

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

Item number: 8/2/24

24 Infantry Brigade

September 1943

Sep 43

WAR DIARY

HQ 24. AUST INF BDE

2

- | Date | Time | Appendix |
|------|--------------|--|
| 1. | 1800
1830 | Bde out on exercise South of BUNA.
Exercise conclude at 1830 hrs and 2/28 Bn moved b
back to camp area. Bde HQ bivouac for the night approx
7 miles south of BUNA. |
| 2. | 0930
1430 | Bde arrived back in camp area, order of march
was 2/43 Bn, Bde HQ, 2/32 Bn and MGs.
a 24 Bde Gp parade was held on BUNA Beach
and the parade was inspected by Lieut-Gen Sir Edmund
HERRING K.B.E, D.S.O., M.C., E.D. Comd 1 Aust Corps
who addressed the troops after the inspection. |
| 3. | | 20 Bde staged in our area and meals were provided
for them by 24 Bde L.O.B. personnel. |
| 4. | | The day was spent preparing for a move. Respirat-
ors and heavy gear were stored and these were to be
left at BUNA |
| 5. | 0530 | Reville and tents were immediately struck, break-
fast at 0630. 0800 Bde which was split into two
parties which were formed on the line of two separate
HQs, boarded the LCIs and sailed out of the BUNA
Harbour at 1030 hrs. In the convoy were 20 LCIs
with an escort of 4 destroyers. Meals were provided
on board by our pwn cooks with a hot meal prior to
disembarkation. The journey was accomplished with-
out incident of any kind or any enemy interference,
the weather was sunny with a calm sea so that no
cases of sea sickness occurred. The lights of Red
Beach were visible about 2300 hrs. The landing was
made in two waves, first wave landing at 2315 hrs
and after delays spent encircling off the beach the
reserve mission landed at 0015 hrs. |
| 6. | | Ref maps BUSO and LAE 1/25000. LAE-MALAHANG
defence overprint 1/1000 sheets 1 and 2 attached
as appx A. Loudspeakers had been installed on the
beach and they were urging all troops to clear up
beach which was very crowded. After some delay
due to the lack of alternative tracks Bde HQ were
clear of the beach and moving along a very muddy
semi corduroy road to our bivouac area 920390 which
was reached by the majority of personnel at 0230
hrs. |
| | 0730 | Tac Bde consisting of at this time, Brig, B.M.
Bn comds, I.O. and Sig Offr moved off to report to
Div HQ then at ALUKI 1. The Brigadier after a con-
ference with the G.O.C. issued warning orders to
Bn comds. When the main body of Bde arrived at
886431 at 1100 hrs an early lunch was consumed pre-
paratory to a move forward as soon as p ssible.
While troops were eating 4 Zeros strafed track
vicinity of ALUKI 1. but there were no casualties
during this action. At 1300 hrs movement started
and order of march was, 2/28 Bn, Bde HQ, 2/43 Bn
with a recce party consisting of Brig, BM, Bde I.O.
and Sig Offr plus two Bn Comds and I.Os. 2/32 Bn
remained at ALUKI in Div reserve. At 1600 hrs
Brig B.M. and I.O. contacted Brig WHITEHEAD comd
26 Aust Inf Bde in SINGAUA PLANTATION to discuss
details of the relief of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn on the
coast. At 1800 hrs after a hard march the Bde arriv-
ed in the vicinity of APO village and Bde HQ was
established at 847435. 2/28 Bn established at
848435. 2/43 Bn established at 850434. It started
to rain at approx 1045 hrs. |

Appx A

Sep 43

WAR DIARY

HQ 24 AUST INF BDE

Date Time

Appendix

7 Note:- Operation events which took place between 7-17 Sep 43 attached in Action Diary and report on ops as x Appx "B"

0530 By this time the rain had ceased and the majority who did not build their beds off the ground were sitting up trying to keep dry. After an early breakfast Tac Bde moved at 0830 hrs, Main Bde following at 0930 hrs. The move was along the eastern edge of SINGAUJA Plantation to APO FISHING VILLAGE and at 1030 hrs Bde established at 843425. From this posn Tac Bde moved off at 1300 hrs in rear of 2/28 Bn and followed by 2 coys of 2/43 Bn, Main Bde and remainder 2/43 Bn. Bde HQs was established in vicinity Copra Shed at 819423 at 1400 hrs. 2/28 Bn moved fwd to relieve 2/23 Bn at the mouth of the BUREP River. At 1900 hrs the Brig. issued warning orders to Bn Comds for the adv on 8 Sep.

8 Ref Map LAE 1/25,000. At 0830 hrs 2/28 Bn moved off and at 0730 hrs Tac Bde and at 0930 hrs 2/43 Bn moved along coastal tr across the BUREP R. At 1000 hrs first sign of the enemy by 2/28 Bn but JAPS withdrew without contact. 1500 hrs 2/28 Bn reached east bank BUSU R. 1530 hrs Tac Bde est. at 768418 and Main Bde est. at 769419.

9 0315 In vicinity of Main Bde a JAP blew himself up with a hand grenade after being fired on by a sentry. At 0600 hrs during light enemy shelling 1 Provost Cpl was killed, 2 Provost Cpls, RAP Cpl and 2 Sigs were wounded. 2/43 Bn moved fwd to the east bank of the BUSU R at 738423.

1730 2/28 Bn in 4 waves of one coy each crossed the BUSU R which was at this time a raging torrent, many being swept 200 yds downstream before reaching the other bank, much eqpt was lost. Lieut. Clarke, LO 2/43 Bn moved out today to move with his own unit. Brig, B.M., I.O., Sig Offr and 'I' man moved fwd to Tac OP at 1700 hrs but returned to biv. area when signalled that the crossing had been accomplished. LO 1, Capt. Parry, remained on East bank to keep Bde informed.

2100 A JAP straggler moving along the beach was fired on by sentry and believed wounded, an hour later the same JAP (presumed) fired on by Bren while wading in the sea, believed killed. Cap and notebook found on beach next morning.

10 Ref Map LAE - MALAHANG DEFENCE OVERPRINT 1/10,000 Sheets Appx A. 1 & 2.

2/28 Bn widening bridgehead over river. Maj. Mollard, 2 i/c 2/32 Bn, who had been with Bde since 9 Sep because of his local knowledge of the LAE area, accompanied by LO 1 and Bde I.O., crossed the BUSU R in the ferry which was now operating and visited 2/28 Bn HQs to obtain infm. 2/32 Bn moved from Div area to posn in rear bde, but could not be committed without reference to Div.

0930 Tac & Main Bdes moved to 749407 east bank BUSU R, arriving at 1300 hrs. First issue of canned heat today did much to add to the morale of the tps.

11 Owing to the lack of sapper assistance 2/43 Bn moved down to the mouth of BUSU R and at 2000 hrs were all across the river.

12. 1400 Tac Bde moved by LCV across mouth of BUSU R and est. at 742403 and were joined by main Bde at 1600 hrs. Permission was

Date	Time	Appendix
12 (cont'd)		
		granted by Div to move 2/32 Bn across BUSU R to take over beachhead area. At 1500 hrs GI arrived Bde HQs for conference with Brig.
	1800	Brig. had a conference with CO 2/43 and Arty LO re attack on NEW YANGA on 13 Sep. Maj. Jones B.C. 23 Bty superseded Capt. Malligan as Arty LO att.
13		
		Lieut. Worner, LO 2/32 Bn, left Bde HQs and rejoined his unit for the period of ops.
	1600	2/43 Bn captured NEW YANGA and 2/28 Bn were moving west along the coast. 2/32 Bn returned to comd 24 Bde today 2/17 Bn came under comd 2 coys of which held beachhead, and 2 coys to move in vicinity of NEW YANGA. During the day the enemy were shelling ferry and beachhead (AA shells) a good percentage of which fell into the sea. A radio arrived today and news was heard of ITALY'S capitulation. This news was passed to units.
14		
	0845	Fwd elements of 2/28 Bn in contact with the enemy in the vicinity of the MALAHANG ANCHORAGE.
	1320	2/32 Bn fwd elements in contact with the enemy at village 717399. 2/43 Bn in posn south of WAGAN. 2/17 Bn reverted to comd. 20 Bde.
15		
	0730	2/28 Bn HQs and one coy were cut off by the enemy, at 0755 hrs all opposition in this area was cleaned up. During the day 2/28 Bn remained at the ANCHORAGE with patrol activity towards BUMBU R.
	0930	Bde HQs moved to 721399 arriving at 1100 hrs. Hy rain continued most of the night. 2/28 Bn to become Bde res. By last light 2/32 Bn had deployed for attack on MALAHANG MISSION.
16		
	0820	2/32 Bn captured MISSION and at 0900 hrs Tac Bde moved off with the Mission as its destination, arriving there at 1115 hrs where the Brig. met CO 2/32 Bn and a conference of 2/32 Bn "O" Gp took place when final orders were given for the attack on LAE Township area.
	1215	Brig. met Brig. Whitehead at the MALAHANG MISSION to discuss the attack on LAE proper.
	1245	The Brig., I.O., and LO I, Sigs & 2 'I' men moved to fwd Tac OP at 704402. By 1400 hrs 2/32 Bn were in LAE. At 1415 hrs the Brig. met Brig. Ether, comd 25 Bde at the foot of MT LUNAMAN.
	1500	Tac HQs moved into LAE and est. at 643393 and were joined by Main Bde at 1630 hrs.
17		
	1445	A recce party consisting of Brig., I.O., and LO I left to recce new area. 2/28 & 2/32 Bns to remain under control 26 Bde for the cleaning up of LAE area. 2/43 Bn moved to 708404 at 1600 hrs.
18		
	0700	Bde moved to new area - order of march 2/43 Bn & Bde HQs, via MALAHANG Air strip and Sawmill and at 1120 hrs were est. at 716452. 2/43 Bn est. at 712454.
20		
		2/43 Bn moved to new area 728471.
21		
		2/28 Bn moved to 717449. 2/43 Bn moved to 731474. Trace att. as Appx "D".
		Appx "D"
23		
		Bde HQs moved to new area as per att. trace at 0900 hrs and est. at 713464.
24		
		Special order by Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey, C.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., att. as appx "E"
		Appx "E"
25		
		Units started a short trg period. At 0930 hrs Bde HQs personnel had a short Route March.

Sep 43

WAR DIARY

HQ 24 AUST INF BDE

Appendix

- | Date | Time | | |
|------|------|---|----------|
| 27 | | Order of the day by Lieut. Gen. Sir Edmond Herring, K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., was received and att. as Appx "F". | Appx "F" |
| 28 | | Capt. Parry and Lieut. Kingsbury of 2/28 Bn and Lieut. Clerke, 2/43 Bn, returned to their units to resume Regimental duties..
2/43 Bn moved to 769449 (traces att. Appx "G")
2400 2/43 Bn and att. tps boarded LSTs for move to Scarlet Beach FINSCHHAVEN via BUNA. 2 | Appx "G" |
| 29 | 0800 | Bde HQs and units moved to new areas and Bde HQs est. at 761455. Notification was received in GROs today of five Bde personnel Mentioned in Despatches for period July- October '42 while on service in the M.E. They were -
Capt. now T/Maj. P.F.B. WHITE (B.M.)
Capt. R.W. SANGSTER (S.C.)
Sgt. (now A/Lieut) D.R. CARMICHAEL (B.Ed.O)
Sgt. (now A/Lieut) C.M. MANNING (ex 'I' Sgt)
W.O.II. R.C. CHINNER (Ord Room W.O.) | |
| 30 | 0930 | Bde HQs personnel moved out on a short route march. 24 Aust Inf Bde Trg Instn No.1 issued - att. as Appx "H" | Appx "H" |

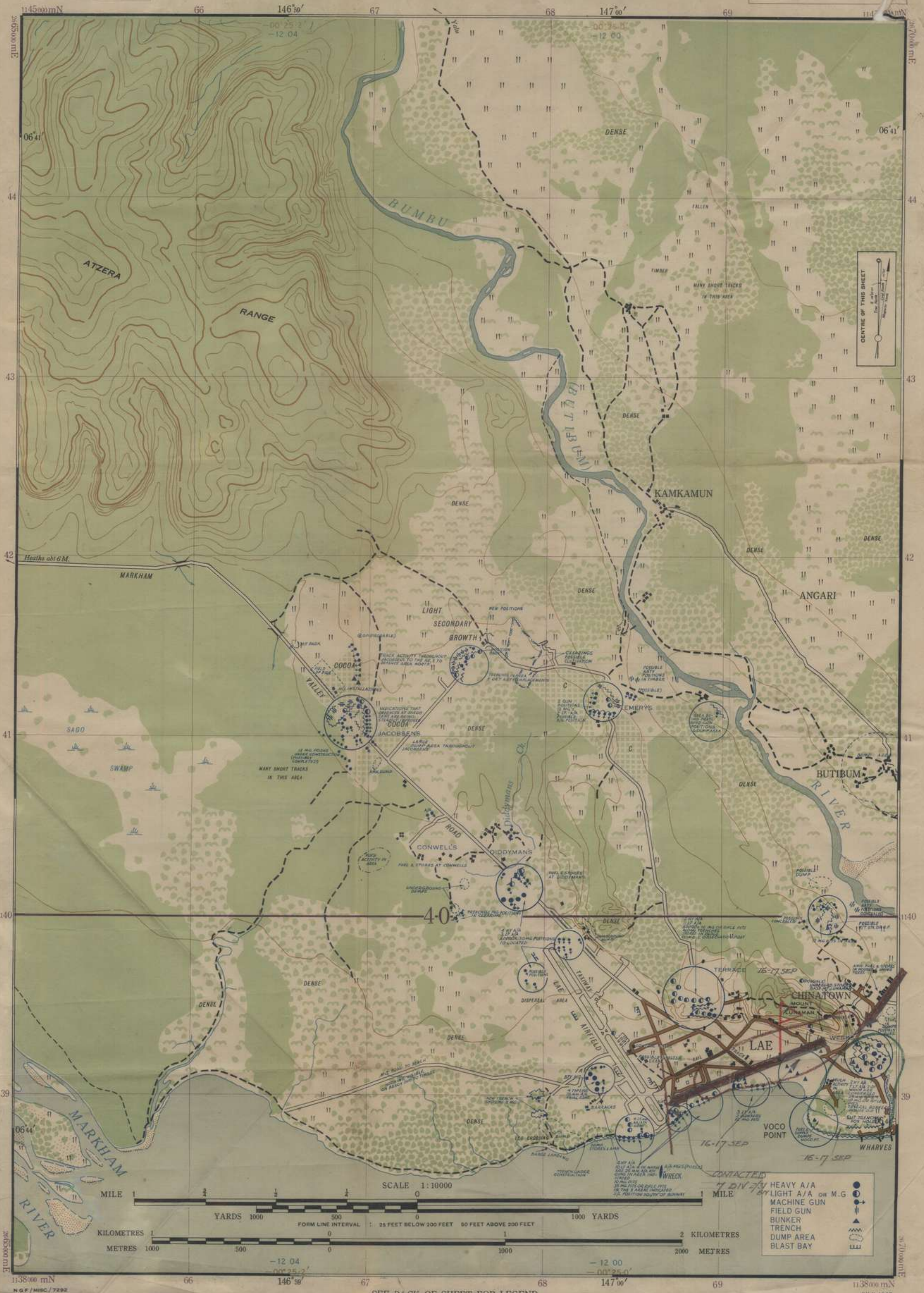
.....
 Comd 24 Aust Inf Bde

DN.

3
NEW GUINEA
LAE-MALAHANG DEFENCE AREA SHEET 1
SHOWING ENEMY DEFENCES AS AT 20 JULY

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID
 SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE

REFER TO THIS MAP AS: LAE-MALAHANG
 DEFENCE AREA 7292 1:10000 SHEET 1



SCALE 1:10000
 MILE 1 2 3 4
 YARDS 1000 500 0 500 1000
 KILOMETRES 1 2
 METRES 1000 500 0 500 1000 2000
 FORM LINE INTERVAL: 35 FEET BELOW 300 FEET 60 FEET ABOVE 300 FEET

- HEAVY A/A
- LIGHT A/A OR M.G.
- ⊙ MACHINE GUN
- ⊙ FIELD GUN
- ⊙ BUNKER
- ⊙ TRENCH
- ⊙ DUMP AREA
- ⊙ BLAST BAY

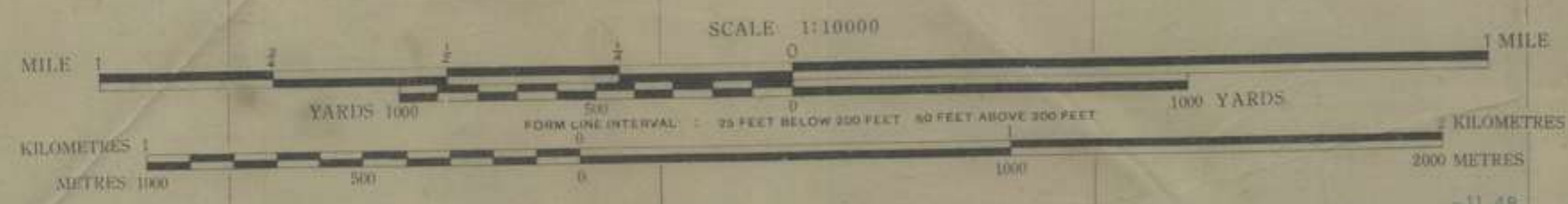
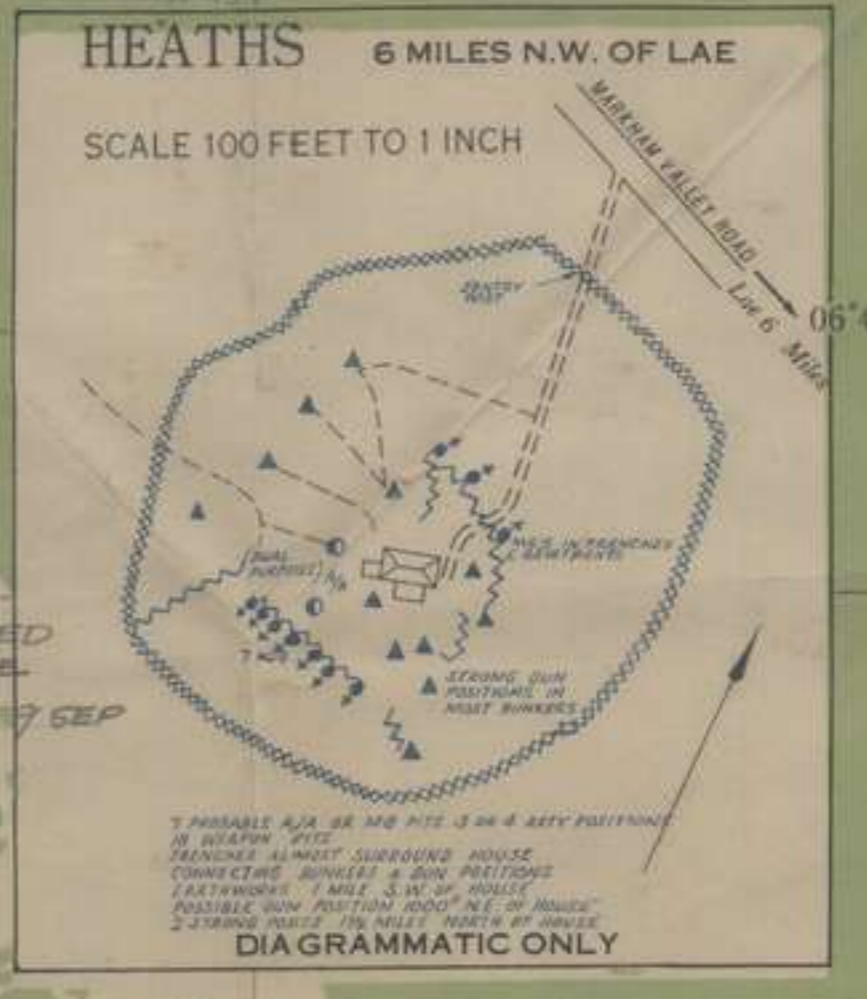
SEE BACK OF SHEET FOR LEGEND

JULY 1943

NEW GUINEA 4
 LAE-MALAHANG DEFENCE AREA SHEET 2
 SHOWING ENEMY DEFENCES AS AT 20 JULY

REFER TO THIS MAP AS: LAE-MALAHANG DEFENCE AREA 7292 1:10000 SHEET 2

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID
 SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE



- HEAVY A/A
- LIGHT A/A OR M.G.
- MACHINE GUN
- FIELD GUN
- BUNKER
- TRENCH
- DUMP AREA
- BLAST BAY

SEE BACK OF SHEET FOR LEGEND

JULY 1943

LEGEND

Bridge	
Motor Road	
Jetty Track	
Foot Track	
Reported Track	
Telegraph Line	
Airfield	
Sea Plane Base	
Cemetery	
Mission Station	
Spot Height	
Grasslands	

Printed in Black

Reef	
Trig Stations and altitudes	
Astronomical Station	
Native Garden	
Native Village	
Disidentified Native Village	
Buildings	
River or perennial Stream	
Non perennial Stream	
Fathom Line	

Printed in Blue

Savannah	
Spring, Well, Waterhole	
Mangroves	
Dense Jungle Forest	
Forest	
Scattered Timber	
Plantation	
Secondary Growth	
Contours: Form Lines	
Ridges	
Clefts	

Printed in Green

Printed in Brown

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET
 PAY ATTENTION TO LABELS, NUMBERS, FIGURES AND TO
 OTHER EXPLANATORY MATTER ON THIS MAP.

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Printed in Purple

The figures within the borders of this map are for artillery purposes.
 The brown figures denote convergences and the blue figures denote
 corrections in minutes and seconds of mean time.

CONTROL: Triangulation by 2/6 Aust. Sey. Bty. R.A.A.
 connected to Astronomical Fixation by
 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy. at Wau
 Lat. 07° 20' 28.12"
 Long. 146° 42' 55.69"

PROJECTION: Lambert Conical Orthomorphic

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY: 8th. Photo Squadron Fifth Air Force

MISSION: 83 J JAC 84 X 164 Y

COMPILATION: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.
 with aid of Air Photographs and Intelligence
 reports

DRAWING: 3 Aust. Field Survey Coy. A.I.F.

REPRODUCTION: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.

Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or
 amendments on the map itself and forward to A. D. Survey H.Q. N.G.F.

5

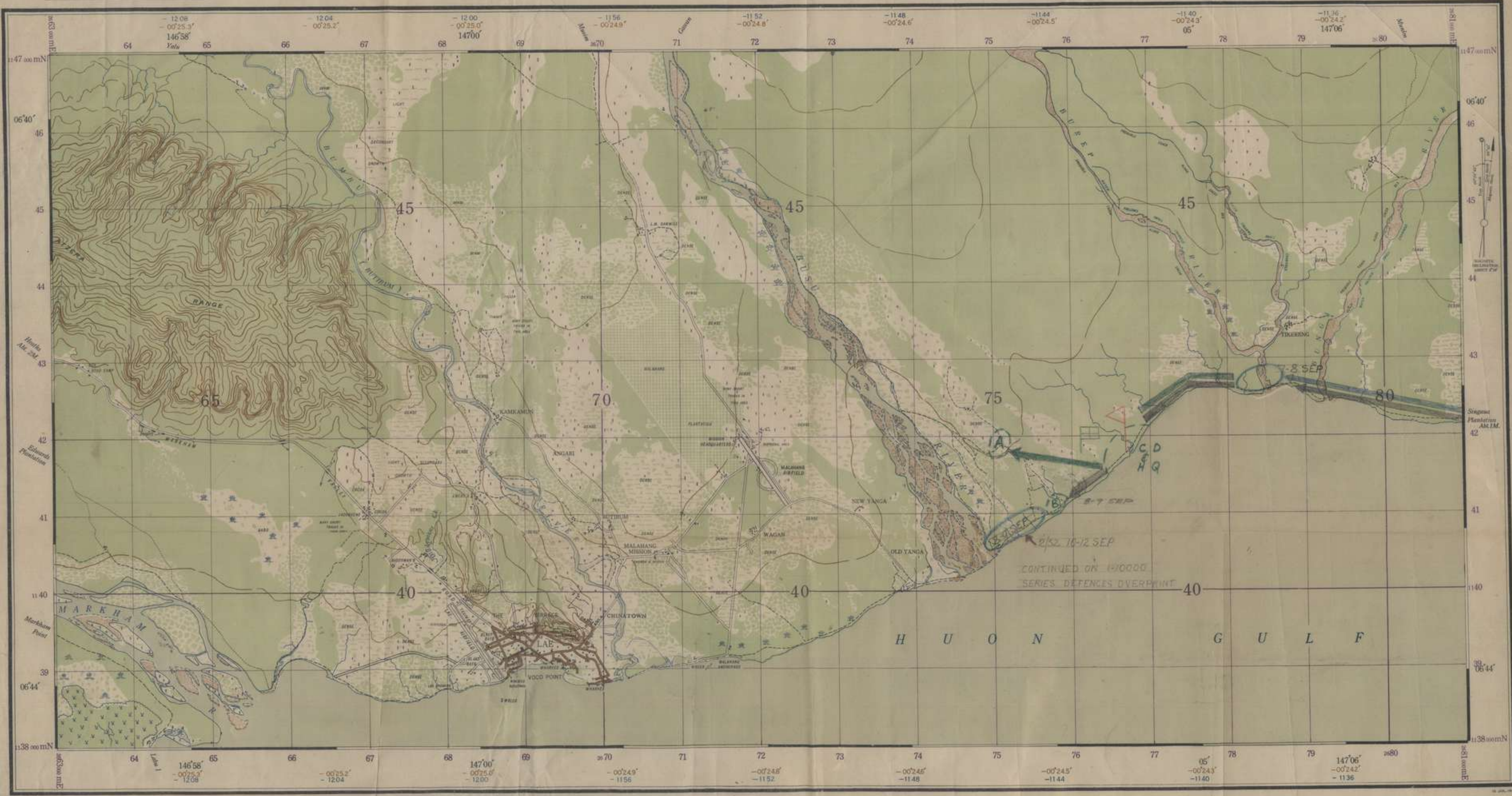
5

NEW GUINEA LAE

WARNING
GRID ON THIS MAP DOES NOT AGREE WITH GRID SHOWN ON
LAE AND NADZAB 1 INCH TO 1 MILE PROVISIONAL EDITIONS.

REFER TO THIS MAP AS
LAE 3008 1:25000 SERIES

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID
SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE



Bridge	—
Motor Road	—
Jeep Track	—
Foot Track	—
Repacked Track	—
Trigraph Line	—
Airfield	—
Sea Plane Base	—
Cemetery	—
Mission Station	—
Spot Height	—
Grasslands	—

CONTROL: Triangulation by 26 Aust. Surv. Bty. R.A.A. connected to Astronomical Fixation by 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy. at Wau
Lat. 07°20'28.12"
Long. 146°42'55.69"

PROJECTION: Lambert Conical Orthomorphic

PHOTOGRAPHY: 8th. Photo Squadron Fifth Air Force

MISSION: 83 I-JAC 94 X 164 Y

COMPILED BY: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy. with aid of Air Photographs and Intelligence reports

REPRODUCTION: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.



The figures within the borders of this map are for artillery purposes. The brown figures denote convergence and the blue figures denote corrections in minutes and seconds of mean time.

Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or amendments on the map itself and forward to A. D. Survey H.Q. N.G.F.

TO GIVE A TRUE REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET FOR ANY POINT ON THE GRID OR INDICATED BY THE GRID AND IN ORDER THAT THE PROVISIONAL EDITIONS MAY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS MAP THE FOLLOWING POINTS HAVE BEEN PRINTED ON FACE OF THE MAP

POINT LAE WAGON

NOTE: This sheet will be used in conjunction with the 1:25,000 scale map of the area shown on the face of the map. It is not to be used as a separate sheet.

Trig. Stations and altitude	First Class	A 905'
	Second	A 842'
	Third	A 528'
	Fourth	A 100'
Astronomical Station		—
Native Garden		—
Native Village		—
Unidentified Native Village		—
Buildings		—
River or perennial Stream		—
Non perennial Stream		—
Fathom Line		—

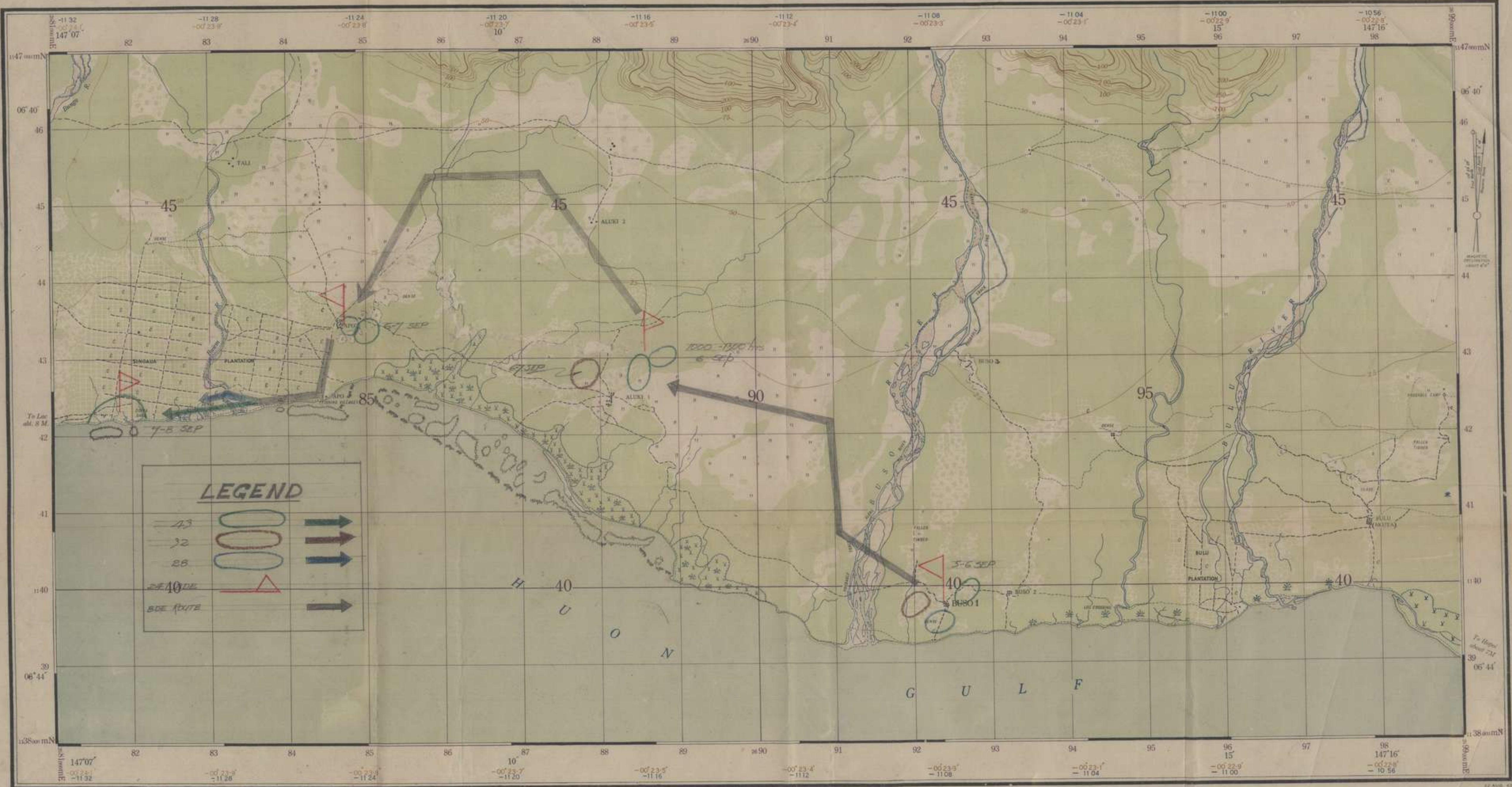
Swamp	—
Spring Well, Waterhole	—
Mangroves	—
Dense Jungle Forest	—
Forest	—
Scattered Timber	—
Plantation	—
Secondary Growth	—
Contours - Form Lines	—
Ridges	—
Cliffs	—

NEW GUINEA BUSO

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID
SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE

WARNING
GRID ON THIS MAP DOES NOT AGREE WITH GRID SHOWN
ON LAE 1 INCH TO 1 MILE PROVISIONAL EDITION

REFER TO THIS MAP AS
BUSO 3542 1:25,000 SERIES



LEGEND

43		
32		
28		
DEAD END		
SIDE ROUTE		

Bridge	
Major Road	
Jap Track	
Foot Track	
Reported Track	
Telegraph Line	
Airfield	
Sea Plane Base	
Cemetery	
Mission Station	
Spot Height	
Grasslands	

NOTE: Form Lines are included to indicate shape of all features and should not be taken as contour. Heights are only approximations.

CONTROL Extended from Lae and Beaths 1:25,000 Series to old German Astronomical Station at Salakau with the aid of Air Photos.

PROJECTION: Lambert Conical Orthomorphic

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY: 8th. Photo Squadron Fifth Air Force

MISSION: 5CH 97C 20Y PM 41

COMPILED: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.

REPRODUCTION: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET pay attention to the smaller or larger figures of the numbers east or west, and the smaller or larger figures of the numbers north or south, and to the smaller or larger figures of the numbers north or south, and to the smaller or larger figures of the numbers north or south.



The figures within the borders of this map are for artillery purposes. The brown figures denote contour and the blue figures denote contours in meters and seconds of time.

Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or amendments on the map itself and forward to A.D. Survey HQ, N.G.F.

Trig Stations	First Class	▲ 85'
	Second	▲ 45'
	Third	▲ 25'
	Fourth	▲ 15'
Astronomical Station		●
Native Village		○
Unidentified Native Village		○
Buildings		■
River or perennial Stream		—
Non perennial Stream		- - -
Fathom Line		—

Swamp	
Spring Well, Waterhole	
Mangroves	
Dense Jungle Forest	
Forest	
Scattered Timber	
Plantation	
Secondary Growth	
Contours - Form Lines	
Ridges	
Gullies	

Appx. "C"

7

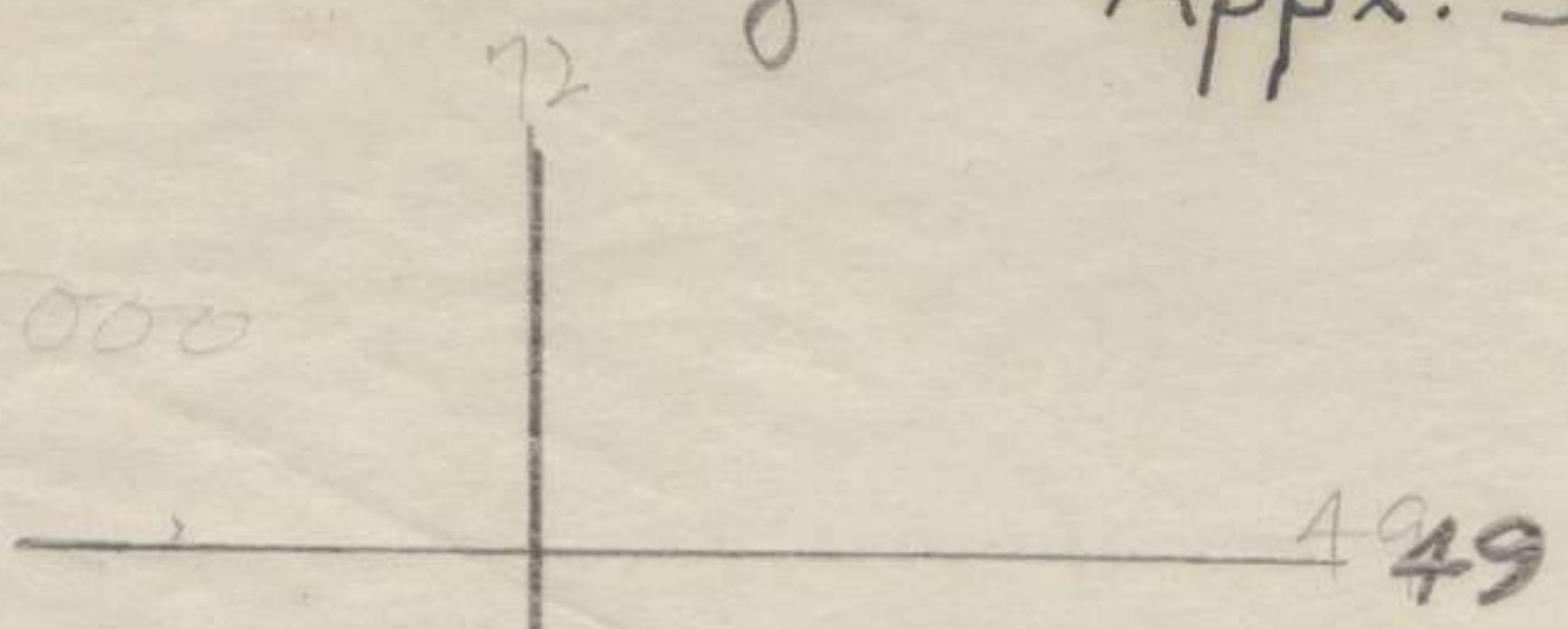
24 AUST INF BDE
LOCATION STATEMENT
FROM 5th to 30th SEP '43

Night	5/6.	Bde HQ	924 397.	28 bn	924 396.	32 bn	920398.	43 bn	925 398
"	6/7.	Bde HQ	847 435.	28 bn	848 435.	32 bn	877424.	43 bn	849 435
"	7/8.		820 423.		784 427.		877424.		819 423
"	8/9.		768 419.		756 409.		877424.		767 418
"	9/10.		749 407.		756 409.		877424.		738 423
"	10/11.		749 407.		743 403.		755407.		738 423
"	11/12.		742 403.		743 403.		755407.		738 423
"	12/13.		742 403.		732 396.		739400.		740 404
"	13/14.		742 403.		721 392.		725393.		727 407
"	14/15.		742 403.		715 393.		717402.		719 405
"	15/16.		721 399.		715 393.		709404.		713 399
"	16/17.		693 393.		702 399.		691392.		698 389
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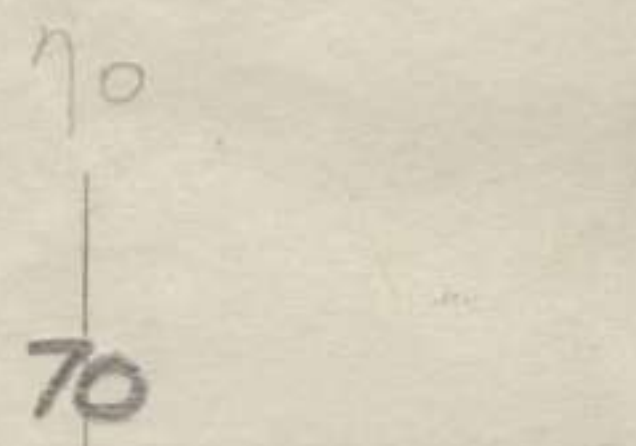
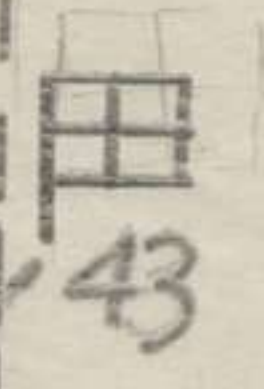
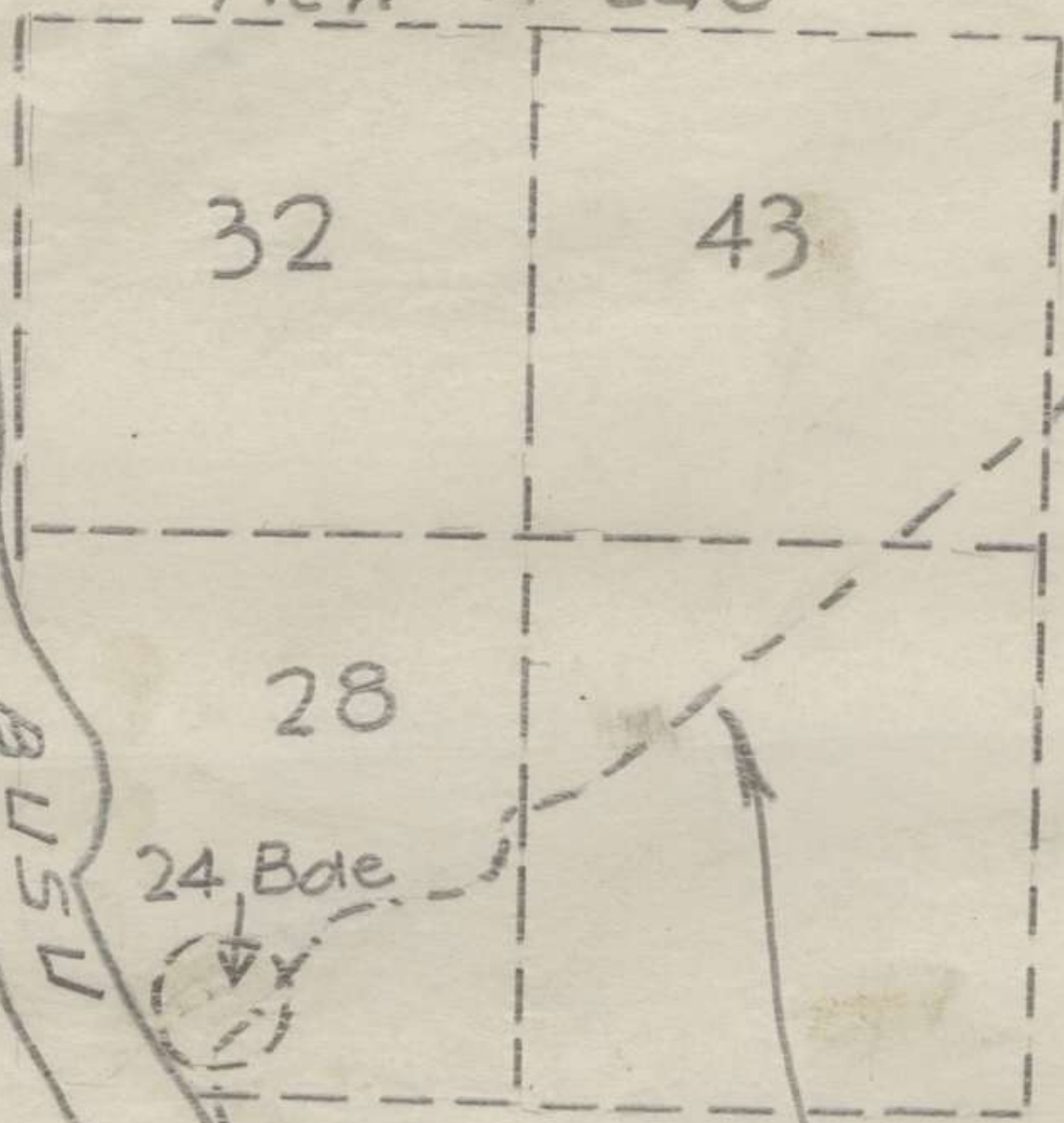
Ref Maps :- ALL REFS EAST OF BUSU RIVER - BUSO
LAE sheets 1:25000
ALL REFS WEST OF BUSU RIVER - MALAHANG-LAE Defence
Overprint sheets 1 & 2
1:10000.

8 Appx. "D"

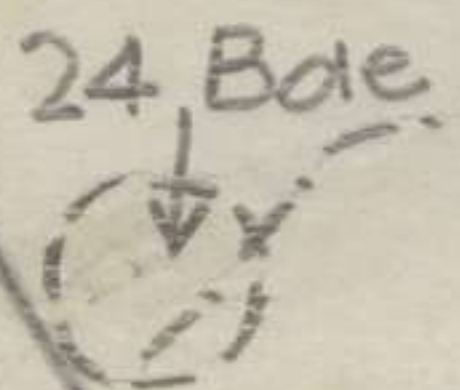
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New Areas

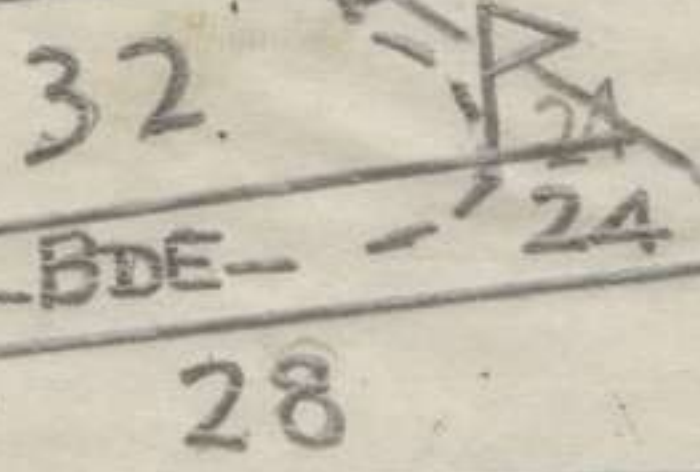


BUSU



Ferry

Track



Staging Areas Night-21/22

Appx "E".

248/19
9
Sep 43

SPECIAL ORDER

By

General Sir Thomas Blamey

G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

COMMANDER, ALLIED LAND FORCES IN S.W. PACIFIC AREA
AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

*Headquarters,
New Guinea Force,
19th September, 1943.*

THE capture of LAE is a signal step along the road to victory.

It was due to the intensive bombing of the Air Force and its constant protection of the Navy and the Army from the enemy in the air—To the strong support of the Navy in transporting and protecting the land forces to vital points—To the valour and endurance of all those troops who fought over the severe mountain regions through MUBO, KOMIATUM and TAMBUR to SALAMAUA—To those who moved many miles by sea and by air and marched and fought the enemy to a finish at LAE itself. It was due to the skilful planning of the staff and the bold and able leadership of the Commanders of all grades.

Members of the services of all grades gave their full strength to meet the demands of the fighting troops—To them is due their meed of honour.

The enemy remnant fled and few will escape the hardship of the mountain tracks.

Again the superiority of the combined Allied forces has been overwhelmingly demonstrated.

We will move steadily forward to the end and victory.

Appx. "F."

10. 24B4

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ORDER OF THE DAY

by

Lieutenant-General Sir Edmund Herring

K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D.

GOC 1st AUSTRALIAN CORPS

*Headquarters 1st Australian Corps
20th September 1943.*

THE fall of LAE following, as it has, so closely on the fall of SALAMAUA, marks a very real step forward on our way to TOKIO.

This great victory has been won, I believe, by the magnificent team work of everyone, Australian and American alike, engaged in the operation either directly or indirectly. There are no duds in the team these days, and every one always gives of his best. And it is the combined effort of you all that has crushed the enemy resistance so quickly.

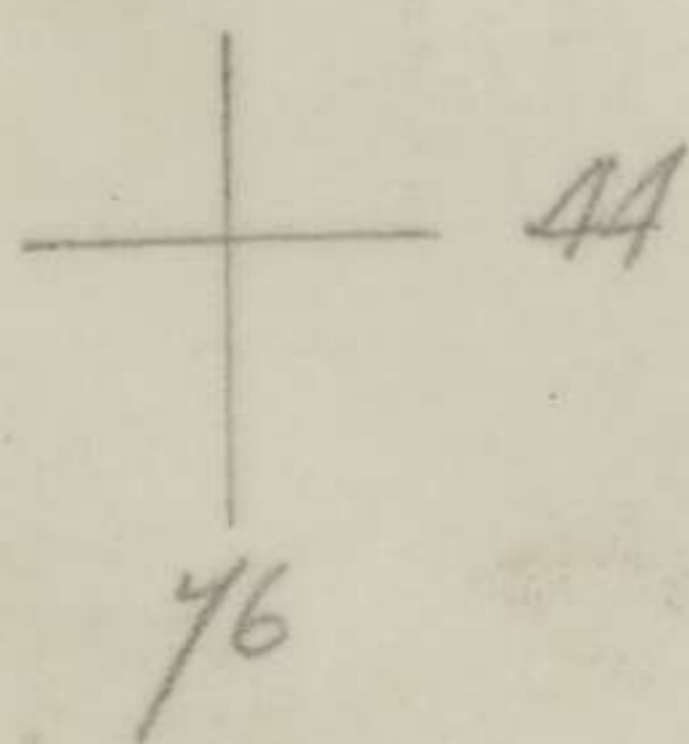
To all of you I tender my heartfelt congratulations, to the planners who planned the operations in all their details, to all those concerned in the making and stocking of the needed depots and in the supply of the forward troops, to the Navy and Air Force for their wonderful co-operation and successful transportation of our fighting men to their jumping off places, and most of all, of course, to all the fighting men themselves, who have once more proved their capacity to overcome difficulties of terrain that seemed insuperable, and their power, when at grips with the Jap, to destroy him.

There is still much to be done, but I think in view of all that has been done already, we can now go forward with confidence and high hopes.

Good luck to you all.

E. F. HERRING, Lieutenant-General,
General Officer Commanding,
1st Australian Corps.

REF MAP LAE 1/25000



BUREP.R.

24 Aust Inf Bde Training Instruction No.1.

1. It is expected that this Bde less 2/43 Aust Inf Bn will remain static for a period. The usual high standard of training will therefore be continued.

Battle Drills and Procedure

2. (a) Recent operations proved the value of developing battle drills and battle procedure during training and all those finally adopted during our main training period were highly successful.
(b) Units will concentrate on improving the procedure for these drills, paying particular attention to:-
 - (i) Direction finding exercises by all sub-units including HQ Coy pls.
 - (ii) R/T and L/T speech by Officers and NCOs, and other specialist personnel.
 - (iii) The forming of firm bases by one coy, two coys and the full Bn. This includes the development of methods to deal with surprise attack by night i.e. to enable all personnel to distinguish between own and enemy troops in order to ensure safety of comds in moving about within the firm base to deal with any enemy threat.
Each Bn will build a model firm base of one coy strength, complete with cut lanes of fire, and exercise all coys both by day and night.
- (c) Battle drills will be developed for the following:-
 - (i) The use of handy talkies.
 - (ii) The taking over of engineer stores by Pioneer pls and operating them in the field. Instruction is being arranged for Pioneer Pls in the use of simple block and tackle. It will also be necessary for Pioneer pls to revise the equipment to be carried as a result of lessons learned from recent operations.

Competitive Exercises

3. At least one two sided exercise will be conducted by each Bn involving not less than one Coy on each side. Attention is drawn to the necessity for providing an adequate number of umpires for this type of exercise.
4. The following requirements will also be borne in mind and included in all training exercises:-
 - (a) Hard physical condition and fighting efficiency to be maintained.
 - (b) Observance of PAD on the move and at rest, including the teaching and practicing of camouflage.
 - (c) Malariol discipline.
 - (d) Care of arms and equipment.
 - (e) March discipline.
5. Miniature ranges
 - (a) Units will site 30 yd ranges in the training area and submit location and arcs of fire to this HQ for approval.
 - (b) Demands for training amm will reach this HQ 48 hrs prior to proposed date of firing.
 - (c) No firing of any kind will be indulged in without the approval of this HQ. Indiscriminate firing which lately has been the cause of loss of life, will be dealt with severely.

6. Swimming (ref map 1/25000)

(a) Personnel of this Bde have been allotted the following area for swimming and will only do so in this area : 779427 to 772424

This area is allotted as follows :-

2/32 Bn	-	2 Oct
Bde HQ	-	3 Oct

and consequetively in this order after 3 Oct.

(b) A track will be cut by Pioneer pls of 2 /28 and 2 /32 Bns from approx 775440 across country to the swimming area and will be used by all swimming parties. Work will commence on Oct 1 by 2/32 Bn carried on by 2/28 Bn on 2 Oct thence on alternate days until completed. A narrow foot track is the first requirement, then to be widened to provide for parties marching in column of threes.

P. J. Minie

Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

- 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/32 Aust Inf Bn
- 9 Aust Div
- Comd
- B.M.
- S.C.
- File
- War Diary (2)

G 70/51-
200443

SECRET

Sep '45.

24 AUST INF BDE

REPORT ON OPERATION POSUMI

PRELIMINARY MOVES AND PREPARATIONS

1. 24 Aust Inf Bde and a proportion of Div troops were moved in two main groups from MILNE BAY to BUNA. The first group consisting of a detachment of Bde Hqs, 2/43 Aust Inf Bn, approximately half of the 2/32 Aust Inf Bn, one company of 2/28 Aust Inf Bn and all 24 Bde LOB's left MILNE BAY on 15th Aug and arrived BUNA 17th Aug 45. The second group consisting of the balance of the Bde left MILNE BAY on 23rd Aug arriving at BUNA on 25th Aug 45.
2. The main tasks in this area were -
 - (a) Maintenance of physical fitness and further training - this was achieved by Bn exercises culminating in a three day Bde exercise, entailing an advance along the coast. This exercise was preceded by a TEWT.
 - (b) Preparation of orders for move from BUNA to FAR SHORE.
 - (c) The sorting, dumping and guarding of stores for forward movement from BUNA - this task was long and tedious as no record of stores and equipment was available and all stores had to be thoroughly checked.
 - (d) Arrangements for the staging of landing groups 1 and 2 during their move to far shore.

These two latter tasks were carried out principally using LOB personnel, allowing the Bde group to continue training on a proper basis.

3. On Sep 2nd and 3rd personnel of landing groups 1 and 2 staging at BUNA were provided with hot meals, and final arrangements were completed for the move of landing group 3. All personnel to be used for loading and embarkation of landing group 3 were LOB, the work being controlled by senior officers of 24 Bde LOB.
4. On 5th Sep the loading of stores into 5 LST's commenced at approx 0600 hrs and was completed well within the time available. Additional vehicles and stores were loaded into each craft as it was intended previously to load 6 LST's. Priority was given to medical, engineer, signal stores and unit equipment. The loading of personnel was carried out from 2 beaches, commencing at approximately 0945 hrs and completed in 20 minutes.

LANDING AND UNLOADING FAR SHORE

5. Personnel were landed from 2 waves of LCI's at RED BEACH, the first at 2300 hrs 5 Sep and the second at approximately 0030 hrs 6 Sep. Disembarkation was quick but movement from the beach to assembly areas was slow, due mainly to darkness and lack of tracks. One route only led to the Bde assembly area and this was insufficient to cope with the traffic. In order to speed up clearance from the beach, guides ordered personnel to make full use of all tracks; this did speed up the clearance of the beach, but caused disorganization of the units, spreading them over various areas. Orders were received that the Bde was to move early the following morning for ALUKI area and the rest of the night was used to re-organize and collect the units. 2/32 Bn and "A" Coy 2/43 Bn were responsible for the unloading of the 5 LST which arrived at 0130 hrs 6th Sep. In addition to these two additional LST containing the stores of craft previously damaged arrived at

0350 hrs and these also had to be unloaded. In all, a total of 500 to 600 tons was unloaded by 0600 hrs and these troops then prepared to move with the rest of the Bde.

6. The movement from the Beachhead commenced at 0700 hrs 6 Sep order of march being 2/28 Bn, Bde HQs, 2/43 Bn and 2/32 Bn, the latter to move 0800 hrs. The Bde Commander reported to Div HQs at approximately 0830 hrs and received the following verbal orders. 24 Bde less 2/32 Bn was to relieve 26 Bde at the river BUREP and continue the advance on LAE via the coastal route. This relief to be mutually arranged between 24 and 26 Bdes, to be carried out in daylight and not to delay the rate of advance. On reaching the river BUSU, a mutual junction point manned by a detachment from both Bdes to be established in area 7344. 2/13 Fd Coy and one platoon "C" Coy P.I.B. to be in support 24 Bde. 2/32 Bn was to become Div reserve and remain in ALUKI area. At 1230 hrs 6 Sep the Bde, less 2/32 Bn, left the ALUKI area for APO. Order of march - 2/28 Bn, Bde HQs, 2/43 Bn. The Bde "O" Group preceded the main body. Immediately prior to this move the Bde assembly area was strafed by approximately 4 enemy planes but no damage or casualties resulted.
7. 2/28 Aust Inf Bn commenced to arrive at APO bivouac area at 1630 hrs; movement was slow owing to the nature of the track and the number of other units also using the track. As a result of this it was not until approximately 0900 hrs 7th Sep that the Bde completed its concentration at APO at 0800 hrs, 2/43 Bn and Bde Main HQs following, leaving APO at 1000 hrs 7 Sep.

RELIEF OF 26 BDE ON THE COAST AND SUBSEQUENT ADVANCE ON LAE.

8. At 1520 hrs 7 Sep, "D" Coy 2/28 Bn had relieved the coy of 2/23 Bn who were holding a bridgehead on the west bank of the river BUREP. The dispositions taken up by the Bde on night 7/8 Sep were as follows - 2/28 Bn at 783425 with A, B and D Coys west of river BUREP, 2/43 Bn and Bde HQs area 8243. 9 Aust Div O.O. No. 7 was received which placed A.D.S. from 2/3 Fd Amb in support of each Bn. One section reported to each of 2/28 and 2/43 Bns on 8 Sep.
9. Orders were issued by the Bde Commander at 1930 hrs 7 Sep covering the advance on 8 Sep. 2/28 Bn less one coy was to continue the advance along the coast with utmost speed, form a firm base on the East bank of the river BUSU and commence immediate recce for a river crossing. One coy 2/28 Bn to remain Bde reserve and to establish a firm base on the coastal track 1000 yds East of the River BUSU. 2/43 Bn, who were to hold one coy in reserve not to be committed without reference to Bde HQs, were to move via the beach to river at 768418, thence due West to river BUSU and recce for a crossing. 2/43 Bn also were responsible for establishing a junction point with 26 Bde at 728440. P.I.B. were to assist the move of 2/43 Bn, thence patrol North and South between 2/43 Bn assembly area, junction detachment and 2/28 Bn. Bde HQ to move to area 768418. During the night 7/8 Sep stores were landed by LCV at River BUREP and area SINGAUA PLANTATION. Jeeps at this stage would have assisted in the forward move of vital stores but were not available.
10. The main body of 2/28 Bn commenced the advance at 0830 hrs 8 Sep behind a patrol screen. Progress was slow as a thorough search had to be made of a patch of kunai grass in area 777426 where an enemy party was seen. The enemy were not found and it was presumed that they were scouts and withdrew after observation of our advance. At 1500 hrs 8 Sep the advanced elements of 2/28 Aust Inf Bn had reached the East bank of the River BUSU

0350 hrs and these also had to be unloaded. In all, a total of 500 to 600 tons was unloaded by 0600 hrs and these troops then prepared to move with the rest of the Bde.

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7. 2/28 Aust Inf Bn commenced to arrive at APO bivouac area at 1650 hrs; movement was slow owing to the nature of the track and the number of other units also using the track. As a result of this it was not until approximately 0900 hrs 7th Sep that the Bde completed its concentration at APO. Arrangements were completed with 26 Bde for the relief at river BUREP and the 2/28 Bn with Bde Tac Hqs left APO at 0800 hrs, 2/43 Bn and Bde Main Hqs following, leaving APO at 1000 hrs 7 Sep.

RELIEF OF 26 BDE ON THE COAST AND SUBSEQUENT ADVANCE ON LAE.

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9. Orders were issued by the Bde Commander at 1950 hrs 7 Sep covering the advance on 8 Sep. 2/28 Bn less one coy was to continue the advance along the coast with utmost speed, form a firm base on the East bank of the river BUSU and commence immediate recon for a river crossing. One coy 2/28 Bn to remain Bde reserve and to establish a firm base on the coastal track 1000 yds East of the River BUSU. 2/43 Bn, who were to hold one coy in reserve not to be committed without reference to Bde Hqs, were to move via the beach to river at 768418, thence due west to River BUSU and recon for a crossing. 2/43 Bn also were responsible for establishing a junction point with 26 Bde at 728440. P.I.B. were to assist the move of 2/43 Bn, thence patrol North and South between 2/43 Bn assembly area, junction detachment and 2/28 Bn. Bde Hqs to move to area 768418. During the night 7/8 Sep stores were landed by LCV at River BUREP and area SINGAUA plantation. Requests were made to 9 Div for the Bde jeeps to be landed at SINGAUA plantation to facilitate the forward movement of vital stores, ammunition and supplies, but without success.
10. The main body of 2/28 Bn commenced the advance at 0830 hrs 8 Sep behind a patrol screen. Progress was slow as a thorough search had to be made of a patch of kumai grass in area 777426 where an enemy party was seen. The enemy were not found and it was presumed that they were scouts and withdrew after observation of our advance. At 1500 hrs 8 Sep the advanced elements of 2/28 Aust Inf Bn had reached the East bank of the River BUSU

- Communications were established with 2/28 Bn by 2300 hrs.
16. 2/28 Bn quickly reorganised and established its initial bridgehead for the night. The enemy fire, mostly MGs and some 20 mm was directed to cover the sand bar where the river meets the sea, this apparently being the only crossing considered possible by the enemy. This fact alone reduced the casualties by enemy action only a few who were carried downstream and stranded on the small spit, where they came under fire. Owing to swampy nature of the ground, darkness and lack of communications within the Bn it was impossible to obtain an accurate estimate of casualties, either own or enemy.
 17. Engineer assistance was obtained and by 0930 hrs 10 Sep a ferry service was in operation and essential weapons and ammunition was ferried across. 50 men were used from this time on to maintain this L of C. The work of Bn pioneers, "B" Coy 2/43 Bn and sappers is worthy of comment; these troops worked all night in pouring rain and in the river in order to establish the ferry and then assisted in the hauling of equipment and supplies, carrying on despite dozens of men with bleeding hands. Tac Bde which had moved to East bank BUSU for attack, now rejoined Main and again another JAP straggler making his way along the beach was disposed of rapidly by Bde H Q.
 18. During the morning of 10 Sep mopping up of bridgehead was completed and exploitation started. In the area of the creek at 742401 close fighting went on during the morning, the JAP was occupying positions in swampy kunai, our troops were fighting in waist high swamp and the rain continued. Up to 1200 hrs 40 JAP dead had been counted and 6 LMGs were captured. Our casualties since the crossing were 3 killed and 10 wounded.
 19. The exploiting coys of 2/28 Bn were heavily engaged all day in the area of the two creeks 741402. Progress was slow and exceptionally difficult owing to swamps, heavy kunai and jungle. At 1645 hrs an enemy counter attack along the coast was repulsed. A further 71 enemy dead were counted, bringing the total to 111 definitely killed and counted and more LMGs were captured. Excluding the crossing our casualties for the action to this time were 7 killed and 21 wounded.
 20. During this period 2/43 Bn in area 738424 were making attempt after attempt to cross the river. Recce along the river had disclosed no fordable crossing; at all points it was very fast flowing and over a mans head. Several personnel swam the river, did not contact any enemy, but remained on the west bank to cover bridging efforts. Bn pioneers and rifle coy personnel worked all day and night getting a rope and twisted vines across in order to commence bridging. These lines were continually swept away by the current. No wire cable was available although this, additional engineers and equipment had been requested.
 21. At 1645 hrs 10 Sep "B" Coy 2/43 Bn was ferried across the BUSU and placed under command 2/28 Bn in order to strengthen the enlarged bridgehead, which now extended in a semi-circle from the creek at 740401 to the BUSU at 743404. 2/43 Bn less "B" coy were still at 738424, Bde HQ had moved to 750406 and 2/32 Bn, still in Div reserve, were moving into area 755407.
 22. During the day seven Bde jeeps arrived from the ALUKI area with the remainder of the Bn 3 inch mortars and MMGs; 4 x 3 inch mortars and 2 MMGs had been carried by each Bn and the remainder left with the Bde pool. 9 mm ammunition had run low, so 2 jeeps were sent to APO to bring 20,000 rds fwd. The reserve carried by 2/32 Bn was ferried across the BUSU to 2/28 pending the arrival of fresh supplies.

The position at last light 10 Sep was that 2/28 Bn firmly held the bridgehead and arrangements were complete for 7 days supplies and approx 4 days ammunition for a Bde group to be landed by LC into the bridgehead during the night 10/11 Sep. 2/43 Bn expected that with the engineer equipment and assistance which was to reach them during the night that a bridge suitable for troops would be complete by 1300 hrs 11 Sep. 2/32 Bn were in area 755407 but still remained Div reserve.

24. 2/28 Bn were practically exhausted and needed rest after a most trying time in close contact since Sep 8. The intention for 2/43 Bn remained unchanged but 2/32 Bn was asked for to relieve 2/28 Bn. Communications from Bde to Div were still bad and all messages had to be relayed. Distortion resulted and both messages and replies became unintelligible.
25. During the night 10/11 Sep the LC which left BUREP for West bank BUSU met slight enemy arty harassing fire and immediately turned and made for RED BEACH, but at 0400 hrs 11 Sep two LC landed West of the BUSU and were unloaded. These contained ammunition only.
The use of 2 LCs from 2130 hrs to 0400 hrs night 10/11 Sep was granted but as the first mission did not arrive it was not possible to move these stores by LC.
Slow and laborious movement in engineer boat pulled by ropes and the landing by barge of the above ammunition provided 2 days supply for 2 Bns on West bank of BUSU.
26. Permission to use 2/32 Bn had not been received and engineer equipment and assistance had not reached 2/43 Bn. The crossing of 2/43 Bn did NOT appear possible without sappers, so it was decided to move 2/43 Bn less "B" Coy south down the East bank of the BUSU and ferry them across into 2/28 Bn bridgehead. Once across the BUSU "B" Coy 2/43 Bn reverted to Bn command. The 2/43 Bn were to move through the North of the bridgehead with the object of firstly cutting the NEW YANGA - OLD YANGA rd and later capturing NEW YANGA.
27. At 1420 hrs 2/43 Bn commenced crossing the ferry and by 2000 hrs the Bn were assembled in area 732403, and a patrol from "C" Coy had cut the rd at 1845 hrs.
28. During the day 2/28 Bn were engaged in mopping up the area of the two creeks and patrols exploited to the track junction area during the afternoon, more enemy dead were found also 3 SMGs and 4 LMGs. An abandoned JAP HQ was found at 73854008 containing many maps and documents. By evening OLD YANGA was in our hands. 2/32 Bn were providing carrying parties for supplies etc to, and were operating, the ferry.
A request was made for naval gunfire support on selected targets at 1300 hrs 12 Sep, but without result.
29. On 10 and 11 Sep considerable enemy harassing fire, both arty and mortar, fell in the area of the bridgehead and the coastal area East of the BUSU. Many were duds or AP and many fell in the sea; fortunately casualties were light.

30. At 1800 hrs 11 Sep Div advised that no craft would be landing stores on night 11/12 Sep as the surf at RED BEACH made loading impossible; should the surf drop then craft would load and proceed to West BUSU. Div were requested to provide 24 Bde with 2 or 3 LCVs to be used for the movement of stores from BUREP to West BUSU, as there was no appreciable surf at either beach. This request was granted. Australian personnel were placed in each LC with the crews and the craft did valuable work ferrying supplies etc to the West BUSU.
31. During the night 11/12 Sep the BUSU rose and washed away much of its bank, carrying with it all ropes and signal cables. Visual communications were established until the line was again across at 0930 hrs and by 1230 hrs the ferry was in operation again.
32. At 0705 hrs, 12 Sep, Div advised that 2 LCV were to load with 9mm ammunition and to remain under command 24 Bde on arrival. These craft landed at 1400 hrs 12 Sep. Permission had also been granted to move 2/32 Bn across the BUSU and for them to take over the bridgehead, thus allowing 2/28 Bn to continue the coastal advance. 2/32 Bn, however, were still to remain Div reserve in the bridgehead area.
33. During the morning 2/43 Bn had established itself astride the OLD YANGA - NEW YANGA Rd, had searched the OLD YANGA Plantation area, made contact with 2/28 Bn and was commencing to patrol towards NEW YANGA. 2/28 Bn had commenced the coastal advance by establishing one coy 1000 yds West along the coast from the bridgehead, the rest of the Bn being ordered to follow as relieved by 2/32 Bn.
34. Tac Bde HQ crossed by LCV at 1415 hrs 12 Sep and established at 742403, the two LCV then being used continuously to transport 2/32 Bn across the BUSU. This task was completed by 1830 hrs. 2/28 Bn on relief moved West, occupied the coastal area from 728394 to 734398 and were in contact with the enemy. 2/43 Bn advanced slowly on NEW YANGA. "D" Coy 2/43 Bn moved East and North in order to ascertain if there was any enemy in the area NE of NEW YANGA. The Bn came under fire when approaching NEW YANGA and recce commenced in heavy jungle. As darkness was approaching the C.O. decided to attempt a quick attack on the position, using "B" Coy but this was unsuccessful. The opposition, at first estimated as one platoon, proved to be far greater, and it is estimated that the area was held by approx one coy. Casualties to 2/43 Bn during this brief action were heavy, being 5 killed 3 missing and 19 wounded, the Coy Comd was killed and 2 other officers were wounded.
35. During the night 12/13 Sep the bridgehead area and 2/28 Bn area were subjected to considerable enemy arty and mortar fire, some casualties resulting in both areas. 2/43 Bn were occupying a position astride the rd South of NEW YANGA, fwd elements remaining in contact with the enemy. Arty communications from FOO with 2/43 Bn were functioning and it was possible, before communications broke down, to register one gun on the NEW YANGA clearing. Harass-ing fire was continued during the night onto the enemy in NEW YANGA area with this gun. In addition predicted shoots were carried out on enemy positions South of MALAHANG strip and in the MALAHANG Anchorage area.
36. After a conference with C.O. 2/43 Bn and arty L.O., the Bde Comd issued orders, including a detailed arty plan, for the capture of NEW YANGA and continuing the advance due West to WAGAN. 2/28 Bn was NOT to continue the advance until NEW YANGA was in our hands, but was to commence vigorous patrolling to dislodge the enemy. During the night 2/28 Bn had several skirmishes with enemy patrols and at least 4 JAPS were killed.

37. At 1115 hrs 13 Sep a 2/28 Bn patrol which had pushed West with the FOO was cut off by the enemy. The Bn took immediate steps to relieve the posn and after an adv of 100 yds it was found that the enemy approx 50 in number, were occupying a posn between the patrol and the Bn. In an immediate attack 12 enemy were killed and the remainder withdrew, closely followed by the leading elements of 2/28 Bn. The enemy were holding a posn at the track juncat 725394, the approx strength appeared to be about one coy. 2/28 Bn immediately commenced to deal with this position by a flanking move inland.
38. After arty concentrations 2/43 Bn captured NEW YANGA at 1600 hrs the enemy withdrawing in the face of the adv; 2 enemy were killed and 35 enemy dead were counted as a result of our arty and mortar fire. One coy 2/43 Bn occupied a posn at NEW YANGA and the rest of the Bn pushed Westward through hy jungle, and by nightfall had reached approx 728406.
39. At 1930 hrs 13 Sep 2/28 Bn reported that the track junc area was in their hands and they had exploited west and also occupied the dump area at 721392, a further 10 enemy being killed. We suffered some casualties from enemy rifle and LMG fire and from enemy shelling.
40. Div ordered the relief of 2/32 Bn in bridgehead area by 2/17 Bn. 2/32 Bn to revert to Comd. This was implemented forthwith and at 2200 hrs 2/17 Bn commenced crossing of BUSU by LCV. Move across was completed by 0200 hrs 14 Sep. 2/17 Bn were to hold the bridgehead, with one coy at NEW YANGA one coy on coast at 732398 and the Bn less two coys in the bridgehead.
41. A detailed order was issued for the adv of 24 Bde on 14 Sep which included a complete arty fire plan for the day. The outline was :-
 - (a) 2/43 Bn to adv and capture WAGAN and track junc SW of WAGAN leaving one coy to contain the enemy at the south end of MALAHANG strip.
 - (b) 2/28 Bn to adv via coastal route and capture MALAHANG Anchorage and be prepared to exploit to village at 712391 then R. BUTIBUM at the coast.
 - (c) 2/32 Bn to proceed along coastal route to track junc at 725393 adv NW along track and secure rd - track junc 716400 and maintain at least two coys at track junc 725393. Further be prepared to adv direct to MALAHANG MISSION.
 - (d) Pl PIB were to cross BUSU early 14 Sep and patrol the area bounded by north south line through NEW YANGA, as far west as track from 725393 to 716400 and NOT north of 1000 yds inland from the sea.
42. At 0845 hrs 14 Sep fwd elements of 2/28 Bn were in contact with the enemy in MALAHANG Anchorage area. After recce three coys moved inland in an attempt to encircle the posn. The going was slow through hy jungle and deep swamps but after hy fighting all day this posn was captured by 1800 hrs for the loss of 3 killed 26 wounded on 14 Sep.
43. Fwd elements of 2/32 Bn made contact with the enemy at village at 717399 at 1320 hrs and an immediate attack by the leading coy was unsuccessful. A plan was made immediately for an attack by two coys as it was considered that the posn was held at least by approx one coy with supporting weapons. After hy fighting the position was captured by 1730 hrs and two coys 2/32 Bn had taken up a posn astride the rd and track junc 713400. Approx 40 to 50 enemy were killed whilst our casualties were 11 killed and 27 wounded, incl one offr killed and one offr wounded.
44. After extensive patrolling 2/43 Bn detached one coy to contain the southern defences of MALAHANG strip at approx 724409 and directed one coy on cross rds SW of WAGAN. This latter coy after movement through heavy jungle became heavily engaged in the vicinity of the cross rds and darkness prevented the position being captured.

45. During the day the enemy arty was particularly active along the coastal area on 2/28 and 2/32 Bns, also on the breidgehead and LCV beach. We suffered some 35 casualties as a result. It appeared that the enemy were spotting from a barge well out to sea, this barge was engaged by arty and it returned to LAE.
46. Night 14/15 Sep remainder of 20 Bde crossed BUSU RIVER. 9 Aust Div issued orders for 20 Bde to take over the responsibilities of
- (a) Containing Southern end of MALAHANG Airfield.
 - (b) Taking over positions at 726394. These reliefs of elements of 2/43 & 2/32 Bns to be arranged mutually between 20 & 24 Bdes.
47. The following orders were issued for the continuation of the advance by 24 Bde on 15 Sep.
- (a) 2/43 Bn to capture WAGAN and cross rds to SW. Start time NOT later than 1600 hrs.
 - (b) 2/32 Bn, on success of 2/43 Bn, to advance direct on MALAHANG Mission.
 - (c) 2/28 Bn to consolidate present position and recce forward to BUTIBUM with a view to establishing a strong point west of village 712391.
 - (d) Detailed arty tasks were arranged.
 - (e) Bde HQ was to move to area north of track junction 725393.
48. By 0855 hrs 15 Sep 2/43 Bn had captured the cross rds area, killing 7 enemy, the rest had withdrawn, and by 1230 hrs WAGAN was occupied. From a survey of enemy positions in the WAGAN - Cross rds area it would appear as though the area was initially held by about one coy - the huts contained a considerable quantity of equipment and stores.
49. Meanwhile 2/32 Bn had concentrated in area 717400, carried out forward recces and commenced advance direct on KALAHANG MISSION at 1235 hrs. The going was slow, through heavy jungle and swamp, but by last light the Bn was deployed on three sides of the mission area prepared to attack at first light. There were some enemy heard in the MISSION area but it was too dark to estimate strength or continue the attack that night.
50. 2/28 Bn completed the mopping up of the MALAHANG Anchorage area and counted 25 JAPS killed and 2 x 75 mm mobile A.A. guns captured. Patrols penetrated beyond the village to the BUTIBUM river and reported no enemy occupation east of the river, but defences and wire on the west side, also 2 enemy were seen within the defences. 5 twin 20 mm A.A.-Tk/a were found abandoned and US along the coast. The village was NOT occupied by 2/28 Bn as the enemy were shelling the area consistently.
51. Main Bde HQ was in position at 723397 by 1500 hrs. Enemy arty was again active along the coastal area and caused some casualties. A barge was again observed, apparently spotting for enemy arty. Arrangements were made for a platoon of "C" Coy 2/2 MG Bn, who were in the bridgehead, to conduct a shoot on the barge. This was carried out at 1430 hrs with excellent results, the barge being sunk after 4000 rounds fell in the target area.
52. 20 Bde took over the WAGAN area and 2/43 Bn commenced their advance immediately to area 714398.
53. Enemy behavior, exemplified by his wild arty firing, and his withdrawing from key points indicated that he was probably evacuating LAE.

54. An air programme was arranged by 9 Aust Div for bombing and strafing of LAE up to 1300 hrs on 16 Sep.

Orders were received for an attack on LAE in co-ordination with this strike. 2/32 Bn were to be used and 2/43 Bn were to demonstrate on their left.

Outline of order -

- (a) 2/32 Bn to clean up MALAHANG MISSION at first light then to be formed up for attack on LAE by 1130 hrs. FUP to be 500 yds east of River BUTIBUM. Axis of advance, rd from bridge 702339 to village 697394. Objectives, first bridgehead - enemy locality at 701398, second east end MT. LUNAMAN and exploitation to west end of LAE township. Rate of advance 100 yds in 3 mins.
- (b) 2/43 Bn to form up 500 yds east of River BUTIBUM at approx. 706395. At ZERO advance to river and assist 2/32 Bn to the maximum by engaging enemy with all available fire. If possible 2/43 Bn to cross River BUTIBUM and clear the area including WEBBS south to coast at VOCO POINT.
- (c) 2/28 Bn less MMG pl to move via rd to area 712399 by 1130 hrs and remain at call in Bde reserve.
- (d) MMG platoon 2/28 Bn to occupy position near coast to deny the use of the coastal route to the enemy and to harass enemy positions at BUTIBUM mouth until Zero plus 30 mins.
- (e) Timed arty concentrations on enemy positions to conform to rate of advance, incl use of 2 x 155 mm guns on timed programme. One Bty and one tp 24 pdrs were in support.

55. By 1130 hrs 16 Sep all Bns were in new areas. 2/32 Bn had cleaned up the MISSION accounting for 5 JAPS and capturing fd guns, AA guns and 20 mm.

Tac Bde HQ had moved to the Church at MALAHANG MISSION. Zero for the attack was to be the firing, by the last bombing plane, of green flares, but NOT later than 1300 hrs. The flares were NOT fired and Zero was ordered as 1300 hrs.

Small and isolated resistance only was encountered by 2/32 Bn who advanced rapidly. At 1320 hrs 2/28 Bn was ordered to move to bridge 702399 and take over from 2/32 Bn in that area.

At Zero Bde Main HQ commenced to move to the MALAHANG Church and at this time a small party from Tac HQ with the Bde Comd had established an O.P. on 2/32 Bn Start Line.

Meanwhile, 2/43 Bn advanced from their FUP and the two leading coys after heavy going through swampy jungle crossed the BUTIBUM and occupied WEBBS at 1420 hrs.

By 1420 hrs "B" coy 2/32 Bn had occupied the east end of MT. LUNAMAN and at 1430 hrs "A" coy 2/32 Bn had contacted 2/31 Bn patrols on the eastern end of the airstrip.

Bde HQ followed 2/32 axis of advance and was established at 695394 by 1600 hrs.

The Bde was then disposed as follows -

2/28 Bn at 702399 covering the bridge.

2/32 Bn North of the rd CHINATOWN - LAE from east end of MT LUNAMAN to west end of airstrip.

2/43 Bn south of rd CHINATOWN - LAE occupying the area WEBBS - VOCO POINT.

ARTILLERY

56. During the advance of 24 Bde arty FOOs moved with 2/28 and 2/45 Bns, whilst a special fire control party moved with Bde Hq. This latter unit did not function in its proper task as all requests for naval gunfire support were refused. However their excellent W.F. communications never failed and this channel was used at various times to pass traffic to Bde Hq. During the advance considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining arty support owing to faulty communications. Before 2/28 Bn crossed the BUSU on 9 Sep the area known to be occupied by the enemy was registered and some harassing shoots were carried out on 10 Sep after the crossing but these were slow and difficult as orders from the FOO had to pass to Bde Hq on Bde lines and then be relayed through arty channels. Later, when the whole Bde had crossed the BUSU, 23 Bty, 2/13 Pd Regt was moved to the west of the BUSU by LCV, at that time under Bde comd, and arty support was used extensively. An additional FOO joined 2/28 Bn when they commenced their advance and from this time on FOOs engaged all available targets, and each day a detailed arty fire plan was arranged with the arty L.C. covering known enemy centres with concentrations - harassing shoots. Once the guns were close up, and communications short, the time lag in obtaining arty support was greatly reduced and mostly the line communications were reliable. The No. 11 WT set carried by one FOO party is NOT considered a practical proposition in this type of action. Bde arty LO's of lesser rank than Bty Comd were not satisfactory. The Bty Comd understands requirements and has sufficient authority to get things done. Once the Bde had a Bty Comd the arty problem became normal.

ENGINEERS

57. In an advance, when numerous streams and rivers have to be crossed, engineer assistance to the forward troops is essential. Although a Pd Coy was in support of the Bde only approx one platoon was ever able to assist the Bde in the forward area, and this only in later stages, owing to the necessity for construction and maintenance of the Div L of C in rear areas. It is considered that the rate of advance was delayed, and the passage of supplies, ammunition and equipment was made more difficult, through the lack of sappers operating within the Bde area. The work done by Bn Pioneer platoons was magnificent, but it is NOT possible for a Bn to carry sufficient wire and heavy hemp rope for many large river crossings and it is recommended that sappers be allotted to move with forward troops to assist Bn pioneers and that they have readily available good supplies of ropes. In order to lessen the size of carrying parties required from within a Bn for its own supplies, it is essential that jeep tracks be made at the earliest possible moment. During the advance all this work had to be done by Bn pioneers and B ech personnel who constructed a track, with bridges from the BUWERP to the BUSU and north to 2/45 Bn and again on the West side of the BUSU along the coast to the MALAKANG Anchorage and also following the 2/45 Bn line of advance. The use of Bn pioneers for this task is NOT considered desirable as it greatly decreases the number of personnel available to work within the Bn and so reduces rate of advance and increases fatigue of the fighting troops.

ENGINEER EQUIPMENT. It is recommended that engineer stores include readily available blocks ropes tackle of light and simple type that can be used by forward Bns for crossing the myriad obstacles that will always be encountered along the coast.

COMMUNICATIONS

58. LINE

During the whole operation, L/T was the main means of comm. During the advance along a single route a line team from the Bde sig Sec moved with Bn HQ of the leading Bn. All Bns and Bde "tee-in" on this line at times laid down. Strict control of traffic and the elimination of unnecessary chatter was enforced by Bde HQ and this method was found wholly satisfactory for the task of the Bde but the system can NOT stand interference from a myriad of small outside units all endeavouring to use the Bde line principally for idle chatter.

When the Bns were moving on different routes a line team from Bde ~~xxxx~~ sig Sec moved with each Bn HQ laying line, Bns had to provide personnel to carry cable for this team. This well proved system is as near foolproof as possible.

Within the Bde L/T comms were excellent and lines were never out for any length of time. The achievement of this standard speaks highly for the work of both the Bde sig Sec and all Bn sig pls. In practically all cases patrols laid line, this was found invaluable as it kept the comm completely in the picture. The American assault cable was used and picked up again. Supplies of cable at times were short and NOT delivered as far forward as possible, on one occasion cable carrying parties had to be sent back to SINGAUA plantation to carry cable to the BUSU, there being no cable at the BURBP Dump.

5 cable on one mile reels is NOT considered in any way suitable for this type of country, supplies of 1/5 mile reels were NOT available and thus the work of sig personnel laying cable was made far more difficult. Far greater supplies of assault cable, which proved excellent, should always be available. All P 3 cable should be supplied on small reels which should be expendable stores as time does NOT permit the recovery and rewinding of cable on to these reels.

Line comms from Bde HQ to Div HQ were a continual source of trouble. Only on odd occasions was it possible to talk to Div HQ direct, mostly the messages had to be relayed through numerous sig centres. This led to the inevitable distortion of text of conversation and consequent misunderstanding at both ends.

The pernicious system of allowing all and sundry to "tee in" on lines caused the greatest distress among signal personnel, arty lines in particular are vital to the unit requiring fire and should NOT be touched.

WIRELESS. Bde HQ carried 1 x 109 set on a jeep throughout the operation. This link is considered necessary, but it can only operate from jeep head as a 109 set is NOT a practical proposition for man handling on a Bde HQ.

A total of 8 x 208 sets were carried within the Bde and these are NOT considered in any way satisfactory, a minute amount of success was obtained at times, but they are NOT mobile and only just portable.

Before the operation was finished 6 of the 8 sets were US due to the instability of mechanical manufacture.

Bde commenced the operation without "Handy Talkies" and during the closing stages received 4 "Handy Talkie" sets each.

These worked excellently. The Handy Talkie, in conjunction with line is ideal. It can be used on both sides of rivers until difficult lines are established. Most important, code is NOT used. It either works or it doesn't and NO time is wasted tinkering.

108 sets were carried initially within units and these proved to be NOT even of ornamental value and a total waste of good manpower.

SUMMARY OF ENEMY KILLED AND EQUIPMENT CAPTURED.

The following are the details of enemy killed during the operation.

UNIT	NO. OF ENEMY DEAD COUNTED	AREA	REMARKS
2/28 Bn	111 85	BUSU bridgehead MALAHANG Anchorage - Camp area - tk junc area 726594.	
2/32 Bn	50 15 22	Village 717400 MALAHANG Mission LAE	
2/43 Bn	37 10 1	NEW YANGA WAGAN - cross rds 718405. LAE	55 by mortar fire
Bde HQ	2	Between BUREP & BUSU	
	531	Total enemy dead counted. In addition 4 Chinamen were captured.	

It is considered that this total of casualties inflicted on the enemy is the minimum.

Owing to the nature of the country and the lack of time for a thorough search it is certain that considerably more casualties were inflicted but never buried and counted by the Bde.

The following is an estimate of enemy weapons captured:-

LMGs	-	11	
SMGs	-	3	
MMGs	-	6	(2 x 7.7mm, 4 x .5 inch)
13 mm twin A.A.	-	3	
20 mm twin A.A.	-	12	
20 mm A.A., Tk/A	-	6	
75 mm Pd guns	-	2	
75 mm A.A.	-	9	
105 mm Pd guns	-	9	
Naval guns	-	4 x 4 inch. 1 x 6 inch.	

These figures are considered conservative, it is certain that many more LMGs and 20 mm, particularly, were captured but are not included in these totals.

OWN CASUALTIES

UNIT	KILLED IN ACTION		WOUNDED IN ACTION		MISSING		EVAC. SICK		TOTAL	
	OFFRS	ORs	OFFRS	ORs	OFFRS	ORs	OFFRS	ORs	OFFRS	ORs
Hq 24 Bde	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Bde Sig Sec	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sec Div Pro	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Gd Pl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
2/28 Bn	3	19	1	72	-	12	1	25	5	133
2/32 Bn	1	16	4	40	-	-	1	19	6	75
2/43 Bn	1	12	3	25	-	1	1	15	5	55
TOTALS	5	48	8	142	-	13	3	64	16	227

These casualties cover the period 0600 hrs 6 Sep to 1800 hrs 16 Sep 45.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 25/9/1943 HQ 24 Aus Inf Bde (Unit)

W.E. 11/2/3 OFFRS. 12 O.R's. 53 + OFFRS. 7 O.R's. 17 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
				W.Os. Class I.	AACHD	3			
			2	W.Os. Class II.	AASC	2		2	NK
			1	Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.	AHOC	-		2	1
			1	Staff Sergeants	HEME	3			
			3	Sergeants	AACC	3			
		1	6	Corporals	AALC	1			
3	6		35	Troopers, Privates, etc.	AAMC	1			
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
3 *	6	1	48 *	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		13 *		4	1 *

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail	A.I.F.	C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
		Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.							
A	51									51
B(1)										
B(2)										

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
3 NCOs	2/28 Bn			1 NCO	2/28 Bn		
1 NCO	2/37 Bn			1 NCO	2/37 Bn		
1 NCO	2/43 Bn			1 NCO	2/43 Bn		
1 CPL	9 Div Postal			1 CPL	LOB		
2 NCOs	HQ 9 Div			7 NCOs	LOB		
1 CPL	B Sec FSW			1 A/SGT	LOB (YMCA)		
1 WOJ	AAOC						
1 Sgt	9 Div Pro Coy						
9 CPLs							
1 NCO	Admin Column (Y010A)						
1 NCO	Lab Army Centre						

Description of other ranks whose return to (Unit) is particularly requested. / / 194

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
*	Reinfts Required		
	Army Examiner		
	Three clerks urgently required. Two typists essential		

1st 24th Aust Inf Bde Unit
PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 25/9/1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners	1	-	1	Surveyors, Engineering	4	2		Operating Room Assts.	13	17	7	G.F.O. Assistants	14	14	7
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers (AEME) 1 1	1	1		Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identifn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Ass't.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical) (INF)	2	1	NR	Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks (AACC) 3 3	3	3		Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators											
Fitters (M.V.) (AEME) 1 1	1	1		Gun Operator				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Battery Surveyors				Water Orderlies (INF)	1	1	
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Butchers				Driver MT (-)	15	14	NR
Grinder, Precision				Hello Operator				Clerks (INF) 6 3 3	6	3	3	Batman (-)	13	12	NR
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Supply				Light Orderlies (-)	6	6	
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties (INF) 4 4	4	4		Clerks, Technical				Hvy Duty (-)	1	1	
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Coach Trimmers				How Duty (-)	5	6	
Mechanics, Radio Wireless				Joiners				Concretors							
Millwrights				Lineman				Cooks, Extra Ordues							
Operators, Excavator				Lithographers				Despatch Riders							
Pattern Maker				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Pharmacist				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Masons				Driver Mechanics							
Photowriter				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Plumber				Mechanics, M.T. (AEME) 1 1	1	1		Engine Hands, I.C.							
Saw Doctors				Miners				Equipment Repairers							
Surveyors				Moulders				Farriers							
				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	4	2	1	CARRIED FORWARD	13	11	1	CARRIED FORWARD	19	14	4	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	70	61	4

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

25/9/43
Date of Despatch
a.w. 5m bks 3/43

[Signature]
Signature of Commander

1st Lt Aust Inf Bde Unit

219 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 11/9/1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners (AAOE) 1 - 1	1	-	1	Surveyors, Engineering	4	3	1	Operating Room Assis.	13	12	1	G.P.O. Assistants	19	18	1
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, B.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Rivetters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers (AEME) 1 1	1	1		Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical) (INA) 2 2 -	2	2	-	Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks (AACU) 3 3	3	3		Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators											
Fitters (M.V.) (AEME) 1 1 -	1	1	-	Gun Operator				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Battery Surveyors				Wate. Duty (INF) 1 1 -			
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Butchers				Duty MT (✓) 13 14 NR			
Grinder, Precision				Hello Operator				Clerks (INF) 6 6 -				Batman (✓) 13 11 NR			
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Supply				Ing. Ods (✓) 6 6 -			
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties (INA) 4 4	4	4		Clerks, Technical				Wg. Duty (✓) 1 1 -			
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Coach Trimmers				Gen. Duty (✓) 5 7 -			
Mechanics, Wireless				Joiner				Concretors							
Millwrights				Lithographers				Cooks							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Metal				Despatch Riders							
Pattern Maker				Machinists, Wood				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Pharmacist				Masons				Drivers, H.T.							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Masseurs				Driver Mechanics							
Photewriter				Mechanics, M.T. (AEME) 1 1	1	1		Driver Tptn. Plant							
Plumber				Miners				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Saw Doctors				Moulders				Equipment Repairers							
Surveyors				Nurses, Trained				Farriers							
				Observation Post Assis.				Fitters' Mates							
								Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD 4 3 1	4	3	1	CARRIED FORWARD 13 12 1	13	12	1	CARRIED FORWARD 19 18 1	19	18	1	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	70	65	1

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
 (b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
 (c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
 (d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
 (e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

Date of Despatch
a.w. 6m bks 3/43

Signature of Commander

HQ 74 Aust Inf Bde Unit

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 18/9/1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners (AAOC)	1	-	1	Surveyors, Engineering	4	2	1	Operating Room Assts.	3	11	1	G.P.O. Assistants	19	10	
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers (AEME)	1	1		Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical) (INF)	2	1	NR	Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks (AAOC)	3	3		Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators											
Fitters (M.V.) (AEME)	1	1		Gun Operator				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Battery Surveyors				Woke Duty (INF)	1	1	
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Butchers				Dns MT (✓)	15	14	NR
Grinder, Precision				Hello Operator				Clerks (INF)	6	5	NR	Batman (✓)	13	11	NR
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Supply				Eq Ord (✓)	6	6	
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties (INF)	4	4		Clerks, Technical				Hyg Duty (✓)	1	1	
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Coach Trimmers				Gen Duty (✓)	5	7	
Mechanics, Radio				Joiners				Concretors							
Millwrights				Lineman				Cooks							
Operators, Excavator				Lineman Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Pattern Maker				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Pharmacist				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				Bat-Asst (AAOC)	3	3	
Photographer, Wet Plate				Masons				Driver Mechanics				Batman (AAOC)	1	1	NR
Photowriter				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant				Black (✓)	1	1	
Plumber				Mechanics, M.T. (DEAN)	1	1		Engine Hands, I.C.				Dns MT (✓)	1	-	NR
Saw Doctors				Miners				Equipment Repairers				M/C (✓)	1	1	
Surveyors				Moulders				Farriers				Med Ord (AEME)	1	1	
				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates				Batman (AAOC)	1	1	NR
				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers				(AAOC)	1	-	NR
CARRIED FORWARD	4	2	1	CARRIED FORWARD	13	11	1	CARRIED FORWARD	19	16	1	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	70	63	1

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorized trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

19/9/43
Date of Despatch

a.w. 6m bks 3/43

Ann Examinee Required

Signature of Commander

AS AT 0600 HRS SAT

WZ 3008 10 FORMA TD RETURN OF OFFICERS

SER NO 20/43

18/9/1943

HQ 24 ADST INF BDE

WE II/2/3

Offrs 12 ORs 53 and
Offrs 7 ORs 17 att by WE

PART A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reg	Det	Sub	Post	Detail	Attached	Followed	by	Ref	Req
Reg	Det	Sub	Post	Detail	Attached	Followed	by	Ref	Req
				1 Col (T/Brig)					
	1			1 Major	AASC (Capt)	1		NR	
		1		6 Capt	AALC (Capt)		1	NR	
			4	4 Lieut	AALC (Lieut)		1	NR	
					AALC (Lieut)		1	NR	
					AALC (Chap)	3			
ANA	1	1	12			4	3	NR*	

Detail A AIF 16 Total 16

PART B - Officers joined or quitted during week

By No	Rank	Name & Int	Unit from	Date	Cause
* Off secondment & of promotions to commissioned rank will fill existing vacancies					

Officers quitted during week

By No	Rank	Name & Int	Unit to	Date	Cause

PART D

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Subs	Army	Surname	Int	Pres	Pres	Is not	Det
Rank & H. Temp Rank is held	No			ing	ent or not	present how employed	of Det
Col (T/Brig)	VX47819	Evans	B	band	Yes		
Col (T/Brig)	VX14442	White	PF8	band			
capt	SX4479	Wilton	JH	band			
	SX5593	Langley	NW	SC			
T/capt	WX5265	Adams	HJC	SC (w)			
	WX3719	Hittman	GA	JO			
	VX43089	Ferguson	JLD	TO			
	WX6387	Parry	CLW	LOI			
	VX50529	Burch	SR	band			
lieut	WX213	Womers	TF	LOI			
	TX2771	Clarke	KM	LOI			
	WX11000	Ambrose	WK	band			
A/capt	SX7499	Lammie	DR	band	LOB		
lieut	WX4436	Leard	T	band	no	band 3/4/43	
	WX7739	Williamson	WE			band 1/2/43	
	VX7091	Chambers	NW			band 2/25/43	

PART E - Nominal roll of officers att from other units

Rank of higher T/Bank	Army No	Name and Int	Unit	Date of Attach	Nature of attachment
capt	WX60279	Throby GPO	Hq 9 Bde	16-4-43	LSC
lieut	WX12099	Kingsbury WJ	1/8 Bn	15-7-43	LO
	WX38663	Philpot WE	1/8 Bn	6-9-43	LO

Date of despatch 19/9/43

Kingsbury
Commander

AS AT 0600 HRS SAT

25/9/1943

WX 3008 PRO FORMA FD RETURN OF OFFICERS

HQ 24 AUST INF BDE

WE II/2/3

SER NO 21/43

Offrs 12 ORs 53 and
Offrs 7 ORs 17 att by WE

PART A									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
WE	Excl	Att		Detail	Attached	allowed	by	WE	
Req	WE	WH	B		ASAC or	PS	Sur	Def	Reft
					Corps		WE	WE	Req
NR	1		1	Col (T/Brig)	AASC (Capt /				
		1	6	Majors	AALC (Capt			1	NR
			4	Capt's	AAMC (Lieut			1	NR
				Lieuts	AAOC (Lieut			1	NR
					AAChD (Chap3				
* NR	1	1	12				4	3	NR*

Detail A AIF 16 Total 16

PART B - Officers joined or quitted during week

Officers joined during week

No	Rank	Name & Int	Unit from	Date	Cause
* off	secondments	OR	promotions to	commissioned rank	
will fill existing vacancies					

Officers quitted during week

No	Rank	Name & Int	Unit to	Date	Cause

PART D						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Subs	Army	Surname	Int	Post	Pre-	If not
Rank &	No			ing	sent	present
H. temp					or	how
Rank if					not	employed
held						
Col (T/Brig)	VX 47819	Evans	B	band	yes	
bat (T/Brig)	VX 19444	White	PFB	AM	✓	
bat	SX 9479	Wilton	JH	BM (2)	✓	
	SX 8893	Langston	RW	SC	✓	
T/bat	WX 5268	Normis	HJC	SC (2)	✓	
✓	WX 3719	Pittman	GA	LO	✓	
✓	VX 43089	Ferguson	JLD	TO	✓	
✓	WX 6387	Perry	GLW	LOI	✓	
✓	VX 50529	Birch	S.R.	Racco	✓	
Lieut	WX 213	Worner	JF	LO II	✓	
✓	TX 2771	Blerke	Rm	LO III	✓	
✓	WX 11000	Ambrose	WR	Edo 0	✓	
A/Lieut	SX 9999	Barndale	DR	Edo 0	✓	
bat	QX 6436	Gard	T	bat	NO	bat 243 Bn
✓	WX 77397	Williamson	RE		✓	bat 232 Bn
✓	VX 90914	Chambers	NNS		✓	bat 238 Bn

PART E - Nominal roll of officers att from other units

Rank or higher	Army No	Name and Int	Unit	Date of Attach	Nature of attachment
bat	WX 60279	Shooby G.F.O.	HQ 9 Div	16.6.43	L.S.O.
Lieut	WX 12099	Kingsbury WJ	238 Bn	15.7.43	L.O.
Lieut	VX 38663	Philpot WE	238 Bn	6.9.43	L.O.

Date of despatch 25/9/43

W. Sangster Capt

ACTION DIARY

Appx "B"

5 SEP 43

2353 hrs - Tac landed RWD BEACH

6 SEP 43

0100 hrs - Tac est at BUSO Village

0600 hrs from Div - Sitrep No. 1 2000 hrs. Enemy. 0703 hrs 3 TE/B bombed and machinegunned wave 5 off beach. 2 LCIs hit by bomb but beached. Some casualties. Enemy posns called EAST LOOKOUT 962396, abandoned in face of our tps, manned by 2 secs MAIZUKU No. 2 SNLP Det 238 Regt Sigs. One type 92 MG and one Owen Gun and one Aust rifle abandoned in posn. Signs of recent Jap occupation 988425 945419 and BUSO 2 9339. 1630 hrs approx 6 TE/B fighter cover bombed and MG dump area some damage slight casualties. One B destroyed one B probable by 1t AA. Own tps. Landing effected both beaches without opposition. Remainder of Sitrep location statement of 20 Bde, river BUREP Area.

0703 hrs from Div - Tac R report no movement seen in HOPOI MISSION area. No significant movement BUSI BUREP BUNGA Rivers. BUREP River appears to be dry with crossing at 061385. BR camouflaged at 008390. Report covers to 1245 hrs.

0730 hrs - Tac moved along track from BUSO Village.

1015 hrs - Tac est at approx 886431

1120 hrs - 4 Zeros MG vicinity ALUKI Village area

1800 hrs - Bde est at 847435

Locations - Bde Hq 847435, 2/28 Bn 848435, 2/43 Bn 849435, NTR. Ref's BUSO 1/25,000

1950 hrs from 2/43 Bn - Sitrep. BHQ Hq A, B, & D Coys elements arrived bivouac area. C still out of contact. RAP treating 40 cases prostration 1200 yds N of Bn area. These casualties out of action one to two days.

2315 hrs from Div - Secret 007. Intention. 9 Aust Div will continue adv on LAE. Method as in 006 with following additions. 24 Bde will relieve 26 Bde on coastal route at River BUREP details being arranged individually. 48 Bn less 2 coys who are providing labour CRE 9 Aust Div will be at 30 mins notice to move. Adm. One ADS from 1st Fd Amb in support 23, 32, 43 Bns. One ADS 11 Fd Amb in support 23, 24, 48 Bns. 11 Fd Amb is est MDS vic SINGAUA. Intercomm. 9 Div Sigs will est sig centre APO and maintain separate main arteries for 24 Bde.

7 SEP 43

1045 hrs from 2/28 Bn - D Coy crossed creek 835423. Waist deep. Going to turn - fair. Unexploded mortar bomb East bank of creek.

1212 hrs from 2/28 Bn - Adv gd reached COPRA SHED. Rear 26 Bde just moved out. Only S.C. behind. He did not know present disposns with any accuracy. All 26 Bde Bns using beach as track. Adv gd 28 attempting to make track inside timber.

1345 hrs to 9 Div - Bde at COPRA HOUSE 822423 - 28 head of coln 81 grid - 43 BURAM R - want jeeps up tonight to carry amm etc - sig jeeps also to come up.

1348 hrs fm - Booby traps COPRA HOUSE area

1400 hrs to 28 Bn - Try and get one coy (D) over BUREP tonight. 43 are going to trickle along coast - we will be within 43. - 28 report D Coy 800/1000 yds in front of C.O. L.O. 26 Bde had reported to 28 Bn did not think enemy were on BUREP R.

1450 hrs - Head of 43 coln passed COPRA SHED (Bde Hq) 822422.

1515 hrs from 26 Bde - 24 and 25 Bns moving up BUREP (NW) with one coy at bridgehead on BUREP. Bde Hq 200 yds up BUREP from mouth. 24 Bn 779437, 25 Bn 783432.

1530 hrs to 26 Bde - 28 Bn moving along coast towards BUREP (sq 7942) from 28 Bn - A Coy moving through 26 Bde West bank BUREP. 2 coys moving to West of BUREP by 1630 hrs. River's a cakew

- cakewalk on coast. Fighting and standing patrols going out.
- 1530 hrs fr - Brig informed Div of our disposals at 1500 hrs.
- 1545 hrs to Arty OP from 23 Bty - A Tp to be att to 24 Bde. Bn HQ and B Tp out of action until last light tomorrow.
- 1750 hrs from 9 Div - 00 same as before - continue present task - we are pushing to BUSU R - one sec of guns landing BUREP R beachhead. BUREP R beachhead should be sufficiently far forward to protect landing - PIB one pl between 24 and 26 Bde. Naval bombardment of LAE tonight.
- 1750 hrs to 9 Div - Three coys fwd of BUREP, balance this side (28 Bn) Bde HQ at COPRA SHED 43 and PIB in this area
- 1800 hrs from 28 Bn - No track along beach. 28 propose to cut track. One MG and a cannon at mouth of BUSU R
- from 28 Bn - Locations given for Bde BHQ and Coys River area. Tiger patrols one from each pl 40 yds in front of coy locations with exception C Coy. Relief 2/23 by 2/23 Bn 1600 hrs. 2/23 approx 5000 yds NORTH along BUREP.
- to PIB from Brig - Confirming one pl with us, one pl with 26 Bde.
- 1810 hrs to 9 Div - sitrep. - locations given Bde HQ and Bns - standing protective patrols tonight - adv continuing in morning - Bn HQ no contact
- 1810 hrs to 28 Bn - Main task tonight - standing patrols must be out far enough to ensure BUREP beachhead is not covered by enemy SAA fire.
- 1815 hrs from 43 Bn - Locstat for BHQ and coys given - all coys in posn - sec posts being prepared, fire lanes cut. - sec MNG with A Coy covering B Coy front fixed lines - sec MNG with HQ Coy covering beach towards West.
- 1840 hrs from 28 Bn - Engr with 28 Bn requires permission from Div for Jeep on RED BEACH to pick up and take men to CRE. Gen infn - all streams fordable by jeep at low tide as far as 28 posns - one pl sappers could clear jeep track along the beach for use at low tide.
- 1850 hrs from Div - ref 9A23. Not to operate until 0600 hrs 8 Sep.
- 1850 hrs from Div - contact recce. As from 1600 hrs 7 Sep first and last TacR will also carry out contact recce with fwd tps. G3 Air will advise 4AC Sqn of probable locations. Fwd tps ONLY will display 3 white towels in triangular formation 5 yds apart. Aircraft will not call for identifications but ground tps will automatically display signals on sighting BOOMERANG or WIRRIWAY. To operate subject to any alterations desired by 4 AC Sqn.
- 1850 hrs from 28 Bn - Locstat of BHQ and Coys given - patrols -
- 1930 hrs from 9 Div - Navy shooting up LAE 2300 to 0020 hrs. Div requests that ESB be notified on arrival.
- 1930 hrs to 28, 43, PIB, 9 Div, 26 Bde - 28 Bn will continue coastal adv utmost speed 8 Sep. Form firm base EAST side BUSU as arranged before. Res coy to form second base for Bde not nearer BUSU than 1000 yds. 2/43 Bn to continue adv by beach to River at 768418 ref 25000, thence due WEST to form firm base at prearranged posn on BUSU. 2/43 Bn on establishment firm base will despatch interBde junc det of one pl to move to contact 26 Bde junc det at area 728440. L/T to be maintained to det. Pl PIB in support will move on beach to 28 Bn area thence to 28 Bn firm base at BUSU and commence patrolling NW along BUSU before arrival 2/43 Bn to obtain maximum infn of enemy posns on BUSU R area. Timings. Tac Bde and pl PIB 0730 hrs. Main gd 2/28 Bn 0830 hrs.

- Main gd 2 /43 Bn 0900 hrs. Main Bde with 43.
- 2020 hrs to 28 Bn - 4 guns will be landed mouth BUREP 2400 hrs 7 Sep. Advise F00 that D Tp will land.
- 2040 hrs from 43 Bn - Patrol report MMS.
- 2045 hrs to 28 Bn from Brig - When 43 strike River will go due WEST and make firm base - will send one pl with Pms and I Sec personnel who will map route so that Bn can move along. Tac Bde will move in front of rear coy.
- 2105 hrs from G3 I 9 Div - Native source - enemy occupation OLD and NEW YANGA with defences facing seawards consisting of small field guns and MGs on East Bank BUSU River mouth - SAWMILL area - native source - strong defences with bunkers in kunai to East of Mill building and large OP on Western edge of kunai and jungle and approx 1500 yds North of SAWMILL AA guns in kunai near OP. These AA guns have been confirmed by TacR. Early yesterday native reported party Japs moving East between BUSO R and SINGAUA.
- 2140 hrs to 43 Bn - all sig wire to go to dump, thence on craft to 28 Bn - same to be delivered to BUREP (advised 28 to check on barges).
- 2145 hrs from Adjt Engr HQ to Engr LO - Report requested on what vehs can cross BUNGA and BUREP Rs and whether it is possible to take vehs up river bed.
- 2205 hrs from 28, 32 - SITREP.
- 2207 hrs from 43 Bn - Reels of wire have been delivered to dump area
- 2230 hrs - 2200 hrs barges landed on beach at 821422.
- 2340 hrs from 9 Div - Secret. 008. ref 1 inch map. Intention as in 007. Method as in 007 with following additions. 26 Bde will, on capturing bridgehead about sq 7146, aim at gaining control ultimately area SAWMILL (7044) to ATZERA Range area ridge 6443 to 6643. Det of approx one sec C Coy PIB will come under comd 17 Bn 8 Sep.
- 2359 hrs from 26 Bde - request infm of our intentions. (sup by BM).
- 2340 hrs from 9 Div - (263) allotment of 12 Fd Arty 8 Sep. 62 Fd Bty under comd 26 Bde on disembarking vic R BUREP. One tp 23 Bty in support 24 Bde.

8 SEP

- 0008 to 0825 hrs - Bns NFR.
- 0200 hrs from 9 Div - Owing commitments of transports NO fighter cover available. TacR cancelled this day.
- 0200 hrs from Div - Sitrep 9 to 1500. A Coy 2/13 Bn holding HOPOI posn 076417 - no enemy found - one pl 2/23 Bn engaged Jap arty 788426 6 Sep - killing 8 - Night 6/7 Sep LCV & LCM landed stores APO Fishing Village and SINGAUA beach. 1500/7 HQ 26 Bde 785429. 2/24 Bn adv NW along East bank R BUREP approx 2000 yds from mouth followed by 2/23 Bn - 4 parties of enemy retiring on both bank of river. Det 2/23 Bn holding bridgehead mouth of R BUREP. Enemy air night 6/7 18 bombs dropped area RED BEACH - no details. 1000/K6 HQ 7 Div arrived TELITSILI. 1300/6 planes commenced landing NADZAB strip. Documents on Jap dead 8242 include 10 paybooks HFTO 115 Inf Regt. One paybook HFTO 2803 No. 2 Inf Regt. Notebook from soldier KAWA 356239.
- 0300 hrs from 28 Bn - One Cpl 2 men A Coy patrol report accident Pte NORLE S. moved off track and on again after halt ahead of patrol. Killed by member of patrol. A Coy patrol returned no contact made beach cleared, stores still on beach.
- 0400 hrs to 0500 hrs - Bns NFR.
- 0520 hrs from 43 Bn - LP of fwd R Coy report movement ahead of them. Coy now standing to. (2/23 infm)

- Shots heard on brg 55 deg approx distance 300 yds.
One shot in front of D Coy brg 436 deg report movement on opposite side of creek and moving West towards LAE.
- 0640 hrs from 28 Bn - Only movement heard was by patrol to creek in sq 7742 - movement was on right flank but cause or number moving could not be ascertained. LCVs had just finished unloading at beach 0630 hrs.
- 0700 hrs from 28 Bn - 2 guns landed at 0610 hrs BUREP R. CO 2/28 Bn suggest 1000 yds frontage on river too wide.
- 0825 hrs from 28 Bn - fwd elements on move 20 mins.
- 0828 hrs to 43 Bn - Bde at 796425
- 0850 hrs - Tac at 789426.
- 0925 hrs from 28 Bn - Fwd elements moved fwd
- 0930 hrs to 43 Bn - Tac at 782426
- 0930 hrs from 43 Bn - Bn on move at 815422.
- 0955 hrs from 28 Bn - Couple of Japs in kunai patch 777426.
- 1009 hrs from 28 Bn - moving on
- 1020 hrs to 63 Air 9 Div - request for air photographs MALAHANG area. 7540 - 7339 - 7143 - 7345
- 1025 hrs from 28 Bn - 2 Japs seen 40 yds on right of track. 17 Pl investigating. They appear to have withdrawn. An continuing adv along beach.
- 1100 hrs from 28 Bn - Vangd 768418. going sandy on beach, fairly easy going - moving on.
- 1110 hrs from 43 Bn - Head of coin BUREP R.
- 1132 hrs from 28 Bn - BHQ at 768418.
- 1145 hrs from 26 Bde - Ref contact pt between 24 and 26 Bdes. Ref LAE 1/25000 contact pt 732436. 26 Bde anticipate having someone there at 1600 hrs. When do 24 Bde anticipate making contact at same pt.
- 1150 hrs to 26 Bde - will try to make contact at 732436 by 1830 hrs.
- 1200 hrs from 43 Bn - turn off beach 768419. A Coy move West along ill defined track to 746419, from this pt 1 Pl to move to contact pt 732436.
- 1229 hrs from 28 Bn - Vangd 760412, Comd Gp 764415. Just stopped for lunch NMS. Vangd has just been changed over.
- 1245 hrs from 63I 9 Div - infn from captured maps possible enemy force at least strength one coy may be at mouth of BUSU on East bank.
- 1246 hrs from 28 Bn - C Coy vangd moving 1300 hrs.
- 1303 hrs to Main from Brig - Tac would move with Comd Gp 43 Bn and Main to join Tac at 768419. Capt Sangster to send as many mortar bombs as possible and carried heat to 28 Bn. (sup pt at TIGERING).
- 1311 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 Bn commence moving fwd.
- 1312 hrs from 9 Div - ref 9 Div 049 of 7 Sep. Request NO bombing or strafing EAST of line 730400 690460. That is line through centre MALAHANG Plantation.
- 1312 hrs from 9 Div - TacR 0745 report NMS. Between mouth BUREP and mouth BUSU; this presumed to be beach recce. HOPOI TacR not received. Detailed infn resulting from interrogation of pilot will be distributed by I.
- 1400 hrs to 9 Div - Tac 24 Bde 43 BHQ at 911423 and adv continuing.
- 1430 hrs from 28 Bn - 753407 Vangd 754409 Main - no strife
BM passed infn re 43 intentions, Bde will remain within 43 tonight.
- 1500 hrs from 28 Bn - near Mouth BUSU R. Tac Bde 768419 staying - few stray Japs in front 28.
- 1542 hrs from 9 Div - Confirmation. ref map 1/25000. 2/48 Bn remain Div res, and unit leave two self contained coys on labour vic APO and commence move remainder of Bn 8 Sep to coast at R BUREP. Fwd assembly 2/48 in area sq 7744. During move mortar am dump COPRA SINGAUA and be replenished at mouth BUREP. 2 coys left at APO must start fwd move 9 Sep not later than 0700 hrs. 2/48 Bn will maintain touch

Div HQ during move.

1500 hrs from 28 Bn - turn off Jap huts (documents found). Mollard and Wilton to 28 HQ recee; contemplating further ops tonight; attack across river

Div HQ during move.

1600 hrs from 28 Bn - turn off Jap huts (documents found). Maj Mollard and Capt Wilton went to 28 Bn to recee R BUSU - contemplating further ops tonight. Attack across river with 2 coys fwd and 2 coys rear - limit of exploitation road leading to airfield - interested in YANGA. 43 digging perimeter. A Coy plus PIB cutting through on your right flank - not to go 1000 yds inland - 500 yds front will do - if too strong withdraw - res coy will revert to COs comd - prepared to send two coys 43 to river mouth if wanted.

1638 hrs to Brig from 28 Bn - attack between 2400 and 0300 hrs - LO instructed to adv with 28 - 43 warned ref 2 coys in rear - CO 28 suggests pl to cross river early. D Coy to continue adv to BHQ 28.

1630 hrs Sitrep - one coy 28 on East bank BUSU - A Coy 43 have gone 1000 yds on brg towards BUSU.

1643 hrs from Div LO - sec of guns at BUREP are under comd 26 Bde - sec guns arriving tonight under comd 24 Bde

1710 hrs from 43 Bn (verbal CO) - B Coy 43 ordered to move earliest to assembly area 757410 - est contact with 28 Bn by patrols. Coy to tee in on Bde line. ETD 1745 hrs.

1730 hrs to 43 Bn - TacR will be requested in morning.

1720 hrs from BHQ to HM - Best for Bde to follow Bns route - BUSU R probably swampy - several Japs on West bank of river.

1725 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy 43 will move to 757410 and contact 28 - D Coy will take over B Coy posn - A Coy had adv 1000 yds and still going at 1700 hrs - start time for B Coy 1745.

1730 hrs to Div Report Centre - request to pass on TacR of all routes between BUMBU and BUSU to North end MALAHANG strip.

1745 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy 1730 hrs at 754417 NIS.

1804 hrs to Div from HM - Fwding complete sitrep later. One coy 43 moving up in rear of 28. A Coy 43 adv 1500 yds still adv - few Japs seen but have not been allowed to remain. One coy of 24 reached lunai this side of BUSU - our party cannot reach pt to contact 26 Bde

1820 to 28 and 43 - Sitrep and locstat of Bde sent

1830 hrs from 43 - (verbal IO) - A Coy 1820 hrs reached 751419 approx - swung North on trk bedding down - PIB going fwd 800 yds to recee trk and will endeavour to report to us tonight

1840 hrs from 43 - perimeter defence of 43 closed - coy that moved fwd was in swamp area and this is now covered by fire from rear coy

1845 hrs to Div and 26 Bde - Sitrep and locstat given

1915 hrs from B Coy 43 - B Coy 43 in posn sq 7540 - phone contact with CO 28 Bn and will remain teed in

1930 hrs from Div - 009. Ref 1 inch map. Intention no change. Method as in 008 with following alterations. RAA 62 Fd Bty under comd 20 Bde. One tp 24 Fd Bty in support 24 and 26 Bdes from area 7745. 17 Bn less one coy to come into Div res and will relieve 43 Bn 9 Sep on West bank of R BUREP and protect gun area 775452. On relief 43 Bn revert comd 26 Bde. 20 Bde will maintain one coy 17 Bn vic 812488 with standing patrol of one pl at KIAFIA 8056 with tasks as in 9 Div 071. Intercom Div Sigs will

est Div Report Centre vic mouth R BUREP
 1925 hrs from 28 Bn - 2 patrols leaving 0300 hrs - patrols will if
 no opposition phone back to coys. Leading coys leaving
 0400 hrs and attack at 0530 hrs.
 1958 hrs from 28 Bn - 754400 B Coy 43.
 2010 hrs from 28 Bn - no change - asked 43 to take over posn
 on river bank - 208 set to be tried tonight - our sigs on
 air tonight
 2035 hrs to 43 Bn - warning order to be prepared to move 0700 9th.
 2050 hrs to 43 and 28 Bns - barges moving in your direction cannot
 say whose they are.
 2110 hrs to 28 Bn - tell B Coy 43 to fire few shots at barges.
 2111 hrs to Div - advised about barges
 2120 hrs from Div - info re barges - 13 Bn ^HOPOI report unidentified
 convoy passed them. Bombed by unidentified aircraft
 2140 hrs from 28 Bn - barges were signalled when abreast 28. OK.
 2140 to 2350 hrs - Bns MER

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0000 to 0300 hrs - Bns MER
 0305 hrs to 28 Bn - Bde Comd rang CO 28 and was informed that
 patrols had left
 0320 hrs from Main - Main Bde standing to
 0321 hrs from 43 Bn - report Coy on left firing out to sea.
 0326 hrs from Main - pl 43 ~~sentry~~ doubling sentries. Sentry fired
 on Jap who blew himself up with grenade. Confirmed by
 43
 0330 hrs to 43 Bn - informed them of above and requested confirmation
 (confirmation not yet possible)
 0350 hrs from 28 Bn - Lt. Col. Norman suggested first light attack.
 0355 hrs from Main - Main standing down - doubling sentries on beach.
 0415 hrs from Div - Requested confirmation death of Jap area 768419.
 0430 hrs from 28 Bn - Brig ~~is~~ informed of Jap trying to move
 through 768411
 0440 hrs - Sitrep Sitrep. Head and Helmet of Jap found at 768419
 (Div informed).
 0450 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy reported that owing to extreme darkness
 attack will not take place until first light
 0542 hrs from 28 Bn - report of B Coy 43 confirmed and patrol
 reported cannot cross BUSU R at any pt. Right hand patrol
 being brought in. Left hand patrol laying up with phone.
 0538 hrs from 28 Bn - A Coy patrol reported 0530 hrs are in good
 posn 500 yds fwd 28 Bn posn (43 informed)
 0555 hrs from 28 Bn - Putting patrol out on right. Patrol up to
 1000 yds up BUSU R.
 0650 hrs from Main - Asking when they can move. Instructed
 no move before 0730 hrs.
 0658 hrs to ADS - Request for SBB and Med orderly to be sent to
 Main 74924052
 0708 hrs to Div and Bns - Sitrep of night given
 0747 hrs from 43 Bn - 24 Bde rptd 26 Bde - Observation by aircraft
 one native crossing KUNDA Br 686545. IMS 697520 to 718423.
 IMS 604533 to 607432
 0801 hrs to 52 Bn - despatch 6 jeeps from Bde HQ and Bde Sigs
 and one other under Dr Hurst to get to coast along RED
 BEACH to ALUKI and adv along coast to us.
 0805 hrs from Main - Main will move fwd at 0815 hrs.

- 0807 hrs from 43 Bn - 600 yds from river and proceeding.
- 0830 hrs to 9 Div - Request for 150 LAE-MALAHANG Defence Sheets I & II
50 photo maps LAE 0304 gridded
- 0848 hrs to 28 Bn - Brig on way to you in jeep
- 0906 hrs from Main - Main est 765416
- 0920 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy moved 800 yds since 0800
- 0928 hrs from 28 Bn - Patrol under fire on island. Enemy West bank
BUSU on broad front. By SA fire - no word from patrol
moving North - one pl moved out 0700 hrs due in 1100 hrs
to find crossing 1000 yds exploitation (B Coy)
from 28 Bn - Patrol still on island. (2 pl) Put in attack
but have not adv - casualties 2 - patrol left 0907 hrs.
- 0954 hrs from Brig (28 Bn) Brig considers West bank held by
scattered posts probably of LMGs and rifles only. - mortar
fire not being returned.
- 1003 hrs to 9 Div - Sit reported by Brig and request made for jeeps
to be brought fwd, and prospects of getting 32 Bn brought
down to this area
- 1005 hrs from 28 Bn - 3 Jap mortar bombs on island - patrol North
of BUSU reported in - patrol reports being sent back by
Capt Parry - patrol went 1000 yds North and then tried to
cross river - they crossed shallow portion and struggled
two-thirds of way across one deep channel - just fordable -
then struck deep wide channel impossible to cross. 2 Japs
killed on East bank of BUSU by this patrol.
- 1023 hrs to 9 Div - request bombing of sq 1912 photo map LAE
No. 0304 but not river bed and not later than 1300 hrs.
- 1030 hrs to B Coy 43 Bn - this coy to report direct to Bde.
- 1031 hrs from 28 Bn - one of patrol earlier reported missing now
found unhurt and on his way back.
- 1035 hrs ~~from 43 Bn~~ coy from 43 at BUSU ref 738425 - pl moving
North with line com - no 'walkie-talkies' held. Ref
1/25000 (from Bde to 26 Bde)
- 1055 hrs from Main - message intercepted that large body of Japs
moving down BUREP (checked by Div and found to be a small
body and PIB were mopping up area)
- 1115 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy 43 reached East bank of BUSU 743419 -
one pl plus one pl PIB moving North to contact pt 26 Bde.
A Coy 43 trying to contact right flank 28. D Coy patrol
moved East report finding bare feet and sandal tracks moving
North for 300 yds from 772428. WTR.
- 1145 hrs to 9 Div - Tactical situation passed by BM
- 1200 hrs from 28 Bn - one sec 28 moving along East Bank of river to
meet 43 (passed to 43)
- 1225 hrs from B Coy 43 - enquiry regarding their movements (BM
advised that they remain in present posn)
- 1230 hrs from 43 Bn - com to A Coy now disconnected here but
connected to 24 Tac. Can you advise them of 28 action,
and can you arrange for 28 to assist my movement through
them by recon. I will picquet trk where necessary -
leaving now (from Lt. Col. JOSHUA)
- 1240 hrs to 43 Bn rptd 28 Bn - 43 Bn less A and B Coys will move
forthwith via 28 Bn to prearranged area approx 744416.
Task on arrival est bridgehead over BUSU with view to
adv on NEW YANGA. B Coy 43 remains under comd in present
posn. 28 Bn will est Bn bridgehead over BUSU before first
light 10 Sep - zero not later than 1900 hrs. Attack to
take form previously discussed by Comd 24 Bde and Comd 28 Bn
- 1300 hrs from 9 Div - ref 1/25000 maps. 24 Bde will seize bridgehead
over BUSU earliest possible, but not later than first light
10 Sep. Unless crossing secured quickly, Japs knowing our
situation will fortify banks and strongly oppose us. Need to
develop to Bn bridgehead so can est sup dumps East and West
for further ops quickly.

- 2/32 Bn will move first light 10 Sep to areas sq 7742 and 7842 and on arrival revert to cmd 24 Bde who will not employ it in action without reference Div HQ.
- 1253 hrs to 9 Div - Ack 083. Ref use of guns temporary coms using Bde line now est. Insufficient line for FOO to complete Arty circuit. Urgently require Bn 'walkie talkies' promised 6 Sep.
- 1300 hrs from Div - When possible essential make use available DE instead of VA to save strain of carrying VA TLAD follows VA 2 probably 4 UT now in ML.
- 1300 hrs from Div - Essential use of fd arty when available instead of mortars so as to save strain of carrying mortar amn fwd. Arty amn is with guns and needs no carrying. CRA says arty coms are working and 2 probably 4 guns can support. All necessary sigs and arty offrs are with 24 Bde. GOC wants to see guns used instead of mortars when practicable.
- 1340 hrs from 28 Bn - Lt. Col. JOSHUA wants to know if 43 patrol has contacted 28 Bn. As far as is known "No".
- 1340 hrs from Div - 2 attempts by A Coy 43 and PIB to cross BUSU have been unsuccessful by reason only of swift flowing current and depth. Another attempt is being made at present by Coy Comd and PIB offr. A sec has left to contact 43 Bn moving up to them and another patrol has moved Northwards to contact 26 Bde at contact pt. No enemy seen by A Coy 43.
- 1400 hrs from 28 Bn - Patrol report
- 1402 hrs from 9 Div - Sitrep 11 to 2000 K/S ref map LAE one inch. 26 Bde less 43 Bn continued to adv up BUREP to 760472 and WEST towards BUSU. Locations last reported 1600. 24 Bn 7146 Tac Hq 26 Bde with 23 Bn 7346 one pl PIB moving BUSU 702509 one pl with 24 Bde. 2/4 Ind Coy moving towards KUNDA BR are at 6854. One pl reported 765415. 20 Bde. 2/13 Bn patrols to UKALIM and BUKAUA villages, no enemy encountered. One pl 2/17 Bn located KIAFIA 8056 at track junc River BUNGA KIAFIA and HOMOLILI and KIAFIA - GAWAN. R.A.A. One sec 25 pls landed night 7/8 Sep mouth BUREP now in action 755452. Enemy. Jap documents show 250 reinforcements probably reached LAE by sea since 25 Aug incl 25 by sub 3rd Sep. Enemy equipment abandoned BUKAUA incl 8 tents, 2 MGS, 1 x 37 mm gun, saps and amn. Natives report enemy evacuated by barge 4th Sep. 0940 hrs/8. Bettys with 5 fighters bombed BUNGA area. Unidentified convoy sighted 1920/8 6 miles due south HOPOI Mission, firing AA from several ships, direction of movement not known.
- 1420 hrs From "B" coy 2/43 Bn. Patrol one sec - recce - out 1420 hrs - in 1515 - from 754407 to 756408 thence 336 deg. M for 400 yds to small village. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
- 1430 hrs To rear. Jeeps to come up - Bn mortars to be sent up - mortars and MGS coming up for 2/43 tonight.
- 1550 hrs From 9 Div. Ref crossing of BUSU - essential to get bridgehead by first light anywhere in Bde sector where we can get supplies and stores in. The closest to previously indicated area the better, that is between mouth and north grid 42 on 1 in. map. The object in getting bridgehead is to enable Bde to capture MALAHANG strip and sufficient coastline for bringing this.
- 1520hrs From 9 Div - CRA is arranging arty/R at earliest. 24 Bde is to ensure closest liaison between inf and arty. Neither the shoot nor enemy guns to delay capture of bridgehead. Suggest fighting patrols if not knocked out by our guns
- 1525 hrs A coy 2/43 - 4 to 5 our tps and PIB crossed BUSU to erect lawyer wire and rope crossing.
- 1540 hrs From 9 Div - one amn corps offr in Bde - recce will be made as soon as bridgehead is est.

- 1550 hrs from 43 - Now 200 yds further on than last map ref - going very difficult - linecomm now est with guns - fire will now be turned on
- 1612 hrs - Brig, BM, IO left Tac to go to B Coy 43
- 1630 hrs from 28 Bn - enquiring whether Tac 24 would be moving fwd. Patrol report 75854120 to creek 75854115 set of fresh trks patrol did not strike village NMS
- 1640 hrs from 43 Bn - BHQ located at 745420. Urgent request for A Coy rations also rations for PIB - going hy, very muddy - one dump to be made for rations
- 1705 hrs to 9 Div - Only 2 men of A Coy 43 across river - rigging bridge with lawyer vine. 28 Zero hr 1730.
- 1720 hrs from Fwd Tac - We are using overprint MALAHANG-LAE Sheet 2 to pass our infm as far as possible to 43 - jeep trk constructed by 43. passable from 765417 to 754408 trk incls jeepable brs.
- 1740 hrs from Fwd Tac - 43 in posn 738434
- 1800 hrs To 43 from Brig - Brig orders force must cross tonight. 43 A Coy to be across by last light as ordered by CO. 28 crossing now - lot of fire at mouth of BUSU. Trk up to 43 if work put on it - 43 has enough rations for tomorrow.
- 1810 hrs from 43 - Pl of 43 to contact 26 Bde have contacted and want one mile cable
- 1812 hrs from 28 - Maj Mollard reports majority of enemy fire appears to be on fixed lines - appears as though two leading coys across
- 1825 hrs from 28 - Capt Parry reports contacting Pnrs 28 and everyone appears to be over except for few Bren gunners left as covering party
- 1830 hrs from 28 - Arty FOO and MO and Bde Sigs stranded in stream - 28 Pnrs sent to help them
- 1835 hrs from 43 - Advise that 28 all across and apparently little fighting.
- 1835 hrs to 9 Div - rptd 32 - please despatch walkie-talkie for at least one bnwth 32 Bn or by faster means. Repeat urgent necessity 24 Bde jeeps
- 1835 hrs from Fwd Tac - SC to ensure plenty of cable on barges landing tonight
- 1840 hrs from 43 - (IO verbal) - IO reported difficulty crossing river - channel very deep - no opposition - PIB covering - report NMS
- 1900 hrs from 28 - Bde Sigs reported that they could not get across with line, current being too strong - returning to Bde and make attempt at first light with assault cable.
- 1845 hrs to Div - Capt Wilton reported 28 all across
- 1900 hrs - DAQMG is going to try to get an LCV to land East bank BUSU. Bde Duty Offr to advise 43 and arrange for 43 to signal barge in (DAQMG will advise later if barge will be landing or not)
- 1910 hrs from 43 - received cable, mortar bombs ~~xxx~~ but only 2 meals rations - no line across yet but men on other side got ropes across and Pnrs up and will cross tonight in moonlight.
- 1935 hrs from 28 Bn - 1/3 rifle, most hy eqpt lost - important that they get eqpt - Arty LO & MO also sigs could not cross
- 1945 hrs from 28 Bn - Moved across 300 yds from mouth where we reached a deep channel on the other side. A, B, C, & BHQ swept down to within 100 yds of mouth. Pushed up the river 250 yds and 50 to 80 yds in depth. Lost nearly all arms except rifles - all the rest in river. D Coy moved North up river for 400 yds and are possibly crossing there. Japs have 3 to 4 MGs approx 150 yds West of river mouth and one hy MG firing

- on fixed lines across mouth of river. About 15 men on sandbar and approx 10 did not make it.
- 1950 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 and 43 Pnrs and one pl 43 trying to cross river with wire
- 2005 hrs from Div - 24 and 26 Bdes will obtain from att recce offrs of Tk Sqn and submit the following report - (1) If Jap posns to East of BUSU suitable use of tks (between BUREP and BUSU and could only be used on beach). (2) What beaches and approaches on East of BUSU can we use to bring up tks and is it possible then to get tks across to West of BUSU (could only cross BUSU with hy bridging eqpt brought up). (3) Later report required once we cross BUSU.
- 2015 hrs from Div - 5 LSTs landing from CHIVALRY tonight. Keep good watch they contain one bty 25 prs and 2/4 Lt AA Regt
- 2030 hrs to Div - Sitrep - 28 less by weapons across BUSU and small beachhead est near mouth. Main opposition approx 5 LMGs or HMGs and one or two 20 mm which cover mouth. Crossing difficult owing to depth and rapid current. Line comms now being est by Sigs and Pnrs. Casualties ~~xxx~~ our own and enemy unknown, but ours considered light. 43 Bn at 738423 with small det on West of BUSU preparing crossing. No opposition and tonight Bn will cross. Stores for crossing being brought fwd. One pl 43 Bn in contact with 26 Bde det 732436 at approx 1700 hrs.
- 2051 hrs from Div - OO No. 10 issued.
- 2120 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 report that wire is across BUSU.
- 2230 hrs from Rear - Engrs with eqpt arriving 0300 300 yds East of BUSU.
- 2340 hrs from 28 Bn - comms est have perimeter 300 yds deep. Strongpost on left 2 or 3 LMGs and 20 mm cannons posn approx 400 yds from pt. Jap fire power concentrated on coast.
- 2345 hrs from Div - 100 rifles, 30 LMGs and 30 Owen Guns being sent up.

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- 0032 from ~~28~~ 28 Bn - 28 only have breakfast ration and one emergency ration with them.
- 0035 hrs from 43 Bn - 43 report having recovered 11 men from BUSU all in nude and semi-nude condition incl Sig Offr. 2 slightly wounded.
- 0040 hrs from 28 Bn - report on arms at present held by unit Owen Guns NIL rifles 100 and LMGs 25.
- 0042 hrs from Rear - No rope for 43 but 90 fathoms for 28
- 0050 hrs from 43 Bn - 43 have withdrawn pl on the island to East bank of BUSU. 28 still in contact asked to report every 30 mins.
- 0115 hrs from Rear - Barges due at Rear 0200 hrs should be up at landing pt near 43 approx 0300
- 0140 hrs from Rear - Engrs on way up will walk right along beach
- 0500 hrs from 28 Bn - B Coy report Engrs have wire across river waiting for stores
- 0540 hrs from 43 - No men across river. 2 tried but failed.
- 0545 hrs from Rear - Barges just left with arms for 28.
- 0620 hrs from 43 Bn - 43 have not got rope across river
- 0650 hrs from 28 Bn - CO wants arty fire brought down on trk junc 739401 enemy MG causing trouble in area. Creek at 741401 impassable will have to move North of it.
- 0705 hrs to Div - Sitrep. 24 Bde 766416 during night one Jap wounded believed killed. 28 endeavouring to exploit West. Swamp and river 742402 impassable and 3 coys to work North from 743403 area to attack trk junc 738402 from NE. No definite infm re casualties. Some enemy fire still covering BUSU mouth apparently from trk junc area. 43 same location recce being carried out for more suitable crossing place

- 0730 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 mortars firing at 741401 now.
- 0745 hrs from Div - 26 Bde Sitrep. One coy 24 with sup arms watching village 712463. Recces continuing. 24 moving down stream.
- 0755 hrs from SC to Rear - send jeep to Main. One 3 tonner coming up this morning. sending petrol up for jeeps at Main. Also trying to get 50 steel helmets.
- 0800 hrs to 28 Bn from Brig - on no account wait for weapons. Go all out for trk junc.
- 0810 hrs to Div from Brig - We are going to crack opposition towards OLD YANGA. ~~xxx~~ Send us LCV to be under comd 24 Bde
- 0820 hrs from 28 Bn - Engrs will have br across in an hr and will be able to take stores across BUSU
- 0845 hrs to 43 Bn - line to B Coy open for arty fire orders, also line back to Rear 24.
- 0900 hrs from Div - est bridgehead so as to allow craft to come up tonight and drop rations on West bank BUSU. Ration strength for 7 days supplies and amm. BM requires American type assault cable (reply - 7 miles sent up)
- 0914 hrs to SC from B Coy 43 Bn - 100 mixed boots, 100 shirts, 100 trousers and 100 sox.
- 1002 hrs to 28 Bn - FOO being sent to 28.
- 1005 hrs to Brig from BM - 43 will probably have tps over by 1200. Tac moving fwd. Brig has asked for another pl of sappers.
- 1012 hrs from Brig - Advise Div bridgehead est so as to bring craft up.
- 1015 hrs from 43 Bn - report PIB with them heard Jap voices 1000 yds downstream and one Jap seen 900 yds downstream from them (West of BUSU)
- 1030 hrs from Div - ref 1/25,000 LAE. CO ? . Intention - no change. Method - 26 Bde will capture knoll 698438 to 653437 and protect trk L of C West of BUSU R. 24 Bde will secure behind BUSU with view to capture MALAHANG airfield. If contact with enemy est 24 Bde will send fwd patrols not less than one pl on each coy front to gain contact. Report infm. Hold ground. Only comd change as follows - one coy 2/3 Pnr Bn to come under comd 20 Bde to relieve one coy 2/17 Bn who on relief revert to comd and join 17 Bn. 32 Bn reverts to comd 24 Bde 10 Sep when assembled on coast trk West BUREP but will not be employed in action without reference to 9 Div.
- 1120 hrs from 43 Bn - CO reports that he has got 2 men with tommy guns over river also a few men naked. A rope has been got across and they are trying to get a lawyer vine across. When 2 men waded in from either side up to their necks they are still 20 yds apart. The river is running at about 15 mph and the crossing is most difficult. The Pnr Offr requires assistance from Engrs.
- 1200 hrs from Div - ref air sp required on 11th - requisition must ~~xx~~ be made on correct form.
- 1215 hrs from 43 Bn - endeavouring for protection to get a pl across plus PIB personnel. Has 24 swimmers working on both sides and they are going ahead getting ropes across. They are making every effort and are hopeful of success.
- 1220 hrs ~~xxxx~~ OC C Coy 32 Bn reported to Tac Bde and was told to prepare area just behind Bde for the rest of 32. No task for Bn until tomorrow.
- 1230 hrs to Div - Brig reassured IO that we have NOT lost contact with enemy. American ESB people have been ordered to land barges on far side BUSU tonight.
- 1235 hrs from 28 Bn - Have killed 7 Japs and are plastering them with grenades
- 1240 hrs from 28 Bn - Sitrep to 1230 hrs. B Coy now approx 742403. Enemy LMG, rifle and mortar fire on C Coy right flank. 1130 hrs C Coy casualties 1 wounded. Bn HQ 712403. D Coy in jungle NW of BHQ

MG 744402. Spit. in 28 hands coastal posn extreme West
743402 B Coy with D in rear. Gun in area of 260 deg
from 742403. Recce sent to 742403. Guarantee beachhead
and will try to get second creek. Div ordered capture
of MALAHANG area and WRECK strip.

1300 hrs from 43 Bn - Sitrep 1200 hrs. 26 Bde report crossing
difficult. River not bridged yet awaiting further eqpt.
A Coy patrol NMS. 43 have one strong rope across, two
further coils of rope have arrived, work proceeding,
NMS.

1305 hrs from Div - Bridgehead of 24 and 26 Bdes across BUSU
must be developed to take 7 days res all rations for
800 men and give adequate depth for defence.

1345 hrs from 32 Bn - Head of coln across BUREP 1300 hrs.

1350 hrs from Div - Ref 1 inch map. Div HQ closes present location
1200 hrs, reopens same time area 851450.

1400 hrs from Div - OO No. 10 issued.

1405 hrs from 28 Bn - Progressing with exploitation by going
kunai and swampy. 43 two ropes across river progress
still depends on sappers with folding boat.

1415 hrs from Brig to 32 Bn - DAVIES making camp for you come
straight along beach.

1420 hrs to Div - Air sp. called for.

1427 hrs from 32 Bn - Tail of coln across BUREP 1425 hrs.

1435 hrs from 43 Bn - 24 Bn have patrol across river and are
being fired on, have brought mortar fire to bear to pin
enemy down.

1440 hrs from Div - ref air sp tomorrow would this be a suitable
bombline for our tps. Our tps will be west of BUSU but
south of a line through NEW YANGA and East of a line
WAGAN MALAHANG ridge. Is air sp to be coordinated with
the attack and if so what force. What time is attack
to cease. What is the earliest time at which the attack
is to commence.

1500 hrs from 28 Bn - ref our MMGs firing on enemy posns 739400
area will be mortared. C Coy will adv to the area and
squeeze enemy. B Coy are going to adv to the creek and
root out the enemy. D Coy follow B Coy and have patrols
going fwd towards the coast.

1510 hrs from Brig - Message sent by runner to 28 mortars
asking them to move fwd as bombs are landing in our own
area.

1520 hrs from Div - Air attack and ground attack are to be
coordinated most suitable time 0800 hrs to 1100 hrs but
not after 1300 hrs from bombline not South of air strip
and not ~~North of a line~~ East of a line rd North MALAHANG
Anchorage. Is this correct.

1530 hrs to Div from BM - MALAHANG air strip and defences around
it are the location to be bombed not East from a line
from MALAHANG strip South to MALAHANG Anchorage and not
South from NEW YANGA to the Southern end MALAHANG airstrip.
Preferable times 0800/1100 hrs, but not later than 1500
hrs.

1608 hrs from 28 Bn - C Coy 28 estimate killed at least 40 Japs
own casualties 3 killed 10 wounded.

1620 hrs from 28 Bn - request for means of evacuating 20 wounded.

1630 hrs from 43 Bn - request 150 3" mortar bombs before first
light tomorrow. Bn have 3 ropes across river and
are starting to cross immediately.

- 1650 hrs from 43 Bn - 1 Pl Gd Bn to take over boats from 43 to be relieved tomorrow by 32.
- 1700 hrs from 43 Bn - Report 1 Jap killed on 43 B Ech trk in kunai patch.
- 1715 hrs from 28 Bn - C Coy on coastal sector are being counter-attacked but well in hand.
- 1725 hrs from B Coy 43 Bn - One mortar bomb landed in Coy area killing one Sgt and wounding one Cpl.
- 1730 hrs ~~xxxxxx~~ from Div Report Centre - Line out from Report Centre to Div messages to be concise and sent in R/T code.
- 1955 hrs from 28 Bn - Casualties 7 killed 21 wounded and quite a lot with slight wounds only today. They have killed 100 Japs. Withdrawing D Coy less one pl to conform with B Coy. Believe that MG firing down coast has withdrawn.
- 1955 to 2115 hrs - Bns Sitnor except for slight shelling.
- 2115 hrs from Div - 26 Bde unsuccessful. One Bn landed small party on far shore were fired on by enemy from close range. Submitted proposal to Div to attempt crossing KUNDA Br where one pl of PIB are covering. One LCV definitely arriving tonight for use until 0530 hrs.
- 2230 hrs to 32 Bn - LCV coming in for seriously wounded cases. One pl from 32 to be ready to unload boats.
- 2355 hrs from Div - Barges after leaving BUREP turned around after a few shells and were last seen heading for RED BEACH.

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- 0006 hrs from Div - Naval bombardment ~~at~~ 0100. 28 going to try and persuade barges to land under cover of bombardment.
- 0036 hrs from Div to Brig - 43 can cross provided that it does not involve two L of C, that is to say they must be in a lateral comm with 28 and must be able to be maintained through 28. How much sup of amm and food is across BUSU and what is state of crossing and what is the effect of rain. What are the Brig's proposal for maintenance. Naval bombardment on LAE Harbour from 0130 hrs, cannot get destroyer tomorrow.
- 0228 hrs from GOC - 2 boats coming up to 24. Shelling turned them back. Must come fwd. One to remain under cmd at 0500 hrs. One to evacuate wounded.
- 0230 to 0400 hrs - Bns Sitnor
- 0405 hrs from 28 Bn - report that 2 barges have come in.
- 0515 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 ask what is to be done stores landed fwd of C Coy and further LCV cannot land amm in daylight.
- 0530 hrs from BM to 28 Bn - Are stores off beach into kunai (they are not visible). Can you give us any estimate of how many stores are there (SAA 9 mm and mortar bombs)
- 0537 hrs from 43 Bn - Engrs may have br across for 43 by 1300 hrs.
- 0545 hrs to Div - can we use 32 for adv through 28.
- 0607 hrs from 28 Bn - no rations among stores landed only amm and steel helmets. Do not send jeeps.
- 0625 hrs from Div - GOC cannot give an answer about our using 32.
- 0650 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy to be relieved by A Coy will take all morning.
- 0655 hrs from 32 Bn - SC asked 32 to send ~~amm~~ MO to wounded left on beach. Barges would not wait to pick them up.
- 0715 hrs to 32 Bn - Send an additional 50 men to Engrs guide will meet them this side of river. Bns possible move not until 1200 hrs if any.
- 0830 hrs from Div - Ship firing. FOO required either shift for arty res. Advise objection to employment of arty instead. Dangerous water for ship. Request not approved unless you say why arty cannot be used.
- 0838 hrs from Div - no rations and quantity of amm held in res East BUSU and likelihood maintaining and developing

means of effect of rain on crossing. No decision possible without details of maintenance and on same advice of (intention conform with). 43 may cross if OP be maintained from 28 bridgehead, and maintain lateral touch and lateral comms with 28 Bn. NOT DENIED operate.

- 0900 hrs to Div from Brig - 43 to cross up North and proceed against NEW YANGA at same time pass 32 across stream and pass through 28 and 28 to become res. 32 to attack OLD YANGA object to capture main road between OLD and NEW YANGA. Sups must be on West side of BUSU. When OLD and NEW YANGA captured lateral comms easy no two L of C. Hoping to cross 43 early this afternoon. request one LCV to be u/c. Tell ESB that shelling is normal and NOT directed on them.
- 0920 to 28 from Brig - passed the above picture and told CO to enlarge perimeter and continue pushing fwd.
- 0940 from 32 Bn - CO 32 to report to Tac Bde at 1015
- 0945 ~~hr~~ from 9 Div - Shipping requested as present arty comms unreliable and FOO at present using Bde comms. Have only two FOOs in Bde and essential they remain. Request for 9 mm amm to be sent up by Jeep immediately - very urgently required
- 1010 from 32 Bn - asking for sitrep. None received from Div for 48 hrs.
- 1040 from 28 Bn - patrol from 28 has been to area 739400 NMS.
- 1105 to Div - Sitrep. No SA fire since 1600 hrs 10 Sep. A & D Coys 43 changing places. A Coy will move to 740401 and then North around creek and then South into trk area South of OLD YANGA 739400. 43 NIL report.
- 1135 hrs from Div - Ref 1 inch map. 14 Fd Regt and 4 Fd Amb on arrival come under comd CRA and ADMS 9 Div respectively. 4 Bde will relieve 20 Bde 11 Sep and completing early as possible. 4 Bde will relieve 13 and 15 Bns with one bn each and dispose one bn in res vic br 923421 and will take over all duties and responsibilities of 20 Bde. Arty Engr MMG and Med now under comd and in sp 20 Bde will pass to comd and sp 4 Bde. Above reliefs will be by mutual Bde arrangements. Reliefs as effected will be reported to Div. 20 Bde on relief comes into Div Res about 7745 where it will resume comd 17 Bn. 20 Bde will remove Bde HQ 13 and 15 Bns fwd as soon as each is relieved. Unit dumps of sups and amm and MSE under comd 20 Bde will be handed over to relieving units. 4Bde res sups will be taken into Div Res. 4 Bde maintenance as for 20 Bde except that res bn of 4 Bde draws from ASD on BUSU R. (Ack)
- 1135 hrs from Div - Trk ALUKI APO open for limited traffic 1100 hrs 10 Sep.
- 1140 hrs from 26 Bde - Sit normal. Still trying river crossing. But so far unsuccessful. No engr eqpt to effect crossing. Pl PIB KUNDA Br area to try and cross there. Ref 1 inch map 24 Bn at 714464, 23 Bn at 715468, 26 Bde HQ at 725471, 48 Bn at 735471, 2/4 Ind Coy 70050010 up river to KUNDA having been moving 90 mins jeep trk used by 26 Bde to Bde HQ traffic controlled rope across. One enemy killed 4 of 23 injured fired on by snipers, now cleared sup and amm OK
- 1315 hrs to 32 Bn - 30 more men to be sent to ferryhead BUSU.
- 1340 hrs to 28 and 43 Bns from Brig - B Coy return under comd 43. 43 to move round right flank 28 and cut YANGA Rd. That rd is main sup line. After 43 takes objective 28 to adv. Once we take rd we can continue ~~xxxx~~ task of capturing WRECK and drome. Jungle which 43 has to go through is very thick. Plan to stay as it is., and 43 to carry on.
- 1345 hrs from 43 Bn - Bn down in posn issuing rations to men to carry. Put to 43 Bn -/Bn down by pls to ferry. PIB Pl ~~mk~~ to move 1000 yds this way and Pl Comd to report to Bde.

- 1440 hrs from Adjt 43 - enquiring whereabouts of 43.
- 1446 hrs from 28 Bn - 43 commencing to arrive on West Bank BUSU.
- 1447 hrs from 28 Bn - Sitrep to 1400 hrs. A Coy relieved D Coy with 9 pl 739400. A Coy less 9 pl reached 740403 1355 hrs found deserted weapon pits not occupied since rain. 1355 hrs C Coy patrol East bank of creek 741401 North.
- 1510 hrs from Div to BM - DB first mission 4 LCV with sups 2 LCV all amn 3 LCV 1 LCM of sups 1 LCM of amn 0500.2 LCV with amn remain with us all depends on second mission we can move 32 across with craft. 7 days sup across BUSU. tomorrow night additional amn. to advise GOC before move. Attack. 32 can go through 28 but after reform. He suggested first NEW YANGA then OLD YANGA or vice versa but to have full sp of guns. He wants to be fully informed before attack our ~~xx~~ right flank will be open. Loading parties will be with craft but it would be wise to supplement them.
- 1520 hrs from 43 Bn - one coy across BUSU second coy now going across. Two boats now working.
- 1525 hrs to 9 Div - Sitrep to 1500 hrs - 24 Bde NTR. 28 Bn A Coy 740403 1400 hrs. C Coy patrolling East bank of creek 741401. 32 Bn NTR. 43 Bn fwd elements 748406 BUSU crossing commenced 1430 hrs. B Coy returned under comd 43.
- 1535 hrs from 43 Bn - Area just vacated. Sig sec were fired on by SA and LMG. 250 this side ~~xx~~ proposed br crossing approx 732427.
- 1546 hrs from 28 Bn - Two pls A Coy proceeding down coast found objective weapon pits with four dead Japs 1 LMG and 1 HMG 73994008.
- 1605 hrs from 28 Bn - party of C Coy cleared area in front of them and found 4 Brens, 3 SMGs, 2 LMGs, 1 dead Jap at 742402.
- 1626 hrs from 28 Bn - Total Japs killed 111
- 1630 hrs to Div - request for naval bombardment at 1300 hrs just East of 72 grid.
- 1640 hrs from 43 Bn - 2 Coys BHQ and RAP across river.
- 1713 hrs from 43 Bn - HQ Coy now crossing. Sappers from 13 Fd Coy moved fwd to relieve men at crossing.
- 1730 hrs from 13 Fd Coy - A sapper at 1300 hrs walked down by himself from 734447 to crossing place on West bank of river NTR.
- 1750 hrs from 28 Bn - patrols. C Coy from present posn combed area along East bank of creek from 741401 North. No contact with enemy. Numerous dead Japs from yesterday's action. Collected 3 SMGs, 2 Bren LMGs in area. LMGs were not lost by this unit. A Coy reached objective 739401 located 4 dead Japs killed by mortar bomb with one MMG US and patrolling West. No contact with enemy yet. A Coy have reached trk 73854008 where an abandoned Jap HQ has been discovered. Documents and papers and maps of NEW BRITAIN and NEW GUINEA with annotations being sent back.
- 1800 hr from GII - at present LCVs cannot load at RED BEACH owing to an 8 ft surf, but if it calms down they will come up as soon as possible. Destroyers asked for fire applied for.
- 1855 hrs from 43 Bn - at 1846 hrs C Coy patrol reached rd between OLD and NEW YANGA. NMS. Saw old diggings.
- 1900 hrs from 28 Bn - OLD YANGA practically in our hands.
- 1950 hrs to Div Report Centre - request for air sp. bomb and strafe 682472 to 669400. Bomblines not East BUMBA and not North 686423 to 6594. Not after 1500 hrs 12 Sep. Not coordinated. Will advise if accepted.
- 2005 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy patrol went 800 yds North along the bank of river to 725406 NMS, but two old camp sites were seen and most of the trks leading from these ran in a Westerly direction.
- 2110 hrs from Div - 3 LCVs expected to arrive 28 area 2130 hrs. Infm reports that 7 Div are down to HEATHS and 5 Div to

inner defences of SALAMAUA.

- 2116 hrs from 28 Bn - Light firing 200 yds West of B Coy in 43 area.
2240 hrs from 13 Fd Coy - Barge traffic across BUSU disrupted owing to breakage of one of the ropes. Repair anticipated difficult owing to high tide. Remainder 43 Bn (A Coy and med) held up
2310 hrs from Div - Unable to arrange air sp owing to poor comms. If you require air sp for 12 Sep submit complete request by 1200 hrs. The GOC directs that badges of rank will be worn at all times.
To 2400 hrs - Bns Sitnor

12 SEP

- 0110 hrs - comms with 43 and 28 have broken down.
From 0100 to 0600 hrs - Bns Sitnor
0600 hrs to Div from Brig - Asking for 2 LCVs
0705 hrs to BM from Div - 2 LCVs comd under comd 24 Bde today.
0750 hrs from Div - Natives report enemy occupation of LM SAWMILL MALAHANG PLANTATION. AA gun in kunai house right at wharf 693390 sups landed by sub each night.
0800 hrs to 32 Bn - 2 LCVs under comd with amn Brig going down to river to give orders.. No 9 mm arrived, weapons in bad condition through lack of oil.
0820 hrs to 32 Bn - Send up a man with EY rifle discharger cup 6 grenades and ballistite.
0830 hrs to Div - Sitrep - 24 Bde NTR. No fire heard across river. 28 and 43 L of Cs temporarily out due to rise of river, being repaired.
0850 hrs from BM to Arty LO - No harassing fire to be used while patrols are out. Stop guns firing.
0856 hrs from Div Shelling reports are very important. Use of W/T comms more use of same asked for.
0859 from 43. Patrolling commenced first report at 1030.
0907 hrs from 43 Bn - 43 on a small rd little used. Single sig cable not working. C Coy sitting on rd. BHQ behind C Coy. D Coy adv towards objective to sea. Contacted enemy - no report. Patrolling North.
0950 hrs from 28 Bn - Evidence of enemy in OLD YANGA. Few mortars falling 28 area.
0959 hrs - Bombing commenced MALAHANG - 8 bombers lt AA
1000 hrs from Div - No change in 26 Bde posns spasmodic shelling. Held up awaiting for eqpt to cross.
1023 hrs ~~from~~ to 43 Bn - Brig ordered 6 strong swimmers from 32 and piece of rope
1035 hrs - bombing of MALAHANG strip finished.
1035 hrs to 43 Bn - Brig ordered full coy 32 down to river to assist engrs.
1100 hrs from Div - Div requested to supply two batteries for Walkie Talkies for comm across river.
1140 hrs from 32 Bn - Dump of petrol (18 drums) just in scrub off beach East of BUNGA 79904235.
1155 hrs to 43Bn - Proposals. Patrolling to NEW YANGA with the view to attack at 1500 hrs.
1200 hrs from 28 Bn - 1000yds along coast est firm base(A Coy).
1200 hrs - comms reopened with 43 and 28 1155 hrs.
1210 hrs from Rear - 1 vessel moving out from LAE.
1211 hrs to Div - L/T comms through. 32 will be moving over river. 43 patrolling towards NEW YANGA. Ferry ready in half an hr.
1217 hrs ~~from 32~~ to 32 Bn - Expect ferry ready in 20 mins. Next coy to come fwd to river. BM putting them into picture.
1220 hrs from 32 Bn - 1210 hrs a lot of unidentified explosions our area 754408, either AA own with ~~2x~~ too long delayed fuze or aircraft cannon fire.
1228 hrs from

- 1228 hrs from 28 Bn - Trk from beach 73803995 to OLD YANGA Rd 9 ft wide, black sand surface, suitable for vehs. Beach good but wire mat might be necessary. Location one pl: A Coy holding firm base 73153950 A Coy will form base this area and patrol to 72903940. B Coy contacted D Coy 43 73904015 and ~~one pl~~ taking over D Coy 43 posns with 2 pls. One pl B Coy to hold A Coy area 73804000. C & D Coys holding present beachhead.
- 1258 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol report D Coy from 73844010 for 300 yds on 120 deg to coast covered coastal area to 73504010 NMS.
- 1300 hrs from Div - Arty to be used as much as possible. Air strike as arranged for 12 Sep weather permitting. Tk Recce Offr. Only one available at present with 26 Bde to report on beach West of BUSU and beach exit. On completion that report 24 Bde will send the offr to report to 26 Bde. LCV passed Bde area to land eqpt on West BUSU.
- 1315 hrs to Arty - (from Arty IO) - Fire M2 immediately. Commencing 1320 hrs. Some rds fell out to sea this morning
- 1320 hrs from Arty to FOO (intercept) - Result of bombing raid this morning. One killed 3 wounded one gun and one tractor out of action.
- 1322 hrs from 43 Bn - Proposed patrol D Coy 12 Sep. Strength. One Coy. Time out. When relieved by B Coy 28. Timing. When task completed. Object. A probable enemy posn 73464173 to drive enemy from posn and destroy eqpt. Return route. By the river to rear 43 and then up trk to Bn.
- 1340 hrs from 28 Bn - Is it all right to move fwd. Offr of LCV has reported here.
- 1345 hrs from BM to 28 Bn - Arty will shell M2 until 1500 hrs.
- 1346 hrs from Div - Ref 1 inch. TacR 1600 hrs 11. Fresh trks area SAWMILL and kunai 7045. MT trk from staging 682432. Building MALAHANG Mission serviceable. Dumps and 2 MT West MALAHANG strip. Bulldozer on concrete platform 720418 with truck. MT bogged between strip and SAWMILL. One man corduery trk. No enemy seen but pilot considers recent large movement.
- 1350 hrs from Div - Aerial photos being sent fwd of MALAHANG area.
- 1600 hrs from 43 Bn - Patrol order. B Coy 43 time in, time out, dependent on arrival at a certain pt. Strength 1 Pl. Route - beyond NEW YANGA along rd from coy area at 72874109 then 600 yds along vic trk to 72414117, then 200 yds on a brg of 158 deg, then 175 yds on 250 deg then 100 yds on 329 deg. If posn from start pt at 72404107 view to Bn assembly area tonight. 43 are moving and will ring every 5 to 15 mins.
- 1620 hrs from 43 Bn - Time out 1110, time in 1400. Strength 1 Pl. Start pt - 73504067 to 73234107 to 73064140 to 72944149 to 72834142 then return same route. Patrol to investigate. NEW YANGA found unoccupied. Creek running NW through NEW YANGA brg to East found bomb crater at 72944149 trk running on brg 340 deg and found new Jap posns with trk recently used.
- 1645 hrs from 43 Bn - C Coy fired at from located hut left of trk across from clearing NEW YANGA village estimated strength 3 MMGs, 2 secs pinned down. One Pl sent to outflank right. They were also pinned down. B Coy now 200 yds behind C Coy and moving up to sp them. C Coy is to withdrawn if possible 200 yds if they can. They will get arty and mortar so in that case. C Coy will proceed to original objective NEW YANGA. Casualties 2 stretcher cases, 1 killed.
- 1715 hrs from Naval IO - Fd gun 716392 and 3 hy MGs.
- 1718 hrs from

- 1718 hrs from 43 Bn - C Coy have withdrawn and gone round flank and are mortaring posn. The other adv not to take place tonight. Bn to dig in a firm base at NEW YANGA.
- 1730 hrs from 43 Bn - 43 sent out small patrols along river to look for sniper.
- 1825 hrs from 43 Bn - Mortar shoot complete but did not completely neutralise posn as few MGs still firing enemy still in posn one pl attacking.
- 1820 hrs from 32 Bn - 3 coys in posn.
- 1845 hrs from 43 Bn - Attack on NEWYANGA NOT successful. Strongly held. Pl withdrew to posn astride rd between OLD and NEW YANGA. NEW YANGA mortared and arty put 50 shells in area appeared accurate fire.
- 1900 hrs from 28 Bn - Tiger patrols 50 yds deep on flank with standing patrols 72703944 and 73573980.
- 1910 hrs from 43 Bn - Patrol report. Strength 1 NCO 10 ORs. Time out 1730, time in 1905 hrs. Route. Posn 74304045, proceeded North along river 1000 yds 60 yds into jungle and back covering 60 yds in from river by jungle route along river. Object - to discover and destroy enemy sniper firing at ferry. Result. Heard our D Coy in action at approx 735416 fire probably from NEW YANGA, otherwise NMS.
- 2020 hrs from 43 Bn - withdrawing into perimeter which we had last night.
- 2100 hrs from 28 Bn - ~~1945~~ 1945 C Coy patrol contacted enemy ~~at~~ 40 yds up trk. Patrol withdrew to Coy and was sent fwd again. Enemy strength 5 men our patrol threw grenade and enemy fired a few random shots.
- 2105 hrs from Div - CO 11. Ref 1/25000. Intention - no change. Method. 26 Bde will adv on LAE 13 Sep with not less than one bn on axis KAMKAMUM 6842 then MALAHANG MISSION and not less than one bn axis SAWMILL Northern end MALAHANG airfield with ultimate objective MALAHANG MISSION immediately North of airfield. 24 Bde will adv 13 Sep in general Westerly direction with right of sector the line NEW YANGA-WAGAN triangle of rds 707405 all incl to 24 Bde. 24 Bde will secure as first objective the line rd junc 717406 MALAHANG ANCHORAGE and if situation permits will exploit to trk junc 707405 village 712392. If necessary to enable Westerly adv 24 Bde will protect the right flank by masking the south end MALAHANG airstrip with one bn. 20 Bde less 17 Bn and one coy 13 Bn will move from present posn 13 Sep to area APO and APO FISHING VILLAGE. 17 Bn will be at one hrs notice to move from 0700 hrs. C Coy 13 Bn will move at first light to BUREP R area and when 17 Bn is ordered to move will be responsible for the protection of gun area. RAA. 3 tps 12 Fd Regt one tp 6 Fd Regt comprising 14 fd guns will be in sp 24 and 26 Bdes. 24 Bde will arrange ~~at~~ details of arty fire plan direct with Arty 10. Outline plans of 24 and 26 Bdes on 13 Sep will reach Div by 0700 hrs. One coy 2/2 MG Bn will move at 0900 hrs 13 Sep to Div dump at 26 Bde jeep head and will provide local protection, and labour in that area. One coy 37/52 Bn will move to TIKERING 7843 and be ready to provide labour G.BEACH as required AQ.
- 2115 hrs from Div - 32 Bn revert to comd 24 Bde. On 26 Bde crossing of BUSU then junc det returns to 24 Bde.
- 2212 hrs from Div - 24 Bde will arrange for burial of Jap dead.
- 2225 hrs from Div - Reason for change in Div plan. 7 Div are adv astride the ATZERO RIDGE therefore no need for 9 Div to incl the ridge, secondly, outline plan will incl fire plan thirdly, 26 Bde will NOT require arty fire tomorrow, all arty available for 24 Bde.

From 2230 to 0630 hrs 13 Sep - Bns Sitnor

13 SEP

- 0745 hrs to Div - Sitrep 24 Bde NTR. 28 Bn C Coy 728394, skirmishes with enemy throughout night through aggressive enemy patrols. Own casualties 1 OR killed. 34 enemy killed.
- 0830 hrs to 28 Bn - 28 will NOT move until NEW YANGA is in our hands.
- 0835 hrs from 32 Bn - all Bn now across except a few B Ech personnel.
- 0840 hrs from 32 Bn - Many enemy notebooks, pamphlets, and trg memos are lying about and will be fwded to Bde as soon as possible.
- 0900 hrs from 28 Bn - patrol from B Coy 2733397 North into jungle to locate trk running from OLD YANGA Plantation to pt SW of WAGAN. Patrols from A Coy from 730395 going North to same trk. B Coy patrol time out 0930, time in 1130. A Coy patrol time out 1130, time in 1330. A patrol from B Coy from 729394 will go fwd along coast approx 400 yds.
- 0915 hrs from 43 Bn - Patrols out 0900, time in 1300 hrs. Strength each 1 Pl (No. 1) To recce NEW YANGA for 400 yds to WEST. to locate forming up ground for Bn attack. one pl 360 deg 330 yds - 329 deg 400 yds - 180 deg 250 yds - return same route. Two patrol 270 deg for 650 yds - 360 deg for 350 yds - 90 deg for 300 yds. Return same route. Both patrols leaving from BHQ time out 0930 time in 1300.
- 0948 hrs from 43 Bn - Latest casualties 4 killed and 19 wounded last night. D Coy not yet in posn. One died of wounds 3 missing.
- 1010 hrs from 43 Bn - Report from S/patrol 0700 hrs a native seen by picquet on 50 deg from posn the native disappeared away from village.
- 1030 hrs to 43 Bn - 32 to make strongpost about 500 yds up rd and West of rd and 43 B Coy to be withdrawn and ready attack this afternoon.
- 1113 hrs to 43 Bn - have you heard any word of D Coy if you do not you must push fwd go due WEST and by-pass airfield.
- 1115 hrs from Div - 26 Bde one coy coming down East side BUSU then moving up West bank to site bridgehead 26 Bde.
- 1117 hrs to 28 Bn from Brig - Grab trk junc - to get around dump area to get on NW trk. PIB coming across and push fwd between 28 and 43. Our objective is the ANCHORAGE. Probably send 32 2 coys between WAGAN and 28. D Coy message coming through have been pushed fwd along coast but have been cut off. 28 is going into try and relieve posn.
- 1128 hrs to Arty from Brig - harassing shoot on M2 to start immediately.
- 1130 hrs from 26 Bde - 2/4 Coy report no contact with pl at KUNDA Br. Log for crossing river by 24 Bn a few feet short. Br material now at river ready to be landed. Coy 48 adv to mouth BUSU to cross and adv up West bank.
- 1131 hrs from 43 Bn - Contact coy 48 infm them of D Coy 43 posn and should they contact them tell them to return immediately.
- 1140 hrs from Div - Sitrep 14. Ref 1/25,000. 2/6 Ind Coy. Jap parties engaged KUNDA Br inflicting cas and dispersing remainder. B Coy occupied MUSON now moving down West bank BUSU. 20 Bde. relief by 4 Bde completed and 20 Bde now moving West. RAA. enemy guns 716392 engaged. Harassing fire throughout 12 Sep 17 Div 10 Sep 2/25 Bn moved South from YALU in contact with small number of enemy vic WHITTAKERS 588463 2/33 en route 2/2 Pnr Bn patrols fwd along MARKHAM Rd towards HEATHS and trk to BUMBU from YALU 2/25 Bn contacted enemy at trk junc JENSENS. 2/2 Pnr Bn less 2 coys along bank MARKHAM R to opposite MARKHAM Pt. Contacted Jap patrol 572437. 503 Para Inf patrols to DANDI and ERAP R. B Coy PIB at CHIVASING.
- 1230 hrs from 28 Bn - Got first 100 yds met 50 Japs, killed 12 (trouble with grenades, form perimeter around trk junc, CO thinks he should go fwd to MALAHANG dump area, he wants patrol to come in. One killed 4 wounded 727394 captured Jap posn now where our

fwd elements are.

- 1300 hrs from 28 Bn - Ref patrol from D Coy struck opposite 727393 one pl fixed, second pl right encirclement and killed 12 Japs. Own cas 1 offr killed 3 OR wounded. Pl 727393 pl old FDLs and pl between. 1 Jap killed on trk 1230 hrs with Japs still moving ahead. B Coy patrol on 340 deg for 400 yds trk finished at creek. Trk used recently, thick jungle on either side NMS.
- 1300 hrs - concentration being fired on NEWYANGA. 43 to go in immediately.
- 1310 hrs to Div - On 12 Sep one large row boat with 2 men in was seen approx 3 miles South of 750404. It is thought that this may be an OP for arty and mortar fire. An unidentified object was again seen on 13 Sep.
- 1315 hrs from 32 - Mortar fire in sea area 739399 apparently after LCVs. Cannot locate origin. This afternoon C Coy up 200 yds astride NEWYANGA Rd. Also flank protection is to be supplied by one pl D Coy vic 73724032. B & C Coys are to cut trk through one another and secure same by sec posts today. Burial Jap dead area 740400 completed. A Coy to 737399.
- 1325 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy one pl is in and 2 more following. S/patrol at 734408 observed from edge of clearing around East side of village from 1015 to 1200 hrs saw one enemy moving in hut on extreme left and heard sounds like mechanism of MG in hut on extreme right NMS. C Coy patrol time out 0910, time in 1240, strength one pl. Route - 73484069 to 73004068 to 72974075 to 72894071 to 72894084 to 72834081. Trk indistance seems to swing slightly North out of sight and may lead to WAGAN. At 73154067 crossed creek running right angles. Aligators seen. At 73004068 disused trk followed to 72834081. At 72974075 in a clearing 150 yds by 100 yds with 3 old native huts. Country traversed is rather open NMS.
- 1330 hrs to 32 Bn - Warning of possible move to protect 28 L of C and jungle between 28 and 43.
- 1350 hrs from SC - Main closing. Capt YEATES reports a row boat out to sea just before mortar fire on beach, which disappeared after mortar fire finished.
- 1400 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy patrol report. DCoy moved up river to 73504184 where perimeter was made for night and patrols sent out immediately. All report NMS. A Coy (No. 1 patrol) was contacted at 73454124 who warned them of arty shoot. NMS over whole route.
- 1440 hrs from Div - Sitrep to 1230 hrs. 2/4 Coy. Enemy distributed on either side of KUNDA Br. 2/4 Coy made 4 attempts to cross br unsuccessfully, cas 3 killed 5 wounded. Fire mainly LMG and rifle. Attack took place earlier than 0730 hrs. 2/24 Bn launching of br unsuccessful. Failed to reach by one yd when turned over and temporarily washed away. FOO killed 3 ORs wounded when 23 Bn were shelled.
- 1540 hrs from 28 Bn - Still on the move encircling movement going on.
- 1600 hrs from Div - Small parties of Japs known to be moving around Div area. All units will keep watch for enemy gps. 20 Bde less 17 Bn will move 14 Sep to 17 Bn area in Div res
- 1610 hrs to 32 Bn - PIB to operate 1000 yds inland from 28.
- 1630 hrs from 43 Bn - Enemy withdrew in face of attack. 2 Japs killed. NEW YANGA in our hands.
- 1632 hrs from 28 Bn - Attacking posn rd junc 71553910.
- 1633 hrs to Div - 43 captured NEW YANGA one coy left there, 2 coys moving fwd to WAGAN
- 1655 hrs to Bns - M3 is the Terrace and is now arty task.
- 1715 hrs from Div - 17 Bn to relieve 32 Bn not later than 2200 hrs on East bank of BUSU. 17 Bn to remain in Div Res. OO ? 17 Bn will move at 1800 hrs 13 Sep to mouth BUSU and relieve tps 24 Bde in beachhead area D Beach OLD YANGA. 17 Bn remain in Div Res. With relief 17 Bn complete, responsibility for protection beachhead area will remain with 24 Bde.

- 24 Bde will arrange to move 17 Bn across BUSU from East bank. 24 Bde and 17 Bn will report immediately to Div HQ when 17 Bn is in posn and relief in beachhead area is complete.
- 1725 hrs to Div - Enemy mortaring beachhead again. Will you watch out for rowing boat. Both bns on move. NTR.
- 1740 hrs from 28 Bn - Fwd elements at 72453934. Planes drew fire from in front of 28. Brig informed CO of ops tomorrow. The trk is very bad in this area for 80yds up it. 28 have lost contact now. Enemy killed 130 in these ops. 28 is now fwd of trk junc area.
- 1750 hrs from Div - Due to lack F cover airforce advise Army Coop suspended this Div.
- 1820 hrs from Div - AOC ordered restoration Army Coop this Div but not within 2000 yds of LAE. Air sp North from MALAHANG wreck to WAGAN and do not strafe in previous place no bomblines. OO/24 Bde with right of sector incl NEW YANGA excl enemy location South end MALAHANG air strip incl rd to br 702399. 24 Bde will capture first objective WAGAN thence rd to ANCHORAGE. Second objective MALAHANG MISSION incl rd to br 702399, thence East bank BUTIBUM R to coast 703388 if necessary 24 Bde will protect its right flank by masking MALAHANG strip with one bn junc same as yesterday East bank BUSU Div comm right fwd Arty amn situation well in hand harassing fire on WAGAN and dump area tonight.
- 1930 hrs from 28 Bn - No enemy in dump area. 28 in occupation impression is that he withdraws at night and brings his tps fwd at first light. Two coys fwd HQ around BHQ and in rear between trk and us. May go through and cut rd to ANCHORAGE. 32 to move in on your right. First objective rd North MALAHANG ANCHORAGE recce patrol along coast and the swamps to see how it is. 43 recce towards WAGAN all recces not to be in later than 1000 hrs.
- 2056 hrs from 28 Bn - Total cas 2 offrs and 82 ORs wounded, 2 offrs 11 ORs killed, 12 missing, believed drowned.
- 2105 hrs from Div - GIII Air has arranged TacR WAGAN-MALAHANG ANCHORAGE as requested.
- 2130 hrs from Div - ref OO/24 Bde para 2 incl with view to crossing BUTIBUM and attacking LAE.
- 2202 hrs ~~from Div~~ to Div - 17 Bn moving into 24 Bde area.
- 2215 hrs to 43 Bn - advice of 17 Bn coy relieving C Coy before 0800 hrs 14 Sep.
- 2245 hrs from Div - Possible to have one more LCT if required. Div harassing fire plan will cover MALAHANG airfield will we be clear (yes)
- 2300 hrs 24 Bde OO No. 10 issued
- 2323 hrs from Div - ref OO/24 Bde present junc pt need not be maintained. 17 Bn as Div res will take over beachhead area 14 Sep with one coy in NEW YANGA, which will hold at all costs. One coy at 732398 barring coastal trk Bn less 2 coys in area 738402 disposed for protection of beachhead and bridgehead.
- 2330 hrs from Div - 3 Bn 102 Regt plus det 29 Pom Pom Unit. OO Order for attack 28. Two coys plus Pom Pom plus 1 Pl sent fwd to destroy enemy at BUSU mouth. In OO stated from 2400 to 0700 hrs 2/3 enemy personnel in area in action. Remainder mobile res. From 0700 to 2400 1/3 in action and 2/3 mobile res. Captured map was MALAHANG. AA posns on overprint verified. Dump 20 AA shells at 718406 approx. PW 26 Bde labour purposes (Chinaman). Photo maps of LAE taken on 4 Sep coming. Sitreps required only 2 or 3 hrly unless unusual happenings. No bombing on Chinatown 14 Sep. Fire on Chinatown up to 1500 hrs 14 Sep artys.
- 2400 hrs from 32 Bn - 17 Bn on West bank BUSU mouth except B Coy

2350 hrs from Div - Request for air sp. 14 Sep. Bombline rd and air strip junc #19417 to trk junc 708404 to br at 692399. Special attention to be paid to North end MALAHANG air strip area MALAHANG MISSION rd junc and br at ~~692~~ 702399.

14 SEP 43

- 0050 hrs from Div - Warning order. LCB of 20, 24 and 26 Bdes one coy 2/2 MG Bn to move.
- 0110 hrs from Div - OO No. 12 issued.
- 0150 hrs from 28 Bn - movement on left flank B Coy fired a burst one Jap killed.
- 0200 hrs from 43 Bn - 17 Bn all across BUSU
- 0200 to 0700 hrs - Bns Sitnor
- 0707 hrs to 28 Bn - PIB to base themselves on trk junc and patrol trk which runs North and South from coast to air strip as far as rd 2 coys of 32 to move fwd to trk junc (D & C)
- 0750 hrs from 28 Bn - our patrol to cut rd time out 0630 got within 100 yds of gun on brg 284 deg for 500 yds gun posn approx 716393. Gun approx 105 mm going wet and swampy.
- 0800 hrs from Div - one coy 26 Bde across river.
- 0815 hrs from 43 Bn - Patrol one pl B Coy going 450 yds on 270 deg. One pl A Coy going 450 yds on 270 deg and 254 deg for 350 yds. Object to recce Bn posn time out 0700 time in 0900 hrs.
- 0835 hrs from 17 Bn - C Coy to take up old 32 C Coy posn and D Coy moved out at 0800 hrs to patrol NEW YANGA.
- 0845 hrs to 32 Bn - 32 to move 2 coys up trk immediately.
- 0846 hrs from 28 Bn - Fwd elements fighting vic MALAHANG WRECK. There are hy guns between 43 and 28. 43 to push on to WAGAN.
- 0915 hrs to Div from Brig - Want 17 Bn less one coy which we have here to use as res if 43 unsuccessful. 32 will go straight for MISSION junc. Want to put 17 Bn at trk junc.
- 0923 hrs from 26 Bde - D Coy 24 Bn to cross river. Some opposition in village and jungle. Jap MG covering br. C Coy across mopping up. 48 are going to put 2 coys across then 23 Bn. 24 Bn to move down and take 717424 23 Bn from FUP 697434 will move on KAMKAMUM thence down rd to village to BUTIBUM. 2 coys 48 will remain 697434. Coy of MGs finally take up bridgehead. Ind Coy 3 killed 5 wounded Japs in good posns West side of river. 7 of our tps went across KUNDA br 3 came back this morning. 2 pls on East bank another pl to cross at 26 Bde bridgehead and go up West bank. One Pl PIB with 26 Bde and one pl with 2/4 Ind Coy crossed mouth of river struck hard going they are going to be turned towards the SAWMILL.
- 0953 hrs from 43 Bn - Sitnor end on the move.
- 1015 hrs from 43 Bn - Bn still adv
- 1022 hrs from Div - ref my CO 12. ref Aust grid. On searching river BUTIBUM report on river crossings between bends 692412 and 697403. Suitable crossings to be held at all costs when found.
- 1033 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy in posn. 72624065. Fwd elements 700 yds and adv on 270 deg G
- 1052 hrs from 28 Bn - 11 cas from one coy. one killed 14 wounded through shelling. 12 Japs killed this morning. CO thinks he is on edge of MALAHANG ANCHORAGE. One pl went 100 yds and contacted 9 Japs
- 1135 hrs from 32 Bn - Fwd elements at 72553935
- 1145 hrs from 43 Bn - Perimeter est at 72624065 by B Coy and HQ Coy Axis 248 deg from 72234050 where BHQ est D Coy fwd right A Coy fwd left C Coy in rear. Patrols. D Coy. 1145 hrs. 1 Pl strong. Skirt East and North of WAGAN. Time in 1315.

Patrol A Coy from present posn West to cross rds up trk 200 yds swinging NNE. Object. Strength and nature defences suitable approaches for an attack. B Coy returned to Coy perimeter

- 1230 hrs from 26 Bde - 2 coys 24 Bn across br
- 1240 hrs from 43 Bn - firing heard a fair distance away on 270 deg.
- 1300 hrs to Div - Requesting bombing of WEBBS 699392 and posns 696400. Bomblines BUTIBUM VILLAGE South to br then further South along river to coast.
- 1320 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy patrol returned 1305 hrs. Exchanged fire with enemy approx 250 yds out from Bn. Enemy dug in. Own cas 1 OR killed. D Coy sentries on perimeter fired on one enemy at 1245 hrs followed blood trail 200 yds and lost it.
- 1330 hrs from Div - LCV is going to come to West bank and pick up seriously wounded cases. Truck loaded walking wounded sent back.
- 1335 hrs from 32 Bn - 32 Struck enemy 717400 put one coy in on flank and are now using 2 coys.
- 1345 hrs from 28 Bn - MALAHANG ANCHORAGE nearly surrounded. 14 Japs killed.
- 1400 hrs from 32 Bn - 1300 hrs our fwd coy held up by enemy in village vic 71953983. At least 2 enemy MGs we are still attacking.
- 1405 hrs from 32 Bn - our fwd coy comd estimates he is near rd trk junc 71704000
- 1430 hrs to Bns from Brig - is airburst gun firing near your posns (NO) Bomblines from br 702399 to village astride br 7141 then South to coast.
- 1500 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy patrol left Bn on 350 deg for 700 yds struck rd crossed rd found well dug posns on rd side sited towards airdrome footpad well used running from posns on 340 deg M followed for 100 yds and found traces of recent fires. Retraced steps to rd crossed and followed close to rd towards WAGAN at 10 yds found similar dug posns facing drome both posns about one week old 10 yds further on 3 foxholes a few hrs old on 150 yds 2 fwd scouts fired on by approx 5 MGs from posn on rd side at close range MGs hidden in scrub both scouts probably killed tried to encircle with one sec right and one sec left were fired on again so withdrew they did not have sufficient strength for the task. Retraced steps to where first struck rd then on 170 deg for 200 yds struck B Coy posn.
- 1545 hrs from 26 Bde - 5 secs across 7 enemy MGs holding them up and covering br
- 1550 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy strongpost. Bn attacking WAGAN this afternoon. Patrol one pl of B Coy ready to recce South airfield PIB to patrol North from 28 to 43
- 1550 hrs from 17 Bn - Patrol from D Coy ~~sighted~~ sighted enemy patrol in area 74134072. Pl sent to deal with it and estimated more than they can handle. Coy OC wounded. Pl of C Coy is moving to assist. Patrol of B Coy moving to 74134077 to silence MG firing on pt at LCVs and Engrs working on West of river.
- 1555 hrs from Sigs - Line to 32 out.
- 1620 hrs from 32 Bn - 32 are going in now with 3" mortars and are attacking on right with one coy diversion on left.
- 1632 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy leading elements engaged enemy 1630 hrs. 2 pls not committed. OC fwd. still firing going on and could not fix their own posn.
- 1715 hrs to 32 Bn from Brig - arranged with Brig 20 Bde to bring up rest of 17 Bn. 2 coys 32 now forming perimeter move to Bde tomorrow. CO 32 recce for posn arty to fire on MISSION area. Firm base for 43 723405. 17 Bn to take over from 43 South MALAHANG strip. and make 43 complete.

- 1725 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 encircled ANCHORAGE.
1735 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 have captured MALAHANG ANCHORAGE.
1740 hrs to Div - 32 have taken village 200 yds from junc. 43 appear to be gaining success. All 3 Bns have had by fighting.
1740 hrs from 26 Bde - 2 coys 24 across river. The br came under by MG fire
1735 hrs to Div from Brig - wants to put two guns near present HQ but cannot without LCV. Bomblines agreed to and Brig wants by load dropped on target.
1830 hrs from 28 Bn - enemy posns astride trks between A & C Coys. C Coy pinned down on left flank ground to right unsuitable for encirclement. Coy withdrawn to perimeter has given cas enemy unknown. think we have captured 2 105 mm guns.
1910 hrs from 32 Bn - 1728 hrs captured village after stiff opposition. C & D Coys now in posn across rd in clearing approx 717402 some Japs fled North and later by firing was heard due North.
2035 hrs from 32 Bn - C Coy reported in. slight bombing 150 yds NW.
2105 hrs from Div - Portion of CO captured by 7 Div today reads "order for destruction of base and airdrome installations view movement SIO. Rations for 10 days. Sup dumps at MELAMDI, KOKO, MELANCITI, ULAP. Medical 1 fwd hospital MELAMDI. Water Pure Unit BOANA. Medical units will move with reargds (4 M STRAT)."
2121 hrs from Div - 7 Div captured HEATHS this morning
2221 hrs from CRA - Div will not allow any arty fire East of 721 grid. This cuts out shelling on ML
2400 hrs from 17 Bn - 15 Bn have two coys with 17 Bn D Coy. The other coys are coming in. D Coy patrol on 285 deg M mortar range 400 yds. Estimated weapons in posn were 1 hy MG 3 LMGs and several rifles. ~~13~~

15 SEP

- 0153 hrs from 17 Bn - 15 Bn is now on this side of BUSU.
0345 hrs from 17 Bn - 15 Bn at NEW YANGA and CO 13 Bn has landed West side BUSU.
2400 to 0600 hrs - Bns sitnor
0610 hrs from 43 Bn - enemy encircled by A Coy. D Coy following A. Hy fire power brought to bear on enemy but enemy posns not disclosed.
0630 hrs from 32 Bn - enquiry as to cas from last nights action report 1 Offr 10 ORs killed, 1 Offr 26 ORs wounded, enemy cas approx 12. PIB getting worried over explosions.
0640 hrs - line to 28 Bn out.
0645 hrs from 17 Bn - all 20 Bde across incl Brig.
0725 hrs from 32 Bn - approx 35 to 40 Japs killed yesterday.
0735 hrs from 43 Bn - 0630 hrs A Coy pushed very hy fire on enemy posns with all weapons. No response from enemy. 0700 hrs patrol sent from A Coy encircled enemy posn and found it abandoned. Bodies of 2 of our own dead recovered. One Jap dead and a blood-stained hat. D Coy continued adv first bound the rd A Coy holding firm base. Moving Bn fwd in bounds.
0735 hrs from 28 Bn - Line out. BHQ completely surrounded. Linesmen unable to get through.
0745 hrs to 28 Bn - Advise when enemy clear of your area.
0750 hrs from 28 Bn - Pushing coy fwd area cleaned out.
0810 hrs to Bns - 26 Bde across BUSU adv started which they expect to be rapid.
0825 hrs from 28 Bn - est 20 Japs dead 1 LMG 1 MMG 2 105 mm Huts on MALAHANG ANCHORAGE total cas to 1200 hrs 14 Sep 120 in all.
0855 hrs from 43 Bn - Now in possession cross rds 717405.
0920 hrs from 28 Bn - 25 dead Japs in pocket captured this morning. Enemy barge West of wreck spotting on us.

- 0945 hrs from 43 Bn - CO expects to capture WAGAN by 1030 hrs.
Attacking with 2 coys now.
- 0950 hrs from 32 Bn - D & C Coys at 717401 rest of Bn moving fwd
in direction of MALAHANG MISSION.
- 1000 hrs from 28 Bn - 2 75mm multi-purpose guns captured this morning
NOT 2 105mm. US. A Coy 71693914.
- 1010 hrs from 26 Bde - 26 Bde found diggings between NEW YANGA and
BUSU.
- 1010 hrs from 20 Bde - 15 Bn has 2 coys astride rd NEWYANGA.
1 coy astride trk 728403 15 BHQ at 732411 1 coy relieved
B Coy 43 13 Bn moving into 17 Bn posn
- 1017 hrs - bombing started.
- 1035 hrs from Div - 0184 ref 2/4 Ind Coy
9 Div I Sum No. 5
0174 no mention of NG in letters
0192 sitrep no. 16
9 Div I Sum No. 6
G111/11/- Ship to Shore Recognition Signals
G109/11/- Passwords
- 1037 hrs from Div - portion of captured orders shows arrangements
for evacuation of LAE via BOANA MELAMBI ILAKO MELANBIPI
ULAP to SIO. Native reports indicate some Japs may have
already left by this route.
- 1040 hrs from Div - asking for check of where bombs were falling
how effective it was also number of bombers taking party.
- 1100 hrs from 32 Bn - 9 Bs over MISSION area. Area captured appears
to be a dump area a lot of amm well concealed 12 huts
2 LMGs and one 20 mm. 12 Bs on MISSION and west of BUTIBUM
- 1200 hrs to Div - Bombing and strafing finished 1200 hrs. No more today.
- 1215 hrs from 28 Bn - HQ 71483917 moving into posn. 1128 hrs a
parachute flare brg 326 deg.
- 1222 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy after recce of posns which held up Bn
night 14/15 defences estimated at 1 HMG 1 MMG and 30 rifles.
- 1252 hrs from 43 Bn - C Coy opened fire at 1250 hrs but line is closed
and no report yet. They were on SE side of village. B Coy
has moved to posn rd junc. 7 Jap dead.
- 1315 hrs from 43 Bn - have captured WAGAN and enemy have withdrawn.
- 1328 hrs to 43 Bn - Next assembly area 712399 when relieved by 20 Bde.
- 1335 hrs from 26 Bde - 48 Bn South of SAWMILL 23 Bn next of them.
Preparing to move on KATCHAMAN. 24 Bde at bridghead.
- 1336 hrs to Div - asking for 20 Bde to take over WAGAN.
- 1350 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy reced to 717409 found 1 75mm gun.
One coy to move through 32 and take up posn 712399.
- 1400 hrs to GIII Air - Proposals for tomorrow's air sp. (1) Dump area
689411 (2) defence posn 696400 not after 1300 hrs. Bomblines
not East of BUTIBUM.
- 1420 hrs from 32 Bn - patrol located gun 715404 200 yds West of rd junc.
FOO wants to shoot at it but we do not know if any tps
are patrolling area.
- 1434 hrs from Div - 20 Bde will in addition to holding MALAHANG air
strip incl NEWYANGA take over WAGAN from 24 Bde and hold it.
Hand over will be arranged mutually and will be completed in
time to avoid delay to 24 Bde adv.
- 1450 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy report 75mm gun damaged at 71734095.
- 1500 hrs from 32 Bn - No. 1 patrol proceeded 850 yds NMS. Contacted
No. 2 patrol. Instructed to est firm base. Despatch patrol
to recce area village.
- 1510 hrs from 20 Bde - 20 Bde to take over WAGAN tonight.
- 1512 hrs from 32 Bn - 200 yds from MISSION being shelled by own guns.
- 1525 hrs from 2/2 MG Bn - 4 VMGs opened up 1310 hrs from approx
729394 at 2100 yds at barge 229 deg from gun posn. 3 belts
fired per gun. Bullets fell dead in target area.

- 1530 hrs to 32 Bn - Arty were probably firing in M2 and they have now stopped. 32 report 1 killed 5 wounded casualties from their own fire. 43 moving now.
- 1545 hrs from 43 Bn - fwd of B coy posns astride rd there are 70 to 80 pits and 7 or 8 foxholes. Those on south side of rd are booby trapped. B coy patrol contacted D coy, NMS.
- 1600 hrs from 28 Bn - FOO reported gun knocked out at 707398.
- 1605 hrs from 43 Bn - Posn at 725410 now deserted. Report from yesterdays patrol which lost its 2 fwd scouts have now been recovered South end of air strip.
- 1650 hrs from Div - re barge. a/c sent up but barge not sighted. Any sea craft west of anchorage and over 1000 yds out can be strafed.
- 1708 hrs from 32 Bn - closing on Mission.
- 1730 hrs from 43 Bn - scouts lost in yesterdays patrol found at 724410, patrol went on bearing of 50 deg. and came back on 170. Bodies found stripped of webbing, amm, steel helmets, belts and boots. Left only with shirt and trousers. 48 Bn and 15 Bn contacted on MALAHANG Airstrip.
- 1815 hrs from 28 Bn - Patrol to village 71153912 report village not occupied.
- 1820 hrs from 43 Bn - D coy to be relieved by coy 2/15 Bn. Will pull back towards x rds and then follow up probably 100 yds down from x rds will join Bn.
- 1825 hrs from 28 Bn - Patrol rep. StP. 71283907 along tr hut area 2 shelters and considerable diggings 71863900. Large tent surrounded by packs, no enemy. 71733895. Halted. Perfect visibility at south shore of BUMBU river. Wire on point and trenches. NMS. Inland 200 yds sighted 2 Japs also saw smoke across swamp; Between finishing pt and hut area 5 x 20 mm twin AA all US.
- 1945 hrs from 28 Bn - fwd pl advise they picked up an American War correspondent who had lost his way and who had been directed by Div to contact Capt. Wilton. Being held and sent to Bde in morning.
- 1955 hrs from 32 Bn - all patrols returned in. At 1830 hrs 1 Jap in palm tree in front of A coy
- 2340 hrs from Div - (For infm) Japs have been known to panic from use of phos smoke (3" mortar bombs are phos smoke)

- 0035 hrs from Div - 26 Bde intend moving 48 bn to village 701409 thence to BUTIBUM. 23 bn on to KAMKAMAM.
- 0050 hrs to Bns - O.O.11 issued.
- 0320 hrs from 28 Bn - Japs seen walking towards B coy front. 2 killed and later 3 more. Bn standing to.
- 0540 hrs from 26 Bde - 23 bn report patrols to 69 Easting grid have not contacted enemy.
- 2400 hrs to 0700 hrs - Bns advise Sit Nor.
- 0700 hrs from 28 Bn - native party seen vicinity 28. 2 natives killed, one girl captured. Girl says they had come from SALAMAUA and travelled by night and did not see many Japs. BUMBU river was waist high at mouth and probably deeper higher up. There is wire around the mouth of the BUMBU..
- 0710 hrs to Div - Requested air strike. one sqn of Mitchells strike 689411 not before 1130 hrs clear target 1155 hrs. One sqn of Bostons strike 697400 clear target not later than 1220 hrs. 2 green flares will be dropped indicating the end of air attack. all weather permitting.
- 0820 hrs from 32 Bn - Report 8 Japs in mission, no casualties Patrol going to river now.
- 0900 hrs from 43 bn - 100 yds from previous posn ad cutting way.

-27-

- 0912 hrs from 32 Bn - 0905 hrs 3 mitchells bombed target no AA reply.
3 guns 105 mm in village 100 yds NE mission US.
- 1200 hrs from Div - extracts from Div message - 24 bde extension of boundary all incl 24 Bde. Br 702399 incl overprinted locality 697400 - excl end of rd 692396 excl overprinted locality 388396 incl rd junc 686393 incl overprinted locality 688388. junc pt to be manned by 24 and 26 Bde end of rd 692396.
- 1321 hrs to 28 bn from Brig - Advance due west ~~through~~ to BUMBU river and put scouts in front to recce br over river make sure 32 are all across and prepare to follow 32 into LAE. Send scouts on their left to 43 and liaise with them
- 1245 hrs Brig and small Tac party moved off to adv OP.
- 1300 hrs from 43 Bn - 43 moving off on bearing 280 and are advancing.
- 1358 hrs to 43 Bn - second objective is VOVO PT.
- 1400 hrs from LO 4 - attack successful 32 crossing MT LINAMAN now.
- 1410 hrs - 32 on LINAMAN attack successful 43 crossing river and adv on VOGO PT. 32 are adv on to LAE.
- 1445 hrs - Tac Bde entered LAE.
- 1500 hrs - Tac Bde est. at 64303928.
- 1725 hrs from 32 bn - on 216 deg from 69503950 4 barges moving near coast in direction SALAMAUA at speed.
- 1730 hrs from Div - Brig Whitehead will immediately proceed to LAE and assume comd of area bounded on east by R BUTIBUM and on North by grid 400 and west by LAE Airfield. He will be responsible to 9 Div for adm and discipline in that area until further notice and will submit requests for any immed adm or op requirements to Div.
- 1735 hrs from 26 Bde - patrol of 3 Bn (US para regt) moving down BUMBU and may reach LAE today or tomorrow.
- 1415 hrs - recce party (Brig, IO & LO 1) left to recce new area.

- 17 Sep -

- 1540 hrs - from Div - 0 223. 26th Bde to take comd LAE.
0 216. Extension of bdys.
0 215. Booby traps WAGAN.
0229. 9 Div moves to 737408.
0 233. No move before 1200 hrs.
0 238. General orders 20 Bde and P A D.
0 237. Allotment new areas.
- 1600 hrs - from 43 Moved to 70804039.

- 18 Sep -

- 0700 hrs - Bde HQ moved out.
1120 hrs - Bde HQ est at 716452
1900 hrs - to Div - Sitrep.

-19 Sep -

- 0700 hrs - From Div - 0 267 movement of 23 & 48 Bns.
A 41 calling for 3007's immediately.
- 1430 hrs - from Div - A 44 Ref pilfering (D.C M's for).

- 20 Sep -

- 0900 hrs - to Bns - I 55 Ref security of letters .
1950 hrs - from Div - Ref tact school.
2000 hrs - from 28 Bn - ref promotions

- 28 -

2000 hrs - from Div. Ref 00 15

- 21 Sep -

- 0100 hrs - from Div. Re allotment of areas. 24 Bde along north inland route approx squares 7247 7246, 7146 7147 but excl present 2/2 MG Bn area. Move to commence 21 Sep. ADS with each bn MDS 2/3 Fd Amb in Bde area. LOB 24 and 26 Bde on BUREP about 783 428. Areas for LOB to be fixed by MLO at G and D beaches for whom LOBs will provide labour.
- 1200 hrs - from Div. Personalities of 65 Jap Div.
1 Aust Corps summaries 8, 9, 10 & 11.
Terrain handbook No 5 FINSCHHAVEN.
ATM 24
GSI Int Summary 139.
9 Div Int Summary No 8.
0 269 Censorship.
- 1400 hrs - to 2/28 & 2/32 Bns. 28 & 32 bns will move to present Div areas today prior to move across BUSU.
- 1600 hrs - from Div. OOs 15, 16 & 17 issued.
- 1600 hrs - from Div. 0 308 ref reallocation of areas
A 63 ref stealing of eqpt from LSTs.
AM 20 ref number of wireless sets in bde.
I 161 numbers of captured weapons and eqpt.

- 22 Sep -

- 0800 hrs - from 2/28 Bn. Closing at 0830 hrs.
- 0830 hrs - from Div. 0 309 MS ref 00 17.
- 1100 hrs - from Div. Ref 37/52 Inf Bn under comd. B Coy 2/3 Pnrs also under comd.
- 1400 hrs - from Div. 0 310 Amendment 00 15.
RAO/151 Arty warning order.
- 1410 hrs - from Div. Special DIMINISH Int Summary No.1
G 119/11/- Passwords and Ship to Shore recognition
- 23 Sep -
- 1200 hrs - Tac Bde closed.
- 1315 hrs - Bde est. at 71304635.
- 1315 hrs - from Div. 0 322 LHQ sch of MI
A 34/139 Preservation of public property.
0 32 B Coy 2/3 Pnrs located west of BUSU. Have you any instructions for concentration.
0 348 Ref move C Coy 29/46 Bn.
- 1550 hrs - to Div. Total enemy dead 331. Captured eqpt totals LMGs 9, MMGs 6, SMGs with bayonet 3, 13 mm twin AA - 3, 20 mm twin AA - 12, 75 mm AA - 9, 75 mm Fd guns - 2, 105 mm guns - 9. Naval guns 4" - 4, 6" - 1. One PW.
- 1555 hrs - from Div. 0 349 ref trucks near RED BEACH
Q 64 location of wk/shops.
0 339 MS ref combined ops.
Q 74/1/- ferry service G beach to LAE.
0 344 ref message 0 339.
- 1900 hrs - from Div. Staff tables to this HQ.

→ 24 Sep -

- 0800 hrs - from Div. 0 361 37/52 Bn to aid 5 Div still under comd 24.
- 1215 hrs - to Div. Ref 3 fuselage plane.

-25 Sep -

- 1000 hrs - from 7 Div. BOANA completely evacuated approx 20 Sep and bridge over BUSU north of GUMBUK destroyed. Possible that JAP force is moving from BOANA to MARAWASA.

FINSCHHAVEN. 2 light air raids, 1 minor casualty otherwise
NTR.

1130 hrs - to 1750 hrs. from 9 Div. O 385 Sit rep 20.

I summary No 9.

A 34/1/50 ref cutting of trousers KD.

O 363 re movement of 4 Bde and 2/3 Pnr Bn.

O 369 Sit rep 19.2 coys 2/13 now over BUMI R,
2 coys moving up preparatory to crossing. Air
strike very successful. More barge activity
LANGEMAK BAY area. Enemy in occupation of
SATELBERG are being dealt with by arty.

Main centre of opposition appears to be at
Western edge SALANKURA Plantation.

1840 hrs - from 24 Bn. Natives report that large parties of JAPS have
been moving east across log bridge on BUSU to BUMO R, MUSOM I.
Last party passed through approx Sep 22. Reported to be
carrying 2 days rations and lt wpns. PIB att. 24 Bn to
investigate.

- 26 Sep -

0810 hrs - from Div. O 396 all bridges between incl BUSO and APO will be
removed by engrs commencing 26 Sep. All vehs and stores etc
must be clear of APO by 1200 hrs 26 Sep.

1000 hrs - from Div. 37/52 Bn reverts to comd 5 Div forthwith. Rear HQs
~~for~~ 4 Bde and C Coy 29/46 Bn revert to comd 5 Div on arrival
West bank river BUSU.

1100 hrs - from Div. Advise requirements for LHQ sch of MI No.12 course.
25 Oct. Higher formation wing Bde and unit wing.

1825 hrs - from Div. 2/15 Bn have 2 coys over BUMI R and are moving
towards coast. Enemy mortar fire silenced by arty. 24 Bn
is destroying log br on BUSU. Natives in GAWAN reports JAPS
in KEMAN. PIB to investigate.

- 27 Sep -

1300 hrs - from Div. O 416 Sit rep 22.

Int summary No 10.

G 131/11/- Ship to shore signals.

Preliminary PW interrogation report.

~~General adv 20 Bde during afternoon 20 Sep~~

- 28 Sep -

0900 hrs - from Div. General adv 20 Bde during afternoon 20 Sep against
opposition. 2 coys of 2/15 across BUMI R now in heights
dominating SALANKAUA. C Coy 2/13 Bn put on bayonet charge
south of ford putting JAPS to flight and causing several
casualties. Own casualties nil. Air ops over WEWAK -
50 to 60 planes destroyed on ground, 7 shot down in combat,
our losses light. We bombed 3 freighters and 1 tanker.

1230 hrs - from Div. Sit rep 23.

1630 hrs - from Div. Ref 1" map. Further to my O 406. on 29 Sep 22 Bn
continuing present role will start move to next bo und
KASANGA 6044 beyond which no move without ref to 9 Div.
No move unless 5 days sup and am requirements are held
fwd by 22 Bn. 2 LCVs allotted for maintenance under
arrangements 4 Bde. L of C dumps in rear of main body
22 Bn will be taken fwd earliest applicable. 22 Bn in
conjunction 532 Gp ESB will report on beaches, anchorages
and hideouts for small craft between both incl MANGE PT
and KASANGA.

1800 hrs - from 24 Bn. Patrol went out east from log br. Finished at
615635. Broad tr but not much used over last few days.
Killed 15 Japs without loss. Lots of eqpt strewn along
tracks incl rifles with butts broken off for firewood.

- 30 -

Track along razorback. Assume this track hits tr MUSOM 1 BOAMA. Sending patrol tomorrow along BOAMA tr to see where they meet. Report from PIB patrols to KEMAN (by runner from patrol) says native report JAPS leaving that area and making north to SIO. One JAP sighted approx 2 miles south KUNDA br, appeared to be in good physical condition, escaped up steep bank after being fired on.

-29 Sep -

0055 hrs - from 9 Div. O 441 embarkation at G beach of 2/43 Bn.
0700 hrs - Bde commenced to move.
1030 hrs - Bde est. at 761455.
1100 hrs - from Div. Div Trg Instn No. 1.
O 446 Amendment to WEs (EY rifles)
1500 hrs - from Div. O 471 following from NGF. Undated notebook entry one coy inf and one pl MG garrison on TAMI Islands believed portion of 238 inf regt.

- 30 Sep -

0840 hrs - from Div. Another coy of 2/15 Bn crossed river at MT ford. 2 coys of 13th Bn returned from encircling move owing to hy rain and conditions. PIB report enemy movement towards SATELBERG along tr passing through village 2 miles west of FINSCHHAVEN. 24 Bn sent patrol to see if tracks joined which had been used for previous patrolling and found that they did. PIB report being fired on by solitary JAP but without confirmation. 22 Bn moving fwd. at 1300 hrs were moving towards KASANGA. and have met no enemy opposition. many abandoned enemy posns have been found.
1050 hrs - from Div. 43 arrived safely. Relief proceeding. 17 bn to concentrate just north of BUMI R. No enemy activity during night. D Coy 2/17 Bn patrol reached 580858. 22 Bn arrived at KASANGA, no contact.

Appx. B.

24. AUST INF BDE
LOCATION STATEMENT
FROM 5th to 30th SEP '43

Night	5/6.	Bde HQ	924 397.	28 bn	924 396.	32 bn	920398.	43 bn	925 398
"	6/7.	Bde HQ	847 435.	28 bn	848 435.	32 bn	877424.	43 bn	849 435
"	7/8.		820 423.		784 427.		877424.		819 423
"	8/9.		768 419.		756 409.		877424.		767 418
"	9/10.		749 407.		756 409.		877424.		738 423
"	10/11.		749 407.		743 403.		755407.		738 423
"	11/12.		742 403.		743 403.		755407.		738 423
"	12/13.		742 403.		732 396.		739400.		740 404
"	13/14.		742 403.		721 392.		725393.		727 407
"	14/15.		742 403.		715 393.		717402.		719 405
"	15/16.		721 399.		715 393.		709404.		713 399
"	16/17.		693 393.		702 399.		691392.		698 389
"	17/18.		693 393.		702 399.		691392.		708 404
"	18/19.		716 452.		702 399.		691392.		712 454
"	19/20.		"		"		"		"
"	20/21.		"		"		"		728 471
"	21/22.		"		717 449		"		731 474
"	22/23.		"		"		"		"
"	23/24.		713 464.		712 464.		800470.		733 473
"	24/29.		"		"		"		"
"	29/30.		761 455.		763 455.		765454.		en route DIMINISH
"									

Ref Maps :- ALL REFS EAST OF BUSU RIVER - BUSO
LAE sheets 1:25000
ALL REFS WEST OF BUSU RIVER - MALAHANG-LAE Defence
Overprint sheets 1 & 2
1:10,000.