interpretation of Air Photos taken 27 Sep reveals following:-

In area bounded by MRs 86133134, 86693104, 86272927, 86132928, 86102913, 85912911 :-

• 576 MT.

260 tents.

There are a number of tanks and the presence of tank tracks confirms this, but no positive identification can be made.

A store dump and tents dispersed over a large area MRs 86122999, 86222997, 86132969, 86052970.

A suspected store dump at 86223028 with W/P on the eastern perimeter for local defence.

2 field hospitals at 86272980 and 86222982.

Another strip flown 27 Sep shows that a Geneva cross has been marked on the roof of the railway building at 87083039 and another placed on the ground to the N.W. of it.

6. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. Int Report 29 Sep reports :-

"Enemy arty activity has not been on a large scale today. Single guns have been mainly active, and apart from a break between 1330 and 1715 hrs, they have put intermittent harassing fire down on our FDLs throughout the day."

In this Bde's area there was a marked increase to 84 shells during the day. The areas shelled were 877294 (37 shells), 875294 (12 shells), 876293 (6 shells), 876294 (11 shells), 875296 (10 shells), 876295 (8 shells). Two casualties were caused.

Between 1800 and 1900 hrs enemy arty registered DF tasks on a line running NW through 87452935. Most of the shells fell on a line 150 yds through that point and a few fell further NW and SE.

Some mortar bombs fell in area 87612945 at 1810 hrs.

7. ENEMY METHODS

Flanking Ede reports:- "In sangar 87523041 previously occupied by us, a blanket and a tin box 6" x 6" were found. As these items were not there when outpost was occupied by our tps it was thought that they may be booby traps".

8. PATROLS

Night 29/30 Sep

A party was sent out to recover amm from area 874294. A covering party of 1 NCO 2 ORs moved out from 87552954 at 2045 hrs and a loading party of 6 ORs with an offr in charge moved out with trucks at 2230 hrs. The amm dump was located at 87472945 and 250 cases of 25 pr amm were recovered.

At 87472944 a dump of Australian clothing and equipment (lost in attack 22 July) was found, and from here 16 respirators and 12 greatcoats and some signal cartridges and groundsheets were recovered. MG fire was heard on brg 275 deg but no enemy were encountered by our party, which returned to own lines at 0210 hrs.

9. OWN ARTY

During day 29 Sep, targets in areas 871297, 871296, 870296, 869295, 871295 were subjected to harassing fire.

During night 29/30 Sep, the targets selected were in areas 873292, 874292, 875290 and 873293.

10. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

1645 hrs - 5 bombers bombed enemy lines fwd of our FDLs.

*E.T. Panger*  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Ede.

Distribution

As for summary No.64

29 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 64.  
(From information received up to 1230 hrs 29 Sep 42.)

1. GENERAL

Period remains quiet.

Patrols made no contact with enemy. A 2 pdr gun was recovered from 87572922.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Standing patrol from flanking Bde, established at 87392960 on 26 Sep, made following observations during daylight:-

Occupied posns 87202962, 8722029595, 87222957, 8727029525  
Concertina wire 87332964 to 87342965

Patrol reported that all occupied posns were on the reverse slopes of low mounds.

Patrol also located various landmarks as follows:- Single drum 87302965; three drums 87282962; knoll 87232953; derelict veh facing west 87252957; derelict ambulance 87402959; plane wreckage 87392959; one drum 87302956.

Interpretation by A.A.P.I.U. of air photos taken 26 Sep reports the following:-

Large camp consisting of 1230 MT and 92 tents dispersed in area bounded by M.Rs. 86852863 - 86282878 - 86702961 - 86343020.

A stretch of single wire is seen between M.Rs. 87402970 and 87432972.

A stretch of single wire is seen between MRs 87352972, 87352971, 87352963, and 87322962.

A stretch of single wire is seen between MRs. 87382934, 87402932 and 87382928.

A single stretch of wire from M.R. 87222888 to M.R. 87082884 with a gap at M.R. 87132887.

Two stretches of wire are observed from M.R. 87182915 - 87142914 - 87122918 and 87042920, and from M.R. 87092906 to 87072919 with a gap at M.R. 87112913.

A single stretch of wire between the following M.Rs 87432916 - 87372912 - 87402920

Short stretch of wire enters strip at M.R. 86782972 runs west for 900 yds before turning east and leaves the strip at M.R. 86722977.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

At 1300 hrs movement of approx 12 men was reported in area 874292 They were engaged by arty and a veh moved away when first shelling occurred. The area was again shelled by our arty, corrected co-ordinates being 874801, 292256. There are 3 derelict tks in the area.

On each occasion when our arty opened fire the enemy immediately replied with shelling onto our O.P. It is thought there may be an arty O.P. in the vicinity of the tks.

4. ENEMY SHELLING

28 Sep - 37 shells in Bde area - 87582940 (4 shells) 87652937 (7 shells) 876293 (18 shells incl 2 AB) 87612936 (3 shells)

C.B.O. Int Report states that fragments of shell show that the 17 cm gun is again sited to fire on this front (area shelled 878300). A groove bearing shows it to be North of the railway. There may be others about 290 Northing grid line. A dud shell which landed well behind our FDLs shows that the Italian must have run his 100/17 Hows well forward. The only explanation for this appears to be that he is copying our methods of running guns up to deal with troublesome HBs, because no other guns are sited to reach our gun posns in that area.

5. PATROLS

Night 28/29 Sep

A patrol of 1 offr and 9 ORs moved from 87552955 to 87382949 to 87332958 and back to 87552955. 4 weapon pits at 87352954 showed some signs of recent use. No enemy were encountered.

A patrol of 2 offr 5 ORs followed route from 87592941 to 87412932 to 87472928 back to 87592941.

While patrol was at 87412932 a recce gp moved to 87402929. No enemy were encountered. Derelict vehs were passed as follow :- Italian truck 87422933; truck with 2 pdr gun 87402930; Mk 111 tk 87482929.

A salvage party together with a covering party moved from 87632935 to 2 pdr gun and portée at 87572922. The portée was found to be completely wrecked. The 2 pdr gun had a broken axle, but this was wired to main body of gun, and a new wheel was fitted to the gun. The gun was then dragged back to own lines. There was no enemy interference.

6. OWN ARTY

During 28 Sep our arty carried out harassing fire onto targets in areas 871297, 870296, 870295, 870294, 868298, 873292, 874292, 875290, 874290.

During night 28/29 Sep, targets in following areas were harassed:- 870298, 872297, 871297, 871296, 870296.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

There were a number of enemy planes over Bde area during late afternoon. The only hostile action reported was the dropping of 2 bombs in area 881287 by a Me 109. No damage resulted.

*E T Pearce*  
Lieut  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No 63

28 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 63  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 28 Sep)

1. GENERAL

A patrol from flanking Bde captured PW from I Bn, 382 Inf Regt, in approx area 873297.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Dummy gun 87702910 (patrol report)  
Mortar 8741829145 fired about 14 bombs into area 876294 between 1000 and 1100 hrs 27 Sep. No damage resulted.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Visibility during 27 Sep was poor.  
At 1935 hrs 20 AFVs, some identified as tks, were moving around in area 874289. No general direction of movement could be discerned. Soon after they were observed, visibility became nil, and arty could therefore not engage them.

4. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

Patrol encountered at 875529140 (near cluster of derelict vehs) minefield of 3 rows Mk V GS mines with uneven spacing varying from 5 to 12 yds. The field runs on bearing 111 deg and is marked on northern side by a shallow furrow. A further 35 yds south there is a single dannert fence stretched so that it is only about 15 ins high. 26 yds beyond this fence is a field of 6 rows Mk V mines spaced 6 to 14 yds and staggered, the mines being only partially buried. Close to the most southerly row of this field is a dannert fence about 2 ft high. The total distance between these two concertina fences is 46 yds and both fences and minefield run on bearing 112 deg.

A further 20 yds south is a third dannert fence which is of normal height and appears recently laid. No mines were found between the second fence and this more southerly one.

(Comment:- A patrol 20/21 Aug reported a 6 row field running on brg 110 deg from 87552910 to 87592915, but patrol on that occasion reported considerably closer spacing)

Patrol which examined minefield and wire reported above moved next to approx 87582915, where it found a trip wire running on brg 181 deg. This was followed south for 150 yds, where a field of 8 rows Mk V mines, spaced irregularly 5 to 14 yds apart, was found. This field runs on brg 310 deg and is apparently portion of the field reported by patrol night 24/25 Sep as running on brgs 310 and 190 deg from 8757529128.

Last night's patrol also confirmed small block of mines at 87592912, reported in Int Summary No. 60.

At 87622915 patrol found 6 GS Mk IV mines in a sandy scrub patch.

Same patrol also confirmed presence of trip wire running on brg 275 deg at 87592921.

Another patrol found tripwire connected with some A.P. mines at 87682909.

5. ENEMY ARTY

Shelling in Bde area was light - 11 shells in the following areas :- 876294 (3 shells) 87632941 (5 shells) 88162945 (1 shell) 876293 (2 shells).

C.B.O. Intelligence Report 27 Sep states :- The O.P. Tower (872291) reported yesterday was again visible this morning. The flash spotters ranged a gun of a medium bty deliberately on to the impudent structure. One warmer and five ranging rounds were too much for it; after the sixth round it vanished from the ridge and the fire for effect was never called for. This loss should prevent the enemy from carrying out his ranging shoots in areas other than the FDLs.

6. ENEMY METHODS

Bde on our right reports a booby trap as follows :- wire 6 in above ground was stretched between two shell holes 3 ft 6 in apart. Protruding from ground underneath this wire was a sheet of tin 6 in high and 8 in long.

7. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

The plane which dropped bombs in sq 882297 night 26/27 Sep (reported in Int Sum No. 62) also dropped a number of "butterfly bombs" in the same area. A proportion of these exploded on impact with ground, while others did not so explode. The "wings" of these bombs are painted yellow, with a red stripe on each of the smaller wings. The bomb itself has a yellow stripe on each end and on each side.

8. PATROLS

Night 27/28 Sep

A recce patrol of 1 offr 1 OR with a Spr Sgt moved from 87672933 and recced minefields at 87552914 , 8758029115, 87592912 and 87622915 as reported in para. 4

A patrol of 1 offr and 10 ORs, with 2 offr and 1 OR from flanking Bde, moved from 87762920 to 87702910, where a dummy gun was found. There was a working party in the area who moved away South in a veh. at approx 2215 hrs. Patrol moved to derelict Australian carrier at 87722912, but found the carrier was beyond salvage in present circumstances. A slightly damaged Bren, with spare barrel, was taken from the carrier.

A patrol of 1 offr and 7 ORs moved from 87532962 at 2030 hrs and waited in ambush at 87372948 from 2135 hrs to 2330 hrs. No enemy were seen. Patrol then took up position in old diggings at 87452944 from 0030 hrs to 0200 hrs but again no movement was seen. On return patrol found a well dispersed dump of 105 cases 25 pr am at 87472945.

A patrol of 1 offr 7 ORs left 87612949 at 2300 hrs and moved to 87452926 to 87482924 and then back to own lines at 87612949. Patrol saw a derelict truck at 87552942 and 3 derelict tanks at 87462928. There are diggings at 87472930. At 87442924 patrol saw at least 5 groups of men, each of 2 to 4 men, extending over approx 200 yds. From their voices enemy were judged to be Italians. Sentries were patrolling in pairs continuously and there were always 4 sentries on duty at any time.

9. OWN ARTY

27 Sep - Harassing fire on areas 871297, 870296, 869296, 869295, 870295, 872295, 868297, 873292, 874292, 873291, 875291, 875290, 874290.

Night 27/28 Sep. Harassing fire on areas 870299, 871298, 870297, 871297, 871296, 869296.

One of our patrols reported that at 2310 hrs a shell from our arty caused a great flash and a momentary blaze on approx brg 290 deg from 87372948.

*C T Pearson*  
Lieut  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As per "I" Summary No. 62.

27 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 62  
( From information received up to 1100 hrs 27 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet

In accordance with programme, there were no deep patrols last night, but arty carried out harassing shoots.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

87202921 - Possible strongpost  
87222919 - Sec post

3. OBSERVED MOVT

Normal during periods of good visibility. 87202921 - 20 men observed in possible strongpost.

4. ENEMY ARTY

During morning 26 Sep C.B.O. reports there was a certain amount of ranging followed by harassing fire from medium and fd guns. Again about last light there was harassing fire from enemy guns of different calibres firing all at once from between 300 and 295 northing grid lines.

An observation tower has appeared in sq 872291 and is possibly responsible for the increase in ranging shoots.

In Bde area there were 20 plus shells in the following areas :-  
87582967 (3 shells) 875296 (9 shells) 876293 (3 shells incl 2 airburst)

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

"Echeloned Troop fire" can be used in order to ascertain quickly the range to opportunity Targets, and to cover the flanks of a tank attack.

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

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

Note. The amount of echelon is normally 100 m.

(From CB Int report No.66)

5. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire on the following areas :- 872297, 871297, 871296, 869295, 870294, 873292, 874292, 873291, 875290, 870292, 870295, 873293.

6. AIR ACTIVITY

26 Sep there was increase in air activity both of own and enemy aircraft over fwd areas. In addition to those mentioned in Sum No.61 between 0900 and 1000 hrs 5 EA flew over FDLs 4 being at altitudes below 1000 ft.

At 2330 hrs 1 EA dropped 2 bombs in sq 882297. Bombs were dropped from about 1000 ft and made craters 18 ft in diameter and 2 ft deep. No damage was caused.

During the night a plane also dropped incendiary bombs in vicinity of ALAMEIN ry sta.

*E T Peavy*  
Lieut  
for Maj

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As per "I" Summary No.61.

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 61

(From information received up to 1300 hrs 26 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period again quiet.  
Enemy arty active to last light 25 Sep.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

87642890 - Strongpost  
87422913 - Occupied poans  
87232968 - OP.

3. ENEMY WORKS

1130 - 1730 hrs 25 Sep at irregular intervals blasting occurred along MITEIRIYA Ridge in areas 873290, 872291, 871292, 874289, 875289.

Compressor heard working morning 26 Sep in area sq 872295.

4. OBSERVED MOVT

1830 hrs (approx) 25 Sep truck observed to move into dead ground about 1000 yds fwd of our FDLs area sq 876293. Mortar fired 4 bombs into area 87652933 then truck departed.

Otherwise movt normal in usual areas.

5. ENEMY SHELLING

In Bde sector enemy arty was quiet on 25 Sep till 1700 hrs.

1700 - 1845 hrs 79 shells fell in Bde area - 87682952 (7 shells)  
87762955 (38 shells) 87672950 (34 shells)

C.B.O. report a group of medium guns sited about 870290 plus one tp of D.P. and one of 75 mm were responsible for this fire. Again synchronised firing of HBs made definite location difficult. To combat this, OPs should report accurate time of flash brgs as well as the duration of fire.

The enemy has discovered that we are using Sound Ranging and is counteracting it by firing a number of Troops simultaneously. The enemy is also reported to possess Sound Rangers. So far no evidence has come to light of enemy ranging by this method. Sound ranging is distinctive from other methods of ranging in that there is no bracketing. Each round getting nearer and nearer to the target. Any evidence of such ranging should be reported immediately to the C.B.O.

(From CB Int Report No. 65)

6. OWN ARTY.

Harassing fire on areas :- 870299, 871298, 870297, 871297, 870296, 870295, 869295, 871295, 868298, 868297, 873293, 871291, 873291, 875291, 875290, 873292, 874292, 874290. 1625 hrs 25 Sep OPs report explosion area 87292915 as result of our arty fire.  
0900 hrs 26 Sep - Strongpost engaged 87642890.  
0930 hrs OP at 87232968.

7. AIR ACTIVITY

1015 hrs - EA (German) flew low over area 881295 in NE direction then turned EAST.

British aircraft crash landed in area 883293. Pilot safe.

Another British aircraft crash landed to SOUTH estimated approx area 879291.

Distribution

As per "I" Sum No. 60.

*SK James* Maj  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.



25 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 60  
(From information received up to 1600 hrs 25 Sep)

SPECIAL NOTE:

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

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

(From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 306)

1. GENERAL

Period has again been quiet.

Night 24/25 Sep one patrol engaged enemy party at 87422943 but could not be certain if casualties were inflicted.

Another patrol was pinned by MG fire in vicinity of unmarked minefd area 87412933.

Two men wounded in our patrols.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

87652904 - enemy strong point behind minefd mentioned in para 4.

87642901 - occupied post.

87702906 - strong point.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Visibility 24 Sep was again impaired by morning mist which lasted to approx 0930 hrs and later by usual haze.

0730 hrs 25 Sep - 50 enemy in small gps were dispersed by arty as they moved towards their FDLs from MITEIRIYA Ridge in sq 873291. Movement continued after firing till men disappeared into dead ground.

4. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

Patrol from bde on left flank night 23/24 Sep came upon enemy minefd at 87652904. Fd was estimated 30 yds deep and contained AP mines. On enemy side of fd was single row of dannert wire.

At 87662903 same patrol found small fd consisting of 3 rows 6 yds apart. Each row consisted of 8 mines 6 yds apart.

Patrol night 24/25 Sep struck trip wire, barbed 3 in high at 87582915. A possible continuation of this wire was later found at 87622912. Approx 200 yds SOUTH of wire at 87582915, a second trip wire running on brg of 185 deg was contacted; about 30 yds on our side of this wire on brg 60 deg was found a block of 16 concealed GS Mk IV mines spaced in the form of a square, each side of 4 mines, 5 yds apart. This block was found to be completely detached from the main fd which was struck further SOUTH. Main fd was struck about 60 yds beyond trip wire at approx 8757529120. At point where it was struck it ran on brg 190 deg, changing about 30 yds to NORTH to brg of 310 deg. Fd consisted of 8 rows Mk V mines staggered, spaced at varying distances from 5 to 14 yds apart. Mines were partially buried. No booby traps or wire were found to a distance of 50 yds on enemy side of fd.

At 87592912 two single rows each of 3 Mk IV mines, 5 yds apart, were found laid in the shape of a "V". Legs were on brgs 255 deg and 360 deg respectively. This gp of mines was found to be detached from any other fd.

Patrol night 24/25 Sep while moving to engage enemy party found themselves in minefd in area 87412933. Fd at this point runs on brg 330 deg and consists of 4 rows of British Mk V and Mk Vc mines. Spacing between rows and mines is 10 yds. At point where fd was found and examined there were no visible markings.

5. ENEMY ARTY

C. B. O. reports that following activity from Fd and median guns 23 Sep, by guns opened up during night 23/24 Sep. The 149/40 guns fired singly from different posns. (Note: one of these guns was identified by shell splinter as having shelled area of Post 2 (882297) during this period).

Enemy arty activity 24 Sep was on a small scale.

29 shells were reported on this Bde area - 87672950 (6 shells); 87632947 (4 shells); 87672934 (3 shells); 87642944 (3 shells); 87642948 (3 shells 75 mm 2 shells 88 mm); 87552954 (5 shells); 87722959 (3 shells).

6. PATROLS, Night 24/25 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 3 ORs, 3 sappers between 2200 hrs and 0245 hrs, followed route 87702931 to 87582913 to 87612910, thence back to 87742930. Details of wire and minefds struck and examined in sq 875291 appear in para 4. Voices and noise of truck were heard estimated about 700 yds away while patrol was examining minefd area 87582913. Later fire from LMG using tracer and rifles came from direction voices had been heard. Fire was not directed at patrol. Completely wrecked plane was found at 87602917.

Patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs left FDLs at 87552954 at 2130 hrs and proceeded to area 87422943, from which point what appeared to be atleast 6 vehs, spaced at 300 yds intervals, were observed on skyline, estimated 300/400 yds away in approx area 87382942. At same time an enemy patrol estimated strength 25 approached in close formation preceded by a scout about 30 yds fwd of his patrol. When enemy were approx 150 yds away a single shot was fired. Our patrol went to ground and opened fire with TSMGs. Enemy replied with a Spandau and rifles. No estimate was possible of casualties inflicted on the enemy. Enemy could not be distinguished as German or Italian. Own casualties as a result of encounter were one wounded. Patrol returned to own lines at 2340 hrs.

Patrol of 1 offr, 11 ORs moved out from 87602942 at 2100 hrs and proceeded to 87452930 where an enemy working party extending over a front of approx 400 yds was observed directly ahead at approx 87422927. Party appeared to be laying mines. When patrol turned right and moved along front of party, work ceased, two whistles were heard and an enemy party was observed moving towards patrol, but did not move far enough out to be engaged. Patrol proceeded to 87412933. From this point an enemy party of 6/8 men identified as German was seen to move towards rear of enemy lines. This party was followed by a second, identified as Italian, who stopped and remained at a posn approx 150/200 yds from patrol, area 87402934. As patrol moved into posn to engage enemy, they found themselves in a minefd. Patrol was then withdrawn while a recce was made of fd. By this time enemy were very vigilant and any movement drew MG fire from enemy. As result of enemy fire one man was wounded. Details of minefd appear in para 4.

7. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire in areas - 870299, 871298, 872297, 871297, 869296, 869295, 870294, 873292, 873291, 875290, 873293, 870298, 870297, 871296, 870296, 868297.

Distribution

As For Summary No. 59

*AR [Signature]* Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 59.  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 24 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL.

Period was again quiet.

During night 23/24 Sep a recovery vehicle, with a covering party of 1 Offr 16 ORs, brought back to our lines a Hurribomber which crashed landed in area 87542935 on 25 Aug. The recovery was completed without enemy interference.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

While it is not thought there is any drastic change in enemy disposns on the Div front, air photographs show considerable thickening of defences in depth. This may mean some changes in unit disposns to man the new posns as they are completed. In this respect it is considered that tps will be placed so that all vital or commanding ground is held by Germans

( 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 305)

OPs report an occupied line from 87382935 to 87402931 with probable sec posts at 87382934, 87392933, 87392932, 87402931.

Comment This line is probably further WEST behind FDLs which latest air photos show to run from approx. 87352934 to 87372930. in this area.

Following weapons were located by right flanking Bde when they opened fire at about 1830 hrs 22 Sept:-

- 87142987 - Post with at least 2 MGs and 1 Mortar
- 87162985 - Breda LMG
- 87182985 - MG
- 87042988 - 20 mm

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Visibility was obscured for the greater part of day 23 Sep by haze.

1730 hrs - approx 15 MT moved along fwd slope of MITEIRIYA RIDGE from approx 87382910 to 87722899.

4. MINEFIELDS.

Patrol night 19/20 Sep, located possible dummy minefd, EAST of enemy wire, at approx 87332937. Fd ran on brg 160 deg and was marked by a furrow on its eastern edge. Some 24 mounds of earth which appeared to be mines were examined, but no mines were found. Though the fd could not be examined for any length owing to the vigilance of the enemy, it appeared about 100 yds deep with 10 yds spacing.

Details have now been received of minefd struck by patrol night 20/21 Sep in area 87412926. An examination of fd revealed that the point where it was first met was one extremity of it, and from this point it was followed for a distance of 30 yds. The fd consisted of 3 rows of E.P. Mk II mines 5 yds apart, with 10 yds between rows; there followed a space of 10 yds, then 4 rows of British Mk V and Mk Vc mines 10 yds apart, with 10 yds between rows. On the enemy side of fd was a two strand cattle fence on a brg of 340 deg. This fence merges into a single damert fence at approx point where minefd was found to end. This fence continues on a brg of 340 deg. Area on minefd side of this fence was examined for a distance of 150 yds along fence and was found free of mines. The mines were buried, some deep, and some 3 ins above ground, and were not distinguished or found till wire was located. (Note: The most recent information from air photos of this area shows wire without mines in this area, but minefd is shown to commence further EAST in area 87452923).

Patrol night 23/24 Sep contacted enemy minefd at 87532921. There were no markings of any kind on our side of this fd. Owing to bright moonlight and presence of enemy sentries, no detailed recce could be made of it. The fd consisted of at least two rows with a possible third. The first four mines contacted lay on approx NORTH-SOUTH line and were spaced at 4 yds, 12 yds, and 4 yds.

At an interval of 6 yds towards the enemy was a second row staggered, but pattern could not be obtained. The fd consisted of Mk V and Mk Vc mines as far as it was examined. The first mine examined, a Mk Vc, was found to have the sheer pin removed. (Note: Patrol night 27/28 Aug reported an unmarked fd which ran from 8754029185 to 87532919, consisting of Mk II, Mk V and E.P. Mk II, rows 8 yds apart and mines 6 yds apart. Though fd ended at that date at 87532919 there was evidence of its having been recently laid at this point. It is possible that fd contacted by patrol may be part of this fd.)

5. ENEMY ARTY

CBO report harassing fire 23 Sep was directed mainly against TEL EL EISA and OP areas in the NORTH.  
13 shells only fell in Bde area - 87832948 (1 shell);  
87752943 (2 shells).

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

(From C.B. Int Report No. 63)

6. PATROLS

Night 23/24 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 5 ORs and 2 sappers left FDLs at 2300 hrs from pt 87632937 and proceeded to enemy minefd at 87532921, details of which appear in para 4. En route a knocked out British tk was examined at 87532926. At 87542923 talking was heard on a brg 304 deg; language could not be distinguished. From pt where minefd was struck two sentries on beat were observed 100 to 150 yds away on enemy side of fd. Presence of these sentries and bright moonlight made recce of fd in this area impossible. Patrol continued to 87552920. From this pt 2 sappers moved on to approx 87542919, but no mines were located. Patrol then returned to own lines which were reached at 0410 hrs.

7. OWN ARTY.

Harassing fire in areas :- 871297, 870296,  
869295, 870295, 870294, 873292, 874292, 875290, 874290.

Distribution  
As for Summary No. 58

9. *J. J. J.* Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 58.  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 23 Sep 42).

1. GENERAL

Period quiet.

There was a decrease in enemy shelling.

Patrol from left flanking bde, night 22/23 Sep, was pinned down by two MGs firing from 87802899 while attempting to investigate area 87842900, where voices, thought to be GERMAN, were heard.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

87802899 - two MGs (patrol report).

Interpretation of air photos taken 18 Sep and 19 Sep shows the following :- Possible minefd runs from 87632893 through 87532877 to 87332888 (edge of strip). Wire and weapon pits run from 87642852 (limit of cover) through 87802874, 87782878, 87822878, 87742887, 87802897, 87822900, 87792905, 87772903 and 87752904 to 87742897. (Patrol from bde holding FDLs EAST of this line struck wire on 5 ft stakes at approx 87822900 which was probably part of the line shown in air photos).

Suspected wire from 87872906 through 87812908 to 87802932.

Defensive wire through 87252908, 87232903, 87162905; also between 87182917 and 87032923. (This is probably wire reported by OPs as extending from 87052925 to 87182917).

Strongpoint at 87282904 consisting of double line of wire.

3. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. reports enemy unusually quiet morning 22 Sep, but resumed harassing programme during afternoon. (Most of fire fell on right flanking bde area).

19 shells fell in this Bde area yesterday (22 Sep) in areas 87832948 (12 shells);- 87662950 (7 shells).

2 mortar bombs (81 mm) fell in area 87642946.

Photos and activity show that the GERMAN is digging alternative positions about 500 yds from his previous pits both after having been shelled and in anticipation of future bombards.

(C.B. Int Report No. 62)

4. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire on areas 870298, 870297, 871297, 870296, 874292, 873292, 875290, 874290.

*K E Bishop Capt*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution  
As for Summary No. 58

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 57  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 22 Sep)

1. GENERAL

All patrols night 21/22 Sep encountered automatic fire. Patrol to 874292 again reported large working party apparently laying mines. Shelling showed a reduction to 56 shells. Enemy arty were yesterday registering DF tasks astride QATTARA trk between pt 21 (87662912) and foot of MITEIRIYA ridge.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

MGs approx 87432922 and 87472922 (patrol report).

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

A patrol from flanking bde night 20/21 Sep reported that a large GERMAN working party could be heard working in vicinity of West pt 23 (872296) on a wide front, driving pickets fairly widely spaced, possibly marking a minefd.

Patrol night 21/22 Sep reported that minefd at 8755029145 runs on brg 111 deg and consists of 3 rows mixed Mk IV and Mk V GS mines staggered and NOT buried. On northern side of field, 10 yds from first row of A Tk mines, there is a row of ITALIAN B4 A.P. mines 12 yds apart.

(A patrol night 9/10 Sep reported a minefd at 87552916 which ran on brg 140 deg. This field was similar in composition to the one reported by last night's patrol with the exception that there was a further row of GS Mk IV mines 8 yds apart and 20 yds NORTH of row of A.P. mines. It seems probable that last night's patrol encountered the field further EAST than the patrol of 9/10 Sep).

Patrols to area 874292 on each of last two nights have reported enemy working parties laying mines over a wide front.

4. ENEMY METHODS

Flanking bde reports that on night 20/21 Sep a party of 18 enemy spaced 2 yds apart approached a recce patrol which was observing from 87302970. When enemy were within 150 yds our patrol withdrew 100 yds and as the enemy continued to advance with 6 men moving round one flank, our party withdrew a further 200 yds after which the enemy was lost to view. The enemy could be seen in detail by the naked eye. Every man wore a great-coat and carried either a sub-machine gun or automatic of some kind; no rifles were seen.

5. ENEMY ARTY

56 shells in Bde area yesterday, areas shelled being 87672950 (18 shells); 87652957 (21 shells); 87572956 (6 shells); 87702954 (10 shells); 87852944 (1 shell).

At about 1215 hrs 21 Sep enemy arty were registering DF tasks between pt 21 (87662912) and foot of MITEIRIYA ridge.

A fragment of a nose cap obtained yesterday identified HB "SA" as a 25 pr bty; location of this HB is 87332894.

6. PATROLS, Night 21/22 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 5 ORs and 3 sappers left 87672933 at 2300 hrs and encountered minefd at 8755029145, as described in para 3. While examining field patrol was fired on by a MG and rifles, and a party of at least 8 men were seen some 80 yds SSW. The enemy party then ran away, but 4 men returned about 5 minutes later. In the meantime, MG fire apparently on fixed line along minefd passed over our patrol. The patrol then withdrew 150 yds and enemy put up 3 white flares. Enemy continued to put up lights at fairly long intervals during our patrol's further withdrawal.

A patrol of 1 offr, 10 ORs incl 3 sappers, moved from 87552957 to 87392935 to 87372935 to 87372936 to 87322936 to 87332936 to 87552957; no minefids or wire were reported by the patrol. At 87332936 heard voices and coughing immediately ahead, and 2 Spandaus and 1 Fiat fired several bursts. The brgs to these weapons were 235, 265 and 190 deg respectively. At 87322936, enemy post was seen

approx 100 yds ahead and at least 7 men were observed moving about the post. Numbers of pits seen during patrol showed no signs of recent occupation.

A patrol of 1 sgt, 10 ORs, incl 3 sappers, moved from 87622946 to 87452923, where patrol was fired on by two LMGs approx 87432922 and 87472922. These LMGs appeared to be near derelict tks. Enemy was very alert and put up many flares. A working party of unknown strength was heard, extending over a considerable distance on both flanks. Sappers considered this enemy party was engaged in laying mines. Enemy voices were heard, but were NOT loud enough to distinguish nationality.

7. SALVAGE

A party using a carrier endeavoured last night to bring in a Hurribomber which crashlanded some weeks ago at 87542935. The party worked from 2200 to 0330 hrs, and succeeded in moving the plane about 200 yds. The presence of soft sand made the work very slow without further equipment.

8. OWN ARTY

During day 21 Sep, our arty carried out harassing fire programme, bringing down fire on enemy posns in areas 871297, 869296, 870296, 870295, 869296, 870294, 871295, 872295, 873292, 874292, 875290, 876290, 874290.

During night up to 2330 hrs HF was brought down on areas from 872295 to 875290.

*C. T. Pearson*  
Lieut

for Maj.  
B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 56

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 56

( From information received up to 1400 hrs 21 Sep)

SPECIAL NOTE

Details are required of GERMAN tentage with particular reference to any special "black-out" devices or material. Any infm on this subject is required urgently.

1. GENERAL

Shelling increased further to about 100 shells for the day, nearly all shells falling on new areas occupied by Bde night 18/19 Sep.

Patrol to area 874292 saw ITALIAN working party behind minefield in area 87412926.

In the South the enemy posns on the minefield appear to have been thinned out. - DEIR EL ANQAR is unoccupied and DEIR EL MUNASSIB east of the 882 easting, but there are strongpoints in the area 881264. South of HIMEIMAT, the only posn reported is at 881242 where there is a post covering the escarpment.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

87402925 (approx) MG.  
87582910 and 87542896 - sangars

3. OBSERVED MOVT

Normal on Bde front.

1915 hrs 20 Sep working party seemed to be laying mines area 87502916

4. ENEMY ARTY

103 shells including 25 air bursts fell in Bde sector yesterday (20 Sep) in areas 87882926 (14 shells incl 7 A.B.) 87622945 (6 shells) 87672950 (24 shells incl 12 A.B.) 87772935 (12 shells) 87662940 (7 shells incl 6 A.B.) 878293 (20 shells) 87632942 to 87702942 (20 shells) No damage reported.

5. PATROLS

Night 20/21 SEP

At 2130 hrs patrol of 1 Offr 8 ORs 2 sappers went out from 87592954 and followed route to 87412926 to 87442925 returning to 87632953 at 0530 hrs. At 87482937 MG was heard firing on brg 280°. Another MG was seen firing on bearing 295°. A group of 5 derelict vehs dispersed at about 60 yds interval was seen at 87442933. At 87432930 were signs of what appeared to be a dummy minefield. From this point patrol came down on to a sandy flat covered with low desert bush at 87412926 which extends to MITEIRIYA Ridge. In the bright moonlight ITALIAN working parties were observed moving backwards and fwds from a vehicle apparently unloading mines. On this flat about 87412926 was found enemy minefield and about 30 yds from working party was single dannert fence running on brg 340°. As patrol approached work ceased and flares were put up making further recce in that area impossible.

6. OWN ARTY

Harassing fire on following areas :-

870297, 871297, 871296, 870296, 869295, 870295, 872295, 873292, 874292, 875291, 875290, 876290.



7. AIR ACTIVITY

1730 hrs 20 Sep - British aircraft crashed in flames area  
87302927. Pilot was not seen to bale out.

1730 hrs - Kittyhawk force landed area sq 877297. Pilot safe.

*C. T. Pearce*  
*lieut*

for Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As per Summary 55.

20 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 54<sup>5</sup>  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 20 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet.

Shelling increased with some attention to our new line of FDLs.

Patrols made no contact but attempts of patrol to penetrate to enemy FDLs in areas 873295 and 873294 were met with MG fire.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Attempts of a patrol night 19/20 Sep to get through to enemy minefd between northings 2953 and 2934 were frustrated by flares and MG fire. Of MGs firing, three were estimated to be at 87372953, 87342948, 87342945 respectively.

87202925 - OP tower more accurately located at this point.

OP at 87742925 reported Spandau firing brg 185 deg. This weapon probably in area 87762905. Patrol observed flares and Spandau firing from this area night 11/12 Sep.

87272912 - signpost on top of drum.

87172918 - AA gun in sangar.

Sec posts at 87472916, 87592909, 87302909.

87322957 - Spandau (20 Bde Int Summary No. 60)

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Normal in usual areas.

4. WIRE

87342964 - gap in old single dannert fence (20 Bde I.S. No. 60)

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

The following is a brief description of an enemy Circular Variable Pressure Mine. This mine can be employed in an A Tk or anti-personnel role. The body of the mine, which is of steel, is circular and is approx 8" in diameter and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins in depth. The igniter assembly screws into the top of the body and projects upwards from it. A steel pressure plate 10 ins in diameter and slightly domed rests on the top of the striker pin which projects upwards from the body of the igniter assembly. The pressure plate is fitted with three studs equally placed round the circumference which fit into slits in three lugs which project sideways from the body of the mine, thus holding the pressure plate in posn. The igniter assembly is fitted with a knurled ring with a red pointer which can be set to the following readings :-

H, N, 3, 2, 1, K.

The settings N to K control the pressure at which the igniter is actuated. These settings represent the following pressures :-

K =	a pressure of	35 kg.
1 =	"	" 100 "
2 =	"	" 200 "
3 =	"	" 300 "
N =	"	" 350 "

When set at H, the mechanism operates as a pull igniter. This is actuated by a trip wire which is att to an eye in the projecting end of a cutting blade. A brass safety pin projects from a socket diametrically opposed to that of the cutting blade. The filling is 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of what appears to be poor quality TNT.

(From 9 Div I.S. No. 301)

6. ENEMY ARTY

C. B. O. reports light HF throughout the day (19 Sep).  
35 shells fell in Bde area - 87712963 (12 shells); 87672950 (5 shells)  
876295 (6 shells including 3 Air Burst); 87662953 (8 shells);  
87502950 (1 Air Burst); 87602950 (2 HE); 88202945 (1 shell).  
10 mortar bombs fell in area 87742925.

7. PATROLS, Night 19/20 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs between 2100 hrs and 0510 hrs followed route 87592958 to 87392953 to 87352950 to approx 87362934, back to 87602943. At 87422954 Spandau fired on brg 225 deg. As patrol continued bursts were fired from MGs estimated to be at 87342948 and 87342945; also verey lights from 87342948. Because of enemy fire, patrol was forced to turn SOUTH at 87352950 and when attempting to get through to enemy minefd from 87352946 was fired on by further MGs. Patrol continued SOUTH to approx 87352936, and during this period enemy MGs opened up 4 or 5 times. Patrol reported enemy line appeared to be continuous. A further attempt to approach enemy line from 87352934 was prevented by MG fire and verey lights. From this point patrol returned.

At 2100 hrs patrol of 1 offr 7 ORs went out from 87672935 to 87552926 to 87542932 and back to SP, which was reached at 0430 hrs. Weapon pits, some old, some in good state of repair, were examined at 87572929. MG fire was observed but no weapons could be located, otherwise nothing was seen of enemy.

Protective patrols covering areas from K 9 (876291) to 87802915 and 87802915 to 87952915, saw no sign of enemy.

8. OWN ARTY

During 19 Sep harassing fire on areas 871297, 870296, 869295, 871295, 870295, 870294, 873292, 874292, 874290, 873291, 875290, 876290.

*E T Pearson*  
Lieut.  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 53.

SECRET  
Copy No 24  
19 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 54  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 19 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Period very quiet.

During the night, our line of FDLs was advanced to 87602940 - 87722922 - 87952917. Digging and occupation of new posns was carried out without incident, and with complete absence of enemy interference.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

87602903 - possible HQ (coy or pl).

Suspect AA gun 87222920.

Sec posts 87482916, 87432924, 87672900, 87302922.

3. WIRE

87312968 - small knoll single dannert running due SOUTH.

87312967 - gap in wire with track running E - W.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

18 Sep - normal movement of men behind enemy FDLs.

19 Sep - 2/3 gps of 12 men each reported moving about in area of hummocks (87762897).

5. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. reports 18 Sep as comparatively quiet with light harassing fire over the whole width of the front.

Shelling on this Bde area was light - area 87622964 (3 shells); 87672934 (1 shell); 8762295 (20 shells).

The following is an extract from C.B.O. Intelligence Report of 18 Sep :- In conditions where flash bearings are scarce, it is noteworthy that the majority of sound bearings pass within 3 degrees on either side of the HB active.

Distribution as per Summary No. 53

*C.T. Baines*  
Lieut. Col. Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

18 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 53  
(From information received up to 1400 hrs 18 Sep)

1. GENERAL

-ing

A patrol fired on 2 man manna/listening post at 87422934 and at 87522955, on return journey, patrol came under what appeared to be DP from 6 MGs, 1 mortar and 1 A Tk gun. No casualties were sustained.

Morning 18 Sep, 2 EA carried out recce at low altitude of area fwd of present FDLs.

Shelling has been light.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Ops of weapon pits including M3 and A Tk posns between 87022918 and 87362895.

Wire runs from 87022918 to 87072915 and from 87182906 through 87362895 to 87392902 (limit of cover).

Wire runs from 86952978 through 86852952 to 86922958 (limit of cover).

(AIV Photo Interpretations)

87332971 - single demerit due north for 60 yds, then on 350 deg. From 87532971 demerit appeared to run due south. No mines found.

Probable sea posts 87352922, 87182917, 87392909, 87192949, 87202944, 87202942.

OP tower approx 87252925.

A Tk guns - 87082937, 86972930, 87082954.

(G.B. Int Report)

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Tks - 1830 hrs, 1 tk near pt 24 87732902.

0820 hrs, 1 tk moved SOUTH over ridge 87512909.

MT - 0945 hrs 17 Sep, 100 vehs moving NW incl 10 guns.

1200 hrs 17 Sep, further 5 guns moving NW.

Inf - At first light 1 man vicinity 87762918 walked back to enemy lines.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Approx 1500 hrs - one white flare put up approx 87472924.

1700 hrs - coln of smoke 87312906.

A reel of tape erected on a box about 87552915.

5. ENEMY ARTY

Shelling in Bde sector light, only 21 shells being reported. Counter Battery Intelligence Report states :- During the day there was little activity. Harassing fire was resumed this evening on TELL EL RISA and pt 26, about 8 Hbs taking part. These were nearly all field, although again he included a few medium guns as seasoning.

The 25 pdr battery, 'PX', 'RN' and 'NL' appears to have been replaced by 105 gun-hows, of which there are thought to be 9, which are distributed between the 3 troop posns in a different manner each day.

6. PATROLS, Night 17/18 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 10 ORs between 0915 and 0600 hrs moved from 87592957 to 87422933 to 87462950 to 87732945. At approx 87422934 patrol was challenged with a short phrase, with "ISS" among the words. Then 3 men moved away; patrol tried to cut them off, and fired at them with TBMGs but enemy escaped to west or SW. At about 87442934 one member of the patrol reported seeing wire to the SW, in the light of a flare. Patrol comd moved SW 60 yds but could see no signs of wire. At about 87462930 a voice was heard in direction of movement but no one could be located. When patrol was at 87522935 on return journey, enemy put up

flares and at least 6 MGs. 1 mortar and 1 A Tk gun opened up and firing continued for 20 mins. Patrol leader considered this was an enemy DP task; much of the fire fell in vicinity of patrol. Fire apparently came from western half sq 874292, NE portion of sq 875292 and southern half of 873292. Our patrol suffered no casualties.

A patrol of 1 offr, 7 ORs between 0001 hrs and 0500 hrs, moved from 87672950 to 87452923 to 87512920 to 87662954 to 87672950. Patrol examined a number of diggings, none of which showed signs of recent occupation.

Protective patrols near pt 23 (87772921) and 87952917 made no contact with enemy.

7. OWN ARTY

During 17 Sep arty harassed enemy posns in areas :-  
871297, 871296, 870296, 869296, 870296, 869295, 870295,  
872295, 873292, 874292, 873291, 875291, 875290, 876290,  
874290.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

1025 hrs 18 Sep - 2 ME.109s flew from west between 750 and 1000 ft above areas fwd of our FDLs, crossing QATTARA trk about K 8. They then flew west and returned flying at 500 ft. They turned north and on being engaged by AA moved away west.

*E. T. Pearson*  
Maj.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 52

B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

34 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 5B.  
(From information received up to 1300 hrs 17 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet but shelling increased 16 Sep to about 60 shells in Bde area.

At 1215 hrs, 17 Sep, 9 JU 87s bombed area 892298. No damage or casualties.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Observers report 87742897 as centre of pl posn. Occupied posns extend 500 yds NE from this point. During day our arty scored several direct hits on pl posn, but damage done not known.

Tac R reports 4 large gun pits area 871293 to 870289.

MG (Spandau) at 87382946 (approx)

MG (thought Breda or Fiat) at 87372947 (approx)

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

Single barbed wire, on long pickets or suspended on bushes, running east-west 87512917.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Inf movement of inf was normal.

Patrol night 15/16 Sep to area of West pt 83 (872296) heard working party behind enemy lines.

Tks & MT

1100 hrs - 12 tks and 200 MT stationary area 865298 to 865303. These thinned out during afternoon, and at last light 15 tks and 70 MT were reported in this area.

Traffic on SKYLARK track was reported normal during 16 Sep.

Tac R 1350 hrs, with visibility good, reported - area 857299 to 859297 to 858295 to 858297 30 possibly large MET or tks dug in and dispersed. On track from 865298 to 865294 30 MET moving North in gpc. Area 861500 30 MET stationary and dispersed. Area 862295 30 MET stationary and dispersed. Area 864302 to 870303 to 869292 to 865294 700 MET stationary and well dispersed. NMB on main rd 874593 WEST.

5. ENEMY ARTY

About 60 shells fell in Bde area during day. The main shelling was in area 881293, where a concentration of about 25 shells was reported. This area had received 11 shells earlier in the day. Other areas shelled were 879292 - 879294 (15 shells) and 876295 - 876295 (11 shells).

6. PATROLS, Night 16/17 Sep 42.

A recon patrol of 1 Officer 7 ORs left 87592958 at 1015 hrs and moved to 87412933 to 87392948 and back to 87592958. When patrol had reached 87462954, enemy put up flares. At 87422953, there are 13 unoccupied weapon pits. On second leg a further flare was put up by enemy and when patrol was at 87402950, a single shot was fired from about 70 yds away. Shot passed close to patrol and then 2 automatics opened fire, firing 4 or 5 bursts. One was a Spandau, sited at about 87382946; the other was at approx 87372947 and was thought to be a BREDA or FIAT. Their fire came close to patrol. These guns had been heard to fire several times during evening at about 30 mins intervals. On return journey, patrol encountered 10/12 pits and 4 sngars, all unoccupied, in area 87412949. Patrol returned to starting point at 0430 hrs.

A patrol of 1 Sgt 8 ORs left 87672935 at 2230 hrs. At 87612917, 4 long pickets were found with a single strand of barbed wire 2 ft above ground. Wire was approx east-west. Only 4 pickets were seen, and wire was suspended on bushes, running down in places to 6 ins from ground. Patrol searched South to approx 87592912 but did not find mines. Walls at this point, flares were put up from both left rear and right rear, about 1500 yds apart.

A Spandau fired one burst from vicinity of QATTARA track. Patrol moved back to 87612917, then to 87582918 and back through 87672955, returning at 0430 hrs.

7. OWN ARTY

During 16 Sep, harassing fire was brought down onto enemy positions in sqs 871297, 869296, 870296, 871296, 869295.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

1215 hrs - 17 Sep - 9 JU87Bs carried out shallow dive bombing attack on post area 882298. The bombers were escorted by 8 ME 109s. During the attack, one or more planes sounded a siren. The bombing caused no damage or casualties.

Distribution  
As for Summary No. 51

*ST Pearson*  
*lieut*  
*for Maj.*  
B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.



16 Sep 48

84 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 51  
(From information received up to 1500 hrs 16 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Night 15/16 Sep, a sec at 87352918, which was part of a pl covering engra, engaged an enemy party estimated 40 to 50 in number. A sharp encounter ensued before enemy withdrew. At least 4 casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and a Spandau MG was recovered from the area this morning. A German tunic, which apparently belonged to one of the wounded enemy, was also found. Our sec sustained 2 casualties.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

MG - 87352945 (patrol report)

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

15/9ep; usual movement of men behind FDLs, North of MITEIRIYA Ridge and on ridge itself.

1400 hrs - MT were observed in sq 861298. These built up during afternoon and were estimated 50 plus at 1800 hrs. At first light number had increased to 75, well dispersed; beyond arty range.

Tac B 1605 hrs reported 1000 plus MET scattered over area 870294, 877293, 872275, 864277; also 50 odd MET moving NORTH on track between 866274 and 877293.

0718 hrs 16 Sep, two white very lights fired from approx 87732909. When first light went up, 4 men emerged from sangars and manned weapon pits. When second light went up, further 8 men went fwd into same gp of pits and 3 more doubled fwd with rifles to a posn fwd of the other parties. This was probably caused by the presence of our carriers and a foot patrol in 878231.

4. ENEMY ARTY

C.B.O. reports morning 15 Sep enemy resumed his harassing fire, covering wide area SOUTH of Ty.

40 shells reported in Bde area 15 Sep. Areas shelled included 87792941 (12 shells); 88012938 (5 air burst); 87642953 (7 shells); 87832947 (2 shells); 87862945 (1 shell); 87802945 (2 shells); 879294 (3 shells); 87632953 (8 shells).

5. PATROLS, Night 15/16 Sep.

A pl which acted as covering party to engra took up posn with secs at 87952914, 87892917 and 87852918. At 0220 hrs, a party of men estimated 40 to 50 in number approached sec at 87852918. On being challenged, this party did not give reply; portion went to ground and others remained standing. The sec opened fire, and enemy replied with rifle fire, Spandau fire and grenades. The enemy endeavoured to work round flanks of our men but gave this up and withdrew. Cries and moans came from enemy party. Sec leader thought that some of the enemy were Italians.

After first light pl came and sec examined area where engagement took place. A Spandau MG was recovered complete, and a German cap and a bloodstained German tunic were found. There were marks on ground where at least 4 men had been dragged away.

Patrol of 1 offr 7 ORs between 0001 hrs and 0530 hrs went from 87672950 to 87672955 to 87542922 to 87642935 to 87672950. Examined diggings between 87542933 and 87542934. A recce gp moved to 87512919 without encountering minefield. Before returning patrol examined area for 200 to 300 yds round derelict plane at 87542935 but no movement was seen or heard.

Between 2400 hrs and 0530 hrs patrol 1 offr, 10 ORs reced area from trig 22 (87572950) to 87452937 to 87452944, then back to 87592958. Diggings were examined at 87552943 and 87452940. German sig cable running roughly EAST-WEST was cut at 87452944. During patrol MG fired from approx area 87352945.

6. OWN ARTY

15 Sep. Harassing fire in areas 87212972, 87132974, 87082965, 87042968, 87012965, 87222951, 87372927, 87412926, 87522917, 87652905, 87532908, 87372917.

Night 15/16 Sep? Harassing fire on areas 87092988, 87152978, 87212971, 87152974, 87032968.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

As the result of a fight at approx 1800 hrs, 4 unidentified aircraft were shot down well forward of our FDLs. One Kittyhawk landed area 880292, and burst into flames immediately. Pilot escaped, suffering burns.

0845 hrs 16 Sep - one EA dropped six bombs which fell between 87682938 and 87712929.

*E.T. Pearce*  
Capt.  
for Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As per Summary No. 50

15 Sep 42.

34 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 50.  
(From information received up to 1430 hrs 15 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet in Bde sector.  
Patrols did not contact enemy.  
There have been several reports of tk movement in areas north of MITHIRIYA Ridge.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Pt 22 (87838901) - suspect 2 Spandaus.  
Area 87762908 - suspect 4 MGs.  
CP reports man seen at 87642891 was in ITALIAN uniform.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

(i) Tks - 14 Sep. Tac R 1740 hrs reported that some tks were believed to be in concentration of 200 MET between 866287 and 871287.

1630 hrs - 4 tks moving NW on SKYLINE TRACK.

15 Sep. 0930 hrs - 15 Sep - flanking bde reported what appeared to be 50 tks on brg 280 deg from 87592981. These came from the North and turned East towards enemy PDLs.

1855 hrs - 5 tks were observed moving NW in area 871293. Their further movement NW was obscured by dust.

(ii) MT. Bde on our right reported that from 1500 hrs to last light 14 Sep there was abnormal movement on SKYLINE track. An average of 100 vehs per hr were seen and 80 percent moved NW. 9 guns moved NW.

Tac R 1740 hrs 14 Sep reported:- 877291 50 MET dispersed (NOT confirmed by our ground observers). 875287 100 MET dispersed. From 866287 to 871287 200 MET stationary and dispersed; some tks believed to be in this concentration. 861289 to 865287 100 MET dispersed. 868281 100 MET dispersed. General impression movement by many isolated vehs and definite increase in MET in northern area. No movement and no activity except for intense AA fire in southern area.

(iii) Inf. Approx 30 men seen between 87502913 and 87342921 moving in and out of posns; movement above normal 87752899.

4. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

A patrol night 14/15 Sep examined minefield at 87552918, running on brg approx 45 deg. This is probably same field which patrol night 27/28 Aug encountered at approx 875529185, running on brg approx 280 deg. (see Summary No. 33). The descriptions of the field by the two patrols differ slightly. Last night's patrol reported 5 rows of G.S. Mk V mines, buried but fairly prominent, rows 12 paces apart and mines 8 paces apart. There was a single strand of barbed wire lying on the ground 12 to 14 paces from minefield. No A.P. mines were seen.

Patrol by bde on left night 14/15 Sep followed dannert wire fence from 87862906 to 87922908 to 87942905, where there is a gap. Wire continues to 87952904 to 87982904. Along full length of wire on enemy side is a minefield of 2 rows of Mk IV mines. This infm tends to confirm that shown by latest overprint map in area 878290 and 879290.

CP reports double apron fence in front of sangars 87642891. A man who passed through it picked his way carefully, as if there were mines in the vicinity.

5. ENEMY ARTY

42 shells reported in Bde area 14 Sep; areas shelled being 876295 (15 shells); 876293, 876294 (14 shells); 881295 (8 shells) and 880293.

6. PATROLS, Night 14/15 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs moved from OP 87672935 at 0135 hrs. At the OP, movement was heard apparently from QATTARA track; this movement, however, could not be definitely located. At 87552918, patrol found minefield of 5 rows G.S. Mk V, running on brg approx 45 deg. Patrol then moved to 87582916. The time being then 0435 hrs, patrol moved back to 87672935.

Patrol of 1 offr, 19 ORs who followed route 88012928 to 87832921 to 87792916, thence back to starting point, struck single dannert fence and part of old devitalised minefield area 87812921. This is the wire and minefield contacted by previous patrols to this area. With exception of normal flares from behind enemy lines, there was no sign of enemy.

A patrol of 1 offr, 7 ORs moved from 87582957 to 87452948 to 87452953 to 87502955 and returned to starting point. Numerous old diggings were encountered but none showed any signs of recent occupation. Reported MGs firing on brgs 210 and 240 deg from 87472953.

7. OWN ARTY

During the day 14 Sep our arty brought down harassing fire on enemy areas along front, and further harassing shoots were carried out up to 0100 hrs.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

Increased activity has been maintained.

14 Sep 1140 hrs - 2 or 3 ME 109s dropped 3 bombs 87733002.  
1740 hrs - 2 JU 87 landed near SKYLINE track south of MOSQUE (861303) and took off again 1850 hrs.

1900 hrs - FIESLER STORCH flew low over enemy FDLs.

15 Sep 0955 hrs - 5 ME 109s bombed area approx 887294.  
1100 hrs - 2 EA bombed 838295 from high level; casualties - 1 killed, 2 wounded.

1250 hrs - 13 or 13 JU 87s dive bombed area 881295 and southern portion of sq 881296. An escort of 11 to 13 Me 109s was observed. 3 men were injured in this bombing but none seriously.

9. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

1825 hrs - RAF bombed 19 vehs on SKYLINE track.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 49  
plus 153 Highland Bde

*OT. P...*  
for Maj.  
B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 49  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 14 Sep)

1. GENERAL

There was sporadic enemy harassing bombing by day. There were no night patrols from Bde. Our arty produced by harassing fire at 0500 hrs. Right bde took one PW of 3 Coy 1 Bn 62 IR at approx 87182988. He was a member of a patrol of 13.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

(a) OP 87402986. Suspect OP well sited, dug and camouflaged.  
(20 Aust Inf Bde I.S. No. 54)

OPs report -

(b) suspected gaps at 87782900, 87802900 and 87822900 in line of danner wire reported in yesterday's summary to extend in front of line of sangers in area 877890, and

(c) Suspected section post 87642891 with minefield and then D.A. fence in front.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

One slight casualty was suffered but no damage was sustained by following :-

1135 hrs - 9 JU 87s dropped 9 bombs area 88152965.

1710 hrs - 4 planes dropped bombs vicinity ry sta 897293.

1820 hrs - 9/11 JU 87s, escorted by 4 MEs, dive bombed post 7; dropped 15-20 bombs.

1849 hrs - 4 JU 87s bombed 88296; dropped 12 to 16 bombs.

4. ENEMY ARTY

On 13 Sep, light shelling in our area caused no casualties.

On right flanking bde front shelling commenced at 0803 hrs, and continued to 1025 hrs, mainly directed against our FDLs between Northlars 286 and 298. Hostile batteries "ED", "PV" and "JY" were the most active, and the Flash Spotting Tp ranged a tp of 1 Fd Regt 62A onto the latter, the subsequent bombardment falling in the target area. After 1025 hrs, there was only slight activity apart from short bursts of activity at 1340, 1427, 1512 and 1758 hrs.

(Counter Battery I. Report No. 55)

5. OWN ARTY

0500-0520 hrs, our arty put down harassing fire on targets in areas 87372926, 87412926, 87452923, 875129170, 875929065, 876429050. This caused apprehensive enemy action, namely, firing of some arty, MEs, mortars and flares, and on right flanking bde front, this amounted to apparent full S.A. DF tasks, and on that front an enemy arm dump was set alight.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 49

*[Signature]*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

13 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 48  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 13 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet.

Bde on coast reports about 400 shells during 24 hrs up to 0800 hrs 13 Sep, but shelling in our sector has been light, though one fatal casualty was caused (area 881295).

This morning two bombing attacks were made astride MAIN Rd in Bde area.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

A number of sangars between 87752900 and 87812900.

MG fire heard from area of derelict tk 87652910.

Possible OP at derelict tk 87652910.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE.

87332963 single dannert. To the south this is new and on new pickets. To the north the wire is old and broken.

A line of dannert runs in front of sangars from about 87772901 to 87862901; at 87802901 this dannert makes a junc with a cattle fence running to the south. Men seen walking in front of the dannert were picking their way carefully as if they were in vicinity of a minefield.

Short length single dannert running roughly East-West 87762913.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

(i) Tks 1242 hrs 2 tks and 1 Armd C moved north over MITEIRIYA Ridge and took up a posn in area 876290, covering QATTARA Trk. They remained there till last light, but were NOT there this morning.

(ii) Inf Movement in small gps was observed at 87492915, 87442909, 87632889 and 87672890 around sangars 87612894, near derelict tk 87652910, 87732885 (2 men moved into dugout) and in HUMMOCKS area 878290.

5. ENEMY WORKS

Blasting area 876289 and over ridge on brgs 285 and 295 deg from 87712922.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Enemy fired on area of derelict tks 87812915 with MGs and mortars at 0900 hrs.

7. PATROLS, Night 12/13 Sep

A recce patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs left 88012928 at 2030 hrs and moved through 87922925 and 87762921 to a derelict Ford truck at 87732914, where 7 Bren mags were salvaged. Patrol then moved to unoccupied earthworks at 87762913, and encountered here a short length of single dannert running approx EAST-WEST. Flares were fired from approx 87762911, and continued for 30 mins. Voices were heard but could not be distinguished. Patrol then moved to gp of 4 derelict tks at 87822915. Several flares were fired from approx 87762905, and a Spandau fired in direction of patrol. Patrol returned to 88012928, which was reached at 0330 hrs

8. OWN ARTY

During daylight 12 Sep, arty put down harassing fire on targets in areas 871296, 870296, 869295, 870295, 872295, 873292, 874292, 873291, 875291, 875290, 876290.

During night 12/13 Sep, arty harassed enemy with fire on targets in areas 872297, 870296, 873291, 875292, 874292, 874290, and 874294.

9. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

0833 hrs 13 Sep - 2 or 3 EA bombed area 88602945.  
1045 hrs - 9 JU 87s, with escort of 10/12 ME 109s,  
carried out shallow bombing attack on area 881296.  
So far no damage or casualties have been reported  
from these attacks.

10. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

1100 hrs 12 Sep - OP reports our planes bombed  
enemy lines in vicinity of QATTARA track south of MITEIRIYA  
Ridge.

Distribution  
As for Summary No. 47

*E. T. Pringle*  
Lieut.  
for Maj.  
B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

106 diary

SECRET  
COPY NO 21  
13 Sep 48

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 47  
(From information received up to 1130 hrs 12 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet. Our arty carried out HF tasks up to 0100 hrs. Recce patrols after that time reported NMS. In southern areas enemy arty harassed on whole front during 10 Sep; there was no ground activity evening 10 Sep.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

It has been reported that AA fire at our planes crossing enemy lines fwd of this Bde's FDLs is from MGs only. This has been observed on both 10 and 11 Sep. See post 87482915 with row of pickets behind it and track leading to post from MIFIRIYA Ridge.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Normal 11 Sep. largest gps seen being 10 men at 87252914, 10 men at 87542898. At 0900 hrs, movement of men above normal at 87302918 and 87292920. Flanking Bde reports working parties 87092970, 87252973, 87012963.

4. ENEMY ARTY

In Bde sector shelling was light, and mainly in areas 875295 and 876295. Four casualties were caused. Counter Battery Int Report states that enemy arty carried out air burst ranging shoots on following points :- pt 24, TELL EL EISA Sta, 878299 and 875297. Shelling was of a harassing nature. Fragments of a shell received in the C.B. Office showed that a German 17cm gun had been active on this front during the last two days.

5. PATROLS, Night 10/11 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 4 ORs from flanking bde moved from 87532972 to 87422965. At 87422965 movement was noticed and voices were heard on the right. In an effort to move round to the left, bird whistles were heard from the left and were answered in a similar manner from further ahead of the patrol, in rear of the first whistle. A Breda LMG opened from the left and fired 4 bursts. While attempting to move round the right flank further movement was seen. On withdrawing 20-30 men were seen to follow, but ceased when one of our protective patrols fired. Subsequently, a stronger standing patrol was sent forward but no further sign was seen of the enemy.

11/12 Sep. A patrol of 1 offr, 2 ORs left 87672935 at 0100 hrs, and moved to 87472955, returning to 87582955 at 0430 hrs. A number of diggings were encountered but none showed signs of occupation. Near 87542933, a cough was heard; this may have come from a listening post. Listening post was not, however, located.

Patrol of 1 offr, 17 ORs at 0115 hrs, went from 88012928, established listening post at pt 23 (87772921) and returned through gap at 0540 hrs. Single dannert wire fence was struck at 87782922. Search of area round pt 23 revealed no sign of enemy.

6. OWN ARTY.

Harassing fire on targets in following areas :-

- 0800 - 1500 hrs 11 Sep
- 87172982, 87012979, 87182978, 87212971,
- 87112971, 87082965, 87002968, 87052964,
- 87012963, 87062961, 87072953, 87002950,
- 87172952, 87342929, 87462922, 87352930,
- 87392906, 87532908, 87462907;

- 0100 - 0100 hrs night 11/12 Sep
- 87222951, 87342939, 87422925, 87542920, 87522917,
- 87652905, 87472905.



7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

11 Sep: 1230 hrs - 12 to 15 JU 87s, escorted by fighters, divebombed area 880800, causing 3 casualties and setting one truck on fire.

1847 hrs - 6 Me 109s bombed area 880899. No damage was caused.

*E. T. P...*  
*lieut*

for Maj.

B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 46

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 46  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 11 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Period remains quiet.

Bde on our right reports active enemy patrolling. During night 9/10 Sep an enemy patrol of 10 to 20 men was seen moving NE across coy front about 400 yds from FDLs in sq 875298. A fighting patrol was sent out but could see no sign of enemy.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

87352966 - 87362965 - fresh diggings - narrow slit trenches and weapon pit.

Posts at 87722883, 87702885, 87622890 have been registered by arty.

MG - 87762894.

Working parties 87782905, 87322968, 87352966, approx 87472927.

Old diggings 87492930, 87492928, 87452949.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE.

87222986 - scattered field Br Mk IV mines running generally N-S.

87363025 - a strand of barb wire coiled to resemble dannert, standing 8 or 9 ins high.

(Comment: a patrol night 21/22 Aug found at 87552916 two low coils of wire like dannert, but about 5-in in diameter.)

Engr patrol night 9/10 Sep, went to derelict vehs 87552916. Seven vehs were examined and no booby traps or mines were found. From the derelict vehs a minefield ran NW on brg 320 deg. This was followed for 150 yds. On the northern side of the field is one row British Mk IV mines, at 8 yds spacing. 20 yds beyond these was a line of Italian B4 A.P. mines, spaced at 12 yd intervals. Three trip wires were attached to each B4 mine, each wire being approx 5 yds in length and anchored to either stones or bushes. 8 yds beyond the line of B4 mines there are 3 rows British Mk V mines, pattern undetermined, approx spacing 6 yds. Patrol had withdrawn 150 yds when they heard voices on brg 240 deg. Patrol moved in direction of sounds, passed through minefield at approx 87542916 and encountered an irregular mat of barbed wire on short pickets.

(Comment: A patrol night 15/16 Aug encountered similar wire plus dannert in area 875291. Flash spotters located a flare left by this patrol as at 87532919. The field recced by the engr is apparently the same as that placed by patrol night 27/28 Aug from 87552918 to 87572918. Behind this field there is a further field of 6 rows with wire on both sides, which a patrol night 21/22 Aug reported running from 87552916 to 87592915 on brg 110 deg.)

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

OP reports show normal activity. For a considerable portion of the day visibility was very poor.

Tac R 1045 hrs 11 Sep reported slight movement both ways on track 861270 to 857284. General impression was very little movement throughout area. Little or no MET north of 285 northing.

5. ENEMY ARTY

Counter Battery Intelligence Report 10 Sep states :-  
The enemy arty has been fairly active today, the main times of activity being from 0700 to 0945 hrs and 1815 to 1945 hrs. Single HBs were also active between 1110 and 1130 hrs, 1205 and 1215 hrs, and at 1435 hrs. The trig 33 - pt 24 - TELL EL EISA cutting area came in for most of the shelling, but the HBs mainly responsible were out of range of our guns and could not be bombarded.

During evening's activity Flash Spotting Tp located a HB at 87332894, which was engaged by three tps of a fd regt.

6. PATROLS, Night 10/11 Sep

A patrol of 1 offr, 3 ORs left 87672935 at 2100 hrs and moved to 87542935, thence to old diggings at 87492930. Changing direction, patrol encountered six trenches, very narrow and approx 12 ft long, at 87492928. Sounds of digging were heard on a brg of 240 deg, thought to be at 87472927. Planes flew over and digging ceased. An effort was made to locate diggings and working party, but without success. Patrol reported in at 0230 hrs.

A patrol of 1 offr, 2 ORs left 87582957 at 2230 hrs, and at 87452949 crossed well-worn track running on approx brg 150 deg. Found some diggings 50 yds past track. When patrol reached 87442948, enemy put up flares, and MGs on brgs 248 and 230 deg opened fire. A sentry was heard about 70 yds ahead. Owing to flares and MG fire patrol could not progress further, and returned to starting point at 0315 hrs.

A patrol of 1 offr, 16 ORs and 2 sappers left 88012928 at 2200 hrs, and moved to pt 23 (87772921). Here a portion of patrol was left and 1 offr, 2 ORs and the 2 sappers went forward to 87772918. Here a party of 4 men were seen to the rear, and 15 men were seen approaching from the South. These were South Africans, but before the identities of the respective parties were established, our patrol was fired on with a TSMG and the leader of our patrol threw a grenade. There were, unfortunately, three wounded in the S.A. patrol.

7. OWN ARTY

During 10 Sep our arty put down harassing fire on areas 86992959, 87072958, 86942959, 87062950, 87222951, 87372927, 87422926, 87362917, 87522917, 87652905.

*E.T. Pearce*  
*lieut*  
*for Maj.*

Distribution

As for Summary No. 45

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 45.  
(From information received up to 1030 hrs 10 Sep)

1. GENERAL

Period remains quiet in Bde sector. Patrols night 9/10 Sep did not contact enemy.

Bde on our right flank reports patrolling North of the ry is becoming increasingly difficult and the enemy is ambushing our patrols.

There is no change in the south. The line set out yesterday as being held by the enemy is being developed by the inf and Tac R reports show about 90 tks dispersed in the area GEBEL KALAKH. There are no large concentrations reported.

It is appreciated that MT losses alone will prevent the enemy initiating any immediate ops on a large scale.

Previous estimates of tk casualties have proved over optimistic. A careful count of derelicts in the area North of the 870 northing grid as far west as the junc of the purple and red grids gives a total of 38 of which 3 are Mk IIs. In addition, one Mk III long has been evacuated by us intact.

South of this area it is estimated that there are a further 13 tks which may be in our hands, making a total of 52. The area concerned is still being searched.

Senior offrs who took part in the battle on 31 Aug-2 Sep confirm that 11 tks were towed out of action by other tks.

In addition, the enemy may have recovered a further 40 odd tks making a total off the rd or irrecoverable at the moment of approx 100.

As to Italian tks, a total of six M13s have so far been destroyed by the REs. A further four are probably in our hands but are not yet confirmed.

PWs have already stated that many Italian tks suffered damage on our minefds during the night 30/31 Aug.

Two LGs have also been destroyed.

(9 Div I.S. No. 291)

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Interpretation of air photos taken 6 Sep reports the following:-

87132906 to 87282898 - defended locality with MG & A Tk.

86882974 to 86872965 - 4 by A Tk guns

86892924 - 1 by A Tk gun.

OP reports:- 87752889 - probable OP

Tac R 0750 hrs 10 Sep reported :- Between 872284 and 875289 considerable diggings just west of track. Large area 869295 nothing special to report. General impression great increase MEF in south, decrease in north. No activity but very considerable increase in diggings along whole front.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

An engr patrol to 875291 recced minefds in that area. Details will be given later.

A patrol night 9/10 Sep encountered known minefd at 87732919. Sappers with patrol found a number of French type mines. This is the first report of French mines in this vicinity.

A TELLER minefd has been encountered by a patrol at 87263024 between two chest high wires approx 100 yds apart.

The minefd which hampered movement of tks and MT in attack on pt 23(872296) 1 Sep was in three sections, each of four rows of mines. Two sections were parallel, but the third diverged from a parallel course and ran at an angle of about 30 deg forward from the course of the other two sections. It was this diverging section that was so troublesome.

Flanking Bde reports new double dannert fence at 87792903, which was followed to 87802905. Patrol night 9/10 Sep also encountered double dannert at 87792900 running approx N - S.

4. ENEMY ARTY

Shelling in Bde area was very light, 10 rds being reported at 0850 hrs area 879295.

A shell which fell in area 881297 9 Sep, on exploding, gave off greenish smoke. It is suspected that the shell was from a French 155mm gun, the shells of which have this peculiarity.

TEL EL NISA came in for less attention again today and activity generally was of a light harassing nature throughout morning and afternoon. This evening, however, saw a sudden burst of activity directed mainly on to FDLs and OP areas between the coast and the ry. Later, range was increased and rds fell close to a gun area. This activity lasted about an hour (from approximately 1810 to 1910 hrs) and was heavier than usual. Several air-bursts were reported and there were again numerous reports that 25 pdrs were active (including 4 rds smoke).

(From C.B. Int Report No. 49)

5. PATROLS, Night 9/10 Aug.

A patrol of 1 offr, 14 ORs and 2 sappers left 88012928 and moved to 87782922. Here a party of 1 Sgt, 5 ORs were left and remainder proceeded to K 9 (87682916). No enemy were seen or heard. Patrol returned to 88012928 at 0310 hrs. During patrol old minefds were encountered at 87762923 and 87732919.

6. OWN ARTY

During 9 Sep our arty put down harassing fire on areas 86992968, 87062961, 87072952, 87172952, 87452922, 87342920, 87592906, 87642905.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

1010 hrs 10 Sep - 4 ME 109s flying SW over 881294 at 10000 ft.

8. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

A new enemy mine has been encountered; weight of mine complete 8 - 9 lbs; weight of filling 3 - 4 lbs; it consists of a circular metal body 8" diameter by 1½" deep and in the centre of the top of the lid the brass fuze assembly is screwed; a domed metal mushroom-shaped pressure plate, diameter 10", is positioned over the body and takes the load causing pressure to come on to the fuze assembly, thus detonating the mine. The fuze is a neat workshop job and has almost certainly been made in EUROPE; it has settings to use the mine as AP or A Tk, or as a booby trap operated by a trip wire.

Samples of this mine are urgently required and their location should be reported to the nearest RE offr.

The chief interest of this mine is the fact that it contains only 3 - 4 lbs of explosive (compared with Tellermine 12½ lbs) and it thus comes into line with our mines in this respect; it has no special holes to accept additional anti-lifting devices like the Tellermine, but these devices can be readily att to ANY mine, and care should be exercised accordingly.

Mines so far reported have been laid flush with the ground.

(From 9 Div I.S. No. 291)

Distribution

As for Summary No. 44

*C.T. Pearson*  
for Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

9 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 44.  
(From information received up to 1000 hrs 9 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet. Our arty, both fd and med, has been active on harassing and counterbattery fire. In accordance with programme, there were only protective patrols on Bde sector during the night.

In the south it is considered that DEIR EL MUNASSIB and HIMEIMAT are held by German tps with some Italians in between these two points. Enemy arty is sited round about easting 875.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Flanking Bde reports:- Occupied area - 87082966;  
Working parties - 87212982;  
87352971; 87172985(Italian).

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE.

There is a wired enclosure at approx 87052925, and another at 87082922. In the first case the wire is very thick and the pickets very high, and the enclosure looks rather like a compound. There is a fence like a double apron connecting these two points and continuing to 87182917.

Line of pickets running approx NE from 87172917 is confirmed and links up with fence just mentioned.

Line of pickets from 87082922 runs roughly East into low ground approx 87252925.

The lines of pickets mentioned in preceding three paragraphs form a practically complete triangle. Traffic into depression from ridge frequently leaves ridge at 87192915.

Pickets, apparently with one strand of wire runs approx N-S for 500 yds at approx 87002940, and probably extends further in both directions.

Wire previously reported by OP at 87352929 has been removed.

Line of pickets from approx 87442912 to 87402914 then turns and runs North or NNE.

A line of pickets runs from 87372905 North or NNE towards the pickets at 87402914, but link up cannot be seen.

All the above are observations from OPs.

Flanking Bde on our right report :-

87242986 - one British Mk IV mine set, two small stacks nearby.

87182984 - single dannert. To the south the wire runs NE-SW. To the north it seems generally N-S. Wire forms a bay at 87182985, with 3 right angle bends.

87152985 - single dannert running generally E-W. No mines located.

87212985 - single row dannert.

87352962 - concertina wire in bad shape.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Ground observers report movement normal.

Tac R 1505 hrs 8 Sep reported:- On track between 863302 and 862268 total 40 MET moving south. Area 872284 500 MET dispersed. Area 867293 100 MET dispersed. On track between 865273 and 875289 30 MET moving NE.

5. ENEMY ARTY

About 46 shells were reported falling in Bde area 8 Sep; areas shelled being 878294, 876293, 879293.

C.B. Int Report 8 Sep states that most valuable infm is being provided by duds and shell fragments. Today, apart from the identification of 25 pr HB, it has been found that the enemy is using .106 fuzes for 25 prs.

In the North there has been a slight shuffle of positions, but the strength has remained the same.

6. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

The Germans are apparently making extensive use of British respirators, several of which have been found on derelicts. The Germans have produced a new type of anti gas cape, made of strong semi-transparent fabric, somewhat similar to oiled silk. It is obviously an improvement on the old type of cape which was of thin sheet rubber.

(7 Mot Bde Gp Int Summary No. 50)

A new German mine has been reported. This mine is adjustable and may be set A Tk, Anti-MT, Anti-personnel or Booby Trap. Fuller details will be promulgated as soon as they come to hand.

(9 Div I.S. No. 290)

7. OWN ARTY.

During the day our arty put down harassing fire in areas 87602908 and 87422926, and during night 8/9Sep in areas 87652905, 87522917, 87352920, 87072953.

C.B. Int Report states that at 1050 hrs 7 Med Regt R.A., carried out a systematic purge of 7 troublesome HBs, and the reply fell principally on pt 33(875301), TELL EL EISA and the QATTARA trk(878294). Fighter protection was provided by the RAF and our guns were unmolested. The Med Regt altogether fired 654 rds during this Neutralisation Programme. An observer on RUWEISAT Ridge observed the bombard on one HB to fall within 10 feet of the target and states that great consternation was caused amongst the enemy.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

1910 hrs a JU 52 escorted by an ME 109 flew very low NW along FDLs towards TELL EL EISA. It was engaged by AA and disappeared low over enemy lines with port engine smoking.

*E.T. Pearson*  
Lieut.  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 43

8 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 43.  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 8 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Patrols night 7/8 Sep did not make contact with enemy, but one patrol located an unmarked minefd at 87372934 fwd of main enemy minefds previously encountered. A patrol night 27/28 Aug found a similar new and unmarked field at 87552918.

The indications in the south are that the enemy intends to retain some of his forces at least in the area east of the minefds. He still has his strong A Tk screen to protect him from the constant pressure from our lt armd forces.

The enemy morning 7 Sep was reported to be on the general line 882262 - 885250 with strongpts at 880259, 882252 and in the vicinity of HIMEIMAT. Fwd armd patrols are maintained to a distance of one to two thousand yds. This gives him forces east of our minefds which he apparently intends to try to hold. He is in fact laying more mines.

(From 9 Div I.S. 289)

PW has stated that Maj.Gen. von BISMARCK, GOC, 21 Armd Div was killed in action 2 Sep.

(From 9 Div I.S. 289)

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

Post 86912958 (9 Div I.S. 289)  
2 LMGs about 87682912  
2 MMGs approx 87302938

3. MINEFDS AND WIRE.

Patrol night 7/8 Sep found an unmarked minefd at 87372934. There were 3 rows consisting of an assortment of Mk II, Mk IV and Mk V mines, laid with 10 yds between mines. Mines were laid in sandy ground, majority were buried and difficult to locate. Sappers reported some mines were booby trapped to prevent lifting. The fd was followed to 87372932, and continued southwards from there.

Although Defences Overprint map shows no mines in this area, our patrols have shown the area to be heavily mined. Three fds of different constitutions have now been reported.

/patrol

On night 14/15 Aug encountered a fd of 4 rows of mixed Mk IV and Mk V mines, 5 yds between rows and 4 yds between mines. There was a single coil of dannert 15 yds away on enemy side of fd. Fd ran on brg 340 deg. A flare left by patrol near wire was located by flash spotters at 87352934.

Then on night 16/17 Aug a fighting patrol encountered at 87372936 a fd of 4 rows Mk V mines about 5 yds apart, with one coil of dannert on enemy side. This was probably portion of same fd as was located by flash spotters at 87352934. 6 ft inside dannert was a trip wire with A.P. mines attached. Owing to the circumstances of this patrol, the brg of the fd was not accurately noted, but a sketch by patrol leader later showed it running on approx 295 deg.

This same patrol also encountered another fd about 150 to 200 yds further SW, running approx 340 deg. This fd was of 6 rows Mk IV and Mk V mines, and was unusually dense, rows being 6 ft apart and mines 6 ft apart. There was one coil of dannert on enemy side.

The patrol which reported the unmarked fd referred to in first paragraph of this section also moved west to 87352935, where it found a single row of dannert running approx North-South, but curving to West as though part of a large circle of wire. Ground was searched for 20 yds on both sides of the wire but no mines were found.



What appears to be a row of small pickets and wire, possibly dannert, extends from 87082925 to 87152921 (OP report).

4. WORKS

Night 7/8 Sep, large working party apparently wiring about 87302935. Was joined by a party from the south.

5. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

7 Sep - normal in Bde area

Tac R 1515 hrs 7 Sep reported MT concentrations in usual areas in the SOUTH, general impression being that all indications pointed to general movement SE towards centre of sq 8725.

0800 hrs 8 Sep, normal MT concentrations in SOUTH. Only movement 6 MET area 861266; gps of 40 and 10 on trk area 856278, all moving North.

6. ENEMY ARTY

Enemy arty activity today (7 Sep) has been of the usual nature as in the last few days. HBs (unfixed) at 86512917, 86482913 are now considered to be ITALIAN 149/40 (C.B. Int Report No. 47)

7 Sep. Areas shelled included 882294 (20 shells Italian 149/40); 879294 (2 shells); 881294 (6 shells, probably 25 pdr); 878294 (25 pdr); 878292 (15 shells 75 mm); 877292 (8 shells 75mm); 87452929 to 87462942 (one gun firing single rds, apparently registering DF tasks).

7. ENEMY METHODS

Night 3/4 Sep enemy bombers believed JU 88s carried out bombing and straffing attacks against NZ forces in the south. One aircraft is reported to have been fitted with a "siren". Many yellow flares were used and red sig lights were fired by the enemy when targets were bombed in their lines.

Enemy working parties have been reported by patrols to work only for about 5 mins and then cease for a similar length of time. This is apparently done to prevent our patrols surprising them under cover of the noise of their efforts.

(From 9 Div I.S. No. 289)

8. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

German parachutists other than parachute inf, besides the yellow facings and pipings of the GAF, wear also the colour of their arm of the service. Thus a dead German found on RUWEISAT Ridge with shoulder straps consisting of a khaki strip with yellow piping and a red band  $\frac{1}{2}$  in wide running across the shoulder strap, belonged to the Parachute Arty.

(From 9 Div I.S. No. 289)

9. PATROLS, Night 7/8 Sep.

Patrol of 1 offr, 9 ORs, 2 sappers between 1930 hrs and 0330 hrs moved from 87792940 to 87672935 to 87372935 to 87372930 back to 87792940. When at 87382935 patrol observed 2 MMGs, resembling Bredas, both firing tracer from area estimated to be approx 87302938. From 87382935, sounds of a large working party were heard to WEST and comd and one sapper went fwd to investigate. At 87352935, struck single dannert fence running on approx NORTH-SOUTH line, but curving to WEST as if portion of large circle of wire. Ground for 20 yds on inside and outside of wire was examined but no mines were found. At same time main body of patrol at 87372935 heard enemy party moving noisily from SOUTH. Party turned WEST and passed beyond wire towards sounds of enemy working party about 400 yds away from where patrol leader was. At 87372934 patrol contacted minefd, details of which appear in para 3. From 87372930 patrol heard to WEST sounds resembling those made when wiring with spools of barbed wire, and movement of a considerable number of men. When at 87462932 on return journey, large blast occurred behind, but patrol could not estimate distance.

A patrol of 1 offr, 14 ORs left 88012928 at 2000 hrs, reached QATTARA trk 87722922, then followed a course parallel to the track about 100 yds to the east. At 87722920 struck a field of Mk V mines, some mines being buried but unarmed, others being on the surface. This field has been previously reported. Patrol followed course parallel to track to 87692915. No movement was seen or heard. At intermittent periods flares were put up from areas on both sides of the road, and LMG fire was heard. Patrol returned to 88012928 at 0400 hrs.

10. OWN ARTY

7 Sep, harassing fire in following areas :-

area 87602907 - 87672906 - 87652901 - 87582902  
" 87332929 - 87402927 - 87402925 - 87322927  
" 87422926 - 87432922 - 87412922 - 87412926  
" 87462923 - 87492920 - 87482919 - 87452922

11. MISCELLANEOUS

A survey has shown TELL EL EISA sta to be placed incorrectly on 1/50,000 sheet. Correct posn of signal pole near sta is 876114 299178

(20 Bde Int Summary No. 48)

*E.T. Pearson*  
Lieut.

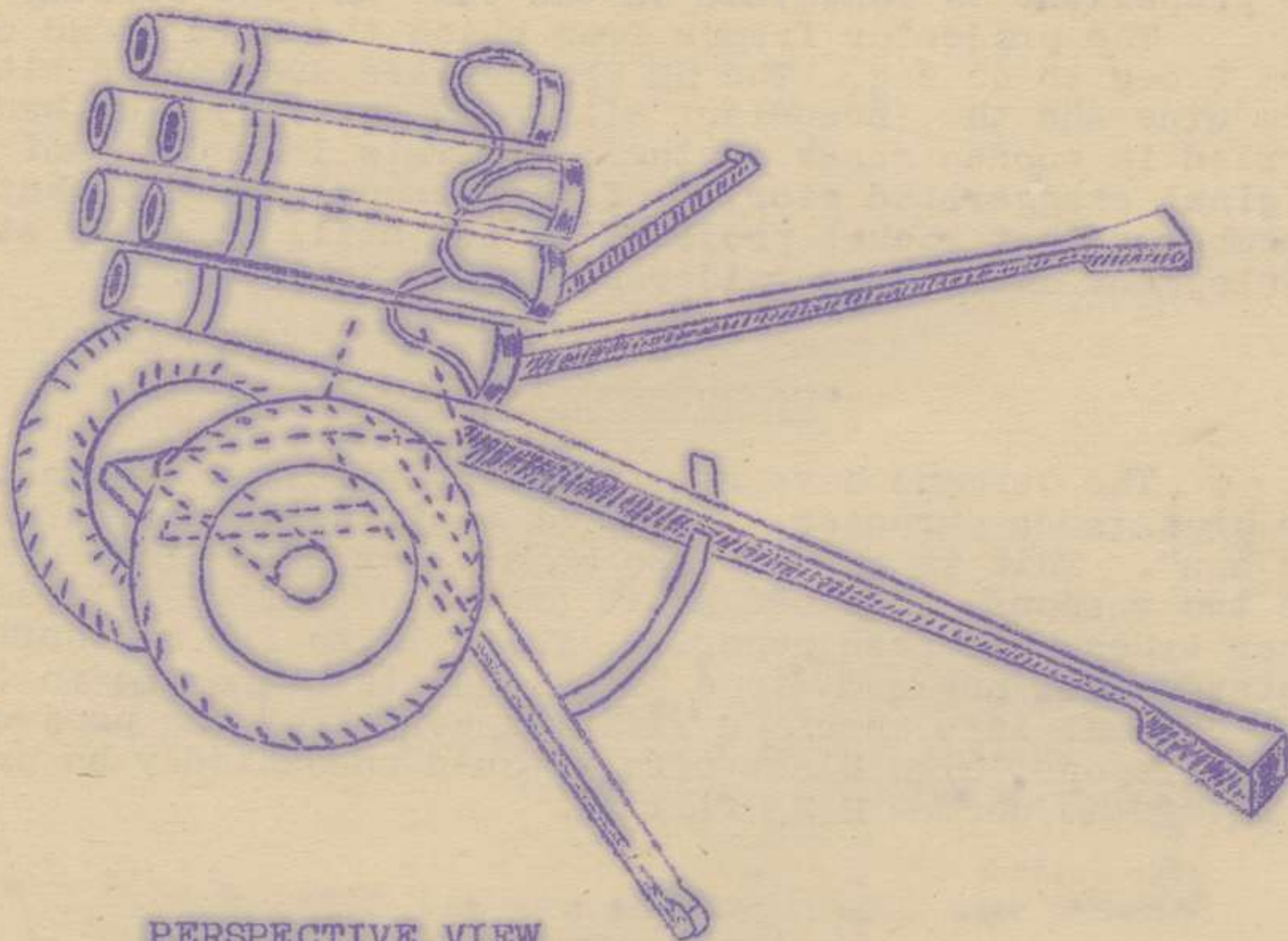
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

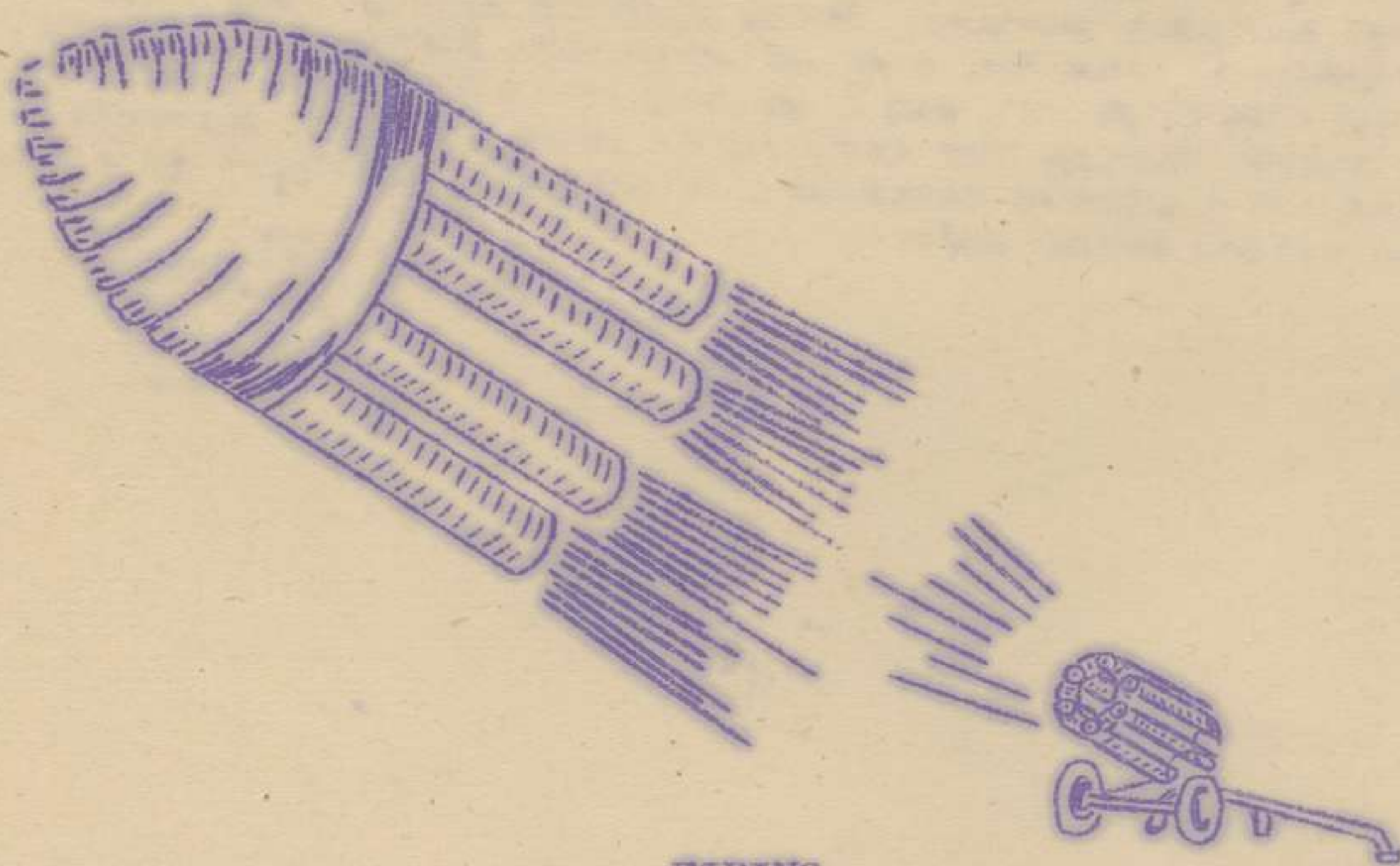
Distribution

List B less serials 11, 12, 13, 15

NEBELWERFER "d" or DOGERAT



PERSPECTIVE VIEW



FIRING

area covered by the firing point and the area 600 metres on each side of the line of fire, for a distance of 2,400 metres from the firing point, must be in cover proof against a direct hit. For a further 800 metres all round this area everyone must be either below ground or protected against splinters. The inaccuracy normal to rocket projectiles in an early stage of development might possibly account for the large danger area.

Infm received from the Russian front states that two types of projectiles have been actually encountered there.

The HE projectile weighs 82 Kgs (180 lb) and contains 50 Kgs (110 lb) of TNT. It has a powerful blast effect and is said to be designed for the demolition of field defences.

The Incendiary projectile weighs 79 Kgs (174 lb) and contains 50 litres (11 galls) of oil. A single hit is said to ignite an area of up to 200 square metres, oil being scattered over an area of 20/25 metres long by 10/15 metres wide. In both these projectiles the propellant is contained in the tail and the filling in the nose.

The projector frames from which they are fired can be elevated from 5 deg to 42 deg. The HE projectiles are marked with a pink band 3 cm wide and the Incendiary with a green and yellow band. They are carried in wooden cases in the veh. This infm does not bear out the original exaggerated stories of the weapon's effect, but it must be remembered that rocket projectiles are still in early stages of development and have considerable potentialities.

#### "COMPRESSED AIR AMN"

The Germans have recently been widely disseminating for propaganda purposes details of what they describe as "compressed air amn". This is supposed to have a terrific blast effect. The two weapons described above are said to fire this amn, and other types have been reported. There is so far no confirmation whatever that any such type of amn exists but owing to the large H.E. content in comparison with the weight of the projectile of these weapons, high blast effect would undoubtedly be produced by using the normal H.E. filling.

.....

NOTES on SCHWERE WURFGERAT and NEBELWERFER d.

Infm from PWs and from censorship sources tends to indicate the imminent use in the WESTERN DESERT of SCHWERE WURFGERAT and NEBELWERFER d.

The following notes on these weapons have been prepared from various sources, so that all tps may be forewarned, so reducing the surprise effect of these weapons.

Infm has been received that Germans have three SMOKE TROOPS on the African front. Each tp is equipped with 6 rocket producing weapons of the type NEBELWERFER.

NEBELWERFER d.

The NEBELWERFER d, also known as the "DO-GERAT", is a six-barrelled rocket projector mounted on a split trail mounting like that of a fd gun. It is served by a crew of an NCO and 6 men. The six barrels are each of 15 cm (6 in) calibre, and are arranged like the chambers of a revolver, supported by a metal framework. Barrels are about 4 ft long.

Into each of the six barrels is loaded from the muzzle a shell-shaped "charge" with a rounded nose which projects beyond the muzzle. These "charges" are rocket-type propellants and weigh approx 10 kg (22 lb) each.

The weapon is capable of firing a salvo of six rounds every 90 secs. The rounds are fired electrically at intervals of one second.

Different sources give different figures for the weapon's maximum range, varying from 3,500 yds to 9,000 yds. One source states effective range is 800 yds. Apparently it is not an accurate weapon; dispersion is considerable and there is evidence that a target of less than 240 yds by 500 yds should not be engaged.

The weapon fires a liquid incendiary charge with burster and smoke. Smoke, gas and H.E. amm are reported to be available.

One PW whose reliability has been shown to be good, described a variation in the use of the weapon. This PW had served formerly in Nbl.Ers.Abt.2 and his infm was therefore not up to date. To his knowledge, experiments had been in progress with the weapon since 1938.

PW described a large projectile of about 60 cm (24 ins) calibre and shaped like the nose-cap of a shell, which has six recesses in its base into which the projecting ends of the six charges fit. This projectile, which is separate from the six "charges" requires three men to lift it, and is placed over the ends of the projecting noses of the six charges. The six charges are initiated simultaneously and electrically, and operating on the rocket principle, propel the projectile for a considerable distance.

PW thought the range was about 11,000 or 13,000 yds. Casualties from blast could be caused within a radius of 50-100 metres from point of impact.

A sketch made by this PW is attached.

SCHWERE WURFGERAT

In this equipment a rocket projectile is fired from a fixed stand or from an armoured semi-tracked veh, with a crew of four - one NCO, 2 gnrs and one dr. The projectors apparently consist of adjustable frames which are set up before firing. There are six projector stands on the veh, three on either side. Six rounds are carried, 5 being 28 cm (11 $\frac{1}{4}$  in) H.E. and the sixth 32 cm (12 $\frac{3}{4}$  in) incendiary. Although the only amm so far reported is H.E. and incendiary, the projectiles would be readily adaptable to smoke or chemical warfare purposes.

Maximum range with H.E. is believed 2,000 yds and with incendiary 2,200 yds. Minimum safe range is reported to be 1100 yds. 50% zone is believed to be approx 87 yds long and 98 yds wide.

A captured document is remarkable for its insistence on safety precautions. During practice shoots, for example, it is forbidden to fire over one's own troops in any circumstances. Everyone in the

0840 hrs 5 Sep have been identified as from an Italian 149/40.

Notes on NEBELWERFER d. and SCHWERE WURFGERAT and "Compressed air amn" are attached as Appx A.

7. PATROLS, Night 6/7 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 9 ORs took up posns at 2015 hrs near derelict plane 87542935, with the object of ambushing an enemy party which had been seen recently in this vicinity. Patrol remained till 0500 hrs, and no movement was seen or heard.

A recce patrol of 1 offr, 14 ORs left 88012928 at 2000 hrs, crossed QATTARA track 87722922 and then moved on brg 212 deg parallel to QATTARA trk about 50 yds WEST of track. At 87672918, a covering party was left and patrol leader and 3 men went fwd. When they reached 87662913, flares were fired from east side of track and also from approx 100 yds to the West. Two LMGs approx 87682913, apparently firing on fixed lines approx NW, opened up. MT was heard apparently moving on QATTARA trk south of pt 21. Voices were heard from vicinity pt 21 (87662912). Covering party at 87672918 reported having seen a small party not exceeding 6 men moving along Eastern side of track towards the North. This gp appeared to go to ground, when flares were fired. The patrol leader endeavoured to locate them, but the enemy had apparently moved away. Patrol returned at 0100 hrs.

8. OWN ARTY

During 6 Sep arty put down harassing fire on same areas as were engaged 5 Sep.

9. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY


Confined to single planes over Bde area. 1815 - 1818 hrs - 3 ME 109s circled over area 876293, then flew WEST.

10. AIR OPS

The high level of our Air Force's activity on 2 Sep was surpassed on 3 Sep, when a record number of 200 sorties were made by day bombers against enemy MT contained by our forces in southern sector. Total fighter sorties was 574. Fighter-bombers attacked a gp of armd vehs 890248 and scored direct hits on 3 Mk III and 2 unidentified tks, one Armd C and one lorry. During the day, enemy losses were 4 aircraft destroyed, 11 probably destroyed, 7 damaged. We lost 12 planes, 3 of the pilots being safe.

Distribution

List 'B'

  
Air Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

*War Diary*

SECRET  
Copy No 23

7 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No.4  
(From information received up to 1200 hrs 7 Sep 42)

SPECIAL NOTE

On two occasions in the recent fighting individuals dressed in the uniform of a British Capt entered the lines of a fwd British unit and told it to be ready to move off at five minutes notice. The tpt used was in one case a Bantam and in the other a Morris 15 cwt. Similar incidents have occurred before and in all cases the visitors have been allowed to get away. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that ALL persons entering a unit or formation area MUST be challenged whenever there is any doubt as to identity. Failure to do so will lead to the enemy gaining valuable infm and may jeopardise the Comds plan and lead to serious loss of life.

A note drawing attention to such breaches of security will be repeated in all Intelligence Summaries.  
(From 9 Div I. S. No. 288)

1. GENERAL

Period remains quiet in Bde sector. Enemy are very vigilant at night.

In the main action to the south the enemy withdrawal westwards is reported to have taken him west of HIMEIMAT, our forces having reached the 880 easting grid during morning 6 Sep. During the morning there were continued signs of a thinning out westwards and our arty shelled NAQB RALA 877250. During this operation the enemy left a covering screen of tks and inf to the east of his main body as a rear gd.

The enemy armd forces yesterday(5 Sep) in the area of our minefds in the south are now shown from air reports to be west of these minefds and the general impression is gained that the westward movement of the enemy forces continues.

The enemy withdrawal is covered with a strong screen of A Tk guns supported by some tks and inf.

It is estimated that 500 MT have been left in the area evacuated by the enemy.

Further details are now available of the action by NZ Div during night 3/4 Sep and morning 4 Sep. The following casualties were inflicted :-

Total killed 515  
of which 150 to 200 German.

The following eqpt was destroyed:

- 36 MMGs
- 3 A Tk guns
- 1 Hy mortar
- Some lt tks and probably 2 88mm guns .

An interesting side issue was the now customarily abortive sabotage of the ry. This time it was the turn of the Italians. On 4 Sep 14 San Marco Marines landed from a MTB in rubber boats at BIR MAHDI (477918). They blew a break of 15 ins in the ry and a breach in the pipeline. The latter was rapidly mended, the marines made prisoner and four trains passed successfully along the ry before their effort was noticed. Perhaps their attempt was planned to coincide with the enemy's hoped for success at ALAM EL HALFA and somebody forgot to cancel it.

(Source: 9 Div I. S. No. 288)

At 1025 hrs 6 Sep vehs in the area of SIDI RAHMAN were observed apparently attempting to lay a smoke screen. As a screen for any possible movement it was not a success and no further movement was reported from the area.

(Source: 9 Div I.S. No. 288)

2. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Normal during day.

Right flanking Bde reported increased movement on track on skyline ridge running approx from area 867300 to trig 30 87002927. From 0800 to 1400 hrs and from 1600 to 1800 hrs 61 vehs moved SOUTH and 165 moved NORTH.

1940 hrs - 30/40 enemy assembled fwd of bn on coast beyond arty range and 50 between rd and ry. The latter were engaged by arty.

0650 hrs, 7 Sep - approx 40 men observed area 873292.

Tac R 1515 hrs 6 Sep reported general impression in southern area considerable internal activity within concentrations of MET. In northern area (to 292 Northing grid) no activity.

0640 hrs 7 Sep - no movement seen, no AA encountered and no activity observed EAST of 866 Easting and NORTH of 288 Northing.

0645 hrs 7 Sep - MT concentrations in sq 8725. No movement observed in Southern area.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

87302978 - mines seen by one member of a patrol, but NOT seen by patrol comd.

87302973 to 87282979 - burnt out tks and vehs indicate the eastern edge of concealed minefield.

OP reports line of pickets, possibly wired, estimated to extend from 87282909 to 87392904.

4. ENEMY ARTY

C. B. O. report to 2000 hrs 6 Sep reads as follows :-

Enemy arty activity has not been on a large scale today. Between 0705 and 1348 hrs, the trig 33 area and our FDLs between 287 and 289 Northings were subjected to intermittent harassing fire of a light nature. Activity broke out again between 1810 and 1930 hrs and concentrations were put down on the trig 33 - pt 24 - TELL EL EISA cutting area.

HBs at 87022950, 86972942 were bombarded. HBs at 86683037 and 86643042 were out of range.

Areas shelled yesterday(6 Sep) in Bde area were :- 87682935(2 shells - air burst); 877292(1 shell); 874292(1 shell); 874292 to 875292 (6 shells).

5. ENEMY METHODS

It is reported that the enemy has been leaving "crowsfeet" in the areas recently evacuated by him. "Crowsfeet" consist of sharp spikes which are scattered on the ground to puncture tyres. They are often difficult to see owing to dust and if found, their locality should be reported at once.

(Source: 9 Div I.S. No. 288)

On night 3/4 Sep an enemy aircraft dropped 5 white flares fwd of S.A. Div FDLs. Immediately afterwards red very lights were put up along the length of the enemy FDLs. It is thought that this is the enemy signal indicating the posn of his FDLs to his aircraft.

(Source: 9 Div I.S. No. 288)

6. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Fragments of a shell which landed at 87772940 at



8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY - Bde Area.

1 Sep - 0925 hrs, 2 MEs over 881294.  
1135 hrs, 6 EA divebombed arty posns area 876297.  
2 EA MGed 2/43 Bn FDLs.  
1140 hrs, 3 MEs flew NORTH very low.  
1331 hrs, 4 ME 109s divebombed area 876297.

2 Sep - 0710 hrs, 3 ME 109s flew low over area 881294.  
0930 hrs, 2 EA, possibly JU 88s, flying high  
NORTH 881294.

9. OWN ACTIVITY

Since the commencement of the enemy thrust in the South our aircraft have constantly harried the enemy, and our bombers and fighter-bombers have maintained a "shuttle" service by day and by night, except for a period when poor visibility, due to dust, made use of LGS impossible.

During night 31 Aug/1Sep, bombers heavily bombed close leaguers in areas 890259 and DEIR EL RAGIL (4286) and 50 to 60 fires were started.

*E.T. Payne*  
Lieut

Distribution  
As per Summary No. 36

for Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

WAR DIARY

SECRET  
Copy No 29

5 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 40  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 5 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Patrols night 4/5 Sep found enemy vigilant. Working parties were heard areas 875291 and 875290.

Patrol from Bde on right flank exchanged fire with enemy at 87443026.

Patrol from formation on left flank found pt 27(879288) unoccupied by enemy. On the previous night enemy with automatic weapons had been found at this pt.

In the southern areas enemy withdrawal is apparently continuing. The enemy has been subjected to extremely heavy air attack. Bombers and fighters have attacked them 18 hrs out of every 24. 4000 lb bombs have been amongst those dropped by our aircraft. It has been reported that yesterday afternoon there were no enemy EAST of 426 grid line.

A formation of Arm'd Cs report a successful engagement of MT in RAGIL area morning 3 Sep. They estimate that at least 100 vehs were destroyed.

During morning 4 Sep, NZ tps advanced south of former FDLs and by 1000 hrs had reached area of 264 northing, presumably about 380 easting. They repulsed three enemy counter attacks during the day, taking some 400 PWs including about 40 Germans and destroying 3 tanks. Night 4/5 Sep 42 on this front was reported as quiet.

The following paragraphs are taken from 9 Div I.S. No. 286 of 4 Sep :-

"It is now known that over 80 German tks are in our hands having been either destroyed by RE or found too badly damaged to need further attention. This means that one-third of the present German tk force is out of action for good. Italian losses are not known at all accurately, but it is thought that their runners may not be more than 50 per cent of the 245 tks with which they started. It is thought fair to add that many of these will probably have been mechanical casualties only."

"With the losses the enemy has sustained a further advance was clearly impossible until some reorganisation had been carried out. This reorganisation could not be done in the face of harassing fire from three sides and continual bombing. It seems that the enemy has decided to reduce the first risk at least and at the same time to concentrate his forces more compactly by withdrawing the main body of his attacking tps west of the minefd. Here they will be protected by the cliffs of the QATTARA depression on their right, by the minefd and no doubt a strong screen of tks and A Tk guns to the east. It remains to be seen whether the effects of the RAF attacks can be made good. If they can, the enemy's objective is likely to remain unaltered; for him speed is essential, he surely appreciates that if the DELTA is to be reached at all, it must be reached soon."

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

The enemy's dispositions between the coast and incl RUWEISAT Ridge do not seem to have changed much since the attack in the south began.

On 1 Sep, 11 Coy III Bn 382 I.R. which held fwd posn north of pt 23 (872296) was practically wiped out by our attacking tps. According to some of our tps who returned from this action on the following day, the lost coy in this area was replaced in part by Italians. Recently there have been signs of a second line of defences in area 868299 and 868298 and it is possible that the Italians have been busy building them.

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

MMG fired on fixed line along single dannert fence at 87602910.

87602919 - MMG firing night 4/5 Sep (patrol).

87492935 - 12 pits on southern side of double mound.

About half the pits were partly roofed with galvanised iron.

4. WIRE AND MINEFIELDS.

87732923 - 2 rows of devitalised mines a few yds West of QATTARA trk and parallel to trk.

87602910 - single dannert wire fence running approx EAST-WEST (patrol).

OPs report one row of angle iron pickets at 87382904; from 87572891 to 87622895; also in approx area 873293.

5. OBSERVED MOVEMENT.

Visibility yesterday was impaired by dust.

OPs report there has been a marked decrease in MT movement during the last two days on MITEIRIYA RIDGE. It is thought enemy are using tracks further West.

1930 hrs - movement of 3 men was observed area 87572910. This is the first time movement has been observed in this area for at least a week.

Patrol to area 87602910 night 4/5 Sep heard working parties behind wire and also in area 875291.

0700 hrs this morning there was an increase in movement of men in "HUMMOCK" area 878290. Total of 22 men were seen.

6. ENEMY ARTY

Enemy arty activity has been very slight during the day (4 Sep), consisting principally of light harassing fire directed against our OP areas by Fd and Inf guns sited in the central sector. No medium guns have been reported active.

(C.B. Int. Report No. 43)

During morning 5 Sep, 23 shells fell in area 876293 (near OP), 8 shells in area 879296 and 8 in area 879295. All these were 75mm.

7. ENEMY METHODS.

Patrol to area 873293 night 3/4 Sep, during outward journey observed light to NORTH which patrol considered to be flashing morse. Patrol was not in direct beam but are of opinion that it was flashing towards enemy lines. It was estimated to come from general area E or SE of pt 23 (873296).

A patrol night 4/5 Sep while at 87392929 heard what appeared to be a morse key being worked, beyond a low ridge.

8. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Particulars are given in C.B.O. Int Report No. 43 of the Italian 149/40 gun. Range 24,000 yds; weight of shell 112 lbs; traverse 60 deg.

This gun appears to have entirely replaced the 149/35 in this zone. It has a high MV of 2,620 f.p.s. so that the shells arrive before their sound.

9. PATROLS, Night 4/5 Sep.

A patrol of 1 offr, 14 ORs left 88012928 at 2000 hrs on brg 260 deg. At 87822925 encountered devitalised minefd recced by previous patrols. Old trenches at 87782924 showed no sign of recent occupation. QATTARA track was crossed at 87732923 and here 2 rows of devitalised mines running parallel to the track and a few yds west of it were found. There was no wire in vicinity. At 87672922 patrol changed direction to 212 deg. When patrol was at 87642916 white flares were put up and a MMG opened fire from approx 87602919. Working parties could be heard in same general direction as MMG fire, and sounds of these working parties could be heard during remainder of leg. Patrol continued to 87602910 where a single dannert fence running approx east-west was encountered. Further working parties

could be heard working within the wire. A MMG opened up, firing on fixed line along dannert fence. Flares were fired continuously from right and left rear and from front, and patrol began return along same route. While patrol was cutting a length from a cable which runs east-west alongside track at 87622913, flares were put up by enemy and MMG at approx 87602919 opened fire and some mortar bombs fell in vicinity of patrol. Patrol returned to starting point at 0300 hrs.

A patrol of 1 offr, 8 ORs and 2 sappers, left 87682949 at 1930 hrs, and proceeded to 87672935, and thence to derelict Hurricane 87542935. Continuing, patrol found 12 pits on southern side of double mound at 87492935. About half the pits were partly roofed with galvanised iron. Patrol cut a cable running approx NW from the mounds. At 87442935, patrol changed course to 225 deg, and moved on this brg to 87392929. At this point, a sound like that of a morse key was heard about 100 yds away WNW beyond a low bare ridge, and a voice (believed Italian) was also heard in approx the same place. Enemy put up flare from about 87382927, and a voice called out what sounded like "Martino" slightly beyond the flare. Call was answered from same locality. A LMG fired 3 bursts from WNW, and then a single rifle shot was heard. Flares were fired from WEST and SOUTH. Patrol returned to 87682949, reaching this point at 0130 hrs.

10. OWN ARTY

Our arty engaged targets yesterday in areas 87632912 and 87312929.

5 Sep - H.B. at 87042950 was neutralised.

11. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

There has been no hostile action by EA in this area since yesterday's Summary.

12. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

RAF fighters and bombers maintained constant and by attacks on enemy in Southern areas throughout 4 Sep.

Distribution

As for Summary No. 39

*J.T. Pearson*  
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

6 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 41  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 6 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has been quiet on Bde front. Patrol last night (5/6) reported enemy working parties approx 87642921 and 87562908.

The following paras are taken from 9 Div I.S. dated 5 Sep:-

The action in the south continues favourably for our forces, the enemy being forced to withdraw slowly westwards under constant pressure from ground and air.

In the south there are now no enemy forces east of 888 easting. The enemy is concentrated in the area sq 880260 availing himself of the protection offered by our minefield. The enemy forces used in the attack are thought to have been -

<u>German</u>	15 Armd Div 21 Armd Div 90 Lt Div 3 Recce Unit 33 Recce Unit and possibly BRIEHL Gp
---------------	--

<u>Italian</u>	ARIETE Armd Div TRIESTE Div and elements at least of BRESCIA FOLGORE LITTORIO
----------------	---

Our maximum tk losses are considerably less than those known to be definitely lost to the Germans. They amount to maximum total of 50 tks many of which are recoverable. This works out to something under 50% of German losses.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Weapon pits 87672920 with cattle fence about 100 yds in front - unoccupied.

Sangars 87652918 and weapon pits 87632915 unoccupied.

3. MINEFIELDS AND WIRE

87722922 - 2 rows of Mk IV mines approx 40 yds east of QATTARA track and 2 rows EP Mk II along east edge of track.

Patrol encountered fence of two barbed wires on long pickets at 87672921 and 87672920.

87612912, barbed trip wire 6 ins above ground, running EAST-WEST.

Single dannert at 87592909 runs on brg 115 deg.

OP reports place lines of pickets at following points:- from 87072927 to 87042925; from 87042925 to 87232912 (with sign posts at 87112922, 87132920, 87172917, and prominent marks, probably double 40 gall drums, about 50 yds apart at 87152918); approx line from 87182917 to 87302930 then East for approx 200 yds; 87352905; 87432912; from 87572891 to 87632893; 87702897 to 87722898; 87712904 to 87692901.

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

During morning 5 Sep rising dust SOUTH and SW of MITEIRIYA Ridge suggested light traffic moving EAST and WEST.

MT movement in other areas was normal.

1800-1900 hrs - total of 27 men appeared to be working on fence in areas 870292, 871292.

Night 5/6 Sep patrol reported working parties approx 87642921 and 87562908.

0650 6 Sep - total of 20 men observed in area 87182922.

5. ENEMY ARTY

C.B. Int Report to 2100 hrs 5 Sep reports customary morning strafe on TEL EL EISA cutting. In the evening there was an increase in enemy harassing fire directed mainly against the fwd areas between 290 and 292, 285 and 288 Northing grid lines. Inf guns joined in. H.B. at 86742867 whose range is 18,000 yds caused more trouble and registered a F.S. tower. Bombard of th's H.B. by our arty was observed to fall in the target area.

0735-0835 hrs 6 Sep, enemy shelled areas 875296 (10 shells 150mm), 879294 (2 shells med), 87592953 to 87732942 (possible 88mm), 879294 (6 shells 25 pdr), TEL EL EISA area (105 mm)

6. ENEMY METHODS

An Italian PW captured in area 877286 stated that 50 yds in front of his coy's posn are 4 or 5 rows of AP mines set in gps of three. The gps are connected by a trip wire, so that when the trip wire is pulled all three mines go up. The distance between the rows of mines is approx 3 yds. A black tube 50 cm(20 in) long, is put into the ground above each mine. This is intended to guide their tps going out on patrol. These minefields extend in a semicircle in front of the strong points. In front of the minefield is a trip wire.

By day, the Italians sleep, keeping one or two sentries out. By night, all tps are awake, digging or standing to. To give the alarm at night, sentries fire a white verrey light and pull a string leading to coy HQ. This sets the Alarm Bell ringing.

Between 2000 and 2200 hrs this system of warning is augmented by a patrol of 4 men with a Breda machine gun. This patrol is supposed to go out in front of the minefields but in practice the patrols prefer to remain close in.

From 0400 to 0600 hrs, the Germans patrol outside the minefield. PW has often seen a German patrol of 50 or so men returning at first light. When German patrols go out the Italians are warned not to shoot for a specified time, i.e. 2 hrs.

(From 3 S.A. Bde Int Summary No. 13)

Two stragglers from the raiding force of 1 Sep report having seen mines or boobytraps which looked like our ST grenade, attached by string to bushes. They were sure that these objects were NOT ST grenades, although they had that appearance.

(From 20 Bde Int Summary No. 44)

At 87463043 there is a scooped furrow running approx SW-NE from which the spoil has been removed. This furrow is 30 yds to the east of a B.4 A/P minefd. This is laid as follows:-

5 short pickets running along the front of the fd, then a gap then 5 more short pickets. The B4 mines are attached to the 2nd and 4th pickets with trip wires to the 1st, 3rd and 5th pickets.

(From 20 Bde Int Summary No. 46)

7. ENEMY ORGANISATION

German: PW from 382 and 435 IRs state that coys have now received A Tk guns. The general consensus of statements indicate that each coy has one 5 cm gun and one or more 3.7 cm, but some coys may have two 5 cms as well as the 3.7 cm.

It appears that the conversion of the MG Coys to rifle coys and the distribution of their former armaments has proceeded further. The change has been effected in 4 Coy of all three Regts, according to recent PW.

(From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 237)

8. PATROLS, Night 5/6 Sep.

A recce patrol of 1. offr, 8 ORs left 88012928 at 2000 hrs on brg 260 deg. Devitalised minefd with single dannert was passed at 87782924. QATTARA track was crossed at 87722922. 2 rows of Mk IV mines were found approx 40 yds east of track and 2 rows of EP Mk II along east edge of track. On reaching 87682922 patrol heard a working party which they estimated to be at about 87642921. Patrol then moved on brg 212 deg for 150 yds, and then on 260 deg for 150 yds. Bursts of MMG and LMG, apparently firing East, were heard in the South. At 87672921 patrol encountered fence of 2 barbed wires on long pickets. At 87672920 there are weapon pits unoccupied. Patrol then changed direction to 212 deg and at 87662919, passed through a similar fence. It is thought this fence runs on a circular course round these weapon pits. Sangars were seen at 87652918 and weapon pits at 87632915, all unoccupied. At 87622914 crossed East-West track. At 87612912, there is a barbed trip wire approx 6 ins above ground running East-West. At 87592909 patrol encountered single dannert running on brg of 115 deg. Three white flares were fired from direction of pt 21. Working party estimated at 87562908, was heard. A MMG fired bursts at intervals from the vicinity of the working party, but direction of fire could not be determined. Patrol moved back on same course, and while crossing QATTARA Track at 87722922, voices were heard in a SE direction estimated 500 yds away. Voices were also heard to the South. Patrol reached 88012928 at 0500 hrs.

Observers who went to area of crashed plane 87542935 late afternoon 5 Sep reported no enemy in vicinity of plane. Party was fired on by enemy.

A party moving out before first light to establish OP heard movement and coughing near the plane.

9. OWN ARTY

5 Sep - Harassing fire on following areas :-

area 87112932-87152928-87142927 - 87102930 - A Tk guns and MGs.

area 87302929 - 87372929 - 87372927 - 87302927 - Hy MGs.

area 87462923 - 87522919 - 87512918 - 87442920 - A Tk guns and diggings.

area 87622913 - 87662910 - 87612905 - 87592906 - defended area.

10. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

Several single planes flew WEST or NW over Bde sector. No hostile action reported.

11. OWN AIR ACTIVITY.

RAF is continuing bomber attacks and fighter sweeps over enemy lines in the SOUTH. It is reported that the morale of the German armd forces has been lowered by our constant air attacks.

(From 9 Aust Div Int Summary No. 287)

*E.T. Pearce*  
for Maj.

Distribution

As per Summary No. 40

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

3 Sep 42

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 38  
(From information received up to 1800 hrs 3 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Period has remained quiet in Bde sector.

Other sectors

NZ tps in a night patrol night 1/2 Sep knocked out 5 ITALIAN M13 tks. (From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 284)

S.A. patrol to area 87722910, night 2/3 Sep, neither saw nor heard any enemy. A gap for tpt through minefield located area 87802910.

So far in the SOUTH, no major clashes have occurred between the armed forces, but it is estimated that German tk casualties are in the neighbourhood of 40/50 tks out of action. (From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 284)

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE.

PW state area west pt 23 held by elements of I and III Bn 382 IR. 11 Coy 382 IR held a fwd posn on the northern side pt 23 with 9 and 10 Coys five kms to their rear, 10 Coy on the left. There was one 5 cm A Tk gun with 1 Pl. (From 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 284)

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

OPs report what appear to be sign boards at approx 87112922, 87132920, 87172917. There is a probable line of wire running from 87042925 to 87072929 to 87212914 (approx).

4 gun Fd posn previously unoccupied, now occupied, at 87132905.

Gp of weapon pits at 87272904.

(Interpretation Report of Air Photograph taken 31 Aug 42)

An undated trace captured during raid on pt 23 (872296) night 31 Aug/1 Sep to be overlaid over 1:100,000 signed by a Sgt of 6 Coy 382 IR shows :-

(i) What appears to be a minefd running from 87062972 - 87192977 - 87242970 - 87002940 - 86992938 - 87172919 - 87272928 - 87352930 - 87382932 - 87442926 - 87342900.

(ii) An arrow pointing from 87192976 to an area marked C 87502976.

(iii) What appear to be four coy areas as follows :-

C 87502976

D 87592971

B 87672966

A 87662954

(iv) Four areas (possibly coys) unnumbered as follows:-

87252956

87242943

87332935

87502922

(Source: 20 Bde I.S. No. 43)

4. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

2 Sep - OPs reported increased movement in area of hummocks sq 878290.

1820 hrs - 4 men in area 87102922. Movement in this area continued until dark.



5. ENEMY METHODS

Among PW captured on night 31/1 Sep were several who had fought in RUSSIA. All these had been wounded in the fighting there and on recovery had been posted to AFRICA.

Further statements by PW showed that prior to the raids carried out on our FDLs night 30/31 Aug, recce had been made of our wire and minefields by small patrols of inf. During the raids engrs had been brought fwd with the inf to blow gaps in our wire.

German anti-personnel S mines have been located at 87273018 with pulltype igniters. Mines are laid in a straight line with taut trip wires fastened to pickets. The mines are laid ten yds apart and the pickets are in between the mines. Each mine has therefore two trip wires.

(Source: 9 Aust Div I.S. No. 284)

6. ENEMY SHELLING

Enemy arty activity has been on a considerable scale today (2 Sep) and intermittent harassing fire has been put down on our FDLs and OP areas.

(From C.B. Intelligence Report No. 42)

7. OWN ARTY

Following targets were engaged with harassing fire during night 2/3 Sep :-

87192974	to 87212972	-	wire & strongposts
87532919	to 87542916	-	" "
87332929	to 87362929	-	3/4 MG posts

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

2 Sep - 13 EA reported over Bde area during afternoon.

9. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

2 Sep - 1659 hrs - bombers attacked MT 436879, 437868, and later at 434877, 437877, 437875, 432872.

1550 hrs - fighters intercepted Stukas. Six destroyed, 1 probable, 11 damaged, 2 ME 109s damaged.

SPECIAL NOTE

As many GERMAN 17 series bomb fuzes as possible are urgently required in the UK. They are necessary for the carrying out of a series of experiments which will result in an enormous reduction in the risks involved in dealing with GERMAN clock type fuzes.

As the incidence of bombing has not been by in the UK in recent months, the ME must therefore be the main source of supply. All intact 17 fuzes and Zus 40's in the possession of any person or unit should be returned to this HQ forthwith. The desire to retain trophies should in this case be greatly outweighed by the possible enormous saving in life and property which may result from an adequate supply of these fuzes being obtained.

(From 9 Aust Div Summary No. 284)

*O.T. [Signature]*  
Lieut  
for Maj.

Distribution

As per Summary No. 37

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

4 Sep 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 39  
(From information received up to 1100 hrs 4 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

Southern Sector

During morning 3 Sep enemy appeared to have withdrawn within area 432873 432865 SW to 427861, thence West towards HIMEIMAT. Concentration of MT was reported in RAGIL area and along escarpment to South. There were some tanks North of RAGIL and an A Tk screen with guns to the East.

Infm received 4 Sep stated that Westward movement of enemy continued. There were no enemy tks East of 430 and North of 875 grids.

The exact nature or significance of this movement is difficult to determine at this early stage, but it is known that enemy has suffered by tk casualties.

Our bombers and fighters were particularly active over the battle area 2 Sep. 500 fighter sorties and 167 bomber sorties were made during the day. A total of 19 enemy aircraft was destroyed by our fighters for the loss of 11 of our planes, 5 pilots of which are known to be safe.

Bde Sector

A party of 4 offrs, 60 ORs, with 6 sappers, endeavoured to raid enemy posns 873293 during night 3/4 Sep. At approx 87362937, two gpa each of 3 to 4 enemy were seen, patrolling beats 200 to 300 yds long and meeting at the end of their beats. This made it impossible to clear gaps in minefds in this vicinity without losing surprise. Attempts were made to reach minefd outside the beats of the enemy patrols. Enemy put up frequent flares and there was fixed line fire from at least 6 MGs, and some mortar fire was encountered. About 6 rds air burst were also fired by enemy. Coy withdrew after moon had become bright. No casualties were suffered by our tps.

Flanking Sectors

Patrol from right flanking Bde struck strongly wired enemy post 87143017 which they were unable to penetrate. A party of 8 Germans at pt 24 (873299) were engaged.

A patrol night 3/4 Sep found pt 27(879288) occupied by enemy. Approx 3 MGs were observed firing from vicinity and 3/4 MT were visible. Continuous flares made it impossible to get to close quarters.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Following have been placed by air photographs -  
87312968 - single dannert running on 347 deg and 190 deg.  
87302968 - parallel to wire at 87312968 a line of round pits; nearby a newly dug trench system spit locked for extension.

(From 20 Bde I.S. No. 44)

87712922 - single dannert fence brg 305 deg (patrol).  
87552919 - well camouflaged LMG pits and slit trenches(not occupied) (patrol)  
87402940 - sec or pl post, with signs of recent occupation (patrol).  
87222969 - OP.

3. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

Except for slight increase in low country North of MITEIRIYA Ridge early morning, 3 Sep, OPs report normal movement of inf during day.

Tac R 0645 hrs 4 Sep reports :- 200 MET moving NE along rd 875288. Tks in following areas 888258 (50 in two colns moving East); 881252 (30 with AMG and MET); 884250 (with MET); 425866 (5 with MET); 882261 (10 with MET); 880258(12 with MET).

4. ENEMY ARTY

The enemy arty has shelled our FDLs periodically throughout the day. Fire has been of a light harassing nature and no concentrations or damage being done have been reported.

Further fragments of shells are required, particularly the following :-

GERMAN	105mm Gun MED	75mm Inf gun
ITALIAN	77/28mm gun	105/28 gun

Frequently fragments sent to the C.B.O. stating time of arrival and area shelled, have helped in the identification of the H.B. active, and confirmation of the calibre.

(From Counter Battery Intelligence Report 2000 hrs 3 Sep)

5. PATROLS, Night 3/4 Sep.

A raiding party of 4 offrs, 60 ORs, with 6 sappers, endeavoured to raid enemy posns 873293 during night 3/4 Sep. Patrol left own lines at 2015 hrs, and during move out, patrol had to halt twice for 15 mins owing to flares from aircraft. At approx 87402940 a sec or pl post was passed, which appeared to have been occupied recently. At approx 87362937, two gps of 3 to 4 men each were seen by coy comd who had moved 200 yds fwd to make recce. These men were patrolling beats 200 to 300 yds long on bearings approx 160 deg and 280 deg, and meeting at the end of their beats. It would have been impossible to clear gaps in suspected minefds in this vicinity without losing surprise. At this stage, a rifle shot was fired close in on the West, and a voice was heard. Then a flare was fired from SOUTH or SE, falling among coy HQ. Two pls were ordered to move off on brgs 180 deg and 260 deg, and endeavour to contact minefd outside the beats of the enemy patrols. The time was now 2400 hrs. When one pl had moved 100 yds SOUTH a flare was fired from WEST, close to pl, and 2 or 3 enemy were seen to the WEST. This pl moved 700 yds South probing to West at intervals. It was interrupted frequently by flares. Two guns believed BREDAs began firing on fixed lines, while pl was returning NORTH. Meanwhile other pl had moved 200 yds on brg 260 deg when a Bren gun to the South opened fire in direction of the pl. After a short interval 3 Spandaus opened from NW, apparently firing on fixed lines. The fire fell in general area of pl and to NORTH and NW. Pl continued until 550 yds had been covered, and a Zollothurn then opened fire from a posn slightly right of pl's line of advance. Spandau fire began to thicken in area of pl. After moving back 200 yds, at 0120 hrs, 6 rds air burst were fired over pl, and 10 mortar bombs fell in vicinity. Pl contacted coy HQ and the moon being now bright, the coy withdrew, reaching own lines at 0340 hrs. No casualties were suffered by our tps.

A patrol of 1 offr and 14 ORs moved from 88012928 to 87512919 to 88012928. At 87882926, a section post consisting of 6 weapon pits, 2 1/2 ft deep, was found. This post was sited on the reverse slope of a hillock and was not occupied. At 87712922 was a single dannert fence running on brg 305 deg. After following this fence for 50 yds a gap was found and fence continued for further 10 yds beyond this gap. At 87642921, is a track running on brg 350 deg approx with a white tracing tape on enemy side. After crossing this track a flare was put up from approx area 87552919 and 3 rifle shots were fired at patrol. At 87552919 well camouflaged LMG pits and slit trenches were found. These pits were also unoccupied. Patrol continued to 87512919, but did not encounter minefds or any further wire.

6. OWN ARTY

Targets engaged by arty yesterday(3 Sep) as follows -

1334 hrs - area	87632912	87662910	Strong post
	87632905	87602907	
1412 hrs - area	87452922	87532920	A Tk guns and MGs
	87522918	87452920	
1444 hrs - area	87312929	87382929	8 Hy MGs
	87382928	87312928	
1520 hrs - area	87072962	87082961	Weapon pits
	87062960	87052960	

OP was registered at 872250 296902.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

3 Sep - 1510 hrs - 3 ME 109s bombed area 87743001 - no damage.

1638 hrs - Enemy fighter flying low machine gunned right flank FDLs area 875296.

1640 hrs - ME 109 flying NORTH dropped 5 red flares over area 882294.

4 Sep - 0405 hrs - 3 EA following respectively general line of coast, main rd and ry, flew WEST machine gunning. Each machine was firing two guns, one fore and one aft.

8. OWN AIR ACTIVITY

Our bombers and fighters were particularly active over battle area 2 Sep. 500 fighter sorties and 167 bomber sorties were made during the day. A total of 19 EA were destroyed by our fighters for the loss of 11 of our planes, 5 pilots of which are known to be safe.

Bomber and fighter aircraft continue to attack enemy veh concentrations. The main concentration attacked today(3 Sep) was at 889256 - 892259, and consisted of 2500 MT.

Fighter aircraft 3 Sep report the destruction of 1 Armd C and several tks.

(From 9 Aust Div I. S. No. 235)

*E.T. Pearson*  
Lieut

for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distributi

As for Summary No. 38