

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

Item number: 8/2/24

24 Infantry Brigade

October 1943

DEC 20 1943

24 AUST INF BDE OCTOBER WAR DIARY

1 OCT

0800 hrs 2/28 and 2/32 Bns advised that meeting of Bde and Unit I.Os would be held 1400 hrs 6 Oct at Bde H.Q.

Trg Instn No. 1 issued

(Appx 2)

2 OCT

0600 hrs recce party consisting BM(L) (Capt WILTON) I.O. (Capt Pittman, S.C. (L) (Capt NORRIS) and L.O. (Lieut PHILPOT) left G BEACH en route to DREGER HARBOUR with recce parties from Div. Party left on 2 LCVs.

0900 hrs Brig EVANS addressed 2/32 Bn on recent ops and future movement.

1400 hrs from Div - message FINSCHHAFEN fallen.

2200 hrs recce party returned from FINSCHHAFEN.

2300 hrs DENNIS FORCE (D Coy 2/32 Bn) left to attack TAMI ISLANDS.

3 OCT

1015 hrs message from 9 Div that FINSCHHAFEN clear of enemy and that D Coy 2/32 Bn landed on KALAL ISLAND in TAMI group without opposition.

1030 hrs Church Parade of Bde H.Q. and 2/28 Bn. After the service Brig EVANS addressed tps and praised 2/28 Bn on their conduct during recent ops.

4 OCT

Brig EVANS and BM visited Col. STEINER vicinity Div HQ

5 OCT

24 Bde Adm Instn No. 7 issued

(Appx 3)

6 OCT

1000 hrs Bde H.Q. route march

1400 hrs conference of Bde and Unit I.Os.

7 OCT

1030 hrs Bde H.Q. route march.

8 OCT

0900 hrs Bde H.Q. moved off on march to BUREP BEACH to hold sports events. Competitions held - swimming, long jump and tug-of-war. Results - Sigs first, Gd Pl second, Bde H.Q. third.

Lieut WOOD marched in to resume duties Sig Offr II.

9 OCT

1130 hrs recce party of BM(L) Capt WILTON and 10 ORs left for FINSCHHAFEN.

1153 hrs Warning Order received from Div 2/28 Bn will prepare to move to DIMINISH not before 13 Oct; probable embarkation date 13th and 14th

During the day TEWT conducted for BHQ officers and Coy Comds of 2/28 and 2/32 Bns.

(Appx 4)

10 OCT

1200 hrs Tac Bde consisting of Brig EVANS, BM(Major WHITE), S.C. (Capt SANGSTER), I.O. (Capt PITTMAN), Sig Offr (Capt SMITH), Sup O (Capt BIRCH), L.O. (Lieut GILES) and 51 ORs moved out en route to FINSCHHAFEN.

1415 hrs Tac Bde left G BEACH on 4 LCVs.

2015 hrs 2 aircraft bombed convoy in which Tac Bde was travelling, in vicinity FINSCH HARBOUR. Casualties one wounded.

2200 hrs Tac Bde disembarked at FINSCH HARBOUR - spent night vicinity of beach.

11 OCT

1230 hrs. At BUREP River - Main Bde moved off to G BEACH to board 4 LCVs en route to FINSCH HARBOUR.

1900 hrs Main Bde boarded LCVs. Party consisted of LO. (Lieut WORNER) Sig Offr II (Lieut WOOD) and 70 ORs.

0800 hrs at FINSCH HARBOUR Tac Bde moved off and arrived bivouac area (64406915 ref map MASAWENG River 1 inch = 1 mile, at 1500 hrs.

Rear Bde remained at BUREP River and consisted of S.C. (L) (Capt NORRIS), T.O. (Capt FERGUSON), Ed O. (Lieut CARMICHAEL) and

24

Amenities Officer(Lieut AMBROSE) and 34 ORs.

12 OCT

0330 hrs Main Bde disembarked FINSCH HARBOUR and slept vicinity of beach.

Moved off 0900 hrs and joined Tac at 1330 hrs.

1500 hrs verbal orders issued to Comds 2/43 Bn and 2/3 Pnr Bn.

Adm Instn No. 8 issued

(Appx 5)

Trace disposns 12 Oct

13 OCT

1000 hrs Brig EVANS went to Div to see G.O.C.

1635 hrs Maj-Gen WOOTEN(Comd 9 Div) visited Bde H.Q. Met by Brig EVANS, departed 1645 hrs.

2010 hrs message from 9 Div - on arrival nights 13/14, 14/15 2/28 Bn will come under cmd 24 Bde.

1600 hrs message(O 203) issued, confirmation of verbal orders.

(Appx 7)

14 OCT

0740 hrs 11 barges landed SCARLET BEACH with 2/28 Bn personnel.

0810 hrs report from Lt.Col.NORMAN(2/28 Bn) trip OK except that a few bombs were dropped on rear of convoy as they were approaching SCARLET BEACH - no damage or casualties. Left G BEACH 1630 hrs 13 Oct.

1000 hrs conference at Bde H.Q. attended by Brig EVANS, B.M. (Maj WHITE) and Comds 2/28 and 2/43 Bns

2040 hrs - message from Div - Conference at HQ 24 Bde on 15 Oct to be conducted by GOC 9 Div and attended by Brig EVANS and BM(Major WHITE)

15 OCT

0730 hrs barges landed SCARLET BEACH with remainder 2/28 Bn personnel less one pl C Coy.

1100 hrs Maj-Gen WOOTEN(Comd 9 Div)GI (Lt.Col.BARHAM)CRA (Brig GOODWIN) CRE(Lt.Col.MULLER)CSO(Lt.Col.CLEMENTSON) and BMS 20 and 26 Bdes arrived for conference on future ops.

Message O 207 issued

(Appx 8)

16 OCT

1600 hrs CO 2/32 Bn(Maj MOLLARD)I.O.(Lieut GARDNER) and Coy Comds 2/32 Bn reported to Brig EVANS.

2/32 Bn to be Div Res stationed vicinity FINSCH HARBOUR.

1700 hrs conference of COs conducted by Brig EVANS.

17 OCT

0500 hrs 3 Jap barges landed North end SCARLET BEACH. 39 Japs killed on beach. Later in day 29 were killed North of SONG River. During the day, several stand-tos.

0800 hrs Rear Bde party at River BUREP moved to G BEACH and embarked 1130 hrs for FINSCHHAFEN. Slept the night on barges anchored at a group of islands approx 10 miles South of FINSCHHAFEN.

18 OCT

1000 hrs Rear Bde landed SCARLET BEACH joined Bde H.Q. 1030 hrs.

1830 hrs One grenade Jap knee mortar fell in Bde HQ area, slightly wounding two men, Sgt BROWN and Pte BOWER.

1900 hrs out of line comm with 9 Div as Japs are between Bde HQ and Div. at SIKI River. Only channels barge or wireless.

Trace disposns Appx 10.

19 OCT

Capt NICHOLAS, 2/2 Aust MG Bn, appointed to take cmd defence SCARLET BEACH.

20 OCT

Comms established between 2/13 Bn and Div.

2245 hrs movement heard on Bde HQ front, HQ stood to.

2335 hrs Bde HQ stood down.

240.

21 OCT

0115 hrs from Div - message stating half of 2/32 Bn to come under comd tomorrow remainder day following.

0800 hrs B Coy 2/32 Bn under comd.

1000 hrs Lt. Col. JOSHUA (2/43 Bn) visited Brig EVANS at Bde HQ. Brig EVANS went to 2/28 Bn to look over positions.

1115 hrs B Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn reported in through B Coy 2/28 Bn lines.

1825 hrs C Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn reported in.

22 OCT

1000 hrs Brig WHITEHEAD, Comd 26 Bde, visited Bde H.Q.

0945 hrs B Coy 2/32 Bn landed SCARLET BEACH portion of 2/3 Pnr Bn went out on last wave barges.

2017 hrs 2/32 Bn reported all in.

Trace disposns Appx 11

23 OCT

1100 hrs COs conference conducted by Brig EVANS.

1530 hrs Maj-Gen. WOOTEN (Comd 9 Div) visited Bde HQ - met by Brig EVANS.

2358 hrs order from 9 Div all elements 2/3 Pnr Bn will move from 24 Bde area to come under comd 2/3 Pnr Bn SALANKAU area. A Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn not to move until relieved by C Coy 2/43 Bn.

Trace disposns Appx 12.

24 OCT

1450 hrs Lt-Gen Sir Leslie MORSHEAD, Comd 2 Aust Corps and Maj-Gen. WOOTEN (Comd 9 Div) arrived at Bde HQ - met by Brig EVANS.

25 OCT

Brig EVANS went to 2/43 Bn area to inspect positions and defences.

26 OCT

1230 hrs Maj-Gen WOOTEN (Comd 9 Div) and Maj-Gen BERRYMAN (DCGS) visited Bde H.Q.

27 OCT

BM (Major WHITE), I.O. (Capt PITTMAN), Arty L.O. (Major FINTAL) went to 2/32 Bn.

28 OCT

1115 hrs Brig EVANS went to 2/32 Bn.

29 OCT

1100 hrs Brig EVANS and BM (Major WHITE) visited 2/28 Bn positions.

30 OCT

Brig WELLS (BGS 2 Aust Corps), Brig WINDEYER (Comd 20 Bde) and GI (Lt. Col. BARHAM) visited Bde H.Q.

31 OCT

Brig WELLS (BGS 2 Aust Corps) visited Bde H.Q.

J. H. Wilson Capt

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) Malarial 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 aim 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 the 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 consequently 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. B. Miles

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)

5 Oct 43.

24 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN NO 7.

Ref maps 1-25000 - 1 inch to 1 mile series.

1. SUPR

- (a) ASD BUREP RIVER 778450.
- (b) DID BUREP RIVER 777452 Adjacent ASD.
- (c) CASC will arrange timetable for units drawing from BUREP RIVER DID.

2. POL

- (a) POL Depot BUREP RIVER 778450.
- (b) PP " " 777452, and at DIDs.

3. AMN

- (a) AAD BUREP RIVER near ASD.
- (b) Trg amn will be issued from AAD as allotted by HQ 9 Aust Div.

4. ORD

- (a) Ord dump BUREP RIVER.
- (b) Requisitions for ord sups, normal.

5. NV POOL

At BUREP RIVER - 750483.

6. USE OF NV

- (a) Comds units will take action to ensure that vehs are not unnecessarily used.
- (b) Duty chits for drs on duty will be issued by comds or adjts (or equivalent appointment) only.
- (c) DAPH is arranging traffic checks for reporting misuse of vehs to HQ 9 Aust Div. Comds units personally are responsible for the restriction of traffic and disciplinary action will be taken against all offenders.

7. REC

- (a) Nearest LAD or wkshop.
- (b) 2/118 Bde Wkshop and 2/118 Bde Ord Fd Pk are established at BUREP RIVER - 749480.

8. CLEANING AND CARE OF ARMS

Particular attention will be paid to cleaning and care of arms. Comds units will make frequent inspections of all arms in unit and take disciplinary action where breaches of this order are observed.

9. WASTE

Considerable wastage of unit equipment, stores, clothing etc is evident throughout this area. Units will practice rigid economy in order that our assets may be conserved. Transportation is a great problem, and waste, besides making our war effort more expensive and difficult, places a heavy strain on means of tpt owing to the necessity for replacements which would not otherwise occur.

10. SALVAGE

Units will arrange immediately a salvage organisation covering the area occupied. All salvage will be collected into a unit dump and "Q" Branch HQ 9 Aust Div will be advised when there are sufficient quantities ready for collection.

11. DRESS

- (a) Pers may leave off shirts between 0700 hrs and 1830 hrs daily if so ordered by comds units. In every other way previous orders for dress will be observed.
- (b) It is noticed particularly that in many cases hats are worn incorrectly despite past orders to the contrary. This must cease immediately.

12. MEDICAL

(a) Installations

MDS 2/3 Aust Pd Amb

750466

(b) Evacuation

(i) From MDS 2/3 Aust Pd Amb to Evacuation Post in LAE 695393.

(ii) Evacuation from LAE by air to PT MORESBY, or by sea to BUNA.

(c) ANTI-MALARIAL PRECAUTIONS

(i) It is observed that a large number of pers are not carrying out orders previously issued regarding anti-malarial precautions.

(ii) These orders MUST be observed. The hours during which precautions will be taken are between 1830 hrs and 0900 hrs daily.

(iii) Nets, mosquito, will be used by all ranks.

13. SWIMMING AND WASHING CLOTHES

Swimming and washing clothes will take place only between 1400 hrs and 1730 hrs. Swimming and washing parties will be organised at all times. Units will be responsible for policing the river in their area.

14. WATER FOR CONSUMPTION

Water for consumption will be drawn only between 1830 hrs and 1300 hrs daily. Previous instns regarding water treatment will be observed. These times cancell previous instructions issued.

15. PRO

(a) DAPM will ensure that strict control is maintained over traffic in the area.

(b) DAPM will arrange that all Pro pers take action to apprehend any person found disobeying ANY order which may be issued from time to time.

(c) No, rank, name and unit of such pers will be noted, and report fwded to "A" Branch 9 Aust Div.

16. INDISCRIMINATE FIRING

To be read in conjunction with 24 Aust Inf Bde Trg Instn No 1 para 5 (e)

(a) In spite of previous orders, indiscriminate firing is still prevalent.

(b) A considerable portion of the firing is taking place on beaches where small arms, grenades, mortar bombs and other explosives are being used to obtain fish.

(c) Immediate steps will be taken by units to stamp out these acts of indiscipline which are not only a source of considerable wastage of ammunition but also a great danger to troops in the area.

17. BURIALS

(a) Burials and Burial Returns during the recent operation generally have been satisfactory.

(b) The Graves Registration Unit have pointed out several matters which will assist them in locating graves:

(i) If circumstances permit, the number and name of the deceased soldier to be stamped or punched out on metal (biscuit tins are suitable).

(ii) The metal plate to be affixed by wire or nail to a cross, the upright of which will be of strong bush timber, some six feet out of the ground.

(iii) Burial Returns to give map reference, written description of spot and sketch map.

18. HONOURS AND AWARDS

Many citations for Honours and Awards recently submitted were far from satisfactory. Attention is drawn to GRO MS 603/43. The wording of citations will be in good, simple English. The use of flamboyant phrases, numerous superlatives, such words as "incredible" and "amazing" are generally to be avoided.

Citations framed in this manner may cause doubt as to the actual merit of the deed described in the mind of higher authority, with resultant loss of recognition. Attention is drawn to the necessity

for stating the date and location (map reference where possible) where the act or deed took place.

Abbreviations will NOT be used in citations and any erasure or correction will be initialled by all officers signing the citation. In citations for periodical awards, reference to conduct and acts prior to the period under review will be in the briefest possible form e.g., "Capt BLANK rendered excellent service to the unit during the previous campaigns of SYRIA, CRETE, and ALAMEIN".

In future all AAFs W3121 will be submitted to this HQ in sextuplicate.

19. CENSUS OF WIRELESS SETS USED FOR AMENITIES PURPOSES

(a) All units will submit a return as at 20 Oct 43 showing all wireless sets held for purpose of providing unit amenities. All such wireless sets, irrespective of original source of supply, must be included.

(b) This information is required to enable distribution of available stores required for maintenance of such sets.

(c) Return will be made out as under and will accompany Monthly Census of Warlike Stores Return:-

MAKE	TYPE	NUMBER OF VALVES IN SET	TYPE OF VALVES	REMARKS

(d) Nil Returns will be submitted.

[Signature]
Capt.
S.C. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

- 2/28 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/32 Aust Inf Bn
- Sig Sec
- Gd Pl
- War Diary
- File

Date sat 13 Oct 43 1200 hrs Ref Map MASEWANG RIVER 1:63360

1. The enemy have withdrawn from the SATENBERG area and also along the coast North of our posts.

2. (a) 9 Aust Div less 26 Bde Gp are occupying and developing the area FINSCHLAFER.

(b) 20 Bde is disposed covering the main Div area bounded approx by SONG River - SATENBERG - MASE River - Cape CRISTIN.

(c) 24 Bde is disposed in the area from incl BONGA to excl SONG River.

2/43 Bn centred on BONGA with patrols up to 1000 yds North of River.

2/23 Bn centred on track junc 646730.

2/32 Bn less one coy covering main supply dump area 896871. Bde Hq is in vicinity 2/23 Bn.

3. (a) Within Bde area the following sups etc are held -

10 days rations

10 days amm at WR

10 days all other stores - e.g. POL, Med, Ord

(b) Each Bn has only 2 Jeeps and NO Tk A guns

(c) A good Jeep track has been constructed as far North as BONGA from dump area.

4. For the adv NW by 24 Bde Gp the Gp is composed of

Main 24 Bde Hq Sig Sec Gd Pl

2/23 Bn

2/32 Bn less D Coy

2/43 Bn

Pl P/B

2/3 Pd Amb

Det 532 BSR

Det ANGAU

5. Possible enemy intentions and reactions - The enemy's intention is NOT known. It is unlikely that he will give up any of his main bases easily. His reargds contained our tys in the areas North of SONG R and SATENBERG long enough to cover his main withdrawal from the mountain area. It is known that many of his tys were instructed to withdraw to SIG but it is NOT known whether they were to remain and hold this area or to withdraw to area HADANG.

We must expect some enemy interference during our adv even if only by enemy patrols and delaying forces.

6. All available infm regarding topography is issued separately.

7. 9 Aust Div have ordered 24 Bde Gp to commence the adv NW along coastal route with SIG as the objective commencing 13 Oct.

Until further advised, Div will resupply the Bde to present Bde Dump area, and it will be a Bde responsibility to move sups fwd.

8. The first Bde objective is FORTIFICATION pt as far West as WANDKAI.

9. Slight assistance from LC for movt of sups etc may be expected but this is NOT likely to be considerable owing to the necessity of using all available craft to build up the Div area. It will probably be possible to evacuate casualties suffered fwd of MASEWANG R by LC to Div area.

PROBLEM I

As Comd 24 Bde Gp give the method and adm para of your O.O. covering the adv of the Bde to the first objective. 2/23 Bn will be the leading bn

Distribution

2/23 Bn

2/32 Bn

Comd

B.M.

S.O.

File

* This incl rations to Night Boct + 1 munitary and amm on man n with fuel

" NARRATIVE 2

The Bde order included the following - 2/28 Bn will advance on Oct 13. Objective LAKONA. Bounds to be secured and reported clear of enemy. First ARNDT POINT. Second UNNAMED RIVER emptying to the sea at 654786.

Bridgehead on far side of SANGA RIVER to be secured if possible before last light. 2 LCVs are supporting the Bde.

Start point CREEK at BONGA *Time 0830 hrs*

One Bty 2/12 Fd Regt are supporting Bde. There are no engineers in support.

Problem 2. As C.O. 2/28 Bn your orders.

Problem 3. What pioneer stores do you consider it advisable for your Bn to carry.

NARRATIVE 3

The first days advance proceeded smoothly and all objectives were gained after minor brushes with the enemy.

Supplies were replenished on the North side of SANGA RIVER and orders were issued for the second days advance.

Substantially the same as orders for first day but objective was Fortification point.

Loading elements of 2/28 Bn had approached the MASAWANG RIVER, but had come under fire. 2 men were wounded and the pl. comd reported that the river was flooded and unfordable for a distance of half a mile inland. The time of this report was 0930 hrs.

Problem 4 - As Bde Comd your plan and verbal orders.

NARRATIVE 4

MASAWANG RIVER was crossed by night using 2 LCVs.

A harassing fire programme had been laid down, which commenced at 1200 hrs and continued until crossing was completed. Object being to keep enemy grounded. At 0530 hrs 2/28 Bn were occupying a narrow beach head some 600 yds by 400 yds.

Enemy posns of unknown strength were known to be in the foothills in area about 606841. Intermittent fire had been laid across the mouth of the MASAWANG and 5 casualties had been suffered during the night from enemy arty estimated at 2 75mm dual purpose guns. Bde Comd had ordered the continuation of the advance.

Problem 5 - As C.O. 2/28 Bn your plan and timings.

A. - How start.

Bty. - known posns. in area Aq. comd.

1135

TOPOGRAPHY BONGA - WANDOKAI

GROUND From BONGA North - coastal strip undulating more so as proceed Northwards to FORT PT. At FORT PT steep ravines constitute difficulty to movement along track. MT movement most difficult. Subsoil CORAL base. Steep mountainous country inland.

VEGETATION Fringe of timber on coastal plain alternating with patches of grass. Inland, for two miles grass predominates on lower slopes of mountains.

FORT PT always green.

COAST

Beaches. Rare - cliffs rise from sea (10' - 30' high). Beaches exist NORTH and SOUTH of MASAWENG R and SANGA MOUTHS (ref map 1:63360 MASAWENG R) 6180.

TRACK Reported possibly passable MT to ARNDT PT 6476. Thereafter deteriorates to ft trk (width unknown) through timber always within half mile coast.

RIVERCROSSINGS All rivers fordable, except MASAWENG R, (which is crossed at mouth) - is dangerous in flood. Two of three main channels 8 to 10 yds wide and 3-4 ft deep - may be up to 6 ft in flood. SANGA R is shallow and fordable to mouth.

OP on FORT PT. at

24 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instrn No. 8

24 Aust Inf Bde Signals Nos 0 203 & 0 204 refers

Ref map - one inch map

1. SUPS

- (a) SCARLET DID - 640685
- (b) ASD - FINSCH HARBOUR 635595
- (c) Emergency Rations - 3 per man for all forward tps.
- (d) Reserve rations - 3 days to be held in certain forward posts, at a special scale, only to be consumed in the event of the post being cut off or daily maintenance not being possible due to weather conditions.
- (e) In addition to daily maintenance 2 days sups will be held at DID.

2. AMM

- (a) AP - 640685
- (b) AAD - FINSCH HARBOUR 635595
- (c) 4 days WUR will be held in certain forward posts at a scale to be issued; normal expenditure will be replaced daily.
- (d) 2 days WUR will be held at A.P. and in addition expenditure will be replenished daily.

3. POL

PP - 640685

4. ORD

Requisition for all ord stores to be submitted to HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde. Advice of lost or damaged controlled stores to be advised to this HQ by quickest possible means.

5. POSTAL

Until arrival of FPO 55 censored mail may be forwarded through Sigs for delivery to 9 Aust Div Postal Unit.

6. CANTEN

No canteen goods available at present. Units will be advised when issues can be made.

7. GENERAL

- (a) Units will ensure that as positions are moved all sups and amm are moved accordingly.
- (b) Sups issued to units as res rations will only be consumed in the event of the post being cut off or daily maintenance not being possible. It will be impressed on all officers and NCOs that the res and emergency rations will not be consumed except under the above circumstances.
- (c) It will be the responsibility of units to ensure that sups and amm are properly protected from the weather.
- (d) Units will render a certificate to this HQ by 1000 hrs each Wednesday and Sunday certifying the number of res and emergency rations held and that they are complete and in good order as at 1800 hrs each Tuesday and Saturday.

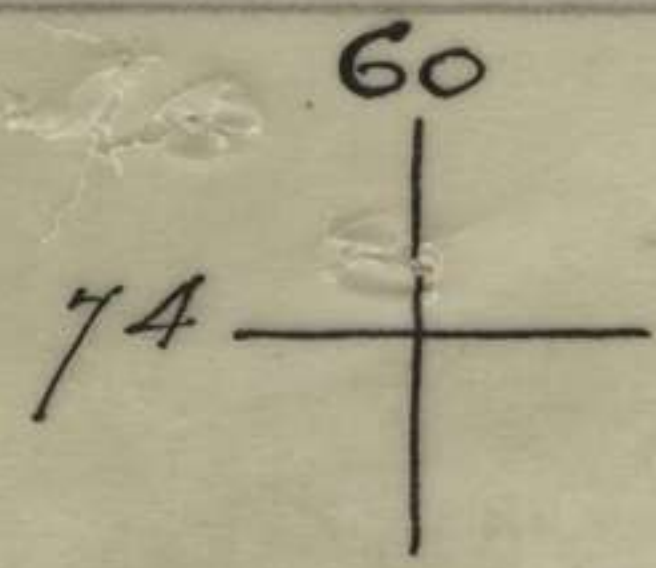
R. Angles
Capt.
S.C. 24 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

see over

DISTRIBUTION

2/28 Aust Inf Bn
2/43 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Pnr Bn
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn
Scarlet DID
Comd
B.M.
Sup O
File (2)
War Diary (2)



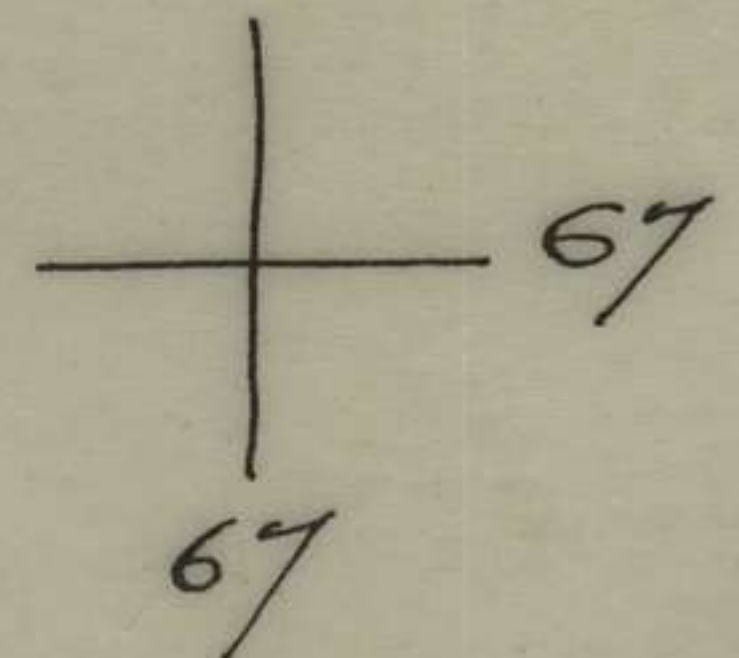
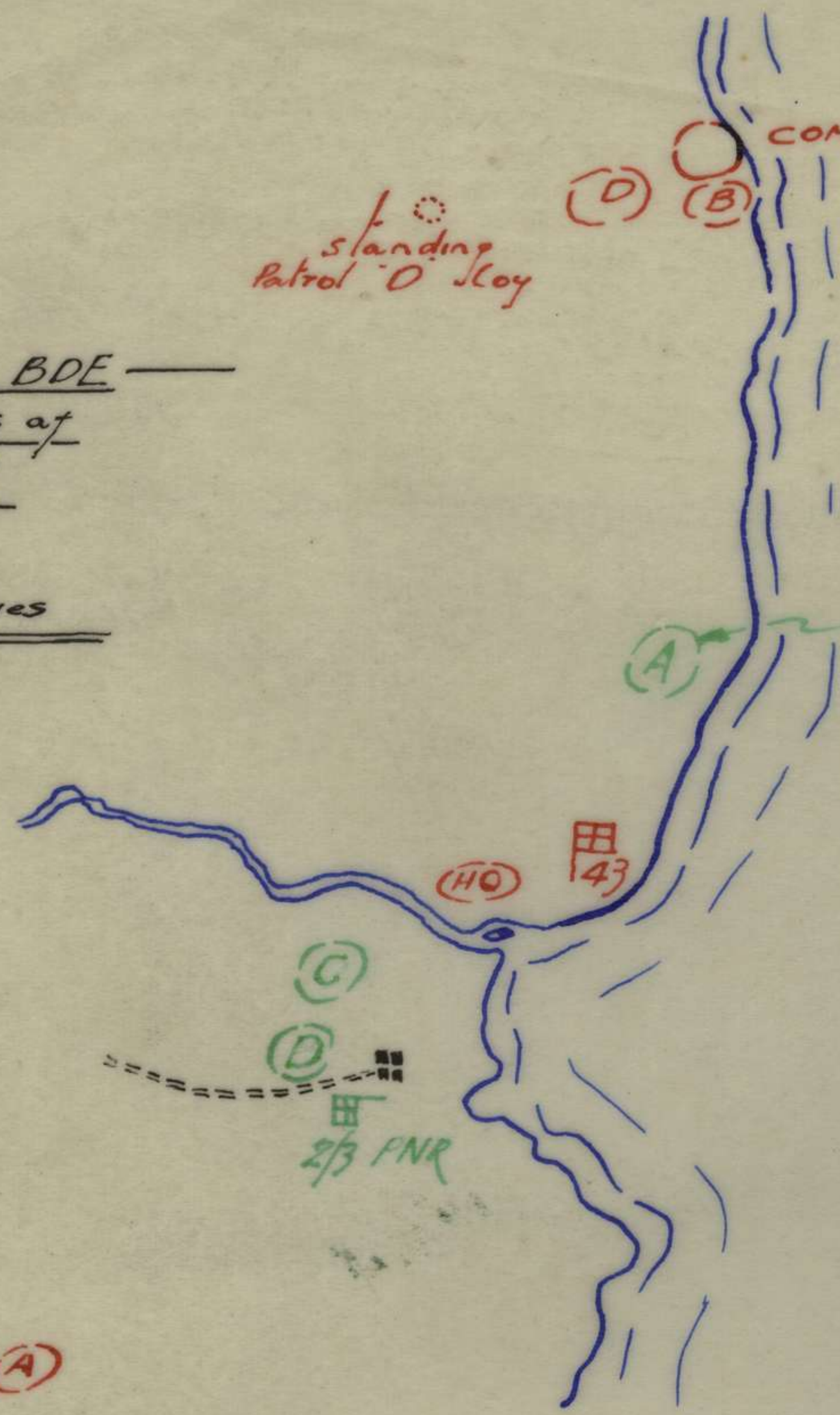
standing
Patrol O'Looy

COMP
(D) (B)

24 Aust INF BDE
DISPOSNS as at
12 Oct 43

Map Ref 1" series

road
making



(C)

(A)

PROFORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO 2/43 Bn, 2/3 Pnr Bn, C Coy 2/2 MG Bn, C Coy PIB, rptd
 9 Aust Div, 20 Bde, copy to Arty LO, S.C.

FROM 24 AUST INF BDE

O 203

13

SECRET (.) confirmation verbal orders (.) ref one inch map (.) 24 bde assumed comd northern area 1600 hrs 12 oct (.) southern bndy excl SATELBERG - JIVEVENG 5865 incl rd to northern edge HELDSBACH 6366 thence CAPE 648669 (.) units under comd Hq 24 bde (.) 2/43 bn, 2/3 pnr bn less B coy (.) in sp 24 fd bty, C coy 2/2 MG bn, pl C coy PIB (.) B coy 2/3 pnr bn reverts from comd 20 bde 14 oct (.) INTENTION (.) 24 bde will protect SCARLET BEACH and SATELBERG rd and gain control track junctions vicinity BONCA preparatory to further ops (.) METHOD (.) 2/43 bn tasks (.) form composite coy of two pls to relieve B coy on coast 654734 to control all coastal approaches (.) one pl C coy 2/2 MG bn in sp comp coy (.) D coy from present posn will patrol offensively west and south west to tracks suspected used by enemy seeking to maintain contact with enemy inflict casualties and gain information (.) C coy will relieve A coy at ZAG 615659 and keep open SATELBERG rd west to 2/17 bn east to 2/3 pn det at 630671 later north to 2/3 pnr bn when est new posns (.) A coy on relief becomes bde reserve in area track junc KATIKA (.) possible tasks counter attack role bde area (.) B coy 2/43 bn will on relief come under op comd Hq 24 Bde (.) tasks will be issued separately (.) 2/43 Hq coy and LOB will occupy NORTH HILL area with one pl C coy 2/2 MG bn in sp and prevent any enemy penetration from west and south (.) 2/3 pnr bn on 14 oct will commence est coy locality on high ground astride track approx 615685 and comd all tracks in vicinity (.) on est this posn C and D coy will adv west to suitable ground and est contact with C coy 2/43 at ZAG and 2/43 bn LOB sp vicinity SONG (.) one coy 2/3 pnr bn will remain track making in coastal area with RAE (.) tasks (.) one (.) improve crossing SONG to incl strong rope across river as precaution sudden flooding (.) two (.) completion northern L of C to 2/43 FDL incl brs (.) three (.) preparation of coy defence posns to thicken and give depth to 2/43 bn in vicinity 650720 to be occupied on alarm given by 2/43 bn (.) C coy 2/3 MG bn locations (.) one pl in sp composite coy one pl in sp 2/43 LOB and Hq coy on NORTH HILL one pl in reserve with A coy 2/43 bn (.) fire tasks issued separately (.) tasks hold all posns occupied (.) MG coy responsible for own local protection in all areas (.) AMM (.) ALL posns are to be stocked with three days reserve rations and amm (.) reserve water will be incl where containers can be provided (.) in addition three days emergency being obtained to be carried on the man (.) further Q details later (.) bde Hq remains 644692 ref 1/25000 ACK

P. J. M. M. M. M. M.
 by D.R./L.S.

T.O.O. 1600

Kardian

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO : 2/28 Bn, 2/43 Bn, 2/3 Pnr Bn, C Coy 2/2 MG Bn
rptd 9 Aust Div, 20 Aust Inf Bde.

FROM : 24 Aust Inf Bde 0 207 15

SECRET (.) O.O. No. 13 (.) ref map series 1 inch to 1 mile (.) no change verbal orders (.) INFORMATION (.) inter bde bndy amended to excl SATELBURG JIVEVANENG - all incl SATELBURG rd - HELDSBACH - FINSCH rd - R QUOJA to sea (.) 532 bt bn has been ordered not to operate along coast after 1800 hrs daily as from 16 Oct (.) INTENTION (.) 24 Aust Inf Bde will reorganise and hold northern area (.) METHOD (.) fwd bns right 2/43 bn left 2/3 pnr bn (.) inter bn bndy - R SONG incl to 2/43 bn (.) FILS to incl present posns SOUTH of BONGA - hill 6272 - SOUTH to R SONG - hill 6168 - SW along ridge to SATELBURG rd (.) NORTH HILL will be held and 2/43 bn will be responsible for coast watching within and NORTH of bn area (.) B coy 2/43 bn reverts to comd 2/43 bn as from 1400 hrs 15 Oct 43 (.) 2/3 pnr bn will keep SATELBURG rd open WEST to 2/17 bn and EAST to excl HELDSBACH (.) rear bndy 2/3 pnr bn line excl KATIKA excl HELDSBACH (.) reserve 2/28 bn (.) tasks (.) one coy disposed vicinity air strip incl R QUOJA and beach (.) one coy to comd and control mouth of R SONG and SCARLET beach and maintain standing patrols along R SONG not further WEST than 1000 yds (.) coast watching system to cover sector (.) 2/28 bn less two coys as mobile reserve in KATIKA prepared to counter infiltration or penetration within bde area (.) works - all posns will be dug and camouflaged lanes of fire cut (.) patrols (.) lateral contact between units and subunits to be maintained by day (.) (.) by night standing patrols to cover all likely approaches (.) posns to be occupied by 1000 hrs 16 Oct (.) all elements of bns to be sited within own areas (.) four Tk A guns to be sited for beach defence by 2/28 bn (.) arty (.) FOOs with bns (.) DF tasks will be selected and registered by 1200 hrs 16 Oct (.) C Coy 2/2 MG Bn (.) no change except res pl will be in sp of coy 2/28 bn in air strip area (.) occupation of posns will be reported to this Hq by code word IN (.) stand to 0600 to 0700 hrs and 1845 hrs to 1945 hrs daily (.) absolute quiet will be observed in all posns except by reason of enemy action (.) ADM (.) 5 days res sups and 4 days amn will be maintained in all posns (.) 2/28 bn will nominate one LOB officer to coordinate and control traffic along main coast rd (.) every effort will be made to stock all posns with res water as containers become available (.) INTERCOMM (.) where possible alternate lines will be laid between Hqs (.) in event of enemy attack code word RASPUTIN followed by code word of coy in which area attack develops will be passed by quickest possible means to this Hq (.) ship to shore recognition signals will be issued separately and procedure as laid down strictly adhered to (.) all possible alternate means of comm will be established and used between all Hqs (.) Bde Hq remains present location (.) Ack

DRLS If liable etc. T00 2020
Major THI

APP 7

SECRET

34 Aust Inf Bde Instr No. 15

The following instrns are promulgated to Bn Comds to re-emphasise the operational policy of the Brigade and the Division for the immediate future.

1. Dispositions

The present dispositions of the three Bns and of the tps in sp of the Bde deny to the enemy ingress to SCARLET BEACH from both land and sea.

We control in considerable depth the main approaches by land to the only beach in the div area of any use to the JAP.

Further, within each Bn area there are a number of valuable "jumping off" points for further offensive ops.

The sole justification for vacating our present posns will be the resumption of offensive ops against the enemy. We can best do that from where we are - from ground of our own choosing.

Briefly, the policy is one of - "what we have we hold."

2. Reserves - Unit and Subunit

It is of vital importance, both in defensive and offensive ops that a comd has readily available a mobile reserve.

The production of such a reserve under the present circumstances when all bns are low in fighting strength presents a difficult problem but the lack of one so often results in failure in ops that every effort should be made to find the man power considered necessary.

More often than not it is not so much the size of the res but rather its mobility and its quick and vigorous employment that achieves success.

Orders to the comd must cover all possible contingencies as to its likely employment so that he can do much of his task as a drill.

3. Patrolling

The patrolling policy is to continue. Except for purely recon patrols all patrols must be strong enough to fight.

Lessons learnt in the present ops have clearly shown that a patrol, well positioned and firmly led can inflict casualties out of all proportion to its strength.

The enemy is to be harassed, ambushed, stalked and shot at on every possible occasion. His effort to occupy any ground is to be challenged, his access to waterpoints, native gardens and so on prevented.

4. Readjustment of strengths in units

It is important that dispositions in units are properly balanced. Opportunity should be taken now to "even up" subunits low in strength through battle casualties and sickness evacuations.

It is doubtful if there is any sound alternative to the present WS of four rifle coys.

This "evening up" process will necessitate in some cases intra unit transfers. That is a matter for the Comd concerned.

Another aspect is the importance of ensuring that those personnel replacing specialists and casualties and who manned automatic weapons are competent in their duties.

5. Communications - Maintenance of.

The great importance of regular communications needs no comment.

Opportunity should be taken to duplicate all vital avenues.

It is often of value when laying duplicate L/T to make a wide detour off the beaten path.

This HQ will assist wherever possible regarding additional sig eqpt.

Regular maintenance will often avoid breakdowns.

6. Location and Protection of HQ

It is considered desirable that comd post Inf office and sig office be dug in with suitable head cover.

They need not be occupied for the present, but sig lines should be laid to permit a quick move when necessary.

The location of unit HQ is important. If the HQ is detached and communications fail it is extremely difficult for the comd to keep in the picture and to direct the battle.

While most coy perimeters are too small to contain a unit HQ the siting of the HQ adjacent to a coy area often permits the Bn HQ personnel more effectively to give it protection.

7. Diggings

Disused diggings, our own and those of the enemy within and near our defensive localities should be filled in.

Too often they have been an aid to a few of the enemy who have caused us a great deal of effort to dislodge.

8. Firelanes

The early cutting of fire lanes is an integral part in the occupation of a defensive posn and must be given high priority.

There are definite limitations in the use of MMGs in this country mainly due to lack of observation. This can be overcome to a large extent by the cutting of fire lanes on the fixed lines. The length will vary, but generally they should be much longer than those for lighter automatic weapons.

Daily improvement must be continued in this direction.

9. Arty Sp

There is adequate arm for HF tasks against known enemy posns too far distant for quick offensive action by patrols.

It is often easier to blow the enemy from a posn by an arty concentration than by other means.

The JAP has shown a distinct tendency to vacate a position which has been subjected to a solid concentration.

It is often of value to follow up such an arty shoot by an offensive patrol.

10. Amn and Sups

Careful supervision is necessary to ensure that a proper balanced res of rations is held in each unit.

The sup problem is difficult, but less so where jeeps can be used and sups are not dependant solely on native carriers.

With care much more than tinned meat and biscuits can be placed in res.

It is advisable to turn over such res from time to time.

Sups should be stored below ground level and protected from the weather.

The care of amn is most important. Damp weather has seriously effected mortar bombs grenades and ballistite cartridges. Daily inspection is necessary. Amn must be stored below ground level and in several dumps rather than in one central dump.

11. Health and Recreation

Wherever possible tps should be rested within unit areas on a roster system and allowed to swim in the sea.

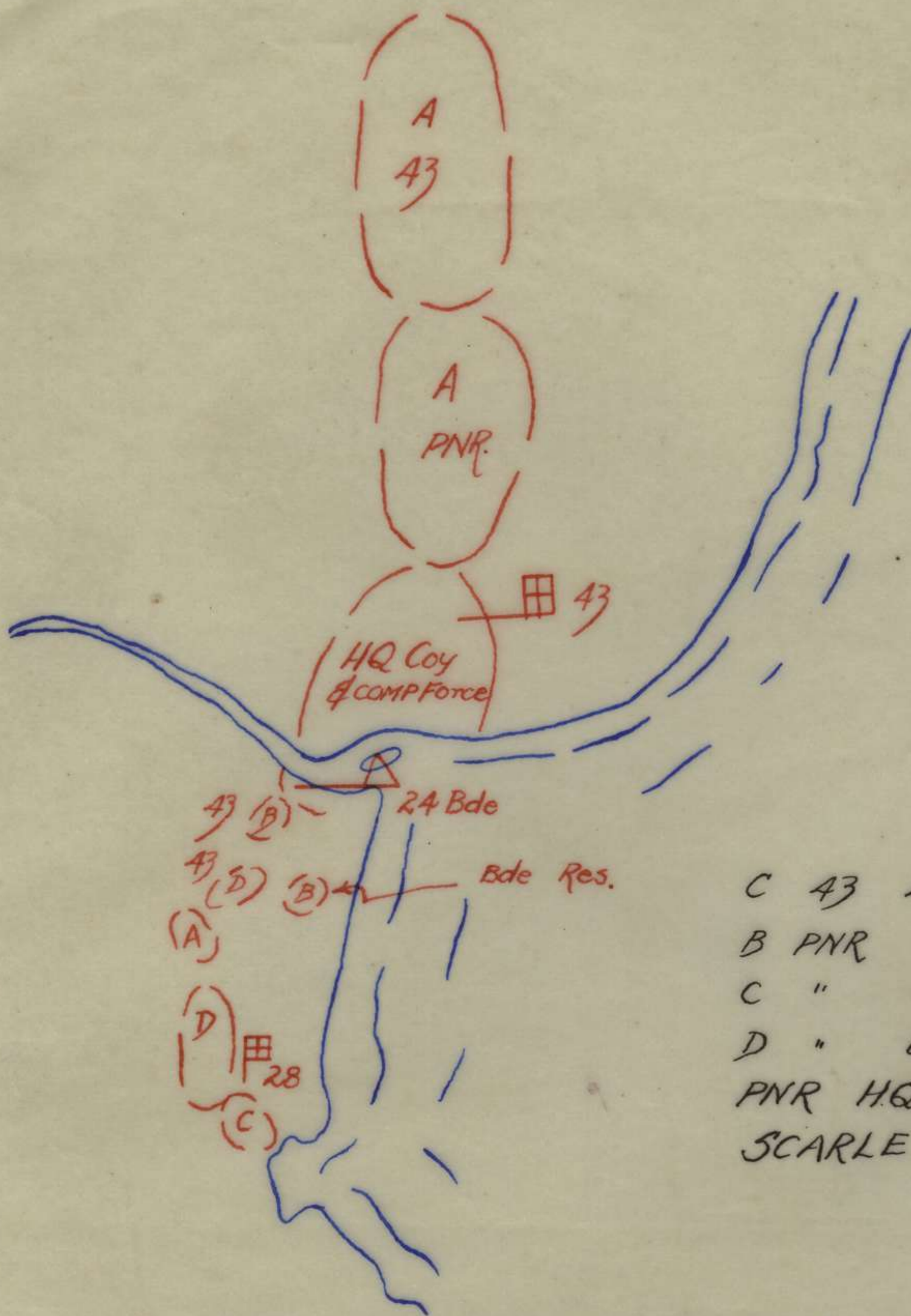
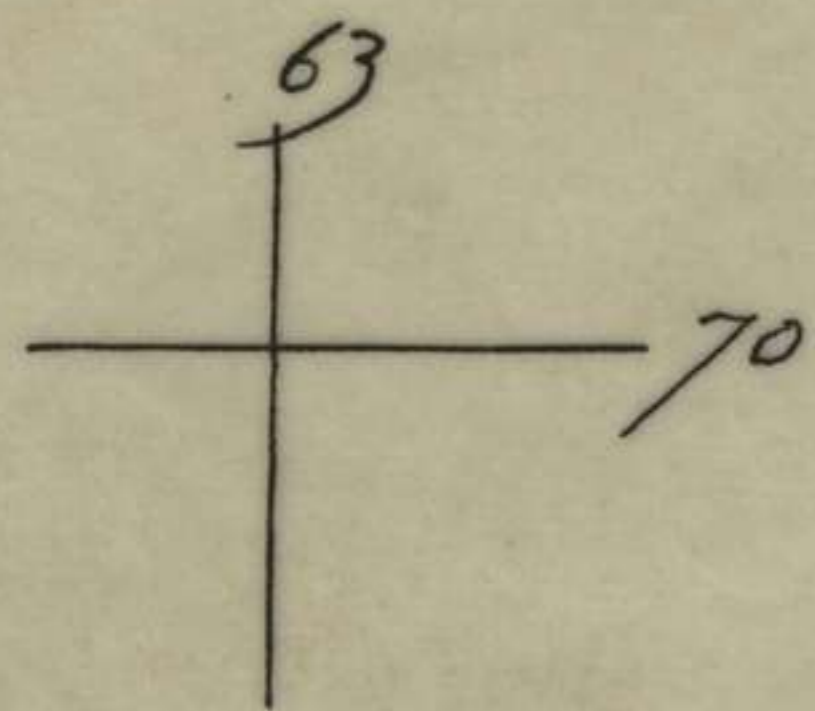
A day or two of rest will often obviate evacuation of men whose main need is some break from normal routine.

Such parties need to be under proper control and must not be allowed to move about at will.

W. J. Simpson Lt-Col.
Adm Comd 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

C.O. 2/28 Bn, C.O. 2/32 Bn, C.O. 2/45 Bn

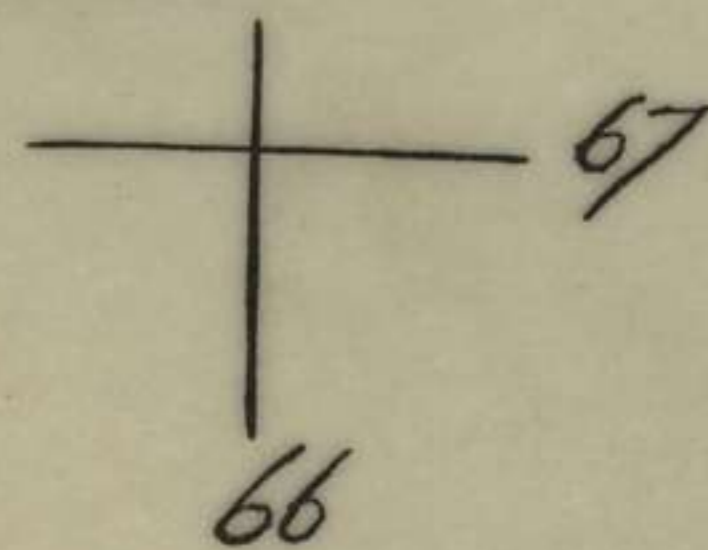


C 43 ZAG 615664
 B PNR 6168
 C " 628692
 D " 605670
 PNR HQ & DETAILS
 SCARLET BEACH.

24 AUST INF BDE DISPOSN'S

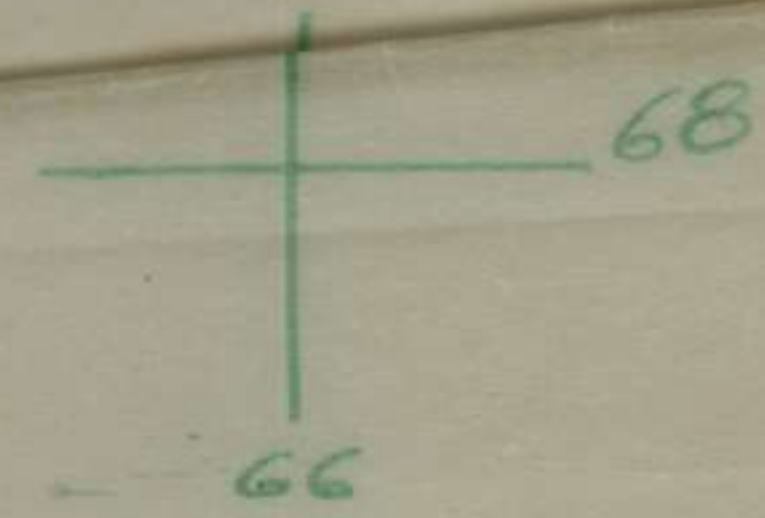
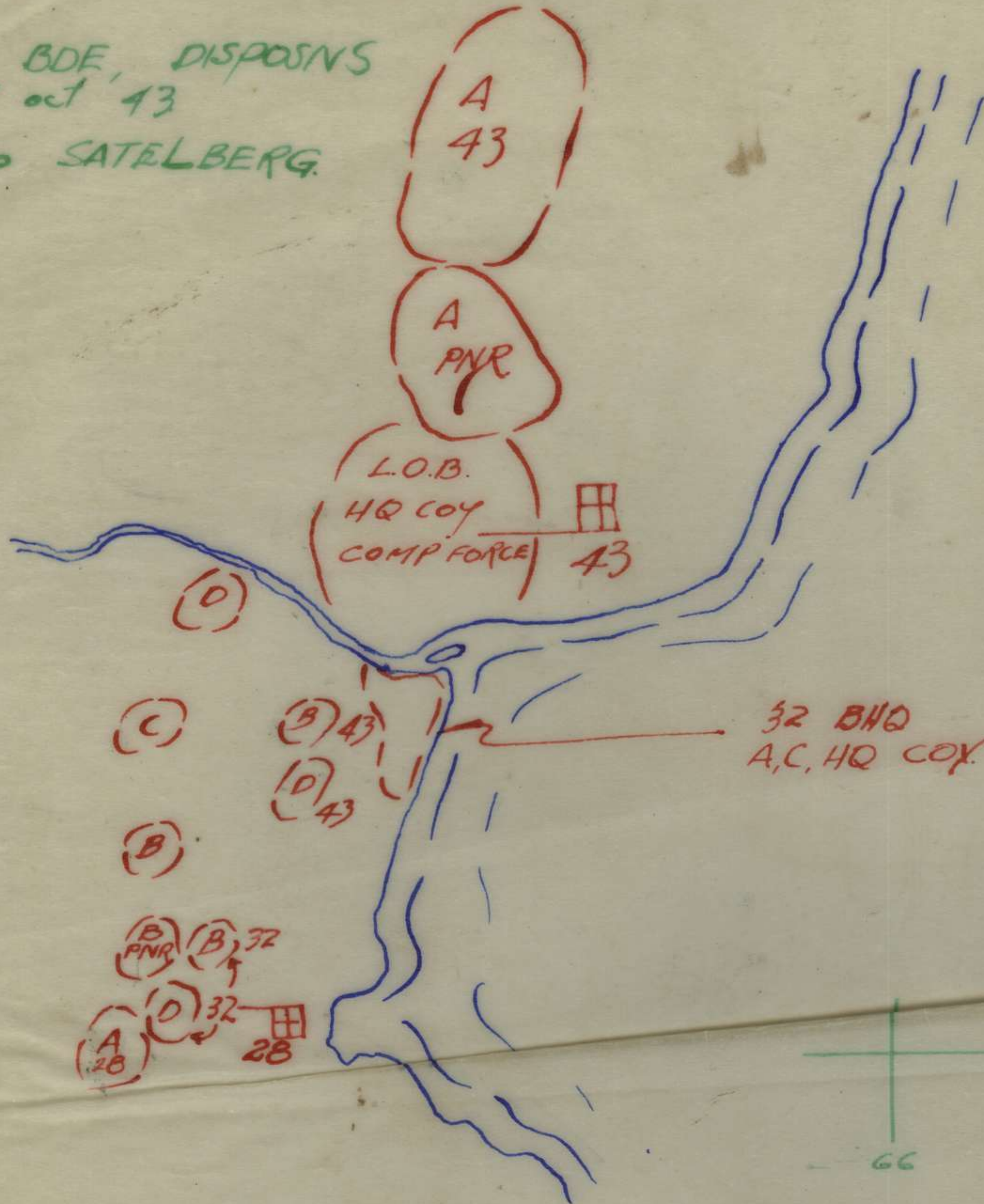
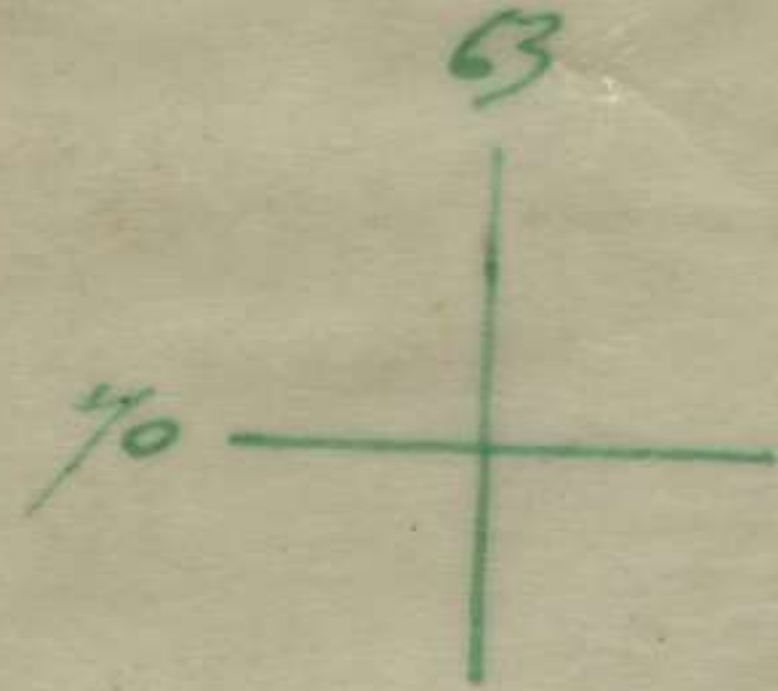
as at 18 Oct 43

Ref Map 1:25000 SATELBERG



24 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE, DISPOSALS
as at 21 Oct '43

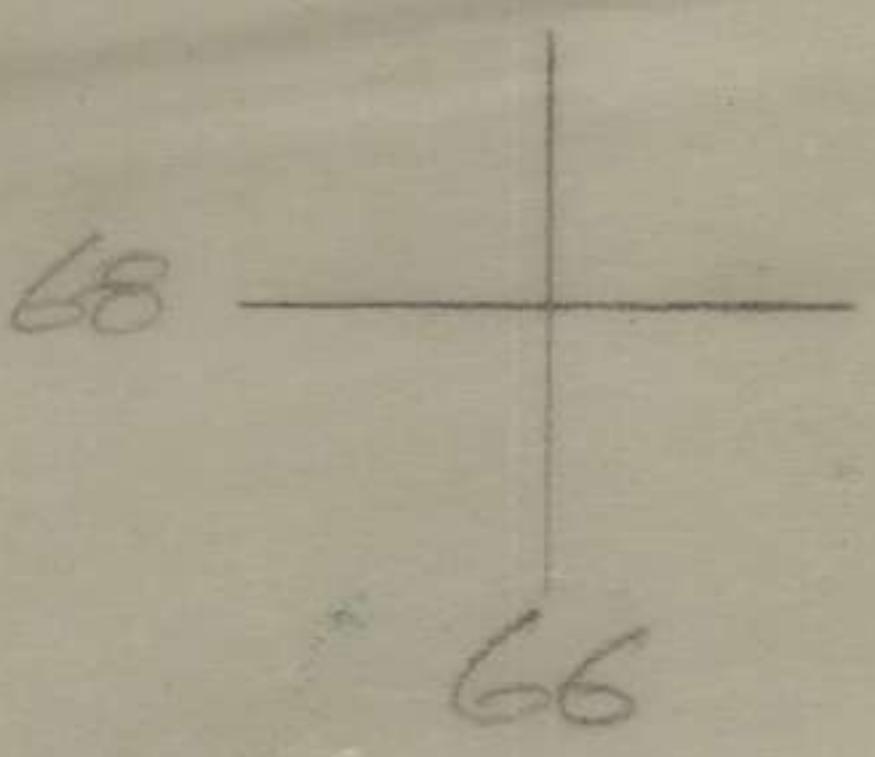
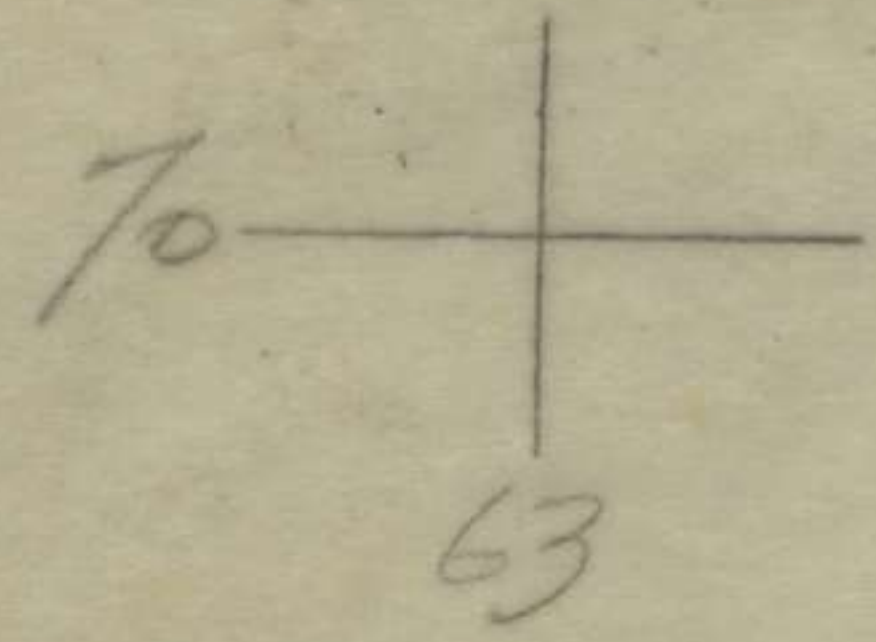
Ref Map 1:25000 SATELBERG.



Appx 12

24 Aust INF BDE DISPOSNS
as at 23 Oct '43.

Ref Map 1:25000 SATELBERG.



- OCT 43 -

- ACTION DIARIES -

- APPX 1 -

1600hrs - From 9 Div - Sitrep No 26 .
 1720hrs - To 28 & 32 Bns - Conference of Bde and Unit I.Os will be held vicinity 24 Bde HQ 1400 hrs 6 Oct(.) to discuss recent ops and suggestions for future ops(.)
 1810hrs - From 8 Bn - Report on W.Es. improvement & suggestions.
 2000hrs - From 9 Div - 43 Bn struck opposition in SATELBERG AREA one pl cut off coy moving up.
 2025 hrs - From 9 Div - Official photograph ack
 Amendment No. 10 for Bde Establishment
 1 Aust Corps Summary
 OCTU Course No. 7

2045 hrs from Div - 22 Bn will until further orders be disposed to hold and protect DREDGER HARBOUR. Combined 9 Div 532 Gp ESB Recce Party arrives DREDGER HARBOUR in two LCVs 2 Oct - probably early afternoon. Strength recce party 40 of whom approx 20 will remain with 22 Bn; remainder return 9 Div on 3 Oct. 22 Bn will protect and assist recce.
 2123 hrs from Div - DREDGER HARBOUR is held by 22 Bn who are to hold it until further orders. On 2 Oct at 0600 hrs following reps will assemble at G BEACH and report to Maj WILLIAMS DAQM(L) OC Recce Party and move by 2 LCVs to DREDGER HARBOUR:- 24 Bde 10 all ranks plus Div tps and 9 of 532 Gp ESB to be picked up at RED BEACH. Object of recce is selection lying up place for small craft, beach recce landward and seaward due further land ops based on beaches vicinity DREDGER HARBOUR. OC Recce Party will report 22 Bn regarding location and suitability maintenance areas, beaches, and lying up places. OC Recce Party will submit detailed report on return. Personnel can remain with 22 Bn if unit so wishes.

2224 hrs from Div - Air recce TAMI ISLANDS. DJAM ISLAND - no activity and no sign occupation; WONUH ISLAND - activity villages N & S - one smoke fire & otherwise no activity; KALAL ISLAND - by growth observation difficult - six unidentified persons ran on approach of a/c. Village showed signs of recent bombing. No ground opposition.

2 OCT 45

1245 hrs from Div - Sketches from air photos of TAMI IS - one copy to 32.
 1400 hrs from Div - FINSCHHAFEN fell at 1130 hrs 2 Oct.
 1415 hrs from Div - Ref O 502. Comd 24 Bn and one pl A Coy PIB passes from 9 Div to 26 Bde 2 Oct 45. 24 Bn with pl PIB will continue present role. Reorganisation of maintenance arrangements affecting 26 Bde is being notified separately.
 1620 hrs from Div - Daylight saving time commences 0200 hrs 3 Oct, when L Time becomes code Eastern Aust Time Zone. Other zones except WA change.
 1900 hrs from Div - Personalities of JAP Army.
 G142/45/- Locstat and Div OOB
 1900 hrs from 32 Bn - OOB(acked)

3 OCT 45

1015/hrs from Div - FINSCHHAFEN clear of enemy. Stragglers cleared up. PWs taken. SATELBERG trk area still resisting. D Coy 32 Bn landed on KALAL IS in TAMI Gp without opposition.
 1215 hrs from Div - NCF Weekly I Sum 141
 Terrain Handbook No. 5 Amendment No. 1
 Tactical handling of Army Tk Bn(burnt)
 1430 hrs Intercept from D Coy 32 Bn - Passage suitable LCT. Good landing at T141112 0800/L. One enemy TAMI IS FDLs. No missionary. Approx 20 very friendly natives. Assisting. Native report. Approx 200 enemy with very large wireless installation left area 3 weeks ago when bombing started. All islands cleared. Radio being installed KALAL IS map ref T139114. All OK.
 1955 hrs from 32 Bn - Volunteers for subversive activities. Nil.
 2115 hrs from Div - 3 jeeps required to pick up personnel returned from recce.

4 OCT 43

1130 hrs from Div - sitrep 28 2000K/2
sitrep 29 2000L/3
9 Div I Sum No. 12.
Pro forma message W0538.
Subject YUKON packs and inflatable lifebelts.
Morse code trg

Infm from 43 Bn - Coy posn 589661 2 coys posns 600663 strong enemy
posn between coys bn HQ 600663. 2 attempts to
contact cut off coy repulsed. PIB runner from coy
reports coy in tact getting shrt of amm and food.
Corps today will endeavour to drop amm and food
from air. 2 unsuccessful enemy attacks on posn high ground north of
SONG R. These posns reinforced by further 2 coys. Cas 2/13 Bn attack
on KAKAKOG 10 killed 70 wounded. Estimated 100 enemy killed.

FINSCHHAFEN 3 Oct - Cleaning up stragglers. Took few PW who say balance
of force withdrawing to SIO. 140 casualties from enemy bombing. Number
of tps in FINSCHHAFEN at time of attack 1300, 1000 of which has ~~drawn~~
withdrawn - GENERAL - enemy intention was to hold FINSCHHAFEN. 4000
Army and 2000 Naval tps direct from JAPAN. Only 1000 of these tps
landed. Posn of remainder unknown.

1515 hrs from Div - O 572 - Warning order.

1645 hrs from Div - Secret - First. Separate instns are being issued
for following units to move to H MINISH area for preparation of Div
Maintenance Area. A Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn, 1 Sup Pl, det GTC - embarking
not before 1600 hrs 5 Oct at 2/3 Pnr Bn less 2 coys on 6 Oct. On
arrival come under control 20 Bde only for ops when necessary. Second.
From 5 Oct 26 Bde will be responsible for condition of inland trk
R BUREP to R BUSU. Third. LOB 26 Bde will on 5 Oct move to RED BEACH
where it will assume comd of det Div Car Coy and take over 2/3 Pnr Bn
tasks of protecting dumps, provision of labour to MLO and defence of
beach. Four. From 5 Oct 24 Bde will supply labour from 32 Bn at G BEACH
as required by q.

1650 hrs from Div - On 5 Oct Main HQ 4 Bde will move under arrangements
to LAE where it will revert to comd 5 Div.

5 OCT

1320 hrs from Div - one water cart in Div MT Pool allotted 24 Bde.
1 Aust Corps Summaries 27 & 28.
Passwords
Letters from 14 Fd Regt re Graves.
Passwords Acked (i 166)

1940 hrs from 28 Bn - ref map LAE 1/25000. Miniature range completed
in creek bed 765456 firing daily 0900 hrs to 1200 hrs and 1400 hrs to
1630 hrs. All necessary safety precautions will be taken.

6 OCT

0800 hrs from Div - Posn 20 Bde. Enemy withdrawing from JIVEANENG.
43 Bn now occupy village. Much eqpt and enemy dead found. North of
SONG R enemy withdraw before coys of 2/17 Bn attack. 43 Bn cas
27 Sep. - 4 Oct - killed 1 and 13 - missing 1 and 5 - wounded 2 and 23.
sick 1 and 20. believe 13 have rejoined unit. Strength as at 4 Oct
29 and 616.

1200 hrs from Div - Malarial instn and interrogation report.

7 OCT

0845 hrs from Div - 20 Bde. 2/17 Bn now returning and will relieve
43 Bn which are to be responsible for beachhead. Patrol to SISI
enemy apparently in some force. 15 Bn 2 coys LANGEMAK BAY 1 coy at
SAWMILL.

1105 hrs from 43 B Ech - 43 B Ech moving out and are to report to BCO at 1130 hrs.

1125 hrs from Div - 1 Coy Report 29

Sitrep 31 2000L/6

Report on TAMI IS

Army Form W3012 Ser 13

Court of Inquiry

Ref movement WX7301 Lieut WALLACE, 2/28 Bn

DCM Pte LARSEN 2/32 Bn

HQ 2 Aust Corps will take over HQ 1 Corps 8 Oct.

1820 hrs from Div - Secret. First. On 8 Oct 2/2 MG Bn less one coy will move under arrangements Q to FINSCH HARBOUR, where it will come under cmd 20 Bde until arrival HQ 9 Div. 2/2 MG bn may be used operationally by 20 Bde otherwise it will assist in preparing of Div Maintenance Area. Second. Recce Party HQ 9 Div will on 8 Oct move under arrangements Q to FINSCH HARBOUR.

1900 hrs to Div - I 70 - Request use 30 yd range constructed at 78054500. Direction of fire 30 deg grid.

8 OCT

1015 hrs from Div - 2 coys 17 Bn in contact with enemy all around at KUMAWO. 15 Bn moving to relieve them were at GURUNKUR last light. One coy 43 Bn relieved by one coy 17 Bn now moving to beachhead. B Coy 43 at BONGA have taken up posn astride trk. Hy rain. No enemy activity. It

1450 hrs from Div - 1 Corps I Sum 30

2/4 Indep Coy is redesignated 2/4 Aust Cav Commando.

O 631 It is advised that owing to hrs being

washed away rd along coast between BUREP and BUSU Rs is impassable for vehs only between periods of low tide at present in the morning.

Sitrep 32 to 2000L/7

1600 hrs to 28 & 32 Bns - Proposals received run mainland courses for RSMs and CSMS and potential WOs. Object. Trg WOs and NCOs in their rank duties. Vacancies basis one student per Bn. Comments and suggested requirements to reach this HQ before 1800 hrs 9 Oct.

2230 hrs from Div - 2 coys 17 Bn at KUMAWA still in contact. 15 Bn very hard going not yet at KUMAWA by rain jeeps unable to move for supplies, being taken up by tps and porters.

9 OCT

0830 hrs from Div - A & BCoy 17 Bn and two coys 43 Bn at JIVEVANENG. C & D Coy 17 Bn contacted. 15 Bn killed 30 JAPS. 15 Bn with C & DCoy 17 Bn at KUMAWA still in contact with enemy. BCoy 43 patrol at BONGA no contact. 2/24 Bn NTR. 7 Div. 2/6 Indep Coy at KUMKUMO. 27 Bn. Halted for night at 689604 report enemy patrols active at 692604 the previous night. 2/33 Coy patrol to 769538 report br over SULAMAI at 771537 and 772528 blown. BENA Force patrol report no enemy up the APAIBE R to WO 6365.

1153 hrs from Div - O 657. Brief report required earliest on all defects of service eqpt as disclosed in recent ops. Refer where applicable to other reports already submitted.

Sitrep 33 to 2000L/8

1700 hrs from Div - Warning order. 28 Bn will prepare to move DIMINISH not before 13 Oct. Probable embarkation date 13th and 14 Oct.

2030 hrs from Div - Still fighting at SATELBERG and KUMAWA. 7 Div still surging ahead. Moving North to cut new rd. 24 Bn PIB patrol from KIEMEN - BANGUAP killed 12 found 9 dead. Still stragglers very weak and badly equipped. Patrol continuing.

2200 from 28 and 32 Bns - Ref WOs and NCOs course.

10 OCT 43

0940 hrs from Div - In reply to O 615 of 6 Oct. Most desirable suggest should be conducted in NG to save time and waste.

1200 hrs Tac Bde moved out to DIMINISH.

1230 hrs from Div - Special DIMINISH I Summary No. 2

9 Div I Sum No. 13

Sitrep 34 to 1300L/9

G158/15/- Embarkation procedure 11 Oct.

Ref Adm Instn No. 13 paras 14 & 15 Alteration

of times for washing.

1945 hrs from Div - Secret. Ref 1 inch map. Adv HQ 9 Div closes present location 1800 hrs 10 Oct opens DIMINISH area 11 Oct about 1200 hrs.

Rear HQ 9 Div remains 803445.

1955 hrs from DAQMG - Enemy appears to be reinforcing SATELBERG.

Own forces waiting to attack. ~~ExCoy 2/28 Bn at BONGA~~

11 OCT 43

1200 hrs Main Bde moved to DIMINISH.

2005 hrs to Div - Enemy B dropped 4 anti personnel bombs along south bank SONG R from mouth on beach direction of attack N - S. 5 bombs

2008 hrs parallel SONG R and 400 yds S. Attack W - E. Believe same plane made both attacks.

2205 hrs from Div - Warning order 9 Aust Div Carr Coy.

12 OCT 43

0800 hrs from Div - WX11235 Lieut N.F. DEVLIN 2/28 Bn will report 9 Div Rec Camp 10 Oct for onward movement to 1 Corps Rec Camp.

0917 from Div - Ack for 00 19.

1230 hrs from 20 Bde - Location 20 Bde at 1200 hrs 629663. (1/25000)

1340 hrs from 43 Bn - Patrol W of BONGA in posn high ground overlooking village. Saw small recon party of enemy move into village and return to creek. Main body of enemy moved into village to trk junc and turned right towards patrol ~~westwards~~. A party of our sigs and SBS over hill to W of patrol were sighted by JAPS who went to ground.

They were fired on by LMGs. 3 inch mortar brought to bear on posn and JAPS moved into scrub. Arty harassing shoot on posn. Patrol now moving through village towards creek to see what happened to JAPS. Patrol strengthened by one section. Enemy carrying by loads probably rations in bags.

1500 hrs - Verbal orders issued to COs 43 and 2/3 Pnr Bns.

1920 hrs from 3 Pnr Bn - Sgt and 8 ORs moved out from 18 Pl HQ NW and struck creek running into SONG 636697 to SONG R followed along S bank of SONG to 625700 and returned. Trk 12 ft wide unused with signs that creek of someone using rubber shoes. Trk could be made jeepable.

15 pl 635695 recon to westerly standing patrol 625700. Recon patrol one sec fwd not more than 1000 yds westerly direction. T.O. 0830.

T.I. 1600 for all patrols. 14 pl 630687 Recon trk going west to determine native direction for 1000 yds. 18 pl 630676 Recon west along SIKI R to report on any trks and signs of enemy for 1000 yds.

16 pl. 627669 to 622672 to 625675 and return. ALL patrols one sec strength

2000 hrs from 43. T.O. 0930. 17 pl went with PIB to trk junc 639731 and remained in ambush. PIB patrolled along trk to 632728. natives report that trk NOT used since last patrol. T.I. 1300. NMS.

posn 4 pl 651699. trk running west from TARIKO footpad only over ridges and hills. NOT jeepable.

2200 - 0615 hrs sitnor all units

-5-
13 OCT 43.

0500 hrs from Div - Advise by 1800 hrs TAC R desired 13 oct . also if extra prints on oblique enlargements required . TAC R 12 oct reports 587562 one NMS KATIKA - KALANIPO NMS . BONGA - WAREO NMS. 12 own tps 645743. NMS R MAPE west of SIMBANG . possible weapon site 580571 1325000. (1.1") weapon pits slit trenches 573662. Trks on spur 570465 also digging.

0507 hrs From 2 Bde. The following units and sub units passed from comd this unit 1600 hrs 12 Oct . 2/2 M G Bn 2/3 Par Bn less one coy .C coy PIB less one pl.

0835 hrs From 20 Bde . 13 Bn occupied TIROMORO apparently unopposed. Enemy may be occupying high ground .

AIR STRIKE over RIABUAL 100 MITCHELLS 12 BEAUFIGHTERS knocked out 60 e/planes on the ground and 11 in the air. our losses 1 MITCHELL & 1 BEAUFIGHTER.

80 LIBERATORS sank two destroyers and left 12 ships burning. our losses 3 LIBERATORS.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

1100 hrs From 43. "B" coy patrol .strength 1 offr 15 ORS T.O. 0900 hrs T.I. 1100. route passed through BONGA & reced area 645743. NMS.

1235 hrs From Div. TAC R .NMS in BONGA ~~XXXX~~ RNTS POINT .smoke at 638775 . Barge drawn up under trees and camouflage d by braken and branches, at 638782 & fresh trks run up ridges inland. ALL ridges inland covered with kunai NORTH of BONGA .with jungle in gullies and jungles for 100 yds inland from coast . ALL ground NORTH of LAKONA bare 1000 yds inland

1250 hrs From 2/3 Par Bn. BHQ estbat 640677. A coy report rd to BONGA ready for jeeps tomorrow

1253 hrs From C coy MGS. sec at 650703 report a lot of smoke on bearing of 215 over ridge and approx 4000 yds awy y.

1300 hrs from Div . sitrep 35 to 2000L/12

Re location tps and units

Corp int sum 31.

Interrogation report

O 722. Confirmation of verbal orders.

From 43 Bn. Unable to contact patrol of PIB.

1300 hrs From 9 Div .RAA .0.0.4.

1350 hrs From 2/2 MGS . 1-1". at 639697 WEST side NORTH HILL between 2000 & 2100 hrs signalling at SATELBERG 16 mins later barge started (in harbour) further signalling as barge started at 204 degrees approx 4000 yds (large open MORETON BAY FIG TREE) .

1415 hrs from Div. Will straffe barge mentioned in TAC R this afternoon.

1430 hrs from 43 Bn . B. coy patrol 1 offr and 15 ORS. T.O. 0935 T.I.

1350. covering party in posn on terrace 1020 hrs. BONGA reported clear 1030 hrs. reced creek area 1030 -1130 hrs .Trk in kunai at 647746 was on bearing of 236 for 300 yds . reced NORTH of creek from 1130 - 1230 hrs .

Recce of creek mouth made for barges patrol suggest recce from sea .

Lieut CLARKE buried at 648744. NO enemy found but pool of blood found at 6487

4. NO eqpt found .NMS.

15 OCT

- 1530 hrs from 43 rd - patrol report. B Coy one offr 15 ORs time out 0935 hrs, time in 1550 hrs. Covering party in position terrace 1030 hrs. BONGA reported clear of enemy 1030 hrs. Recce of creek area from 1030 to 1150 hrs. Trk found in land bearing 330 deg mag from 647746 for 300 yds. Recce of creek area 1150 to 1300 hrs. 300 yds from BONGA to land north of creek. No enemy dead found but pool of dry blood 648744 within 50 yds of where Lieut Clarke was buried. No capt found IHS. Recce for barges at mouth of creek made. Suggest recce from sea. Patch of jungle near BONGA embraces ground forming of cleft some 50 to 100 ft deep with very steep sides. It is wholly unsuitable for coy area. BONGA itself can be viewed to enemy by pl standing patrols. To reach BONGA from present B Coy posn takes 30 mins. There is no advantage in moving whole coy further fwd as a base for further ops which can be quite as well carried out from present posn, and can be supplied very much better. Radius of action of B Coy patrols could extend for some 3000 yds north and W from BONGA in one day. B Coy standing patrol posn suggested by Brig 12 Oct west of B Coy is at present held by a pl standing patrol, 637731. It is a commanding trk junction and appears to embrace trk system leading from inland to BONGA. In addition an OP at B Coy covers the whole area. Thus with a standing patrol in BONGA and a standing patrol west of B Coy the enemy has no sight of way to BONGA. The standing patrol at 637731 is supplied daily from 647731.
- 1515 hrs from para - 13 pl patrol report. one IHS 6 ORs. Route - 633677 to creek at 636679 then to KATIKA trk 636681 (by going) then to 633677 where 2 booby traps were found (55 grounds) and deloused.
- 1500 hrs from para - 14 pl patrol report. Cpl 2 & 4 ORs. TO 1515 TI 1500. Route. 630687 along west footed for 1000 yds to 619686. IHS. Suitable pl def area. 7 natives seen on trk to west at 1400 hrs. Natives were coming down from hills for food.
- 1900 hrs from para - 16 pl patrol report. TO 1930 TI 1630 hrs. Route. 639688 to 632678 to 625675 to 628688. Found trk from 622672 north for 400 yds 2 ft wide. IHS.
- 1940 hrs from para - 15 pl patrol report. 2 IHS 12 ORs. TO 0900 TI 1600. Route. 630694 along south bank (west) to 634701. At this pt trk crossed river then due west for 1000 yds. At crossing (ford) signs of encampment and boat marks, followed 350 yds to garden. Trk petered out, growth on North thick jungle. South open jungle. 2 pairs 260 deg mag 110 deg mag - each had been used recently.
- 2035 hrs from 43 rd - Proposed patrols. B Coy TO 0630 TI 1630. Fighting and recce 1 offr 27 ORs. Route recce coast trk and coast north of BONGA 500 yds North and South. SP BONGA. B Coy. 2 pl and see IHS out to 637731 object to set up a permanent def posn. TO 0815 TI 1700.
- 2200 hrs from para - Proposed patrols.
- No. 1 - 16 pl one sec TO 0630 TI 1600. Route - from pl HQ along southbank of SEI R to 630675. Task - recce for trk and gain info in that area.
- No. 2 - 1 offr 12 ORs. TO 0900 hrs TI 1600. Route. 630670 to 633677 to 615677. Return camp route. Task - recce for trk.
- No. 3 - one pl - TO 0630 TI 1600. Patrol area 615685. Task cover B Coy occupation of that area.
- No. 4 - 15 pl. 2 IHS. TO 0930 TI 1630. From junction 634701 on base of 260 deg and 110 deg mag. Task - recce for trk.

14 OCT

- 0830 hrs to Div - Air photo demand
- ~~1112~~ Report from 43 Bn - 0855 reported from NORTH HILL that pigeon flew towards SATELBERG. Request security ruling.
- 1112 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy patrol at WOODSIDE - other patrol recceing. D Coy patrol has taken posn. All patrols out on time 0915.
- 1210 hrs from Pnrs - PIB contacted 2 natives who said they saw one offr and 5 men (JAP) by their camp
- 1225 hrs from Pnrs - Natives questioned but infm very unreliable. Saw one JAP offr and 5 men near camp. Pl near handy and natives visit mission.
- 1230 hrs from 9 Div - A Coy 2/2 MG held at 2 hrs notice in Div mob area. May be used by Q for unloading and beach clearance duties in vicinity FINSCH HARBOUR, but remains 2 hrs notice at all times.
- ~~1310 hrs from 9 Div~~
- 1310 hrs to Div - Dry weather jeep trk now exists from North bank SONG R 638690 to 653731. Route followed trk as per trace fwded 13 Oct.
- 1330 hrs from Pnrs - One native walked into 14 Pl 1100 hrs, 628688, going to 43 BHQ.
- 1335 hrs from 43 Bn - 16 Pl plus att tps have taken up posn at 657731 1352 hrs
- 1430 hrs from Pnrs - Patrol report 18 Pl. 2 NCOs 7 ORs. TO 0900 TI 1200. Route. 633678 along North bank SIKI 620643, return Southern bank. NMS. Going by, steep banks. No trks or pads found. 13 Pl - 2 secs consolidated at 614684. One sec Pl HQ 621683. No sign enemy interference at present. DCoy one offr 50 ORs TO 0845 TI 1525. Route 635672 to 607665 then to 602677. Observed area good view night. NMS. Northern and Western very steep. Mortars and MMG could be sited and bring fire to bear on OSCAR if necessary.
- 1500 hrs from Div - for security all vehs will carry at all times one man with arms in addition to dvr
- 1515 hrs from Div - No veh in 9 Div area will be driven at more than 15 mph.
- 1625 hrs from 28 Bn - A Coy one pl TO 0730 TI 1630 object recce in force North bank of SONG R time limit only.
- 1630 hrs from Pnrs - 13 Pl - 3 enemy killed, small patches blood. 15 Pl - 2 NCOs & 8 ORs. TO 0900 TI 1400. To recce trks at 625700. A Coy patrol ~~is~~ moving on 265 deg 500 yds crossed river 618701.
- 1735 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy now in posn junc 733731 BCoy patrol returned.
- 1750 hrs from Pnrs - Projected patrols. From B Coy 1 Offr one pl. ~~TO 0900 TI 1400.~~ Task - A - recce trks KATIKA to OSCAR from 614685 to 605685. B - inflict cas. 1700 hrs - 13 Pl in same area.
- 1815 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy - one offr 29 ORs - TO 0820 TI 1700. Task - recce. Route - 653731 to trk junc 653737 along trk which peters out, then to coast, then north along coast to BONGA, then along coast trk to 644762. Here patrol turned West up hill for 800 yds then North for 300 yds to 636765. Here good all-round view obtained. No trks were encountered running West from coast trk. Creek at 644753 - here trk of 2 men were found - believed to be either last night or this morning. One trk wearing boots went East to coast, the other (rubber shoes) continued North along coast trk and was still continuing when patrol left trk. Smoke observed at 630767 at 1300 hrs. NMS.
- 1900 hrs from Pnrs - 13 Pl strength one pl - TO 0830 TI 1600. Contacted enemy at 613684. Strength of enemy half pl. Our cas 2 wounded. Enemy appeared to be digging in. One pl going out to strengthen posn till arrival of B Coy. Posn of patrol 614684.
- 1900 hrs from Pnrs - sitrep to 1900 hrs. B Coy in posn 614684, 1700 hrs. 13 Pl cas 2 killed 1 offr wounded at 614684. 1100 hrs one native at 628688 questioned by PIB held for further questioning.

15 OCT(contd) -3-

- 1600 hrs from PARS - NCO and 6 ORs TO 1100 TI 1530 at 630688 contacted enemy 1400 hrs, 623694 estimated strength 15 recon party threw 3 grenades both parties fired at each other. JAPS had only rifles and appeared to be having a meal. Enemy withdrew, recon party returned. POC 1 offr 4 ORs from 620684 200 yds to 618685, 150 yds North to hill on top of which fired on by 2 Japs one was wearing an Aust helmet one carrying what appeared to be Owen SMG our party threw grenades returned in 1530 hrs. At 1630 hrs our mortars fired 10 rds on hill.
- 1630 hrs from 28 Bn - proposed posns for 28 Bn coast watching patrols without recon ARNDT PT 6567 and 645655.
- 1745 hrs - 6 Bs dropped bombs area 645785
- 1755 hrs - 1600 hrs Bn HQ 654734 direction of run NW SE burst of MG fire preceded dropping of bombs 644688
- 1820 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy found shell box 75mm 5 shells in corner empty recently dropped 637731
- 1930 hrs from PARS - BCoy one pl TO 0930 TI 1400 task patrol fwd along trk 620684 to 614685 clear area of enemy and recon for better coy posn
- 1945 hrs from 28 Bn - SP R SONG North of Bde. one sec PARS at 644693. Moving West approx 400 yds. 5000 yds along SONG. First light.
- 2035 hrs from 43 Bn - 1915 hrs guns fired 6 to 8 rds sound brg 340 deg mag from B Coy 677731 area shelled sq 6471
- 2015 hrs ~~MDS~~ to MLO - request for sea to shore recognition signals. Contact Beach Control Sec. Call put through to Beach Control Sec. (BON)
- 2055 hrs to 2/28 Bn - BON passed 28 Bn.

16 OCT

- 0715 hrs from PARS - Projected patrol C Coy one pl TO 0900 TI 1600 Route 628688 to 620695 to 625699. Task patrol sq 6269.
- 0750 hrs from 28 Bn - 2200 15th 4 bombs dropped area 638646 no damage no cas.
- 0835 hrs - 6 Bs 20 Fs dropped bombs (18) area Southern end SCARLET BEACH. usual MG burst preceded dropping, rang 28 for details
- 0900 hrs from 28 Bn - (A) 0845 (B) 6 twin engined HELEN 22 Fs (C) flying East (D) 9000 ft (E) A Coy area 644585 area bombs landed 1 man 4 wounded no damage
- 0950 hrs - report by Lt AA unexploded bomb near cemetery by MDS AA had previous experience of these one went off 12 and the other 16 hrs after fall
- 1000 hrs from 43 Bn - BNQ RAP and B Coy to be 651705 one pl A Coy from ORIENTAL rejoining A Coy 4 pl remain ORIENTAL otherwise no change.
- 1015 hrs to 9 Div - re bombing cas 6 wounded one subsequently died
- 1050 hrs from 28 Bn - change from verbal orders 00 5.
- 1515 hrs from PARS - B Coy patrol of one pl TO 0830 from KATIKA to OSCAR 613684 without incident. Took up posns covering B Coy occupation of area 614684 be in posn 1145 hrs
- 1530 hrs from PARS - Projected patrol B Coy one pl TO 0900 TI 1400 route 614684 to 604676. Task establish contact with DCoy. C Coy one NCO 10 ORs TO 0900 TI 1400 route 629687 to 614684 task establish contact with B Coy
- 1710 hrs from 43 Bn - 6 destroyers(?) steaming North out to sea Report from NORTH HILL
- 1718 hrs from PARS - C Coy patrol sq 6269 one of patrol wounded. 3 enemy killed. patrol NOT yet returned 8 men gone out to assist patrol.

- 1720 hrs from Div - Tac HQ 9 Div opens at 636575 at 1800 hrs 16 Oct.
- 1730 hrs from Div - 6 of our destroyers expected off FINSCH HARBOUR late pm 16 Oct
- 1730 hrs from Para - Firing not Para. Thought 17 Bn
- 1830 hrs from Para - C Coy patrol one pl TO 0900 TI 1715 route 630688 to 626687 to 622691 to 620697 to 622691 to trk 622685 return along trk to Coy HQ outward route very difficult no tracks many pads (not well worn). Many enemy footprints in area 622692 NMS returning along trk from 622685 at about 360 yds from C Coy HQ JAPS seen to run across trk through kunai the fwd scout shot him and patrol engaged by enemy estimated 15 after 10 mins enemy withdrew to gully south of trk in kunai one of patrol wounded on return of patrol party of 8 moved out to search for wounded and as they approached dead JAP saw 2 JAPS coming towards him both JAPS killed
- 1900 hrs from 43 Bn - Coastal patrol have been posted on lookout at SIKI and FUSU 24 hrs duration
- 1945 hrs from Linceman - D Coy 28 Bn can see light flashing North end of spur running out to FINSCH HARBOUR signal lamp
- 2000 hrs from 28 Bn - one of our planes(?) thought to crash at 5000 yds on brg 260 deg from C Coy. 28 Bn had no patrols 17 Oct.
- 2005 hrs from 43 Bn - 1930 hrs plane crashed 265 deg from 637731 projected patrols. Standing patrol 1000 yds West of 637731 Party from A Coy Para going to D Coy at 637731 more details later.
- 2010 hrs to Div - Addition to sitrep no. 9. 1950 hrs 2 own planes crashed one area SATELBERG one 625683 ref map 1/25000. Aust wounded pilot now D Coy 28 airstrip area
- 2040 hrs from D Coy 28 Bn - Pilot of crashed plane reports that another pilot baled out over BANGEMAK HARBOUR. Request patrol first light to locate pilot.
- 2050 hrs from 43 Bn - From 637731 at 2015 hrs saw light flashing 340 deg mag to 345 deg mag gun fire on 60 deg mag A Coy para patrol 5 ORs TO 0830 TI - Route to 637731 object to contact D Coy.
- 2100 hrs from 43 Bn - Maj JEANES reported barges then bombing 80 deg cannot now hear barges bombs dropped from way up NORTH HILL Exchange reported flashes of and gunfire 60 deg.

17 OCT

- 0900 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol of 2 and 47 leaving 43 BHQ 0900 hrs deal with enemy SONG area. 43 patrol now 2 and 70.
- 0910 hrs from 43 Bn - PIB patrol to WOODSIDE NMS nor sign of enemy trk activity
- 0920 hrs from Para - report fire 345 deg from B Coy 355 deg from D Coy (605709 feature)
- 0925 hrs from 28 Bn - B Coy moving from 644696 to area 630699 to 639707
- 0930 hrs from Div - proposed air ops. Long range recce as for 16 Oct. Strike SATELBERG approved but depends availability. Tac R entire area
- 0940 hrs from 28 Bn - in craft found two haversacks in which were 2 white flags (12 ins sq) on sticks
- 1030 hrs from 43 Bn - Brg 288 deg one-third way up NORTH HILL somewhere near building signal fire.
- 1100 hrs - 5 enemy Bs intercepted by 4 of our Fs on brg 35 deg grid
- 1110 hrs from 43 Bn - 6 enemy Bs our Fs shot down 2 Bs
- From 43 Bn - 1100 hrs from B Coy reports having contacted Sgt MACABE posn pl. on rd (rear of BHQ) NMS. Signs of few enemy only. Trk suggests hurriedly dispersing North along coast and some NW inland. Patrol continuing its sweep to SONG R. to clear area completely, at same time small movement heard between 43 Bn perimeter and coast

17 OCT (contd) -2-

- 1130 hrs from 43 Bn - 1100 hrs A Coy Pns ordered to send patrol to area of SADDLE between ACoy Pns and NORTH HILL with object of cutting enemy withdrawal.
- 1140 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol from A Coy Pns reached 637731 NMS
- 1145 hrs to 28 Bn - Send jeeps to DCoy telling them to move immediately KATIKA res area
- 1155 hrs - smoke signal 328 deg from NORTH HILL.
- 1120 hrs from 43 Bn - proposed patrols No 1 1000 yds West standing patrol at 629730 3 ORs No 2 3 ORs from 637731 SW 100 yds No. 3 PIB Pl from 653734 through BONGA then West to 639745 then to 637731 No. 4 A Coy Pns 638718 to 630670. 3 ORs. No. 5 A Coy Pns 638718 to 622730, 3 ORs. No. 6 A Coy Pns pl standing patrol 644713. Object of all patrols to recce for enemy. No. 5 Pl report in posn standing patrol report 3 planes 2 crashed 1 probable smoke observed 328 deg mag from NORTH HILL. Suggest plane burning
- 1410 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol order A Coy (5 of 17) tight recce strength 1 NCO 3 ORs TO 1430 TI 1700 SP 642709 report in 641708 No. 5 pl HQ object to locate any enemy or signs of enemy NW of NORTH HILL. Method. Report to SP then on brg 290 deg mag for 700 yds then 186 deg mag 1000 yds then 96 deg mag 600 yds further infm required report on trks (a) direction (b) type (c) nature of country (d) forest (e) jungle (f) gradient
- 1415 hrs from Pns - patrol B Coy contacted enemy at 611680
- 1500 hrs from Adv Div - ref Div 00 20. Same precautions as for night 16/17 Oct will be taken night 17/18 Oct except that aircraft will only be hostile from LANGEMAK BAY Northwards and only between 1900 hrs 17 and 0800 18. Naval protection in that area has been requested night 17/18 Oct. Own ESB craft from G Beach area due to arrive FINCH HARBOUR between 1600 and 1800 today all informed.
- 1515 hrs from Div - P59 pilot crashed vicinity of ARNDT PT one inch map can you assist in any way
- 1530 hrs from 43 Bn - 21 killed. all made their way to NORTH HILL one of whom was shot own cas 6 wounded one seriously patrol returned to coy HQ NMS A Coy patrol to 637731 TI 1515 ACoy patrol 642704(OP) 634707 to 633698 to 642698 TO 1530 TI 1700
- 1605 hrs from 43 Bn - Pilot of crashed plane ARNDT PT area reached 43 composite coy Lt. Pearce
- 1610 hrs from Pns - BHQ patrol TO 1500 TI 1515. West along trk 300 yds then North 120 yds. All Four of patrol remained with 5 pl remainder went round top of hill(632683). In creek 2 Japs patrol threw grenades Japs cleared off West. Jap who appeared to be hammering a pole at 632684 our cas one killed 3 wounded
- 1715 hrs from Div - one coy 32 Bn will move earliest to TAREKO where it will be disposed by 20 Bde. Task to hold TAREKO are and trk juncs in vicinity. Coy remains under cmd 32Bn in Div res and will not be moved from TAREKO without ref to 9 Div or if com fail ref to 20 Bde.
- 1720 hrs from 28 Bn - B Coy at 628700
- 1720 hrs from Pns - Projected patrol. DCoy 1 offr 25 ORs TO 0900 TI 1500 Route - D Coy to B Coy Task clear trk of enemy contact B Coy. C Coy 1 Sgt 25 ORs TO 0900 TI 1500. COY HQ BHQ along trk from C Coy KATIKA trk. BHQ Patrol 1 offr 24 ORs TO 0930 TI 1100 Route 633684 to 635682 creek crossing 635683 and fwd to high ground ~~633682~~ one sec contacted enemy 636682 exchanged fire. Patrol contacted for half hr. Returned as they were being encircled. Our cas 2 wounded enemy 10 killed. B Coy 1 pl to 0930 TI 1500 Route 613684 to 612682. Report moved along trk junc. Engaged and had to withdraw. Fair amount of firepower

27 OCT (cont) -3-

- 1730 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol SP area 637731 went west 1200 yds
NMS 2 sets footprints one East of trk. 637731 SW 1100 yds
through kunai passed three patches of jungle. Rise in front
saw 5 unidentified persons returned to SP. A Coy Pnrs
2 patrols one NW one SW 1500 yds comple of old pads NTR.
B Coy 43 report 24 killed. One by burial party. Grenade
thrown area North NORTH HILL A Coy investigating
- 1910 hrs from 28 Bn - Jap footprints at KATIKA area reported by D Coy
2 sets footprints travelling West

18 OCT

- 1005 hrs from 28 Bn - Natives report Japs coming down trk towards AA
1010 hrs from AA - report being attacked 635676
1035 hrs from 43 Bn - 5 Pl 652710 ACoy 648713 to 647707 ACoy Pnrs
647707 to 645703 pl at 645703 D Coy res 644700 to and astride
creek into SONG Bn HQ 644697 comp force 653704 to 647694
escarpment closes gap 654711 to 654704
- 1050 hrs from 28 Bn - Attack hard and very determined coming in from
on left of KATIKA rd and between SIKI gunfire not possible
too close
- 1100 hrs from 43 Bn - C Coy report patrol located enemy dug in estimate
one pl 3 LMG North of SATELBERG rd between 595 and 597
- 1230 hrs from Div - confirmation. CCoy 43 Bn and BCD Coys Pnrs will
hold present posns and no circumstances will move without
approval Comd 9 Div
- 1240 hrs from 28 Bn - patrol of C Coy to SIKI R 638678 NMS North bank
impassable.
- 1255 hrs from DID - 1000 yds up rd to KATIKA tpt tried to get through
to launch jetty approx 1130 and approx half mile from south
end SCARLET BEACH were stopped by Japs who threw grenade in
leading jeep both occupants injured jeep returned to DID
- 1300 hrs from Beach Sigs - report grenade and MG fire in area
- 1430 hrs from 43 Bn - No 5 Pl along beach to contact 28 B Coy D Coy
now ~~inf~~ South of B Coy no contact with 28 B Coy PIB patrol
to investigate
- 1530 hrs from 43 Bn - PIB West 1000 yds Japs in area 633699 prevented
any further Westwards movement.
- 1540 hrs from Div - ACoy MG Bn reverts from comd 20 Bde to comd MG
farthwith and remains present location A & D Coy 22 Bn come
under comd MG on arrival KAKAKOG area
- 1550 hrs from 43 Bn - tk A while moving south along beach found 30
of our men holding undefended portion SCARLET BEACH patrol went
to ground and Sgt organising defence layout.
- 1743 hrs to Div - request Tac R and barge hunt before last light
- 1810 hrs - 1 offr 19 ORs arrived Bde HQ sent to 644689 B Coy 43 to
thicken perimeter
- 1835 hrs from 43 Bn - Smoke coming from over hill South of SATELBERG
brg 220 M approx 580655 9 smoke rockets appear to have gone
up in same area last three were together
- 1910 hrs from MG - 2 PTs just pulled in off beach
- 1920 hrs to Div - request for bombing 19 SATELBERG BONGA WAREO BALANKO
barge search no barges sighted
- 1945 hrs from MG - Capt Nickolls did not deliver message to PT boats
- 1950 hrs from Pnrs - IO reports that he destroyed documents maps and
papers by tearing them up and ~~burying~~ burying them
- 2015 hrs - Sigs advised line cut to Div half way through sitrep
to be encoded and sent by WF

19 OCT

- 0700 hrs from 28 Bn - Attack on C Coy started 1130 continued until 1230 in the cove around SIKI R 0130 attack started and went on until 0330 by 40 Japs 0330 hrs left hand pl pulled out onto high ground a lot of whispering in front of DCoy
- 0830 hrs from 43 Bn - see MG going to DCoy 43 reports from NORTH HILL one ship one mast steaming north brg 160 M
- 0841 hrs from BM to 28 Bn - patrols to be sent out all coys 1000 In 1300
- 0940 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol projected. One European and 5 natives plus cover party of 5 from A Coy TO 1000 TI 1600 route to BONGA via coast trk. Sub patrol to patrol North as far as 647731 task report on state of rds and infm re enemy mvt
- 0950 hrs to Bns - recce patrols to go out from all coys beachhead perimeter immediately TO 0945
- 1010 hrs from 43 Bn - report ships seen were 1 destroyer, patrol craft and 2 barges a long way out to sea and have air cover
- 1050 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy standing to slight mvt on right flank
- 1047 hrs - Bde standing to one Jap sighted at 642695
- 1120 hrs from Div - OK our corvet
- 1120 hrs to Pns - request to send 2 Gpls of I Sec to work Bde RT traffic
- 1130 hrs from 43 B Coy - 2 Japs shot not shaven for weeks only food Aust Army biscuits
- 1141 hrs from 28 Bn - D Coy patrol one sec TO 1000 TI 1300 on brg 270 deg for 1500 yds SP Coy HQ. A Coy patrol went 350 yds sighted a body of Japs moving N to S. Japs sighted them and opened rifle fire no LMG or automatics Japs turned N patrol ordered out primary object infm DCoy patrol not yet reported in but no firing. Pl patrol under Lieut George from C Coy right flank 1040 hrs route CCoy right flank S to pass 100 yds E KATIKA village to SIKI R thence on brg 190 to contact 2/13 Bn
- 1142 hrs from 28 Bn - mvt 643681 3 bombs put in area considerable mvt Americans opened fire on area
- 1145 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy report considerable number dead and complete eqpt abandoned in front of their posns
- 1205 hrs - Shell fire direction JIVENA VENG
- 1230 hrs from 43 Bn - 5 Pl report seeing 2 Japs just fwd of their posns shot one who did not appear to be armed except for a grenade trying to get other one
- 1235 hrs from 28 Bn - projected patrol. D Coy one sec TO 1000 TI 1230 object recce route 64206825 150 yds brg 270 up sharp rise then flat 300 yds another rise across dry creek steep slope far bank 638682 went to ground in shell holes. Arty particularly successful. Waited for 10 mins NMS. At 6386817 number of green camouflaged doovers recently occupied. Sketch found. ~~Recce~~ Patrol returned same route. Went to ground 639682 and 641682 NMS
- 1245 hrs to Div - extensive recceing going on all morning to estimate and locate strength of enemy. If practicable Westward move will be made earliest. This depends on contact with 13 Bn. Strong fighting patrol is operating to contact 13 Bn no new yet. Still scattered engagement on whole SCARLET perimeter. Consider early attack 18 Oct probably by full regt est about 500 cas inflicted on enemy will attack with 2 coys 28 KATIKA area approx 1400 hrs. Please advise 13 Bn. If attack unsuccessful perimeter will again be closed.
- 1315 hrs from 28 Bn - enemy fired on our barge from their posns cove area and gave away posn engaged with mortars and MG A Coy patrol In 1300 out 400 yds ~~in~~ 270 deg NMS
- 1415 hrs to 28 from BM(L) - to send pl from B Coy 28 back to posn in res as they will be moving shortly in connection with KATIKA show.
- 1515 hrs from Div - first believed small party (enemy) infiltrated to coast south of SCARLET BEACH night 18/19 Oct and attacked our northern coast watching party at 650677 2/32 bn will send patrol pl strength to location of coast watching party route out by coastal trk route in across country between coast and main coast rd. Japs found will be destroyed.

19 OCT (cont'd) - 2.

- second - 2/32 bn will send another patrol strength one pl to search HELDSBACH PLANTATION between coast and main rd and S of EW creek through 645668 enemy will be destroyed if large body enemy met patrol will hold and fight.
third - 2/32 bn will report all contact with enemy
- 1531 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol report - PIB TO 1000 TI 1500 500 yds from mouth of SONG saw one enemy who made off North moved N NMS 3 boys went into BONGA Village and saw 20 Japs recently arrived had removed packs and were dug in. patrol withdrew through 654734 653724 further party of Japs heard. patrol moved off trk and allowed 25 Japs to pass 2 natives with LMG and rifles acting as scouts and headed for BONGA. Party of Japs appeared to have come down from high ground on West by a fresh made trk patrol returned to SP
- 1630 hrs from 28 Bn - found Jap respirators 640689
1656 hrs from 28 Bn - A Coy in area which they held morning 18 Oct 640683
1725 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy 64406905 D Coy 643686
1745 hrs from 45 Bn DCoy. - patrol moved 400 yds due W 3 Japs located Count now 17 dead 27 sets eqpt jeep at 637693 is it safe to retrieve
1755 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 in posn 637682 A Coy left B Coy right trk incl to A Coy
1815 hrs to Div from BM - 28 Bn captured high ground 637682 1800 hrs. B Coy North A Coy South of trk opposition not strong. Enemy fire from W of posn arty registering
1900 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy moving a sec to posn trk junc near ford 64406934 killed one Jap near OP posn 1300 hrs
1907 hrs from 28 Bn - mortar registering on KATIKA enemy in village.

20 OCT

- 0725 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy report stick of bombs dropped in gully about 600 yds of fwd post at 0500 hrs. MG on NORTH HILL report about one hr before bombing tracers were seen fired into the air fwd of our post from BONGA area enemy plane was in the air at this time A Coy Pnrs sending one sec fwd of NW posn to investigate sounds heard during night
0822 hrs from 28 Bn - 2 wounded in A Coy show no infm re enemy. 2 enemy parties encountered and party in KATIKA village made half-hearted attack. 28 infm of arty fire coming down.
0823 hrs from 43 Bn - last night mvt 2200 hrs 71 grid reported mvt 2300 650694 mvt no reply to fire projected patrols one sec A Coy Pnrs 5 PIB and arty/R. Bn HQ TO 1000 TI 1700 recce area of 6473671 recover eqpt ~~BuxMa~~ PIB to BONGA return via spur to A Coy Pnrs old posn 647713 thence OP on NORTH HILL
1000 hrs from 43 Bn - Projected patrol # 1 offr 4 ORs TO 1015 TI 1300 route 647694 to 645692 West 1000 yds along North bank SONG 638696 object recce for enemy mvt and ground for mortar tasks
1010 hrs from 28 Bn - D Coy contacted 2 wounded
1135 hrs from 43 B Coy - patrol 1 offr 17 ORs TO 1145 TI 1400 from 644691 West 500 yds to 639689 D Coy patrol 1 Sgt 10 ORs West 500 yds from 644688 to 639687 TO 1145 TI 1400
1200 hrs from 28 Bn - patrol report 1 offr 4 ORs TO 1015 TI 1115 route 647694 to 645692 to 640696. NMS.
1225 hrs Tac R - reports 2 enemy MMGs sighted in SIKI CREEK area are each side of a 5 ton truck
1245 hrs from BM - D Coy 28 Bn being withdrawn to enable enemy being engaged by mortar fire our cas 17
1310 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol B Coy SP 644691 1 offr 13 ORs TO 1140 TI 1310 went NW to garden 640694 from there recce patrols of 3 men one went West 300 yds to ridge NMS, second went 250 yds along edge of garden located footprints of 2 Japs JAPS, third 200 yds S then 100 yds E returned N to posn in

- garden NMS
 1335 hrs from Div - disposes 20 Bde vicinity KATIKA CCoy 2/13
 Bn pl 644679 643679 642678 pl 32 640677
- 1340 hrs from 43 Bn - OO No. 8
- 1405 hrs from 43 Bn - TI 1415 PIB patrol TO 1000 accompanied by
 Pnr Bn personnel and Arty Gp on coast rd trk towards BONGA.
 Outwards journey 600 yds from outpost 647710 one Jap scout
 seen who withdrew hurriedly. After further 500 yds a party
 of 5 Japs came down coast trk from high ground on West summit
 of NORTH HILL area PIB boys report having seen at 652725
 2 LMG one on each side of trk on edge of plantation this could
 have been seen earlier in ambush posn this party saw
 fwd scout PIB patrol and without waiting made off quickly
 towards BONGA 2 were armed with LMGs remainder with rifles
 wires all along rd had been interfered with no further progress
 made patrol in its journey counted approx 8 new trks leading
 from high ground on West to coastal trk and footprints of a
 considerable number of men indicating mvt towards BONGA
 D Coy patrol strength 1 Sgt 10 ORs TO 1145 TI 1400
 route from present posn 275 deg M 500 yds at this posn patrol
 took up posn and Sgt and 4 moved S for 300 yds then came
 back to original posn another sub patrol 80 deg 200 yds
 then returned patrol returned to SP NMS
- 1445 hrs from 28 Bn - Vickers shoot on enemy brought fire enemy in
 strength from sea to high ground
- 1450 hrs from 43 Bn - 2 mortars landed 10 yds off shore near
 breached Yankee barge at SCARLET BEACH
- 1515 hrs from 28 Bn - Arty fire satisfactory 100 yds in front A Coy posn
- 1645 hrs from 28 Bn - ACoy patrol out 1630 B Coy reports that Japs
 killed on north of KATIKA trk were carrying rations. Otherwise
 light loads
- 1750 hrs from 43 Bn - did not contact Pnr within 400 yds of them
 and contacted enemy
- 1755 hrs from 28 Bn - some enemy killed wearing Aust boots
- 1801 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy Sgt and 5 ORs TO 1620 TI 1740 patrol
 reached 634633 were then fired on by LMG. Est enemy one sec
 one LMG and 10 rifles. More posns appear to be dug on left
 of this posn. Just prior to reaching this pt they came to
 a steep ridge densely covered with bamboo and undergrowth
 2 patches of kunai on top of ridge and a number of old posns
 would seem to be some of our old posns sig wire had been cut
 200 yds on the other side of our old am pt from this pt
 they could see no further wire 450 yds from SP trk crossed
 rd running NW and SW many Jap footprints were on it
 it is the opinion of the patrol that this trk was used by
 Japs to launch the attack patrol went 900 yds from SP
 and est they were 400 yds from objective
- 1855 hrs from 43 Bn - Booby traps along trk which runs parallel to
 SONG West of ford by night and listening post by day.
 Listening post 900 yds from SONG R approx 652698 post with
 draws on mvt booby traps set North of strong post 652694
- 1856 hrs from 28 Bn - Cavanagh patrol 28 Bn reached 2/13 Bn approx
 1630 hrs. Now returning and laying line
- 1915 hrs from 43 Bn - Jap gun brg 328 M from 644702 flash brg
- 1920 hrs from Div - Need for preventing Japanese from SIKI CREEK
 was more pressing than need to destroy them, therefore 32 Bn
 attacks from North being held back for one day to cover move
 26 Bde

21 OCT

- 0810 hrs from 28 Bn - patrol from D Coy 0800 follow ration trk to A & B Coys object to clear trk and contact A & B Coys
- 0830 hrs from 45 Bn - projected patrol B Coy strength 1 offr 30 ORS 4 PIB object to contact C Coy Pns TO 0850 route to native garden 640694 from this pt on a brg 259 M 1100 yds to creek bend thence 136 M 700 yds to C Coy posn
- 0920 hrs from 28 Bn - C Coy observed 15 Japs going West with heavily laden packs
- 0925 hrs from Div - Air strike SATELBERG WARRO FIOR 6 med Bs and L of C to SCARLET BEACH
- 0937 hrs from 45 Bn - D Coy approx one pl going 200 yds S thence W and back
- 0950 hrs from 28 Bn - Smoke from E of KATIKA posn mortared
- 1045 hrs from 45 Bn - A Coy report mvt 9 Japs 547684 patrol B Coy 200 yds in front of posns NMS. D Coy patrol went S for 250 yds W for 300 yds to high feature NMS returned by same route
- 1110 hrs from 45 Bn - B Coy patrol 1 offr 30 ORS TO 0850 TI 1109 route 644691 to 63906935 patrol took up perimeter defence and probed NMS North, East, and NE enemy found on each probe numerous fires seen in gully at 637694. Listening post found fwd of enemy FDL. Japs did not know of patrol's presence Patrol cmd stated that enemy has def line from 63596949 to 63506915
- 1115 hrs from 28 Bn - patrol Pns returned travelled from D Coy due West 500 yds going by jungle between first light and 1130 22 Japs crossed KATIKA trk immediately in front C Coy FDL 6 were definitely killed some had Aust helmets some their own others had none enemy line series of dug in posns 636695 has sentries and listening post posted another enemy posn 638689
- 1150 hrs from Arty LO - B Coy Pns reported in B Coy 28 637685
1145 hrs route unknown
- 1310 hrs from 45 Bn - jeep trk is now through to top of NORTH HILL
- 1415 hrs from 45 Bn - A Coy patrol Pns one Sgt 13 ORS TO 1015 TI 1210 to patrol PINE HILL area 644712 NMS in area camp had been visited by Japs
- 1900 hrs from 28 Bn - B Coy 32 in posn 63806927 63946880 64066835 at 1812 hrs
- 1902 hrs - C Coy Pns reported in Bde Hq 1830 hrs.
- 0810 hrs from 45 Bn -

22 OCT

- A Coy patrol HQ 11 & sig TO 0800 TI 1700 route North bank SONG R 500 yds from ford reece
- 0925 hrs from 28 Bn - C Coy TO 0919 straight out from FDL and then swing down to cove and contact 45 Bn B Coy have cleared to KATIKA after drive to banana plantation at approx 641679 ration parties moving out 0930 behind coy 32 do not expect any bother ACoy report 0920 2 parties Japs seen moving in area south of them one party moving West along river second party of four moving East a few mins later and appears to be considerable mvt along SIKI R
- 1020 hrs from 28 Bn - B Coy patrol 32 reported in. Report area 643685 60 yds South of creek running parallel with R SIKI clear of enemy. Patrol estimate enemy posns were occupied by 200 tps their posn appeared to have been evacuated last night or early this morning. At 43685 struck a trk running 195 M and on a tree sign KALAW
- 1035 hrs from 45 Bn - Patrols from B and D Coys TO 1100 route due West 500 yds to reece new coy posns.
- 1110 hrs from AA - from 649708 NORTH HILL brg 249 M Jap on move coy strength in vicinity PALANKO moving North
- 1112 hrs from 28 Bn - B Coy 32 Bn patrol went right through to KATIKA trk without any enemy contact
- 1140 hrs from 28 Bn - Pte RYAN reported missing believed killed now been reported alive

22 OCT (contd) -2-

- 1200 hrs from 28 Bn - At 1145 Lieut V. PRAAG patrol C Coy arrived back BHQ
NMS located 48 Bn L of C now established with 48 Bn
At 1150 B Coy Pnr patrol left BHQ
- 1350 hrs from 43 Bn - Recce patrol TO 1000 TI 1300 strength CO 2 ORs
route 644692 to 639695 to 638692 and return NMS
- 1545 hrs from 28 Bn - Warning order
- 1620 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol report. 1 NCO 11 ORs TO 0800 TI 1610
route 1600 yds. along North bank SONG R from ford digging
at end of leg. Thought to be 28 Bn posns. Sig wire in this
area cut by some blunt instrument (stone) Aust gear strewn
along route brought in one Tk: A rifle NMS
- 1810 hrs from 32 Bn - BHQ 645691 A Coy 64406915 C Coy 645692 HQ Coy
645688

23 OCT

- 0855 hrs from Pnr - patrol A Coy Pnr. 1 offr & 20 TO 0918 TI 1230
route present posn on NORTH HILL North along East trk
across saddle to 647713 return via West trk along saddle
D Coy one pl TO 1230 North bank R SONG to 625700 thence
North 500 yds to investigate high ground. Return same route.
A Coy 43 one NCO & 7 ORs and 4 PIB TO 0930 TI 1600
route coast trk to PIB only to WOODSIDE thence
- 1000 hrs from 28 Bn - 508 Jap dead counted many more buried
- 1015 hrs from 43 Bn - 9 Japs seen in hut area moving North appear to
be heavily laden FINSCH HAVEN photo map 11932215(604675)
- 1020 hrs from 32 Bn - A Coy 638684 to 634682
- 1035 hrs from 43 Bn - enemy had land mines engrs found one with grenade
att grenade type
- 1020 hrs from 32 Bn - A Coy fighting patrol plus one 3 inch mortar
TO 1130 TI 1700 route from garden 638684 West to Pnr HQ
627681 route in along defined trk KATIKA object to open rd
from 627681 to KATIKA to determine if enemy has retreated
from area to destroy any centres of resistance remaining
Patrol will not allow itself to be heavily engaged if they
strike overwhelming force they will return to present posn
645692 Report Centre at garden 638684
- 1115 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy in posn one pl. and sec MMG 640696 D Coy
less one pl 643695
- 1340 hrs from 48 Bn - Coy has reached pt 626677 report that 32 had sent
patrol along KATIKA trk yesterday infm given demand for infm
re A Coy patrol 32 along KATIKA no infm given as none
available
- 1340 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy Pnr patrol object recce hill for eqpt
TO 0930 TI 1215 1 offr 22 ORs route West of saddle then North.
NMS. Gear has been disturbed. Most of eqpt brought to A Coy.
Patrol 43 ~~PIB~~ OR 4 PIB TO 0930 TI 1320 to BONGA all
old posns vacated and stores appeared to be undisturbed. NMS.
Trk heading North over 24 hrs old. PIB searched surrounding
ground NMS
- 1420 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy 651696 D Coy 642697 fire in gully NW of
SATELBERG may be kunai grass fire
- 1625 hrs from 43 Bn - Confirmation of verbal orders
- 1630 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy patrol reported in and reported NMS2
- 1735 hrs from 32 Bn - 1355 Capt WALKER had gone fwd to 63926870 NMS
going difficult through bamboo. 1355 hrs 15 Pl CCoy with A.
1400 hrs Capt WALKER now in secondary growth and climbing
steep slope approx 63876870. 1427 at approx 63806893
fired on by enemy ~~many~~ fire returned 2 Pls of CCoy as
covering party in posn. 6 Japs contacted and fired upon.
1455 p.m. 637687 one cas Japs retired. 1520 some cas.
enemy in cove patrol withdrew slightly. Patrol TO 1300
SP 64056831 350 yds due North then 500 yds West were fired on.
- 1740 hrs from 32 Bn - patrol ST 1300 1340 hrs NMS going slow ~~1430~~
240 yds West into secondary growth deep slopes NMS posn
63806870 1420 350 yds West fired on from 63806873
1440 6 Japs dug in fired on patrol Japs retired and moved
around ~~with~~ our patrols left our cas one 1435 Japs endeavour

23 OCT(contd) -2-

ing to penetrate 63923835 beaten back Japs using one of
our Brens 1510 patrol being engaged 1516 patrol getting cas
from Jap

24 OCT

- 1315 hrs From 2/38 A Coy advise that they may have to move at 1600 hrs to fill gap between A and B Coy 2/38 Bn.
- 1320 hrs To 2/32 Bn requesting earliest information re any change A Coys dispositions advising IO and all coys I men must traverse as they go. I.O. 2/32 informed Bde that gun on Katika track was knocked out by 2 pr from 2/38 Bn.
- 1408 hrs From Arty LG arty set fire to what they think is a dump at PALAIKO.
- 1415 hrs From 2/32 Bn dispositions A Coy 63956332 B Coy 63906970 C Coy 64006326 D Coy 63956910 HQ 641631
- 1445 hrs From 2/38 one enemy wounded brought in from C Coy
- 1450 hrs From 2/32 Bn Patrol D Coy strength 1 offr 15 ORs time out 1050 Time in 1345. 640894 and along S bank SONG 634696 to 635697 no contact with enemy Topo jungle very thick both sides appears to rise very steeply from river progress very slow and observation restricted track well defined to creek and R junc 634697 at this point appeared a cross river and appeared to follow NORTH bank at 63646852 well defined track on 206 deg magnetic,
- 1515 hrs From 2/32 Bn at 1415 arty successfully registered IF 19 in front of D Coy. 1500 2/43 Bn registered in front of D Coy 3" mortar smoke. 2/32 arranging IF signal with Lieut HEATH 2/43 Bn.
- 1537 hrs From 2/32 Bn B Coy is clearing ards with mortar and rifle fire as enemy sn has been heard in area. A Coy is ready to move in as soon as this is done.
- 1530 hrs From 2/32 Bn Japs attacked D coy front with SA fire. Successful beaten off.
- 1620 hrs From 2/38 Bn re mortar shoot registration in front of D coy posn Advise to hold shoot until 2/43 patrol in.
- 1630 hrs To 2/38 Bn From Bde query re firing ask them to enquire of A Coy any details of firing.
- 1635 hrs From 2/38 Bn B Coy states firing from KATIKA.
- 1725 hrs From 2/43 Bn Patrol 7 PIB 2 suspects 6 ORs from D Coy time out 14 time in 1700. route coast track 653734 along track leading from spring at first bridge 651711 which finished in Kanal on hill to Back to main track and fwd found tracks of three Japs where jeep turned this morning moved on to plantation Jap evidently retreat to BONGA patrol returned NMS. D Coy patrol in NMS
- 1745 hrs From 2/38 Bn Projected patrols D Coy 1 offr and 14 ORs TO 0830 TI 1700 object recce route same as this morning and proceed to creek and R junc at 63956995. C Coy R flank due WEST 1500 yds 1 offr and 22 ORs TO 0830 TI 1700 B Coy 1 offr and 21 ORs TO 0830 TI 1700 from 63736695 due WEST 1000 to 1500 yds. Booby traps between B and C coys also in front of Puzs and D Coy.
- 1745 hrs 2/3 PAF Bn Maj ROYNEAR advised that composite force would be in posn at 1925.
- 1800 hrs From 2/32 Bn enemy still near to NORTH of 2/32 posns. 2/32 Bn hold dominating ground but gap between A and B coy not closed.
- 1900 hrs From 2/43 Bn Patrol D Coy type recce 1 Sgt 16 ORs and 4 PIB TO 1050 TI 1700 route along R bank to 616698 then on beg 330 magnetic at 400 yds running creek at 700 yds 3 huts 1000 yds native gardens. 1600 yds 2 huts and gardens 1800 yds 2 huts 1900 yds small australian posn (2/38 Bn)? 2000 yds garden and partly made huts 2100 yds deep mortar posn with 2 3" mortars a little further 36 Grenade posts 2300 yds steep drop to R and gardens 616698 standing Patrol of 11 men 330 deg 1000 yds creek running west 1500 yds native track not recently used 1600 yds track running due north jeepable on which were Jap footprints no less than a week old. Track winds about general direction toward coast. At 1950 SATEMBURG could be clearly seen 240 deg magnetic seemed to be ruined, smoke, through glasses NMS then moved on 601714 pinpointed village across ravine 613717 NMS returned.

25 OCT 43

- 0740hrs to 9 Div 2 pls para 63956810 1 pl 64106815
- 0825 hrs To 26 Bde advised of Arty shoot and co-ordnance for same.
- 0900 hrs From 2/43 Bn just proposed patrol C Coy 1 off 17 ORs TO 0930
TI 1300 route 634678 along track to 623669 then NORTH to
624674
- 0905 hrs From 2/43 Bn proposed patrols A Coy 1 NCO and 6 ORs PIB 1 NCO
and 5 ORs TO 0945 TI completion of task, route BONGA via coast
/then track/637781 via 654734. Object to obtain information of enemy
movt and enemy strength in area. (2) A Coy 1 NCO 4 ORs TO 0945
TI completion of tasks route 649708 to 649699. Object to obtain
information of enemy movt
- 1000 hrs From 2/43 Bn Physical condition good. Cholera. 7 Bren type mags
and filler Jap biscuits equipment good. Lightly clad. No pack.
thought to be Machine Gunner. Information of Japs killed by 2/43
25 Oct. At least 12 in party.
- 1012 hrs From 2/28 Bn bearing 310 log from D Coy 641695 1 balloon travelling
NW
- 1050 hrs From 2/43 Bn Enemy did not set off booby traps - threw grenade -
led by native (report from PIB) apparently thought they could
sneak into our posns - got through line of booby traps onto an
an alarm wire - this is where they were seen confirmed that party
were approx 1 doz.
- 1115 hrs From 2/32 Bn B Coy 637687 pls forming a perimeter around Coys
Hqs.
- 1130 hrs From 2/43 Bn patrol report 1 NCO 4 ORs type recce TO 0940 TI 1100
object to find any traces of enemy in vicinity of 647713 NMS
- 1250 hrs From 2/43 Bn A Coy patrol moved NORTH 653731 fwd scout fired on
by Jap more japs behind. Patrol withdrew 50 yds. 4 Japs sighted
moving SOUTH European Sgt fired on them with unobserved results.
Much noise heard so patrol withdrew another hundred yds as noise
indicated infiltration. Patrol returned to 65457025. LP at
632711 until 1300 hrs. If nothing seen or heard patrol will
continue NORTH on proposed route.
- 1430 hrs From 2/32 B Coy using LMG rifle grenade and 2" mortar on enemy
who are at present returning very little fire. 1415 hrs smoke
observed 340 deg magnetic from D Coy Hqs. During 1 of enemy's
counter attacks japs were heard to say "We will be back".
- 1445 hrs From 2/32 Bn B Coy patrol located enemy flank.
- 1450 hrs From 2/32 Bn B Coy Hqs 63756860 10 pl 63706850 11 pl 6375 6860
6870 6835.
- 1600 hrs From 2/28 Bn D Coy returned NMS 1400 yds.
- 1625 hrs From 2/43 Bn Red flare went up 634678 also white flare from this
area.
- 1638 hrs From 9 Div Have requested strike enemy barge protection areas and
gun posn mouth ARNDT Pt Airforce bombline now not SOUTH of ARNDT
Pt 650765 (1 inch to 1 mile) to WARRO. Not EAST grid 55 1 inch
to 1 mile.
- 1630 hrs From 2/43 Bn 1620 patrol returned LP until 1500 yds went fwd to
posn where Japs encountered this morning Japs in posn estimated
strength 26 no LMGs Japs had KANAKA (native) scout in front
patrol nearly captured him. Patrol B Coy 1 offr and 23 ORs task
recce for information enemy left flank TO 1415 T I 1807 SP
65766892 to 63726899 to 63676888 went to ground and could two
enemy on bry 195 T 150 yds. 316 deg could hear considerable
talking 150 yds. 256 deg considerable movt. Heard movt and thought
might be outflanked so came back. On return went out again and
est listening post at 65676888. Dco back 1700 hrs.
- 1705 hrs Further to PIB report. Strength 2 and 6 PIB recce est LP 1000
yds NORTH D Coy from 1200 hrs - 1330 hrs - moved fwd 2700 yds
to where enemy seen this morning at this point small plantation
300 to 400 yds from 653734. Native as fwd scout 50 yds fwd
attempted to capture scout. No enemy seen this afternoon.
Est enemy posn 653731. From tracks PIB estimated that enemy party
of approx 8 came down track before last light yesterday.

25 OCT 43

- 1715 hrs From 2/43 Bn HQ RAP ADS B Bch 6470001 3 pl 647721 B Coy
6487100 11 pl 6487110 12 pl 648700 10 pl strong point 648000
A Coy 647700 7 pl 6487010 8 pl 6487000 6487070 C Coy 6480000
13 pl 64737000 14 pl 648700 15 pl 6480070 PERMERS Post 6480000
4 pl 6480000 see HQ 647000 HINDEN'S HQ 6480000 D Coy
6547012 13 pl 65897013 17 pl 6547000 19 pl 65477011 WESTERS
see 6500000 Arty OP 64777146.
- 1812 hrs From 2/32 Bn confirmation of receipt of Air Photos and recognition
of work. Estimate of enemy casualties counted 20 dead.
- 1850 hrs To Bns instructions re Arty shoot 25 Arty coordination 6360000
6360000 6360000 6360000.

26 OCT 43

- 0640hrs To Bns require fireplans of Coys Mortar HQ and 3 A guns.
- 0850 hrs From 25 Bde have sent some aerial photographs to D Coy 2/43
which may be picked up.
- 0915 hrs From 2/43 Bn projected patrol B Coy 1 Sgt 25 ORs 4 PIB TO 0915
TI completion of task route 649711 to 649715 to 637731 647731
654734. route in coast track object to find strength and disposit-
ions and identifications of enemy in BONGA area. Patrol is to
avoid serious engagements but will fight if suitable encountered.
- 0955 hrs From 2/32 Bn patrol sent out from B Coy in front and found enemy
posn struck yesterday unoccupied. Both C and B Coys are send-
ing out patrols to connect with each other. approx posn of enemy
evacuated posn 6370000.
- 1017 hrs From 2/32 Bn B Coy contacted C Coy fresh diggings located.
recovered 1 Bren found 4 B Coy dead from action of 25.
- 1045 hrs From 2/32 Bn report 1 killed 4 wounded by Mortar bomb fired by
2/43 Bn.
- 1125 hrs From 2/32 Bn report a number of captured documents. sending them
to Div.
- 1140 hrs From 2/32 Bn A Coy found nearest enemy posn 15 yds fwd of them.
some enemy dead and documents which are being forwarded to Bde.
- 1300 hrs From 2/32 Bn 1148 men from C Coy pushed out 30 yds from 6390000
found 2 enemy dead one with Aussie rifle and his posn well dug
in.
- 1310 hrs From 2/43 Bn projected patrol 27 Oct C Coy 1 pl 4 PIB aggressive
recco TO 0830 TI completion of task route present posn NORTH HILL
then NW over high ground to cut track approx 620726 thence further
recco as far as village 604717 then to 637731 thence PINO HILL.
then NORTH HILL object (1) information re enemy movt disposit-
and strength. (2) obtain topo information west of PINO and
NORTH HILL from point of view of enemy.
- 1312 hrs From 2/32 Bn B Coy went fwd of their posns and found 12 enemy
dead also Jap LMG. Any captured documents which have been handed
to FSL.
- 1345 hrs From 2/32 Bn C Coy have patrolled 50 yds fwd of 15 pl found approx
70 to 80 holes they saw 6 dead and several graves - good supply
of Bren and Owen am.
- 1350 hrs From 2/32 Bn A Coy patrol report it appears as if Bn were in area
hundreds of fox holes between A and C Coy 27 dead Box 2 shells
2 1/2 " across base plate 6x nades and rifles 1 Bren few of our
water bottles blankets tobacco tins.
- 1522 hrs From 25 Bde asking about area booby trapped by para. 2/43 Bn
patrol going out along KATIKA track.
- 1525 hrs From 2/32 Bn B Coy patrol returned went to 6360000. reported
seeing two people not sure if enemy or own tps.
- 1530 hrs From 2/32 Bn D Coy 1 offr and 25 ORs fighting and recco patrol
TO 1400 T I 1500 route out from 63916017 350 deg magnetic
70 yds to creek between C and B coys at 63916024 then WEST
then along creek for 350 yds to 6360000 then SOUTH to KATIKA 27
6360000 route in via KATIKA Track.

26 OCT 43

- 1440 hrs From 2/43 Bn B Coy 2/32 patrolling KATKA to now 700 yds WEST of KATKA killed 1 Jap patrol to move 1000 yds WEST of KATKA object reconce Coy area. 2/32 and 2/43 are liaising closely re their patrols.
- 1445 hrs From 2/43 Bn Projected patrol for Oct 27 & 1 pl C Coy and 4 PIB TO 0830 TI completion of task. route from present posn on the NORTH HILL NW over high ground to cut track at approx 630726 thence further reconce to village 604717 thence to 637731 - PINO HILL and NORTH HILL. Object (1) information re enemy movt dispositions and strength (2) Obtain TOPO WEST of PINO and NORTH HILL from enemy point of view.
- 1525 hrs From 2/43 Bn B Coy patrol reconce 1 pl TO 1000 TI 1200 route 638690 to 638691 patrol passed approx 150 yds north of B Coy LP posn of yesterday and saw no sign of enemy. At 638691 had good view of ground saw three men moving NW at approx 634693 considered may have been B Coy patrol. 2 Coy 1 sec TO 1000 TI 1145 reconce route from 640694 along SOUTH bank SONG R to 629700. NMS
- 1555hrs From 2/32 Bn C Coy moving to 634685 A Coy to 635684 B Coy swinging round their left flank to link up.
- 1610 hrs From 2/32 Enemy posns 637682 50 killed (enemy) some some freshly killed effect of our mortaring and shelling good.
- 1735 hrs From 2/43 Bn Patrol B Coy Sgt JOY 23 ORs and 4 PIB TO 0830 TI 1700. Left 0930 made first bound to PINO HILL, NMS. Then struck off to NW to creek bed follow creek to the head on high feature hundred yds SOUTH 300 yds WEST of PINO HILL and cut track 632730. Move down to 637730. NMS. Our posn undisturbed Then to 647730, NMS. No trace of enemy in old posns thence to gardens 200 yds EAST from 647730. Sounds of digging and voices in garden reconce det sent to investigate after considerable time and trouble to obtain definite information it was ascertained that 5 to 6 enemy digging for vegetables. Sounds of coconut trees being chopped in plantation just as this was found cut a party estimated not less than 15 armed with rifles came down track from WEST in rear of our patrol. As patrol was in ambush posn opened fire at 10 yds range inflicting 2 killed for certain and probably more all scampered away. Rifle shots at patrol from NE. Estimate at a Sec at considerable distance. Aimed only at our fire. Patrol moved SW waited 30 minutes NMS Coconut plantation about 800 yds no further sounds. PIB reported that when our firing started enemy made a bolt for plantation Patrol leader decided to withdraw as enemy were aware of his presence. Enemy strength assessed as follows. Garden party six Patrol party 15 others in plantation 4 riflemen who fired 6 total at least 31 less 2 killed. Posn of party in plantation approx in our old posn about 50 yds EAST and WEST of 6337340 6525 and 7340 no casualties to own troops.
- 1840 hrs From 2/32 Bn C Coy in posn 1835 hrs 63356830 A Coy digging in on right flank and are liaising with 2/43 on left.
- 1925 hrs From 2/43 Bn on bng 269 from 648706 fire seen estimated posn 563702

27 OCT 43

- 0730 hrs From 2/23 Bn projected patrol 1 off and 23 ORs TO 0830 TI 1530 637690 to 630694 object to reconce SONG R at bend where it cuts 70 grid line.
- 0900 hrs From 2/43 Bn projected patrol C Coy 1 Cpl 18 ORs 4 PIB TO 0900 TI completion of task. route 649699 to 643714 to 637731 29 647731 to 653731 and return via route cut.
- 0905 hrs From 2/43 Bn PIB patrol 2 NCOs 8 boys TO 0845 TI-- route SONG R to 614704 to village square 6072 returned direct route object to find enemy movt and intention.

- 0910 hrs from 2/32 - proposed patrol D Coy fighting one pl TO 0900
 TI 1630 route from 640677 290 deg N 1600 yds to 618687
 route in 97 deg through large kunai patch at 628687 through
 kunai at 634686 distance 900 yds object to determine if any
 enemy in strength and between our present posns and area 1500
 yds West to recon and report on high features and ridges in
 this area with a view to possible future lines. To determine
 degree of visibility E-W from large kunai patch at 627687
- 0915 hrs from Div - enemy identifications North SONG R A Coy 238
 Regt. 2 & 3 Coys 1 Bn 2 Bn and 3 Bn 79. 3 Bns 26 Arty moving
 to HELDORACH main force 2 Bn 79 NW of KATIKA
- 1045 hrs from 2/32 - 2/43 patrol contacted enemy at 623684 killed 2
 Enemy in strength tried to encircle patrol. Patrol still out.
- 1140 hrs from 2/28 - another 22 killed (enemy) to be added to total
 found out along KATIKA trk
- 1210 hrs from 2/43 - IP sighted one Jap coming down trk unarmed.
 Fired on him. He ran back. Sending party of 5 to investigate
- 1230 hrs from 2/43 - PIB patrol returned 1410 went along SONG R
 600715 15-20 enemy in clearing around village
- 1440 hrs from 2/43 - recon patrol PIB 2 NCOs 7 PIB TO 0645 TI 1410.
 route 645693 along North bank SONG to 617698 followed native
 pad direct to objective village 604712. Jap sentry seen
 500 yds below clearing South of village at 604712. Sentry had
 specially dug trench. Patrol outflanked sentry to right of trk
 and came to clearing 604715 500 yds North of sentry and observed
 clearing for about 5 mins saw not less than 15 Japs probably
 more sitting down and some casual work. Some carrying rifles
 no automatics or packs seen. Enemy seem to have been only
 short while in posn clean and neatly dressed with caps no
 steel helmets. Heard chopping to left of sentry as if chopping
 heavy timber could not observe owing to hy growth. NMS on trk
 out or in. patrol returned by same route.
- 1530 hrs from 2/43 - PIB patrol report 37 enemy dug in about 100 yds
 North of BONGA in the creek. There are three trks radiating
 from BONGA to WAREO - coast trk - and a trk to unnamed village
 well used traffic both ways
- 1610 hrs from 2/28 - patrol D Coy one offr 27 ORs TO 0900 TI 1500
 route 637690 to 621694 report NMS. Going hard and slippery
 due to rain visibility very poor. proposed patrol C Coy.
 One offr 17 ORs TO 0930 TI 1630 recon in force route 638691
 NW along trk to 629698 then along trk to 615697
- 1636 hrs from 2/43 - patrol PIB 4 boys NO 0900 ~~TI 1500~~ 26th TI 1500/37
 object to ascertain enemy strength North of BONGA ref map one
 inch. The boys dressed as kanakas proceeded to BONGA and stopped
 in jungle approx 645725 no Japs in BONGA itself but 37 Japs
 dug in amongst scrub in creek 100 yds North BONGA no smoke seen.
 trks have been used in both directions although numbers unknown
 they state Jap does not use trk during day trks North of BONGA
 to LATONA North of BONGA to WAREO North of BONGA to
 DCOY patrol recon to discover Japs seen this morning NMS
 but trk of one Jap seen
- 1640 hrs from 2/32 - patrol B Coy returned 1415. At 630685 abandoned
 enemy posns one enemy LMG. At 628684 abandoned native village
 one hut under construction trk well worn runs SW and apparently
 joins KATIKA trk. At village no sign of occupation number of
 huts four kunai 6' high and a ridge runs across in an E and W
 direction. A few abandoned enemy posns near village appear to
 be dug but not occupied found one Jap in advance stage of
 decomposition and appears to have been carried and died of
 wounds trk 628687 is a little wider than a single pad. Slippery
 in present state and ground not suitable for jeeps. From 626887
 to 618688 going difficult. Steep slopes ~~observed~~ on knoll
 very poor

observation

- owing to iv growth. Return journey 628697 discovered 8 buried Japs (by our own tps) and area was occupied recently by Aussies (mosquito nets etc). At kumai 628687 ridge running N and S and a trk running 103 deg grid along which one of our sig wires run for about 700 yds continued on trk and then trk turned left patrol continued on brg 103 grid through kumai in 2 to 3 ft high into medium jungle to B Coy Hq. Heard Owen gun fire of 2/48. Found American rubber float 625688 apparently dropped from plane. NMS. Time to traverse route 5 1/2 hrs.
- 1642 hrs from 2/32 - ACoy Hq 65166822 B Coy Hq 63706965 C Coy Hq 63353385
- 1645 hrs from Arty - 5 wds from two tps on villages NE of SATELBERG 600715
- 1650 hrs from 2/48 - intend to mortar 622694 and 614685 at 1730
- 1725 hrs from 2/28 - proposed patrols CCoy one offr 10 ORs TO 0820 TI 1630 recce. route 657693 to ford at 630700 along trk running up gully to top of ridge then proceed to high ground sq 6171 return same route
- 1740 hrs from 2/32 - 9 Bs 15-20 Bs over SATELBERG dropping parachutes from 634692 reported 50 parachutes on brg 236
- 1745 hrs from 2/45 - approx 57 chutes dropped in SATELBERG area report from B Coy Hq on brg 240 M
- 1800 hrs from 2/45 - proposed patrol D Coy one pl in 2 PIR recce aggressive route 656717 to 637731 and other suitable pts where trk can be seen. And to lay up in ambush and observe and deal with enemy if opportunity offers TO 0845 TI not before 1645
- 1821 hrs from 2/45 - 9 Bs 17 Fs commenced dropping from height not less than 10000 ft in SATELBERG area intercepted by 18 of our Fs and dropped 65 parachutes. Chutes white in colour lead cylindrical - could have been men containers or both our planes pursued - 3 planes down 300 deg A Coy 2/45 - AA report 5 enemy aircraft shot down over sea 10 of our Fs now over SATELBERG area - containers all same length and shape
- 1840 hrs from 2/45 - C Coy report patrol not yet returned
- 1850 hrs from 2/45 - from OP Owen gun fire heard on brg 70 deg also one shot from PIMO HILL D Coy report Owen and Bron and rifle fire on HONGA trk
- 2015 hrs from 2/45 - patrol C Coy 4 PIB 19 men TO 0930 TI 1900 A Coy Hq 649705 320 deg M 350 yds out down to left in creek bed followed creek 150 yds 320 deg went up a steep hill continued on same brg and reached trk 1500 hrs. Several trks had enemy footprints one day old one footprint of native on main trk. Then moved 637731 NMS then on brg 130 which is a well beaten trk which they followed to PIMO HILL 639719 on entering the jungle PIB reported Japs in front of patrol own patrol moved off trk and took cover fwd and second sec remained in posn, rear sec went around to left to high ground to fix enemy posn and were fired on by estimated at least 30 Japs armed with LMG and rifle. This sec had not been seen again by Cpl Weather runner wounded possibly killed in attempt to help sec withdraw. Two secs withdrew to ridge across kumai and were fired on by rifles and grenades from enemy on ridge secs withdrew 600 yds to jungle Sgt and 3 men remained on trk 150 yds from enemy 10 men and 4 PIB withdrew to our posn along creek bed through BERTON FORCE 1920. One of our patrol moved through 5 pl set off booby trap and was wounded. 3 men unaccounted for to date. 4 known to be OK when Cpl O'CONNOR engaged 4 enemy with 6386 at short range only one returned fire believed cas inflicted. 2 men Weather sec engaged enemy with Bron and rifle unobserved results. Cpl GILBERT man wounded booby trap.
- 2045 hrs from 2/32 - patrol D Coy fighting one pl TO 0650 TI 1630 SP D Coy 2/48 brg 289 deg M 1700 yds then 262 deg 900 yds 103 deg 715 yds 42 deg 450 yds 109 deg 1700 yds back to SP object (1) to determine if any enemy in strength between our posns and an area 2600 yds in NW direction (2) recce and report on high features and ridges in this area with view to possible future lines (3) to determine visibility eastwards at 6356880

in Kunai at 61506885 (4) investigate village 61506885

29 OCT

- 0710 hrs from 2/43 - C Coy report no more men returned from patrol.
All coys either D Coy patrol held up until given in the
by CO.
- 0712 hrs from Div - Received message 6 50 ref today's airstrike and
bombing
- 0740 hrs from 2/43 - received strength report
- 0743 hrs - TAC R, Beach Control Codes, Sitrep to 2/2 HQ all hrs by
sign
- 0755 hrs from 2/43 - report one sgt 3 ORs reported in at coy posn
and verified that the enemy fired from PINO HILL map ref
638719 and also that enemy were using Brens & MGs
- 0800 hrs - Additions to sitrep covering 4 men returning to 2/43 line.
- 0805 hrs from 2/38 - Adt Beach Sign
- 0806 hrs from 20 Bde - sitrep 0546
- 0855 hrs from 2/28 - I 182. Testing of automatic weapons 1000/1015 hrs
- 0915 hrs from 2/28 - weapon testing cancelled
- 0935 hrs from 26 Bde - I 41. Sitrep 16.
- 1010 hrs from RAA - Jap who had been passing himself off as a Chinaman
went through. He was dressed in JGs. Was seen making for
SCARLET BEACH carrying an axe
- 1030 hrs from 2/38 - check on AGoy posns. A Coy not moving to beach.
- 1050 hrs from Sign - patrol report 43
- 1125 hrs from 2/43 - D Coy report one more body 100 yds North D Coy.
Considered to be 4 or 5 days old. Nothing on the body
identification being sent in.
- 1200 hrs from 2/28 - while remaining in res coy area coy comds will
make themselves conversant with map(1) already dug posns
to counter penetration (2) routes to area 2/38 and
own coy areas (3) pl localities dug by A Coy for beach defence
(4) booby trapped areas and ensure that all tps are aware
of them.
- 1235 hrs from 2/43 - at 0900 4 PIB 4 SB and one OR from C Coy patrol
27 Oct left Bn area for 634725 the scene of 27 Oct action.
Object to locate wounded men.
- 1330 hrs from Div - Passwords
- 1330 hrs from Div - Sitrep 50 to 2000L/27. Comd 232 LCI(L) Flotilla
7/7 Amphibious Force (4 copies). I Sun no. 16. Air photo
report.
- 1350 hrs from 2/38 - ref memo ship to shore identification 27 Oct
Aek.
- 1550 hrs from 2/43 - preliminary patrol report strength 10 of 5 pl
1 C Coy 4 SB & PIB TO 0900 TI 1500 route via NW west edge
of Kuni to vicinity PINO HILL, 638721. Report enemy are
still in occupation of area where our patrol contacted enemy
27 Oct old A Coy par posn. 2 Jap sentries seen on Northern
and western side of outcrop. PIB skirted North to another
piece high ground which is part same feature and Jap also
in occupation there. No estimate of enemy strength could
be given nor could any sign of our 4 missing men be seen.
638721 has a patch of jungle on its summit
- 1600 hrs from Div - O 928. Ref duties PMS.
- 1615 hrs from 2/38 - patrol HSE details later.
- 1628 hrs from 2/43 - (vide patrol report above) There is a patch of
Kuni a continuation of that in the saddle between WORM HILL
648707 and 638721 between 638721 proper and high ground to
North - very approx 500 yds distance. 2 trks from western edge
of 638721 down to creek both showing signs of recent use
were crossed by patrol. Also footmarks of one Jap 500/1000 yds
from our fwd posn in low ground was seen.
- 1630 hrs from D Coy 2/28 - Carrier pigeon landed on barge SCARLET BEACH
but flew away before action could be taken. Appeared to
have message on leg and flew off in NE direction.
- 1640 hrs from 2/43 - patrol of 2 pl back - patrol of B not in yet.
50 enemy digging in 610678 shot one
- 1645 hrs from 2/43 - projected patrol. D Coy strength 1 offr 15 ORs
3 PIB TO 1400 TI completion of task. route 654702
along coast trk to approx 653730. Object to see enemy
listening post or patrol still in posn and to discover

23 OCT (contd) -3-

if Japs are making a defensive posn outside trk. Patrol will avoid contact.

- 1630 hrs from 2/38 - patrol report. C Coy TO 0900 TI 1450. route 638691 to 629700. patrol crossed river leaving covering sec on south bank SCHE R. Leading sec was fired on from North bank by enemy at 629701 at range of approx 60 yds. enemy were seen no further estimate. Our patrol returned E to cover withdrawal leading sec. Patrol then withdrew to coy lines. Our cas one wounded
- 1750 hrs from 2/38 - projected patrol. (1) B Coy WCO & 9 ORs TO 0830 TI 1630. object recon and establish observation area SCHE R sq 6270. route 638691 to 628692 observe from this pt (2) A Coy 1 offr 17 ORs TO 0830 TI 1630 route 641695 on bkg 512 deg N distance 2000 yds governed by time. Recon and observation this area patrol will not become involved in by action
- 1840 hrs from 26 Bde IO - 2/43 patrol to 611679 then 610678 contacted enemy 50-100/ strong killed one no cas. Second patrol ambushed 2/43 patrol no cas
- 1930 hrs from 2/45 - patrol report D Coy Lieut CORN 15 ORs 2 boys TO 1400 TI 1800. route along coast to 66027115 SP 65407015 Moved fwd 150 yds where oil Jap posns were inspected. These were found to extend almost to coast. at 660710 small kunai patch was avoided. 700 yds out 66027115 came to first creek on near side of which was a tangle of bamboo. PIB crossed deep ravine at mouth of stream and reported on far side a fairly large plantation which had not been tampered with. Trks made by one Jap were seen in this area. PIB moved out to coastal trk and back towards coast and continued on to edge of next plantation 655734(?). NMS, MHL, PTH returned to patrol at creek, which then moved off on 240 deg towards coastal trk. A footpad was found bearing North and South and this was followed back and found to lead into oil Jap posns. Patrol then returned to SP
- 2000 hrs from 2/45 - proposed patrol. A Coy 1 offr one pl one European & PIB route 647706 West to D Coy area 654702 North along coast trk to vic of plantation and return 655734 TO 0830 TI 1600.
- 2030 hrs from 2/52 - projected patrol. D Coy F 1 offr 29 ORs TO 0830 TI 1630. route SP 62306815 to 62306845 to 62306892 to 62606562 to 63706875. Object (1) to determine any enemy in strength between our present posn and area patrolled (2) recon and report on high features and ridges in this area with a view to possible future line (3) to determine visibility Eastwards from high ground
- 2100 hrs from 2/45 - one pl FOO and party 613667 to 609676 NE trk June to 614684 TO 0830 TI 1600 point B on future

0800 hrs from 2/38 - patrol 1 offr 29 on to 0830 to 1030
at 080000 to 080000 direction was running in all directions,
to 080000 the last 000 yds following well defined track
at 080000 in bushes not heard there to 080000 have struck
2/48 in ambush patrol with 1/277A the returned here on main
trk

0900 hrs from 2/43 - car own shells landing on BEACHES BEACH
1200 hrs - Poles at 0875000 - 0800000 - 0810000 rd 1/25000

1130 hrs - heard voices during from 2/43

1545 hrs from 2/38 - A Coy patrol reported in one killed
Definitely a post at 0800 - 0800

1400 hrs from 2/38 - patrol reported in 1/25 HILL

1535 hrs from 2/38 - confirming that it is a B Coy pl which has gone
North of 0800

1600 hrs from 2/38 - ID. 1 - part 1 HILL - abandoned camp of 3 Japs
at 0800000 one Jap food 0800000 - 30 shallow enemy posts
084000 one for enemy rifles and 12 partly dug enemy posts
080000 there also are signs of our shelling and 5 enemy
graves but not used since rain

1650 hrs from 2/43 - Coy patrol found 22 enemy in plantation at
087500 no activities seen

1650 hrs from 2/38 - patrol report. A Coy 1 offr 16 on to 0830
to 1645 route 080000 to 087000 to 087000 to 087000 to
087000. one was one wanted believed enemy killed,
enemy contacted 087000 dug in on high ground out strength
one see fire power one M16 A rifle. tank appeared to
be covering trk at foot 087000 out strength based on fact
that enemy did not take any offensive action and that he
was holding high ground patrol and considered he would
have attempted encirclement if sufficiently strong.
Coy strength 1 see to 0850 to 1630 route from 080000
to 080000 HILL

1730 hrs from 2/43 - A Coy patrol one offr 21 on 5 PIB to 0835
to 1645. route 080000 to coast via 087000 along coast via
087000 then through small plantation west towards coast
which was followed to approx 087000 return same route.
Report HILL until at 087000 2 Japs were seen by 23 Japs
strapped to what digging a hole for dead Jap nearby.
Boys went in from coast. At 087000 small garden since HILL.
patrol then moved to a post just north of plantation 087000
PIB moved fwd along. patrol moved back to post just north
of garden on more favorable ground. After 2 hrs boys
returned and reported having seen 2 gps enemy 10 in one
18 in second gp. PIB think enemy short of food eating only
coconuts. Large number coconut palm being cut down and
pill boxes believed to be under construction. All enemy
had rifles and mm. 10 M16 seen. Japs wearing steel helmets
Boys report very little mt on main coastal trk south from
post where Jap was being buried. Trk to North and via
plantation well used

1745 hrs from 2/38 - A Coy patrol one offr 20 on 1 PIB to 0830
to 1630 route 080000 to 08710. None in force. object
to determine if any enemy in area.

1855 hrs from 2/38 - post of B Coy pl North of 0800 2 0800000

1815 hrs from 2/43 - proposed patrol from 5 pl 1 offr 10 on PIB
HILL & 6 boys to 0830 to completion trk. (1) recon PIB
HILL to discover if enemy still in occupation (2)
to find out fate of 4 missing B Coy men. Route NORTH HILL
087000 high ground left of creek west of NORTH HILL
- make to high ground in jungle North of PIB HILL
commence recon from there. Arty & HILL to shoot before 0850
oct 30.

1930 hrs from 2/38 - projected patrol. B Coy fighting 1 W & 20 on
to 0830 to 1830. route cut and in SP 0870000 to 0870000
to 0800000 to 0800000 to A Coy HILL object was on today

31 OCT

- 0825 hrs from 2/32 - A Coy HQ patrol following trk to 622688 for 2500 yds from A Coy. 2/48 patrol from D Coy along KATIKA trk to approx 615684. Both carrying walkie talkie sets arrangements made to tee in with each other.
- 0845 hrs from 20 Bde - sitrep 116
- 0850 hrs from 2/28 Bn - all booby traps will be deloused in the morning and remined in the evening.
- 0900 hrs from Div - Sitgep 38
- 0930 hrs from 2/43 - 4 PIB who were left from the previous days patrol in the BONGA area 629734 turned left and moved 900 yds West along trk to 619727 from here they sighted 20-30 Japs and this appears to be a camp staging area. The Japs pick up food and move towards BONGA holes are dug in this posn for protection not defence evidence that many wounded had passed down the trk and discarded bandages along trk. They found two boxes Jap amm which they threw into the bush then passed on down rd to BONGA some Japs had Aussie tin hats and gear in the bush near creek North of BONGA is a possible ADS with camouflaged tents they moved up creek and no Japs in that area
- 1140 hrs from Div - Small craft identification sigs
- 1145 hrs to Div, 20 & 26 Bde - I 133 - further to patrol 2/43
- 1150 hrs from Div - 29/46 Bn less A & D Coys on two-hrs notice to move
Tac R report 29 Oct
I Sum No. 16
- 1325 hrs from 2/28 Bn - 285 natives arrived CCoy from SATELBERG area
- 1320 hrs from 2/32 - report from 2/48 that their patrol was at 614686 and was in conn with 2/32 Bn patrol so far NMS.
- 1455 hrs from 2/28 - A Coy 1 offr 19 ORs TO 0930 TI 1440 SP 639693 NW to ford 624701 to 622701 recce this area and observe plantation for 2 hrs NMS no trks. One hut in plantation. Observed arty fire NMS. Returned to 627700 and observed from this angle for half hr. Two inch mortar did not fire. Patrol comd considered no enemy in area. Patrol did not cross the river
- 1455 hrs from 2/28 Bn - Projected patrol A Coy 1 offr 20 ORs TO 0900 TI completion task not later than 1630 object to ascertain whether plantation area occupied by enemy (2) to recover body of man killed 29 Oct route 640695 to 625703
- 1500 hrs from Arty OP - report wreckage out to sea 4-5 miles 78 deg map ref approx 657704
- 1557 hrs from Div - ship to shore identification sigs
- 1600 hrs from AA OP - report three objects out to sea, two appear to be moving further out
- 1602 hrs from Div - 79 Regt List of Offrs, 2 Corps I Report No. 18, 25-26 Oct, 2 Corps I Report No. 19
- 1640 hrs from RAE - enquiry of booby traps in A Coy area
- 1652 hrs to 2/43 - infm for arty who desire to shoot up plantation area. Shoot approved. Report from A Coy that rubber boat and two other objects about 6 miles out to sea previously reported by AA
- 1715 hrs - native interrogation report
- 1716 hrs from Div - Friendly Fruits, FSPB Pam
- 1730 hrs from 2/32 - patrol report. 1 offr 20 ORs TO 0830 TI 1600 SP 63206825 trk to plantation 62206865 general brg 290 deg M arrived patch kunai which would be a good OP looking northwards Saw two enemy at 615702 went to 613691 and trk continues on. Between kunai patch and 613691 various of our own eqt seen. NMS or signs that enemy had occupied this area. Returned NMS.
- 1732 hrs from 2/43 - C Coy 1 offr 17 ORs 1 NCO 5 PIB (projected patrol) TO 0900 TI 1640 route DCoy to old BHQ area 653713 then 1000 yds North to 654720 then West to rd then on 270 deg to 600 yds North of PINO HILL 643725

Between 1800 and 1810 BNG 654713 PIB reported talks of 3 Japs leading out to rd from West patrol moved to 643735 from this. soon Japs could be seen digging pits about 5 ft deep 6 Japs were seen Japs were watched for one hr when rain obscured view a sub patrol of patrol comd PIB sgt one boy and one OR moved up along edge of jungle for 250 yds moving North along crest of land ridge some Jap talk was seen one running in direction 40 deg and well worn this patrol then returned to main body and then to rd which was reached 600 yds North of 653713 thence along rd to D Coy HQ Jap posts considered to be at 640719 patrol observed from 643735 Projected patrol D Coy one pl not less than 21 ORs PIB sgt and 5 boys. TO 0900 TI completion task. Route D Coy post thence 653713 to pt 400 yds beyond (North) thence on brig 320 deg to vic of PINE HILL object locate enemy ascertain full strength inflict cas obtain identification arty and MMG fire on enemy to be completed by 0830

1810 hrs from AA OP - at 5 miles out to sea brig approx 70 deg wreckage looking like barge earlier in afternoon three objects were sighted now only one have now observed approx 300 small objects of similar size in line running approx N and S about 2 miles from coast line about 4 miles out there are two larger objects which cannot be identified

1812 hrs - Sitner 2/43

1815 hrs from 2/38 - one of our g parties returning in a jeep from PTL (A Coy) report that they were fired on by a single shot which they think was an enemy weapon from area 643690 D Coy have sent a sec patrol to investigate

1825 hrs from 2/38 - ref single shot fired report that B Coy heard and thought it came from 2/32

1830 hrs from 2/45 - enquiry re objects seen out to sea asked them to check. They report from A Coy 62 deg three objects one appears to be rubber boat with paddle and about an hr ago what appeared to be a large school of porpoises.

1840 hrs from 2/32 - no info re single shot fired from coys

1825 hrs from 2/32 - Projected patrol A Coy 1 Sgt 21 ORs TO 0830 TI 1630 route 65206825 along track 2000 yds to 315689 recce for enemy and enemy mvt

1930 hrs from 2/32 - 2/43 patrol along KAIKA track approx 2000 yds from D 2/32 South party of Japs ~~at~~ act about 20 613682 killed 7 wounded 2 no cas our own

1940 hrs from 2/45 - at 1935 A Coy heard two or three shots direction of 657751. 6 miles out drifting slightly E of S.



**NEW GUINEA
FORTIFICATION POINT**

Scale 1:25000

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID
SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE

REFER TO THIS MAP AS
FORTIFICATION POINT
2559 1:25000 SERIES

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.

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

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.

NOTE: Form Lines are intended to indicate shape of hill features and should not be taken as contours. Heights are only approximate.

Owing to excessive tilt, accurate parallax measurements on photographs were unobtainable. Form lines cannot be reconciled with Sateberg 1:25000

CONTROL From 3890 SATELBERG and 3597 KELANOA HARBOUR 1:25000 Series
PROJECTION Lambert Conical Orthomorphic
AIR PHOTOGRAPHY 8th Photo Squadron Fifth Air Force
MISSION 56X Apr 43, 22Z Jan 43
COMPILATION 1 Aust. Mob Litho. Sec. (AIF) Aust. Svy. Corps from Aerial Photographs Oct 43
REPRODUCTION 6 Aust. Army Topo. Svy. Coy. Oct 43

TO USE A GRID SYSTEM ON THIS MAP
Use in addition to the scale or distance shown on the map
and in conjunction with the grid shown on the map
FOR DISTANCE TO LARGER NATIONAL GRIDS AND TO
OTHER MAPS OF THE SAME SCALE

Point		Kamigala Point	
Easting	Northing	Easting	Northing
65	76	65	76
66	77	66	77
67	78	67	78
68	79	68	79
69	80	69	80
70	81	70	81
71	82	71	82
72	83	72	83
73	84	73	84
74	85	74	85
75	86	75	86
76	87	76	87
77	88	77	88



Bridge (road, except where shown otherwise)	
Motor Road	
Jeep Track	
Foot Track	
Reported Track	
Telegraph Line	
Aerodrome	
Sea Plane Base	
Cemetery	
Mission Station	
Spot Height	
Grasslands	

Roof	
Trig. Stations and altitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Class
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth
Astronomical Station	
Native Garden	
Native Village	
Unidentified Native Village	
Buildings	
River or perennial Stream	
Non-perennial Stream	
Fathom Line	

Swamp (includes swampland)	
Spring, Well, Waterhole	
Mangroves	
Dense Jungle Forest	
Forest	
Scattered Timber	
Plantation (includes coconut)	
Secondary Growth	
Contours - Form Lines (includes and facing up)	
Ridges	
Cliffs	

RED OVERPRINT BY 8 AUSTRALIAN ARMY TOPOGRAPHY COY AIF FROM INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY HQ NEW GUINEA FORCE.

WAR DEPARTMENT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY

PRELIMINARY SHEET
Subject to correction

PROVISIONAL MAP

CAUTION:
This map was produced from aerial photographs. Due to
lack of accurate ground control, distances scaled on this
map may be at variance with actual ground distances.

MASAWENG RIVER
B 55/11
NORTHEAST NEW GUINEA

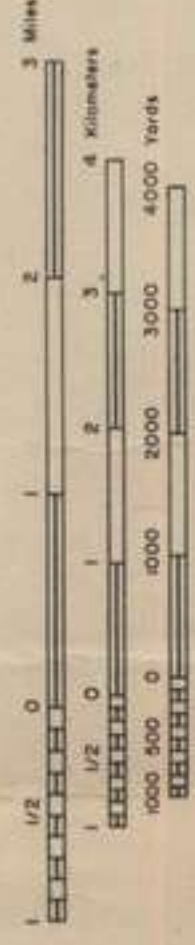


RED OVERPRINT BY 2¹/₂ AJST. ARMY TOPO SURVEY COY
FROM INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY H.Q. NEW GUINEA FORCE

NOTE:
All underwater obstructions not necessarily shown.

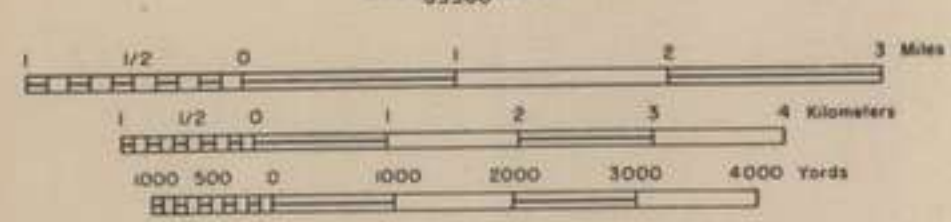
REFER TO THIS MAP AS
MASAWENG RIVER 3612
1 INCH PROVISIONAL SERIES

REFER TO THIS MAP AS
MASAWENG RIVER 3636
1 INCH PROVISIONAL SERIES



Prepared under the direction of the Chief Engineer, USAFFE,
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Topography from vertical and oblique photographs, using
triangulation plotting and Fairchild Stereocomparagraph.
Lambert Conical Orthomorphic Projection.

NGF/010/3636
23 OCT 43



RESTRICTED



1000 METER MODIFIED BRITISH GRID SYSTEM
SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE
Origin of grid: Lat 6°S Long 148°E, whose coordinates
are X=3,000,000 M and Y=1,000,000 M
To give the coordinates of a point use only larger figures
on the grid lines, and add estimated tenths of kilometers.
The small numbers at the corners are the full coordinates
referred to the origin of the grid zone.
Nearest similar reference on this grid is 500 km distant.
ALWAYS indicate grid letter in giving a reference on this
grid.

MASAWENG RIVER
S615 - E14740/15

13 OCT 43

Coma Post

- 1300 hrs From 9 Div RAA 9 Aist Div-OC 4
1350 hrs From 2/3 MG Bn 639697 WEST SIDE NORTH HILL. Between 2000 hrs and 2100 hrs signalling at SATELBURG. 10 min later barge started "in harbour". Further signalling as barge started at 198 deg magnetic approx 4000 yds-- (large open morton bay fig)
- 1415 hrs From 9 Div Staff barge mentioned in Tac R this afternoon.
1430 hrs From 2/43 Bn by L/T 1 offer 15 GRS B Coy TO 0935 MI 1800 covering party in posn terrace-1030 hrs. BONGA reported clear 1030. Recce creek area from 1030 to 1130 track in kunai 647746 was 350 deg magnetic for 200 to 300 yds. Recce creek area 1130 to 1230 250 to 300 yds from BONGA to kunai north creek. Mouth of creek recce made for barges. Patrol suggest recce from sea. Lieut CLERKE buried at 643744. No enemy found but pool of blood found at 643744. No equipment found. NMS.
260 personnel 2/28 Bn at 1130 will attempt to switch to SCARLET second mission arriving 2330. Send guide to object (1) guide tps to local assembly areas travel if possible in LCV intercept mission and take to SCARLET BEACH.
- 1440 hrs From DAGMG (L) by L/T advise MLO SCARLET BEACH arrange assembly area in SCARLET BEACH area.
1450 hrs To 9 Div Div requested to authorise issue of additional weapons to form composite coy 2/43 Bn. Require if possible 7 Brens 12 OSMGs minimum 7 brens 7 OSMGs for duration probably until complete assembly of Bde.
- 1500 hrs From 9 Div I 220 in reply I 84 re air photos.
1510 hrs From B Coy 2/43 Bn patrol report.
1513 hrs From 9 Div L/T General touring may call in.
1535 hrs To 2/43 Bn Col JOSHUA Bn Comd 2/43 requested to report for special task morning Oct 13.
1540 hrs To 9 Div by L/T Summary patrol report B Coy 2/43 Bn phoned to Div.
1635 hrs General arrived on tour of inspection.
1645 hrs General departed.
1700 hrs To 2/3 Pnr from Brig requested to send patrol out to gather in natives and hand them over to ANGAN (date of patrol 14 Oct)
1715 hrs To BM from 2/3 Pnr suggested to bring natives into C Coy 2/3 pnr at 631688. They come down periodically and tomorrow is the next day.
1720 hrs From 9 Div 0721 no craft will proceed NORTH of northing grid line 70 ref 1 inch map without previous authority from this HQ.
1805 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn re track work and asking to open up gravel pits with bulldozers. Jeep track to B Coy 2/43 now open for traffic.
1820 hrs From 9 Div by L/T advise no brens in area. Have secured three from 20 Bde and 12 Owens at ADOS dump for comp Coy 2/43. Remainder available later.
1825 hrs From 9 Div Tac R requested for 14 Oct requested as for 13 Oct.
1900 hrs To 2/3 MG Bn from BM Capt NICHOLAS to report here between 1100 and 1300 hrs 14 Oct.
1905 hrs To C Coy PIB asking if Lieut RICE can see copy of O 722.
1930 hrs 2/3 Pnr Bn sit rep sit nor
1950 hrs From 20 Bde 2/15 Bn occupied TIROMORO without opposition. 2/15 attacked KUMAWA with one coy WEST. Struck very by bamboo country and as soon as they came out were fired on heavily. Attack successful and objective gained. Our cas 6 killed 20 wounded. Enemy cas 25 sure killed estimated approx 40 and many wounded. All NAVAL tps. Possibly strong rear guard protecting flanks and trying to delay own tps to allow any parties that might be coming in from LAE. Strong posns deep and good head cover ~~xxxx~~
4 IMG
- 2010 hrs From 9 Div O 734 SECRET. ref my OO 19. on arrival nights 13/14 and 14/15 Oct 2/28 Bn will come under comd 21 Bde.
2040 hrs To BM from 2/43 Bn Col JOSHUA was suggesting that he put 1 pl plus sec IMGs in SP posn to remain constantly in posn. Will report with Capt FLEMING 0945 Oct 14. (approved)
2130 hrs 2/43 Bn sit rep sit nor.
2140 hrs 2/3 Pnr Bn sit rep sit nor except some shpts in 18 pl area which are being investigated.
2150 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn report on shooting. Sentry in 17 pl area thought he saw a man 40 yds inf front they fired a few shots later investigated found no signs of anyone.
2230 hrs 2/3 Pnr Bn sit rep

13 OCT 45

2300 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitnor
2330 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn NTR
2330 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitnor
2400 hrs From 9 Div R 2/15 Bn occupied village TIRONORO this morning without opposition. 2/15 Bn attacked strong enemy posn 500 yds WEST of KUMAWA inflicted by casualties on the enemy. Bde re-organising.

14 OCT 45

0010 hrs From MLC convoy 2/28 Bn instructed to land SCARLET BEACH. 24 Bde off at sea in craft to guide.
0025 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitnor.
0030 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitnor.
0125 hrs From 2/5 Pnr Bn sitnor
0200 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitnor.
0225 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitnor.
0250 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitnor.
0330 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitnor.
0345 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitnor
0430 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitnor.
0435 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitnor
0530 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitnor.
0531 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitrep sitnor. 6 bombs dropped from single Jap plane no report.
0630 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitnor.
0635 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitnor.
0740 hrs To BM from MLC SCARLET 11 barges with personnel of 2/28 Bn arrived at SCARLET BEACH approx 0200 hrs. Bivouac area 0300hrs.
0745 hrs To BM from C Coy 2/43 Bn asking for Col NORMAN to ring Bde.
0810 hrs To BM from 2/28 Bn Col reported the trip OK no trouble except a few bombs dropped as they were coming in towards the tail of the column. No damage. Left G BEACH 1630 arrived Div area 0315 hrs. Col NORMAN coming up to Bde this morning with HQ 2/28 Bn at 0930 hrs.
0815 hrs To BM from 2/43 Bn C Coy 2/43 Bn to relieve A Coy at ZAG 0900 14 Oct.
0816 hrs From 2/2 MG Bn no knowledge of area bombed except that it was about a mile away probably at sea. 6 bombs at 0550 hrs.
0818 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn report that B Coy will move ~~to~~ from present posn to WEST OF KATIKA. Expect to pass through 2/3 Pnr HQ about midday recce posn today and occupy later.
0845 hrs From 9 Div advised G11 of posns and tasks for today. Further details of tasks and intentions later.
0905 hrs From 9 Div Air strikes as for 15 Oct requested and may be flown. TOT will be advised.
1005 hrs From 2/43 Bn A Coy 2/43 Bn moving to Bn area NOT KATIKA as previously arranged. One coy 2/28 Bn moving to KATIKA as Bde res.
1040 hrs From 9 Div Tac R approx 20 sets foot prints on beach leading up the track 634791 but NMS. The track along beach shows signs of recent use NMS. 6180 and 6082 NMS. Barge damage by straffing loc rds 30 mm cannon 800 rds .503 used. Barge badly holed by cannon fire.
1240 hrs To BM(L) from 2/3 Pnr Bn 1 native came into 14 pl HQ 628688. Lot more expected tomorrow Oct 15 taking in to 2/43 Bn.
1410 hrs From 24 Bde From 2/3 Pnr Bn 0 70 in reply to 0 204 Ack.
1425 hrs From 2/3 Pnr L/T one of our patrols contacted enemy at 613684 strength of enemy est half pl our casualties 1 WO 1 OR killed. strength of patrol 1 pl 1 offr wounded. 3 japs killed enemy appears to be dug in. Pnr organising and sending fwd pl to strengthen posn till B Coy arrives. Posn of patrol 614684 B Coy here 1700.
1500 hrs To units under cmd 9 Div from 24 Bde 0205 Confm verbal orders.
1550 hrs From B Coy 2/28 Bn reported in posn.
1920 hrs From 2/28 Bn sitrep sitnor
1930 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitrep sitnor.
1950 hrs From 9 Div Tac R for tomorrow Oct 15 same as Oct 14 ref 0205. No result of this afternoons Tac R as the message was dropped in the sea.
2000 hrs From 2/28 Bn sit rep sitnor.
2006 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitrep sitnor.
2030 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitrep sitnor.

14 OCT 43

- 2040 hrs From 9 Div conference at Hq 24 Bde at 1000 hrs Oct 15 to be attended by Brig and BM conducted by GOC and attended by heads of arms.
- 2105 hrs From 9 Div 4 Brens for composite coy 2/43 Bn may be drawn from ADOS dump.
- 2115 hrs From Col FINLEY 2 Aust Corps LCI rang from SCARLET BEACH advised he would be attending conference at Hq at 1000 hrs tomorrow.
- 2130 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitrep sitmor.
- 2135 hrs From 2/28 Bn sitrep sitmor.
- 2136 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitrep sitmor. request that brens be delivered to B Ech
- 2155 hrs From 2/28 Bn sitrep sitmor.
- 2224 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitrep sitmor.
- 2226 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitrep sitmor.
- 2330 hrs From 9 Div. confirmation. on Oct 15 at 1000 hrs the following will meet Div Comd at Hq 24 Bde. Comd and BM of 20 and 24 Bde GRA, GRE, 60 Sigs. TOO 2200/L THI 2206.
- 2330 hrs From 2/3 Pnr Bn sitrep.
- 2335 hrs From 2/43 Bn sitrep sitmor.
- 2340 hrs From 2/28 Bn sitrep sitmor. trouble with line unable to get through with previous sitrep.

15 OCT

- 0542 - two bombs dropped FINSCHHAFEN area
0545 hrs - barge activity SCARLET BEACH
0611 hrs from MLO SCARLET - no barges landed at SCARLET consider 28
may be landing at FINSCHHAFEN
0730 hrs from 28 Bn - half of C & D have arrived at beach. One pl CCoy
one pl D Coy and majority HQ Coy have yet to arrive otherwise
all in
0828 hrs from Div - instructed no move 28 until after conference
0833 hrs to 43 Bn - instructed not to move Bn HQ A Coy or LOB Co until
further orders
0955 hrs from Div - D Coy 32 Bn less one pl due to arrive SCARLET
1800 hrs from TAMI IS
1100 hrs GOC arrived for conference
1420 hrs from BM - A Coy Pnrs comes under comd 43 Bn C Coy 43 Bn comes
under comd Pnrs two Tk A guns Pnrs come under comd 28 all
changes as from 1500 hrs 15 Oct
1450 hrs to 20 Bde - asked to meet 24 Bde gds escorting PW and take
over so gds can return to own area
1500 hrs to Div - one PW captured by ACoy 28 at 625703 being sent in.
PW captured at 1815 hrs believed to be an officer slightly
wounded walked in with white flag
1630 hrs from 28 Bn - proposed posns for 28 coast watching patrol
without recce ARNDT PT 6567 and 645655
1745 hrs ~~to~~ Div - approx 12 bombs dropped vic south end SCARLET
BEACH 645685 6 enemy Bs
1816 hrs to 43 from Brig - inquiring why 43 BHQ has gone fwd to 654734
as plans have been slightly altered to defensive nature
unable to contact CO request that he ring back earliest
1925 hrs Brig to Pnrs - ref mvt of Bn to take up posn astride ridge
sq 6168 6268 CO Pnrs says he will be in posn not later than
1000 hrs 16 Oct
1945 hrs to Div - request release 6 OSMGs for Pnr Bn approval granted
by GII
2105 hrs Brig to 43 - ref coy posns coys occupying important hill
features and not actually close together but will move B Coy
and BHQ down behind A Coy Pnrs tomorrow nothing down near
SONG R after final posns decided Brig will come up and look
at same tomorrow
2130 hrs from 28 Bn - D Coy in posn airstrip report slight mvt in front
16 pl have been standing to for sometime
2115 hrs to Div - request arty harassing fire tonight 400 yds West
68 harassing fire request for 16 Oct to be engaged 0930
and 1500 hrs first priority S62 S63 S67 second priority
S47 S57 GII advises 400 yds West 68 will be engaged twice
during night 15/16
2155 hrs from Div - KNOMX IS 5 barges reported there from Tac R
2215 hrs - 5 bombs dropped well South SCARLET BEACH
2255 hrs from 43 Bn - advise that arty is doing harassing shoot on trk
approx 400 yds West of ARNDT PT village
2300 hrs from 28 Bn - unable to raise D Coy

16 OCT

- 0010 hrs from 28 Bn - D Coy advises all quiet
- 0743 hrs from 43 Bn - require 3 miles cable
- 0805 hrs from Pnrs - request for Tac R of feature 614684
- 0840 hrs - 6 enemy Bs and 20 Fs dropped 20-30 bombs in vicinity south
end SCARLET BEACH 4 28 Bn wounded no other damage
- 0945 hrs from 28 Bn - HQ located at 642683
- 1025 hrs to Pnrs - re firing early morning between KATIKA and SATELBERG
trks
- 1115 hrs from Div - approved harassing fire priority 2 for 16th
- 1130 hrs from 20 Bde - attack on 17 Bn launched on right flank from
598662 estimate strength 5 pls enemy has 75mm mountain gun
- 1205 hrs from Pnrs - D Coy disposns. Coy HQ 605675 16 Pl 608676
17 Pl 608668 18 Pl 603676
- 1340 hrs from Div - request that this Bde send an LO to Div
- 1415 hrs from Engrs - still working on jeep trk to D Coy 43. Hope to
be completed this evening or tomorrow morning
- 1530 hrs from 43 Bn - request for DF tasks (1) North of SONG 628695
(2) creek bed 635705 (3) West of A Coy Pnrs 6471 (4) 653737
(5) 653734 (6) 643730 (7) BONGA village (8) 643734
(9) 657734
- 1531 hrs from Div - Tac R morning 16 Oct. Trks South sq 5765 show
very many footprints. NMS SATELBERG all trks muddy from use.
2 footbridges 571707. Trk 619697 follows ridge to 598713
well used trk runs from 573746 West parallel R SONG
- 1545 hrs to GII from BM - requesting permission to register DF
- 1550 hrs to Pnrs - 1 NCO Pnrs to be ready to come into Bde HQ at a
moments notice (also 28 Bn)
- 1607 hrs to 43 Bn - asking if area of camp coy clear so DF tasks can
commence immediately
- 1715 hrs to 28 Bn - from BM(L) - Col Norman has ordered BCoy to move
immediately to posn North of SONG R he will intercept them
on SCARLET BEACH
- 1745 hrs to Div - outline of posns passed on to GII
- 1818 hrs from MDS - request an offr from Bde. No, but they are to take
all normal precautions no shooting unless actually attacked
- 1825 hrs from Pnrs - re altering posns C Coy one pl 620696
another 617692. No. of Jap encountered by C Coy patrol in
ambush 15 spasmodic firing on B Coy front killed 2 Japs
all C Coy patrol reported in except one wounded and escort
later reported in at MDS
- 1840 hrs to 43 Bn - LOB offr to report this HQ to act as LO at Div
- 1842 hrste units under comd-SDF for 24 Bde def area three reds
20 Bde three greens
All units to est lookouts to report immediately lighting
of fires on heights and any reply
- 1845 hrs from Pnrs - C Coy patrol returning to coy HQ saw Jap run across
trk and about 300 yds from Coy HQ shot him and were then
fired on by enemy in ambush exchanged fire. Enemy withdrew
on South side of trk, then saw 2 Japs moving along trk
shot these saw footprints on trk B Coy while digging in this
morning a sentry keeping watch on flank fired at where he
saw some mvt then fire exchanged and enemy withdrew went
out 1700 hrs and found 2 enemy dead
- 1935 hrs to Pnrs from Brig - suggested alteration by CO of coy posns
must patrol vigorously to prevent enemy getting in close in
force report two of our planes just crashed between
2/5 BHQ and B Coy

16 OCT(contd) -2-

1948 hrs from MLO - believe 4 planes crashed
1950 hrs to 20 Bde - report plane crash to Div if possible
2010 hrs to C Coy MG - Be prepared to move as from first light
probable role to take up posn 28 Bn area
2012 hrs from 28 Bn - think that pilot landed in MMG area and that
wounded pilot was MMG man
2015 hrs from 28 Bn - report that it was C Coy area where plane crashed
2020 hrs to Div - Pnrs report that one pilot parachuted out possibly
two crashed
2025 hrs to Div - 6 miles to sig cable at earliest
2050 hrs - Naval Bombardment reported six minute duration 0820 hrs
North up coast
2050 hrs from Pnrs - warned to watch for signals SATELBERG area
also for brg on naval bombardment 340 to 345 9 flashes
2048 hrs from Pnrs - picked up one pilot 200 yds from posn
2110 hrs from 43 Bn - report light from same posn as gunfire last night
2130 hrs from 28 Bn - B Coy in posn
2146 hrs from Pnrs - Pilots name PO Lieut D.J. LENORE S F Cp 49 Gp
TSILI
2150 hrs from 43 Bn - flare 190 deg from NORTH HILL
2207 hrs from Pnrs - Pilots name HAGARSTROM J. Sam Pierce
third not known

17 OCT

0530 hrs - 3 bombs dropped South of Bde
0350 hrs from 43 Bn - message from ~~SEIX~~ SEIKMAN two barges seen coming
down coast do not think any more
0415 hrs from 43 Bn - firing near NORTH HILL finding out about same
0417 hrs from 28 Bn - res coy on 5 mins notice to move first light
MG fire and few mortars
0432 hrs to Div - reported firing seeming to come from south end
SCARLET BEACH
0433 hrs from 28 Bn - 2 barges seen going South and red flare out to
sea
0447 hrs from 28 Bn - A Coy report nothing on right flank SCARLET
BEACH checking on left
0455 hrs from 43 Bn - one barge seen going north along coast with
men yelling out otherwise sitnor
0500 hrs from 28 Bn - 3 barges approached coast North of SCARLET
BEACH within hand grenade distance threw grenades mortar etc
two 28 wounded no one landed
0506 hrs - 10 bombs dropped well south of this posn
0507 hrs from 28 Bn - approx 100 Japs landed on spit at mouth R SONG
28 to take matter in hand
1510 hrs - 16 bombs dropped well south of this posn by one plane
0540 hrs from AA & MLO - barges and Japs still on the spit AA gun
cannot depress enough to fire good target for mortars
0545 hrs from 43 Bn - approx 30 Japs moving North between beach and
trk reported by pl astride trk 300 yds North SONG
0610 hrs to 28 Bn - pl of MG to report 28 HQ from airstrip
0615 hrs from 43 Bn - pl astride trk North of SONG R are being engaged
by above enemy party pl reported that the party of approx
30 Japs went around pl posn and came round the trk onto
coastal trk and attacked from the North posn is well in hand
0645 hrs from 43 Bn - 7 barges proceeding near ARNDT PT

17 OCT (contd) -2-

- 0655 hrs from 28 Bn - situation on spit mouth of SONG R now cleared up
- 0657 hrs from 43 Bn - 7 barges look like PT boats
- 0700 hrs from 28 Bn - no cas 28 and 3 slightly wounded AA 2 barges on spit Japs only used grenades 2 barges are on beach number of dead unknown
- 0720 hrs from 43 Bn - one Jap wounded on trk fwd of pl 300 yds North of SONG R thought that there may be some mvt South of this pl still
- 0755 hrs from 28 Bn - 31 enemy dead
- 0815 hrs from 43 Bn - 2 pls B Coy moving South to clear up area sec of approx 6 men moving to cut coast trk
- 0850 hrs to Pnrs - captured trace showing Jap attack lines 9 Div informed of trace and our disposns also informed of Japs near Pnrs HQ and barges
- 0930 hrs from Pnrs - est about 15 Japs, killed 6 remainder withdrawing
- 0935 hrs from 43 Bn - is rd clear between A Coy and BHQ 10 PIB patrol
- 0940 hrs from camp force 43 - enemy apparently SE of A Coy between A Coy and coast not estimated to be very strong
- 0955 hrs from Pnrs - proposed DF tasks for Pnrs 609679 to 612682 and 620680 to 624681
- 1010 hrs from Pnrs - approx 2 pls of Japs within 30 yds of Pnrs HQ
- 1015 hrs - Gd Comd instructed to warn pl of 28 up river and ask them to try and get some observation in direction of Pnrs
- 1025 hrs to 9 Div from BM - situation to date
- 1030 hrs from Pnrs - CO reports they are almost surrounded and comms out with C Coy but still in with B Coy ~~unit~~
- 1045 hrs from 43 Bn - contact between B Coy and pl A Coy made no enemy found but sig wires cut about 500 yds up
- 1050 hrs to Div - asking for harassing fire on unnamed villages 59716071
- 1051 hrs from Pnrs - CO reports heard shouting South of their posns and that firing has died down
- 1108 hrs - Arty LO reports that ~~shouting~~ shouting was from own tps when some enemy Bs were brought down
- 1112 hrs from Pnrs - CO reports that he thinks enemy has dug in at 634684
- 1120 hrs from Arty LO - fire being brought down on enemy posns
- 1145 hrs from 28 Bn - 28 HQ plus one pl A Coy and MG pl are moving to spur South of KATIKA
- 1155 hrs from Pnrs - No comm with CCoy other coys OK party working on line fwd coys patrolling laterally
- 1158 hrs from 43 Bn - smoke signal brg 328 from NORTH HILL
- 1235 hrs to Pnrs - from BM - ensure vigorous patrolling to find out posn of infiltration with object of bringing down arty fire
- 1245 hrs from 43 Bn - one pl of B Coy have pushed enemy back 300 yds and now have them 100 yds from spit Maj JEANES on trk with small party about 100 yds from bridge to South of enemy and B Coy pl pushing from North
- 1250 hrs from 28 Bn - reporting that they have come on Pnrs B Ech deserted
- 1300 hrs from 43 Bn - another pl of B coy now joined party clearing out Japs North of R SONG made contact with first pl and now teeing up show signal for attack three rifle shots in quick succession.
- 1305 hrs to Pnrs - advising them of 28 Bn patrol report re B Ech. B Ech have moved up with BHQ their old posn 636682. CCoy

17 OCT (contd) --3--

- 43 now located Coy HQ 615662 with 13 Pl 50 yds North 14 Pl 609666 15 Pl 611667
- 1410 hrs from Pnrs - patrol of B Coy in contact with enemy 4-600 yds 614684
- 1412 hrs from Pnrs - request for DF tasks in area as soon as patrol is in
- 1450 hrs from 43 Bn - counted 21 enemy dead in corner North of SONG R and sea this area now clear our cas 6 wounded 28 sending patrol to sq 6167 also posn North SONG R
- 1515 hrs from Pnrs - B Coy 28 wanting us to advise 28 HQ of their posn 63 and 70 grids approx. In contact with Pnrs
- 1545 hrs from Pnrs - enemy still around HQ patrol gone out to try and get behind them
- 1555 hrs from GII to BM(L) - re beach defences
- 1610 hrs from 43 Bn - 2 more enemy killed
- 1614 hrs from Fd Coy - re salvaging 2 enemy barges on SCARLET BEACH Spns with authority to inspect
- 1625 hrs from 28 Bn - D Coy in posn South of KATIKA
- 1630 hrs from Div - ref 00 20 no change in verbal orders
- 1635 hrs from GIII(Air) - ref pilot who crashed in 43 area pilot's name Lieut Pierce
- 1643 hrs from Pnrs - own cas 1 killed 2 wounded still some enemy on North flank approx ~~224~~ 632684
- 1650 hrs from 43 Bn - FOO unable to get fwd and register DF task in front C Coy 28 Bn until first light tomorrow
- 1720 hrs from 28 Bn - BCoy 628700 perimeter on river astride trk 28 Bn HQ already know ration posn
- 1740 hrs from Div - C Coy 43 Bn remains under comd 24 Bde area at ZAG to be regarded as vital and defended at all costs arty est coast watching patrols at 650676 ARNDT PT and pt 645655 sig for barges red green red
- 1755 hrs to Pnrs - discussion on making coy attack to drive out enemy no idea of enemy strength infiltration work out map ref so as to work out brg from KATIKA for coy attack
- 1805 hrs from 28 Bn - found fresh Jap patrol marks in vic 28 Bn HQ C Coy patrols doubt if any infiltration down SIKI R. Enemy would have to come down trk only got approx 1100 yds in one spot very old Jap digging
- 1828 hrs from Pnrs - C Coy patrol when about 250 yds from perimeter fired on by 3 riflemen enemy engaged who withdrew into gully very thick cane in area
- 1830 hrs from Div - Please notify any US pilot that A/C are landing ETA 1625 hrs to transport them from area. If not possible pilots reach airstrip 1625 hrs fwd to 9 Aust Div
- 1850 hrs from 43 Bn - Comp coy report. apparently some days ago about a coy of enemy moved along trk on which B Coy was est a large enemy camp about half way along WAREO trk apparently it was used to bring reinfd in
- 1855 hrs from Div - 2 PT boats will contact 9 Div tonight at DIMINISH and then move North on barge search no time given no recognition signal
- 1905 hrs from 43 Bn - fire has been observed on SATELBERG height, confirmed by Pnrs
- 1915 hrs to 43 Bn - B Coy will move forthwith to R SONG crossing with object of moving on south side tomorrow

17 OCT (contd) -4-

- 1935 hrs from Pnr - attack on right flank of HQ est to be about strength 50 strong 3 cas
- 1940 hrs to 28 Bn - warned of attack on Pnr HQ
- 2000 hrs from Pnr - advise Brig cannot hold Jap attack withdrawing to 28 Brig advised GI re Pnr posn
- 2010 hrs - Brig advised 43 that they be ready to move to counter attack or help hold SCARLET BEACH
- 2020 hrs from Div - GOC stated that one coy 28 must be ready to counter attack first light
- 2030 hrs from 43 Bn - advise 5 hrs to move Northern coys to BHQ all coys are ready to move
- 2057 hrs from 28 Bn - Pnr BHQ in ROSEVEAR with small rear party not reported in yet
- 2140 hrs - coastwatching est by 2/12 Fd Regt and with light signals to indicate approach of enemy craft are as follows
650677 white red, ARNDT PT 654672 red green. Promontory 645655 green white.
- 2150 hrs from 28 Bn - wants gunfire on Pnr old posn Brig advised Col Norman to put in two coy attack in morning and regain lost ground 2 coys 43 being withdrawn tonight to NORTH HILL area to link up with B Coy B Coy 28 out of comm
- 2210 hrs to 43 from BM - orders have been issued for orderly move
- 2212 hrs Brig to GI - 43 have been ordered to come in line from B Coy 28 over NORTH HILL to coast B & D Coys coming this side of SONG to go some distance West of this HQ to maintain comm Rear HQ Pnr not arrived in yet request for use of 32 to restore posn
- 2215 hrs from 28 Bn - Rear Pnr HQ reported in will now bring down arty concn
- 2235 hrs from 43 Bn - CO asked for report from PIB re encampment of enemy half way between BONGA WAREO
- 2245 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy moving South of SONG R first light B Coy will be in posn by 2315
- 2332 hrs from 43 Bn - Tk A pl has moved into 637731 phone now closing preparatory to move to village South of BONGA 5 jeeps at BHQ are moving up trk to bring up by weapons B Coy in posn at mouth SONG R
- 2359 hrs - harassing fire on Pnr Bn vacated HQ

18 OCT

- 0025 hrs from 43 Bn - jeeps have arrived at 653734 but the coy from 637731 have not reached there yet
- ~~0032~~ 0032 hrs from 43 Bn - MMG report what appear to be barges at 80 deg
- 0235 hrs from 43 Bn - inquiring re 3 inch mortar bombs advise maximum could have 250
- 0255 hrs - one aircraft appeared to fly South well out to sea
- 0350 hrs from 43 Bn - Rear advises Adjnt & Sig Offr have arrived at rear. Jeeps have returned for stores coy not yet in posn
- 0415 hrs from 43 Bn - Tk A at HQ and 2 pls of *Comp force* following Pnr coy in posn on NORTH HILL at approx 2 hrs before others get down
- 0705 hrs - Beach Sigs advise they are in contact with 15 Pl Pnr
- 0715 hrs from Div - Ring contour 5966 ridge 630710 to be taken
- 0738 hrs from GII - Asking exactly where Pnr HQ withdrew to
- 0750 hrs from BM to Div - first verbal and then written report on Pnr HQ withdrawal
- 0755 hrs BM to 28 Bn - 28 attack 2 coys strength

13 OCT (contd) -2-

- 0810 hrs to Pnrs from BM(L) - to report both verbally and written (1) what subunits and in what strengths in addition to Bn HQ itself (2) how disposed for protection for BHQ (3) what fire disposns did they have (4) what fd works had they done (5) why as withdrawal forseen were other arrangements not made to maintain comsn with coys after withdrawal (6) actual reason for withdrawal (7) what was locati on HQ Coy. Reports required by GII
- 0915 hrs BM from Div - calling for infm re posn North of SONG PT watch to continue last light Japs reported vicinity North Hill 43 investigating no estimation of enemy res coys attending to same
- 0946 hrs to BM from AA - native reports that Japs are moving from SATELBERG trk in direction of sq 6469 Japs have big guns
- 0950 hrs from 28 Bn - attack less two coys held up by small enemy pocket on left flank they are cleaning up posn now AA gun in posn 636676 being attacked
- 1000 hrs - Rear Hq Bde reported in SCARLET BEACH
- 1001 hrs from MLO - 6 LCVs on way to SCARLET BEACH return with wounded to LANGEMAK BAY
- 1010 hrs from 43 Bn - one pl moved to edge of jungle and were shot on by 6 Japs - 2 Japs killed Lieut CLIFFORD killed 4 Japs heading towards WAREO possibly landing party personnel
- 1013 hrs from 43 Bn - native who reported Japs moved through Bde HQ to mouth of SONG R. Mr. Rice PIB contact and interrogate
- 1035 hrs from BM - 28 Bn are sending tps fwd along KATIKA trk to forestall enemy advance there is a determined attack coming in on 28 on KATIKA trk attack is fairly hy
- 1105 hrs to BM from 28 Bn - Attack still going on and still determined
- 1110 hrs from 20 Bde to BM - Approx one pl Japs in rear 17 Bn send small patrol South object find out if any infiltration on that front towards 643686.
- 1125 hrs from 43 Bn - interrogation of natives. Natives say they saw no Japs today
- 1128 hrs to 15 Pl Pnrs - send out patrols immediately to creek junc 630700 to pick up arty OPO. Urgent not able to get to B Coy 28.
- 1150 hrs from 28 Bn - Attack repulsed CO estimates more Japs than own strength he thinks they are coming in again
- 1220 hrs from 28 Bn - Jap patrol coming up trk to KATIKA in rear left flank between rd and SIKI R
- 1232 hrs from Pnrs - Japs between 14 and 15 Pls no report from D Coy patrol
- 1240 hrs from 28 Bn - one patrol from C Coy went around left flank to SIKI R reported in went E of KATIKA to SIKI then W along SIKI R 638678 NMS North bank of SIKI impassable to tps zigzagged to North bank NMS good trk South bank this is probably the Jap trk where Jap patrol went CO wants to push fwd and thinks his flanks will be open wants ruling on this from Brig
- 1310 hrs from B Coy 43 Bn - firing in front of D Coy Japs on left flank D Coy
- 1320 hrs - Line out to Div
- 1321 hrs to Div - W/T - SCARLET BEACH being attacked in centre
- 1350 hrs from 43 Bn - Japs came in centre and started to work to left our cas one killed one wounded Japs working around between B and D Coys. There is a gap of approx 70 yds there.

18 OCT (contd) -3-

- 1435 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy require amm
- 1500 hrs from GI - Bde to hold SCARLET BEACH and as much of NORTH HILL as will control Beach. If any withdrawal must be to SCARLET BEACH.
- 1505 hrs to SC - Amn pt cleaned out. (Asked Div to send more amm)
- 1515 hrs to 28 Bn from Brig - to move from KATIKA and close gap between 28 and D Coy, B & D Coys closing gap between themselves
- 1525 hrs from 43 Bn - enquiring whereabouts of Tk A pl as they are reported to be going on fighting patrol. Not correct they are coming in to fill gap between B & D Coys 43.
- 1540 hrs from MG - enquiring what they are to do as regards their perimeter. Told to contact 28.
- 1600 hrs from 43 Bn - enemy approaching in direction NORTH HILL in front of A Coy Pns
- 1610 hrs from 43 Bn - have we a DF task on the ford. D Coy no water or food
- 1615 hrs to 43 Bn - asking for PIB patrol to go out and get B Coy 28 with guides from 28 B Ech 1620 PIB patrol coming down immediately
- 1630 hrs from 28 B Ech - asking for four men to be sent out with a line team to repair line to 28 Bn which is out
- 1632 hrs - PIB patrol and guides left for B Coy 28
- 1635 hrs from Div - received 0 820
- 1650 hrs - Amn arrived - have been taken to coys on perimeter
- 1710 hrs from MG - moving inside 28 Bn perimeter
- 1720 hrs from D Coy 43 Bn - have made contact with 28 who are in round jungle tightening up with Tk A Pl in between filling small gap and have the rd covered on B Coy's right flank and tied up with Gd Pl
- 1728 hrs from 43 Bn - one pl C Coy 28 Bn reported in to 43 Bn and being sent over one man left behind to act as guide to take party out to bring remainder B Coy and 15 Pl Pns in.
- 1745 hrs to C Coy MG - ask to run line back from their posn so we have an alternate link with 28 Bn.
- 1755 hrs from 43 Bn - pl of 28 left no barges coming in after dark. PT boats on patrol
- 1800 hrs to B Coy 43 Bn - pl of 28 have arrived and are being sent up to strengthen posns. Amn posn OK but will check and ring pl of 28 Bn being put in behind Tk A Pl and 17 Pl B Coy 43 want ks 2" mortar one sec has moved 2 MGs fwd onto kunai and want to blast enemy in low ground
- 1815 hrs from MG - line through as requested posn at 645685
- 1830 hrs - D Coy Pns now in contact with HQ 28 Bn
- 1840 hrs from Brig to 43 - check re mortars at B & D Coys
- 1854 hrs to 43 Bn - 43 report two 5" mortars for B & D Coys awaiting collection mouth of SONG amm required for same Maj JEANES asked for four phones plus cable for comms
- 1902 hrs - B Coy 28 reported in
- 1953 hrs from 43 Bn - Pl on NORTH HILL report smoke 1840 hrs on brg 507 M in jungle West of where A Coy Pns were last night
- 2010 hrs - out of comm with Div
- 2025 hrs from 28 Bn - 71 enemy killed and approx 200 cas. Projected patrol for tomorrow. Patrol towards 13 Bn and contact their C Coy CO prefers going along rd
- 2044 hrs to 43 Bn - B & D Coys to report in here if they have any worries
- 2330 hrs from 28 Bn - report mvt of enemy slight but definite

18 OCT (cont'd) -4-

on their left flank whispering in centre and mvt right
of creek

19 OCT

0005 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy report no shooting vicinity NORTH HILL
0009 hrs from Arty LO - Two DF tasks. One fwd B & D Coys DF 10
Two, NW of NORTH HILL
0037 hrs - harassing fire area DF 10
0050 hrs to 43 Bn from BM - ask for brgs on gun flashes object to make
sure whether guns firing at 0045 are ours
0055 hrs to BM from 43 - guns are ours
0120 hrs to Div rptd 20 Bde - 28 will patrol to contact 13 Bn after
first light. Hy cas inflicted on enemy. Known Jap killed on
17 Oct 82. 120 on 18 Oct counted, but many more killed, but
owing change of our disposns not able to count. ~~mt~~ Our cas
light
0125 hrs from BM - because arty LO W/T cannot communicate with his Bty
all DF calls will have to be sent by Div W/T on Div wavelength
0133 hrs from 28 Bn - small skirmish on C Coy front on North of trk
0158 hrs - single enemy aircraft dropped 11 bombs - not in Bde area
0200 hrs from 28 Bn - knee mortars used in skirmish North of KATIKA trk.
Got very close but situation in hand
0255 hrs - 12 bombs South of 28 Bn
0256 hrs from 28 Bn - C Coy moving to high ground left of trk
0331 hrs from 28 Bn - C Coy in posn
0415 hrs - aircraft over area dropped 20 bombs Southern direction
0433 hrs from 28 Bn - withdrawal of fwd post~~s~~ which was on left flank
near coast present posn inside perimeter 28 were attacked
by approx 40 enemy several enemy cas own one killed report
plane signal at 0420 with red verrey light
0508 hrs - aircraft in area 3 bombs dropped
0525 hrs - 17 bombs dropped
0536 hrs - 4 bombs dropped
0550 hrs - 4 bombs dropped
0555 hrs - 8 bombs dropped
0640 hrs from 43 Bn - Arty fire in front D Coy very effective
0642 hrs to 28 Bn from Brig - would like patrol in front C Coy to probe
During conversation attack developed on C Coy posn near beach
0710 hrs from pns - PT boats left after coming in 300 yds off beach
0713 hrs from 28 Bn - mopping up 640677
0745 hrs from 43 Bn - B & D Coys covering old MDS site
0747 hrs to pns - contact personnel of ~~MDS~~ MDS and they can recover any
eqpt
0748 hrs from 28 Bn - asking if any knowledge of one man missing name
HOYPOY may be with Lieut BARNES
0808 hrs from B Coy 43 Bn - Sig HOYPOY with Mr. BARNES 28 Rear advised
0827 hrs from D Coy 43 - request for mortars 3" and .303 is it possible
to jeep up to MDS which is just behind their coy
0840 hrs - CO 43 can release sec guns who will move to sp D Coy 43
0848 hrs - sec guns for 43 will be picked up by jeep from bde
0954 hrs to 43 Bn - request accurate brg on ship that is off coast
0958 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy moving West for short distance to cover kunai
patch
1000 hrs from 43 Bn - brg 160 deg looks like destroyer is turning out to
sea our planes been over it

A Coy report what appears to be destroyer with 2 LCV or LCM moving North from well down South also appears to have air cover

- 1017 hrs to D Coy 43 - warning that OPO will be coming over from Bde through B Coy
- 1110 hrs from BM(L) - Capt Nicholas to take charge SCARLET BEACH defences. Will he come up and see Brig for written authority also discuss policy
- 1123 hrs to Adjnt 28 Bn - any posn of which you are at all doubtful booby trap them use grenades but not too many 28 Bn are going to use illuminating flares for warning along beach
- 1125 hrs to B Coy 43 - 28 Bn patrol be leaving shortly will be out for one hr route 500 yds along South Bank R SONG then East 200 yds and return
- 1150 hrs from D Coy 43 Bn - D Coy in new posn and in contact with 28 Bn A Coy 28 patrol report seeing party 20 enemy moving down from N to S opened fire but no estimate of cas enemy attack on D Coy posn yesterday estimated at 80 strong
- 1200 hrs from 9 Div - 24Bde will contact coy 13 Bn and extend perimeter to SIKI CREEK
- 1220 hrs to BM from CO 28 Bn - asking if there is any contact with B & C Coy
- 1225 hrs - Brig is ordering vigorous patrolling for infm
- 1240 hrs - Capt HEAD 28 Bn Maj ROSEVEAR Pns to report Col NORMAN immediately.
- 1346 hrs to Brig from 28 Bn - patrol to contact 13 Bn returned. South bank of SIKI R occupied by small pocket of Japs in that vicinity Brig had talk with CO ref attack and fire plan
- 1354 hrs to B Coy 43 - advising them of booby traps being laid on our front
- 1410 hrs from 28 Bn - calling for pl of B Coy vic Bde to be returned to 28 Bn for move (to be returned pl notified)
- 1515 hrs from 43 Bn - OP on NORTH HILL reports at least 5 or 6 fires along SONG VALLEY nearest approx one mile furthest approx 5 or 6 miles patrol to BONGA one Jap pursued approx 300 yds from FDLs unsuccessfully BONGA CREEK mouth 20 Japs in posn and much talking at approx 653724 25 Japs counted moving North having come in from West on new trk these were accompanied by two natives armed with LMGs Japs were carrying by packs Our old posns and sig wire untouched.
- 1515 hrs from 28 Bn - Attack under way now
- 1543 hrs from 28 B Ech - 12 pl has just returned back from patrol
- 1555 hrs - 26 Bde one regt of arty one sqn of tks in tonight
- 1650 hrs from 28 Bn - now in A Coys old posn 200 yds North of KATIKA preparing to move fwd
- 1727 hrs from Div - 24 Bde to est post on R SIKI will contact C Coy 13 Bn. 0840 hrs C Coy & D Coy 32 about 635654
- 1820 hrs to 28 Bn - asking if coys are in W/T comm. IO reports they have W/T with them and in comm by L/T
- 1950 hrs from 43 Bn - listening post North on coast trk report mvt and talking fwd of them they threw grenades and opened fire on Japs
- 2300 hrs from Div - no ships proceeding to SCARLET BEACH with tps or tks
- 2336 hrs - firing West side A & B Coys 28 Bn.

NO OCT

- 0045 hrs from 43 Bn - report boat signalling from sea considerable distance to South
- 0103 hrs from 43 Bn - 5 boats slightly North of BHQ posns may be PT boats but appear to be larger one boat on far pt flashing red light to shore
- 0104 hrs from 43 Bn - boats moving slightly North and one fairly close observers definitely sure they are destroyers one boat turned South one aircraft flying around may be our own
- 0110 hrs from 43 Bn - inquiry re putting up flare on beach BM advised that flare could be put up if boats came very close
- 0130 hrs to C Coy MG - check re boats AA report activity around FINSCHHAFEN red light observed but not directed at SCARLET BEACH
- 0135 hrs from 43 Bn - report of hy bombing a great distance away direction or distance unknown white signal light reported by 43 OP flashing from well out to sea believed to be signalling boats reported earlier
- 0155 hrs from CCoy MG - report gunfire to East well out to sea flashes not seen during 30 secs
- 0358 hrs - 15/20 bombs South
- 0409 hrs - 9 bombs South FINSCHHAFEN area
- 0411 hrs from MG HQ - report bombing out to sea also tracers into air
- 0436 hrs from 28 Bn - at 0345 hrs A & B Coys contacted by walkie talkie reported sitor
- 0442 hrs - 15 bombs South FINSCHHAFEN area
- 0505 hrs - 7 bombs dropped North
- 0507 hrs from 43 Bn - 7 bombs fell clear NW of posns
- 0520 hrs from 43 Bn - approx 5 bombs fell North on ridge well clear no cas
- 0630 hrs to 28 Bn from BM - discussion re closing gap between C Coy and remainder 28 about 60 required
- 0640 hrs to Pns from BM - discussion re moving fwd to close gap vacated by D Coy 28 patrol
- 0650 hrs from 43 Bn - brg 170 from top NORTH HILL 6 destroyers 6 PT boats LCI & LCMS
- 0652 hrs to MG from BM - pass message to PT boats that our W/T sets not working can they pass message to FINSCH and get it replaced
- 0656 hrs from 43 Bn - 5 LST 5 small craft 5 destroyers on brg 170 PIB to go North towards BONGA today
- 0658 hrs from 43 Bn - vessels now reported moving South
- 0700 hrs to BM from MG - report unable to get message to PT boats got half message away and had it acked but boats left before completion
- 0703 hrs - report from Gds that a lot of blood and bandages found near booby trap Gds investigating boobies to be replaced
- 0715 hrs to MG from BM - re personnel to fill D Coy posns
- 0718 hrs to BM from Pns - report they can send 3 cffrs 76 ORs with 2 Brens and 60 SMGs with amm cffrs to report Col NORMAN 0745. Pns to notify 28 Bn.
- 0815 hrs - no comms between us and Div - lines cut. Arty W/T set ceased functioning 2400 hrs own W/T set broke down 0110.
- 0818 hrs from MDS - sending men to collect surgical eqpt from old MDS posn will advise units concerned
- 0845 hrs - Arty W/T working 0650 Arty fire on 633682 and 652682
- 0850 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol going towards BONGA with some PIB another patrol to go up SONG R

20 OCT (contd) -2-

0855 hrs ~~from~~ to 28 Bn - move down and clean up area mouth SIKI CREEK
0855 hrs from 28 Bn - shoot on West of A Coy very effective
0910 hrs from 28 Bn - Comp coy Pnrs in posn
0950 hrs - W/T set now in operation
1000 hrs to Pnrs - D Coy 28 Bn relieved by comp coy Pnrs
1100 hrs to 43 Bn - B & D Coys 43 to patrol 500 yds West for infm
1115 hrs to Pnrs - 15 pl to move under orders 28 Bn.
1116 hrs - Lt AA found another 6 bodies in barges on beach
1120 hrs from 43 Bn - patrols leaving 1145 due in 1400 from B& D Coys
going 500 yds due West. Feelers North & South return same
route
1130 hrs from 28 Bn - D Coy contacted enemy in force C Coy moved fwd
to block any escaping enemy or if necessary cover D Coy
withdrawal 15 pl Pnrs not being used
1240 hrs to Brig from Arty - Tac R 2 enemy LMGs ~~sighted~~ sited on each
side 3 ton truck SIKI CREEK
1245 hrs from 28 Bn - D Coy withdrew own cas 17 C Coy was not
committed intend to mortar enemy posn
1250 hrs from Div - 26 Bde landed LANGEMAK BAY last light and are now
being ferried up to pt approx level with airstrip
1300 hrs from Arty LO - Arty are going to put regt shoot on area
West of A & B Coys 28 KATIKA. Hy concs during afternoon.
1355 hrs from Div - Disposns 20 Bde vicinity KATIKA C Coy 2/13 Bn
pls 644679 643679 642678 Pl 32 Bn 640677
1410 hrs from 43 Bn - asking permission to est one 3" mortar and crew
in Bde area so as to protect NORTH HILL force and drive any
enemy onto high ground if they come in
1420 hrs from 28 Bn - report W/T did not come on the air at 1400
will try again 1500
1435 hrs to 43 Bn - Vickers firing is 28 Bn doing shoot
1445 hrs to MG from Brig - enquiring if any barges coming in. No
barges coming in one just moved out.
1450 hrs from Pnrs - 2 mortar bombs probably 3" landed in area
1505 hrs from 28 Bn - mortar bombs landing in area
1515 hrs to 43 Bn from BM - giving posns of C Coy Pnrs in which
direction D Coy are to patrol
1520 hrs from 28 Bn - a fighting patrol will go out to try and contact
13 Bn at 1530
1525 hrs to 43 Bn - if C Coy Pnrs haven't pulled out bring them back
here
1530 hrs from 28 Bn - Col NORMAN reporting that he is going to draw
fire with 3" mortar and Vickers fire at 1730 hrs. Enemy
have cut line three times between A & B Coy and one pl has
been sent out as a covering party with line party
1535 hrs from 43 Bn - ref map of C Coy Pnrs stating that map ref
given by BM 630687 is 500 yds different to one received
by Capt GORDON from CO Pnrs, i.e. 635684
1600 hrs from 28 Bn to SC - Asking if they can get 2 Vickers barrels
and a muzzle cap as theirs cut out on last shoot
1605 hrs to all units from BM - following vercy light signals will
apply - arty DF. all DF South of SONG Three Reds. All DF
North of SONG Three WHITES. Hostile landing Two REDS.
When observed report clear line call to Bde HQ
1625 hrs from 43 Bn - Asking to check with arty where they are shooting
as D Coy report they are held up by own arty fire
1635 hrs to 43 Bn - Arty advise shooting on 623683 approx 800 yds
from pls objective

20 OCT (contd) -3-

- 1657 hrs from 45 Bn - report that enemy opened fire on barge and barge replied verified by 28 Bn
- 1725 hrs from 28 Bn - ration party got out all right but coming back were ambushed in nasty posn enemy party approx 12 men and LMG. party had to return to A Coy with pl covering party
Jap controls water of A & B. Too late to send patrol tonight will do so in morning.
- 1730 hrs from 45 Bn - inquiring about barge traffic. No barge traffic after 1900 hrs except PT boats
- 1818 hrs to BM from CCoy MG - Two 2 pdrs arrived and sqn tk cmd came up to look at beachhead
- 1850 hrs to 20 Bde from Brig - have cracked enemy but have nothing out in front PIB trying to contact pdrs we also tried to contact pdrs up along R SONG but were stopped 400 yds from posn want 32 to come up trk to KATIKA come up West side till they contact 28 fighting patrol 28 Bn to clean out North of KATIKA trk tomorrow 32 to move into sq 6268 patrol from A Coy 28 reached 15 Bn
- 1930 hrs to 28 Bn - considerable barge and PT activity tonight some will be landing SCARLET BEACH and all must be challenged all units notified
- 1940 hrs from 28 Bn - patrol from A Coy contacted 15 Bn secured wire and ran it back to A Coy making contact with 20 Bde
- 1945 hrs from MG - rather worried about recognition signals but all matter explained. Have been talking to PT boats who report they will be coming up in future at 2100 hrs and will not report in the morning unless something important to tell
- 2035 hrs from 43 Bn - one red tracer followed by 2 more from approx JIVEVENING and one from KATIKA reported from I Sec on NORTH HILL
- 2055 hrs from 43 Bn - white signal flash reported by B Coy 43 on brg 280. No estimate of distance.
- 2130 hrs - endeavouring to check on enemy signals
- 2240 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy reports sounds faint digging approx 2 to 300 yds in front 18 pl
- 2245 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy report sounds faint diggings approx 250 yds from their posn
- 2245 hrs from 43 B Coy - mvt heard on Bde HQ front and one red verrey light over SONG R (mvt was sound of tin being kicked reported by Capt Birch). Bde HQ stood to
- 2500 hrs ~~from 28 Bn~~ to MG - above report given to Sgt Goldsmith
- 2500 hrs from 28 Bn - 1945 slight attack unsuccessful from West own cas one 1955 hrs commenced harassing our KATIKA posns from East with SAA and 2nd mortar there was considerable mvt we put down our mortar DF and things quietened down but enemy digging in around our KATIKA posns
- 2335 hrs - Bde HQ stood down

21 OCT

- 0115 hrs from Div - tomorrow morning part of 32 Bn will join you and remainder day after tomorrow you will still be responsible for same tasks incl holding NORTH HILL at all costs
- 0430 hrs from 43 Bn - some digging on D Coy front
- 0431 hrs from 28 Bn - some firing West of KATIKA
- 0500 hrs from 43 Bn - some fire on D Coy front B Coy arranging show for Jap digging party
- 0507 hrs -- Sig Wensfell 24 Bde Sig Sec accidentally shot died 0520
- 0545 hrs from 43 Bn - D Coy heard mvt in front of posns Vickers put on traversing shoot
- 0710 hrs to 43 Bn from BM - check on enemy mvt on immediate front
- 0730 hrs from 43 Bn - B Coy not putting on mortar shoot as they consider enemy not on immediate front
- 0750 hrs to MLO from BM - Coy 32 will be in early this morning. Put coy in beach area and coy cmd will report to Bde HQ
- 0803 hrs from 28 Bn - C Coy observed 18 Japs going West with heavily laden packs. No late news of mvt reported during night in KATIKA area
- 0828 hrs - B Coy 32 arrived at beach
- 0830 hrs from 43 Bn - patrol ready to go out 30 strong
- 0932 hrs from 28 Bn - report from 13 Bn. We have ~~not~~ detected no mvt South of SIKI R this morning. This does not mean enemy has moved out. Own 3" mortars firing on enemy posns South of KATIKA
- 0945 hrs from GIII - message and sups dropped and asked to C Coy Pnrs indicated not hemmed in by enemy (43 Bn notified)
- 1010 hrs from 43 Bn - report they are burning some bodies this morning as unable to get them out of cave
- 1050 hrs from 28 Bn - patrol report of Pnrs. TO 0835 TI 1000. Strength 7 ORs route 642686 on brg 225 M. Distance covered 500 yds. crossed trk at 400 yds on which was Jap footprint presumably made last night. NMS. Topographical 400 yds dense jungle crossed 5 ridges 10/15 ft high. 50 yds further on evidence of arty and mortar fire 50 yds to garden. NMS.
- 1100 hrs from 28 Bn - no word of patrol yet but it is moving on side of trk so as not to pass any ambush. Have picked three possible pl areas which would tie up the whole show. (1) the present enemy posn on other side of gully and approx 150 yds in a direct line but about 300 yds overland (2) 200 yds North of No. 1 posn which covers a mass of trks (3) on right flank of C Coy and slightly fwd on a ridge 150/200 yds from the cove the posns control all sup routes and the only way in is down the SONG there are only three ways out in our area they are. (1) around C Coy to SONG (2) up the trks mentioned in No. 2 posn (3) up the creek North of KATIKA. There is probably a way up the South bank of SIKI but consider that belongs to 26 Bde.
- 1130 hrs from MG - inquiring of any posn West of Bde posn
- 1135 hrs to 28 Bn - Brig coming up to see Col NORMAN
- 1145 hrs from 28 Bn - B Coy Pnrs reported in to A & B Coy 28 Bn. Came straight down trk
- 1155 hrs to Pnrs - report B Coys arrival at A & B Coy 28.
- 1210 hrs from 28 Bn - Pnr B Coy strength 154 have been living on 5 days half ration two days no rations
- 1230 hrs to 43 Bn - Asking if 3" mortar would be required to cover any area in dead ground not able to be reached by arty. No patrol to HONGA today. Standing patrol 800 yds to be withdrawn for registration of DF tasks
- 1240 hrs to BM from GII - inquiring what controlled stores lost in withdrawal incl MT and if left unserviceable, and if so how.

21 OCT (contd) -2-

- Asked of B.C.S. and lamps and alternate sigs. Report every hr as usual and other end instructed to watch from 5 mins to hr to 5 mins past hr
- 1250 hrs from Lt AA - report they are moving three Bofors from the beach to LAUNCH JETTY area
- 1345 hrs from Pnrs - B Coy back please send LO over to get infm from coy comd
- 1355 hrs to Brig from 28 Bn - it looks as though 26 Bde and us will clean up SIKI area. 28 to do a shoot SIKI CREEK area
- 1358 hrs to BM from Pnrs - ref LO to bring photo map. LO to be IO.
- 1415 hrs to units from BM - B Coy 32 comes under comd 28 1200 hrs today and will est coy locality area 640683 and maintain contact and come between 28 perimeter and det coys West KATIKA. 28 will conduct harassing shoot on enemy posns area 643682 as diversion ops B Coy 32 to draw enemy fire results of shoot to be reported with particular ref to any enemy evacuation of posns formerly held. 28 will advise time of shoot. Ops to be completed by 1700 hrs.
- 1457 hrs from 28 Bn - above shoot commenced 1445, Japs replied with very few shots and sent back a few knee mortar bombs a few posns near 20 Bde graveyard which we know are occupied have not fired and are laying very quiet
- 1515 hrs to 43 Bn from BM - patrol to move out to North SONG R to est listening post via enemy posns sq 6369 to take line out and report half hly and return last light also OP NORTH HILL to observe that area
- 1605 hrs to 43 Bn - recalling patrol listening post North on coast trk so as to OP arty DF tasks
- 1630 hrs from 43 Bn - listening post has returned to FDL
- 1650 hrs from Pnrs - CO has been getting his orders through other units and wants the posn cleaned up B Coy to come under comd 28 tonight and 15 Pl under comd 43.
- 1655 hrs from ~~43~~ 32 Bn - ringing re mvt tomorrow and BM passed infm on posn here
- 1730 hrs from Div - 24 and 26 Bdes to strengthen posns in depth junc pt SIKI R 32 to leave 0900 hrs ETA 1300 hrs there is no hurry to move Pnrs C Coy 43 to be returned and B Coy Pnrs to go out tomorrow possibly Pnrs less A Coy on completion SIKI cleanup and A Coy Pnrs on return C Coy 43 & D Coy 43
- 1755 hrs from 43 Bn - 600 yds West of ford listening patrol contacted 6 Japs moving this way 43 mortars to fire and enquiring re 15 Pl passing through
- 1815 hrs to 43 Bn - Stop mortar shoot.
- 1825 hrs from C Coy MG - C Coy Pnrs in. No cas from 3" mortar shoot but 2 wounded brought back from old posn
- 1900 hrs - line to 13 Bn must be cut
- 1915 hrs to Pnrs - report on return C Coy pl
- 1925 hrs from Pnrs - report large fire burning SATELBERG area
- 1930 hrs from A Coy Pnrs - report fire 283 deg probably WAREO
- 1931 hrs from BHQ Pnrs - report fire 310 deg NE of SATELBERG
- 1940 hrs from 28 Bn - 298 deg M C Coy report fire on hill. 58 enemy counted in one heap in area immediately West of A & B Coys.
- 1945 hrs from B Coy 43 - report Pnr Pl in posn West of Bde HQ
- 1955 hrs from 28 Bn - est counted enemy dead 120 certain excl 58 checked in previously. Wounded man returned after heroic crawl spent 36 hrs in open. Further report on fire in WAREO

21 OCT(contd) -3-

area appeared to flame up briskly twice and considered as a signal.

- 2025 hrs from B Coy 43 Bn - one red flare observed to come from direction of beach and another dull glow possibly dud flare
Time of seeing flare 2025
- 2027 hrs from C Coy MG - Beach Control advise flares not on beach probably arty lines
- 2030 hrs from Pnrs - Red verrey light observed from SW direction probably SATEIBERG trk
- 2035 hrs from 28 Bn - red flare observed only as dull glow thought to be in direction FINSCHHAFEN
- 2045 hrs from MG - Noise heard out to sea either PT boats or barges coming from South Times fitted in with time PT boats were due to go past. Flares also seen appeared to be South of SIKI CREEK or even further South
- 2045 hrs from 28 Bn - Flare appeared to be 90 deg from D Coy (South end SCARLET BEACH)
- 2233 hrs from 32 Bn - Arty shoot OK NTR would like telephone in morning to tee in on line to pl. He understands some sig gear will arrive in morning.

22 OCT

- 0545 to 0555 - 12 bombs dropped South and SW
- 0715 hrs from Pnrs - Asking re C Coy mvt. C Coy and part of BHQ to go out tomorrow starting approx 1000 yds
- 0718 hrs from 28 Bn - CO wants to know if he can go up to A & B Coy posn. No.
- 0730 hrs - airstrike - one sqn med Bs strike each of following targets - MASANKOO, LAKONA, KAKARA
- 0800 hrs from 28 Bn - patrol going out to SIKI think it may have been evacuated
- 0810 hrs to BM from MDS - CO asking if he can move back to his old area (can possibly move tomorrow)
- 0840 hrs from 28 Bn - enquiring which coys Pnrs they can keep att (B Coy Pnrs to remain under comd) Small patrols moving out on all fronts
- 0920 hrs from 43 Bn - B & D Coys 43 to recce coy areas 500 West of present posns
- 0945 hrs - D Coy 32 in Pnrs left on last wave and MDS personnel move on next trip
- 1025 hrs to 28 Bn from BM(L) patrol of 48 coming up to you along the wire
- 1110 hrs from 43 Bn - A Coy HQ on NORTH HILL report one coy enemy moving North vic 2 huts shown on FINSCH Photo map 5000 yds West of KATIKA
- 1215 hrs to 28 Bn - from BM - 48 are to lay a line from mouth SIKI commencing 1300 hrs using trk followed by morning patrol.
- 1245 hrs to Div from BM - passing on infm re pocket SIKI R and our adjustment of perimeter and est of junc pt with 48 on SIKI.
- 1255 hrs to 43 Bn from Brig - To move to new posns before last light. 32 will move to sq 6268 and operate offensively North to SONG West to Creek sq 6168 South to SIKI
- 1315 hrs to BM from 28 Bn - asking permission to burn Jap bodies in area. Permission given.
- 1340 hrs to BM from 32 Bn - D Coy will move approx 1400 hrs remainder not before 1530 hrs with FOO.
- 1345 hrs to 28 Bn - Asking for as complete account as possible of enemy dead Bn HQ new posn will be at 64076830 closing present

- posn 1530 hrs
- 1500 hrs from 32 Bn - A Coy 28 Posns occasional shots right flank.
D Coy moving 1510
- 1520 hrs to BM from 28 Bn - report B Coy 43 Bn moving to 626677 will not arrive there until early tomorrow morning. They are landing mortar bombs in area now and are concerned about progress 32 Bn. No danger in that area as 32 are moving North KATIKA trk. All coys 28 moving at 1530 hrs. Pnrs under 28 comd in B Ech area except 15 pl in Bde area and B Coy with 28.
- 1535 hrs from 32 Bn - DCoy gone about 15 mins. A Coy and part HQ Coy to come in yet.
- 1545 hrs from 43 Bn to SC - Effective fighting strength average 65 per coy.
- 1555 hrs from 26 Bde - one coy 48 which was in mouth of creek area, est coast watching patrol at 646681 now withdrawn and moving to 626678 by tonight should be 633677. Just reported smoke in river bed 630679 which they mortared and smoke promptly disappeared
- 1615 hrs from Div - 2 only 5 ll sets in Div. One 24 Bde, one 20 Bde Div going to borrow set from 20 Bde for 24 Bde.
- 1655 hrs from 32 Bn - A Coy have stirred up a bit of trouble fwd of 28 A Coy Brig has ordered to take up suitable posn so that they are prepared to move first light
- 1715 hrs from AA - 4 AA guns on beach two have been shifted into kunai patch behind
- 1722 hrs from GIII - one 5 ll set available at 20 Bde for collection.
- 1730 hrs from 32 Bn - D Coy unable to get through and are now back at A Coy 28. Enemy on spur firing down trk with OSMG & Brens. D Coy to stop night on A Coy right flank remainder of Bn in beach area
- 1820 hrs from 43 Bn - ~~xxxx~~ Fixing for D Coy 28 to watch for one rd smoke for DF task shot landed approx 230 deg 300 yds from trk junc in garden next one rd HE same posn recorded as DF 13
- 1840 hrs from DCoy 32 - 2 killed one wounded and lost one Bren and one Owen ~~lx~~
- 1910 hrs to DCoy 28 Bn - DF task in front DCoy changed from 13 to No. 14
- 1930 hrs from CO 28 - CO estimates that 50 enemy dead in SIKI pocket
- 1945 hrs from 28 Bn - attack on A Coy from KATIKA trk MMG & rifle fire approx 2 mins
- 1948 hrs from 43 Bn - 2 flashes of signal lamp or torch on Southern pt SCARLET BEACH
- 1950 hrs from 43 Bn - signals reported believed to be our own barges as one is now coming round the pt.
- 1952 hrs from 28 Bn - MMG rifle and LMG fire at A Coy down KATIKA trk
- 2000 hrs from MG - flashes reported to Capt Nicholls and he stated it was one of our own barges that has just beached.
- 2005 hrs from MG - Mr. Kibble asked to warn gun crew on river to stop anyone going up trk as D Coy 28 have booby trapped their rear. Passed by Lieut Tiggell
- 2010 hrs to GIII - Inquiring if 32 were all in and if not whether any more of 32 expected in area tonight. Informed that possible that all 32 may be in as a barge has just arrived and that check would be made with 32 and if not all in would call Div back. Barges would be landing tomorrow not before 1000 to pick up coys of Pnrs
- 2017 hrs to 32 Bn - All 32 now in last batch have just arrived

22 OCT (contd) -3-

- 2021 hrs from 28 Bn - Col NORMAN informed that one coy 52 will be standing by all night if required by 28. Heavy attack tonight was supported by more LMG fire than usual
- 2028 hrs from 26 Bde - 48 patrol is going out from HQ and returning along south side SIKI R at 1300 will move along south side SIKI R
- 2025 hrs to Div - Sitrep and approx Locstat given also total enemy cas to date (510)
- 2052 hrs from 43 Bn - one white flare on brg 288 A Coy HQ (same vic as fire last night) approx time 2015
- 2055 hrs from 43 Bn - 2 short bursts of MG NE from NORTH HILL a long way off
- 2120 hrs from 52 Bn - IO asking about guide for 52 to new posn in morning. IO advised he could see Lieut Carthorne in morning.
- 2140 hrs from 28 Bn - At 1945 hrs under cover of about 4 LMGs mounted about 100/150 yds back from our PDL Japs charged along trk from KATIKA in strength. They were mowed down later attacks were infiltration tactics and Japs sneaking up and when detected charged but were dealt with
- 2200 hrs from 20 Bde - 13 Bn relieving C Coy 43 Bn tomorrow approx 1200 hrs. Please advise ref disposal C Coy 43.
- 2255 hrs from 20 Bde - C Coy 43 Bn to move via rd to KATIKA and then CC to ring Bde
- 2330 hrs - Shots from two posts close to Sig cookhouse round by Pro thought they saw mvt and fired. Next shot was from left flank of Sigs.

23 OCT

- 0007 hrs from 28 Bn - Firing from same place previously reported. Repulsed otherwise sitnor.
- 0053 hrs from Div - Ref 1/25000 and ASP 200. Have requested air strike 23 Oct village ~~48289~~ 547690, 585678 to 585677, Coconut grove 593681. Not East of grid 60 not South 600674 to 560688. Tac R and Arty R as normal
- 0040 hrs from Sigs - Re firing at 0050, one man observed on Bde HQ western perimeter was challenged twice but never answered and sentry fired CSMG. Man ran South to escarpment thought to be an enemy.
- 0305 hrs from 32 Bn - unable to raise C Coy otherwise sitnor
- 0500 hrs - 16 bombs dropped south followed by 5 more a parachute flare dropped over FINSCHHAFEN some strafing and bombing
- 0730 hrs from 43 Bn - enquiry as to possibility of obtaining an Aust offr to go with PIB patrol
- 0740 hrs from 43 Bn - OP NORTH HILL can see tp mvts going west from PALANKO
- 0745 hrs from 28 Bn - Col NORMAN reported finding a projectile which comprised of a brass ball with soft nose cap.
- 0930 hrs from Div - 2 offrs observing from 7 Bde are coming up today with the LO
- 0958 hrs from C Coy 28 - ADOS old dump to be cleared.
- 1010 hrs all bns from EM - CO & Adjt of IOs conference 1100 hrs.
- 1015 hrs from 52 Bn - one coy moving out to 658685 to garden then round and back to old Pnr HQ then one pl will move down rd to KATIKA
- 1100 hrs to 43 Bn - C Coy being relieved by 13 Bn today moving back to Bn area via SATELBERG trk KATIKA.
- 1103 hrs from Arty OP - Jap planes attacking a convoy on brg 131 deg grid from NORTH HILL. Destroyers now proceeding South to sp convoy.

23 OCT (contd) -3-

- 1120 hrs from AA - reporting loss of jeep no. 129045 possibly been recovered by some of our tps
- 1210 hrs to BM from 26 Bde - re patrol this afternoon of 32 Bn will arrange a contact patrol from B 2/48 when 2/32 reach KATIKA trk. B Coy 2/48 moving to 626677
- 1230 hrs to 28 Bn - inquiring number of Pns at B Ech less A & B Coy and 15 Pl
- 1235 hrs from Maj Dixon 2/32 - am sitting in B Coys old posn and have noticed small Jap recce parties possibly testing out to try to regain this posn or infiltrate.
- 1248 hrs from 28 Bn - one Jap seen between A Coy and BHQ probably trying infiltrating tactics again.
- 1315 hrs from 43 Bn - flare reported last night now is reported as 6 flares fired four first a pause and then two on brg 288 from A Coy HQ
- 1317 hrs to 2/32 - one Jap seen vic 28 BHQ 32 to watch when they move in
- 1318 hrs - much mvt vic two huts 604675
- 1400 hrs from 2/32 - A Coy 450 yds and are scouting around North so far NMS A Coy report centre 640684
- 1430 hrs from 2/32 - covering party moving out fwd of 2/32 report two pls in posn
- 1440 hrs - 30 personnel of B Ech Pns moving out on vehs
- 1450 hrs from 2/32 - A Coy started at 638684 to North to 63876370 now at approx 637687
- 1515 hrs from 2/43 - CCoy not relieved yet and when they are they will only get to 48 tonight therefore relief A Coy Pns cannot take place tonight
- 1516 hrs to 2/32 from Brig - 2/32 will inform Bde when all gaps are closed gaps to be closed as quickly as possible
- 1520 hrs from 2/32 - 32 coy sent in to relieve B Coy 28 contacted enemy A Coy 32 to withdraw back and reform perimeter
- 1530 hrs from CO 2/28 - the right flank of KATIKA posn is tied up to West Garden two coys to move in North of these posns
- 1750 hrs to Pns - two coys Pns to report forthwith to 28 HQ to fill in a couple of gaps in the perimeter
- 1755 hrs to 2/32 - A Coy patrol in and taken up posn 639683 will check and ring back if any of patrol still out flag on our front no report yet
- 1805 hrs to Arty LO from 2/43 - Arty line out going on air
- 1806 hrs from 2/32 - enemy attack on CCoy front held OK grenades both sides.
- 1810 hrs from ADS - asking re barge traffic tomorrow (referred to Capt Nicholas)
- 1827 hrs from 20 Bde - CCoy 43 moved 1700 hrs. Bivouac with 48 tonight preparatory to moving to 43 Bn tomorrow (passed to 43)
- 1900 hrs - firing on 2/32 front
- 1910 hrs to 2/32 from BM - check on posns firing on front between D & C Coy some mortar into HQ area
- 1950 hrs from 2/43 - enquiring re barge traffic. Same as last night. Bn will act on the firing of two red very lights from beach
- 2005 - 26 to advise 48 re DF astride KATIKA trk
- 2100 hrs - Arty shells landing in CCoy 28 area Arty LO advised. confirmation of verbal orders 28 Bn move
- 2110 hrs from Div - asking for situation report given by BM also complaint from Div re R/T
- 2130 hrs from 2/32 - posn in hand intermittent firing
- 2145 hrs from Div - Corps ~~will~~ Comd will leave Div 1000 hrs tomorrow Bde Comd to remain at their HQ

23 OCT (contd) -3-

- 2150 hrs from 26 Bde - Sitrep. 2/48 patrol to 604675 NTR
2/25 2/24 NTR
- 2211 hrs from 80 - 24 Bde cas from 11 Oct to 22 Oct - 2 Offrs 18 ORs
killed, 2 ORs missing, 63 ORs wounded, sick 3 offrs 57 ORs
- 2215 hrs from 2/32 - occasional attacks on D & C fronts A Coy sitnor
also B Coy B Coy 28 are not in comm with 28 Bn HQ
32 will include them in their sitrep
- 2235 hrs to 28 Bn - informed that 32 Bn reported B Coy 28 comms
out with BHQ
- 2245 hrs from 28 Bn - report B Coy comms re-est
- 2250 hrs from 2/23 - asked that Arty be notified that fire (arty)
is too close to C Coy
- 2307 hrs from 2/32 - Japs are creeping fwd under cover of noise of
arty fire.
- 2358 hrs from Div - mvt 24 Oct. all elements Pnrs will move from 24 Bde
area to rejoin and under comd 2/3 Pnr Bn SALANKAU. A Coy Pnrs
will not move until they are relieved by C Coy 2/43, mvts by
match route

24 OCT

- 0018 hrs from Beach Sigs - enquiring about barge activity at SCARLET
present time. Enquired from MG who stated PT boats and were
answering signals.
- 0040 hrs from 2/32 - B Coy and B Coy 28 out of comm
- 0055 hrs from 2/32 - comms now est. B Coy and B Coy 28. Shells landing OK.
- 0435 hrs from 2/32 - A Coy out of comm otherwise sitnor
- 0445 hrs from 2/32 - comms est with A Coy
- 0520 hrs from Div - enquiry as to our situation report advise sitnor
apart from occasional firing.
- 0625 hrs from 2/32 - firing during night at mvt and attempts to
infiltrate own cas during fighting yesterday 2 killed 13 wounded
- 0625 hrs from 2/32 - mortaring fwd D Coy area where Japs are very well
camouflaged gaps between A & B Coys will be patrolled
- 0700 hrs from 2/43 - 50 parachutes dropped in hut area 932215
FINSCHHAFEN photo map approx 0650 believed to be supplies.
- 0725 hrs from 2/43 - parachutes were dropped from two planes 12 chutes
each plane 6 chutes are still hanging in trees and appear to be
full size chutes
- 0745 hrs from 28 Bn - 3 patrols going out, one from each fwd coy.
TO will depend on completion arty registration. Details later.
- 0810 hrs from 2/32 IO - attacks last night definite and enemy came in
shouting and yelling in along KATIKA trk and along right flank
D Coy along creek. 0750 Japs digging in 200 yds West of 15 Pl.
on north bank of creek. Yesterday's mortar shoot judged by
fwd tps successful. 0705 enemy mortar est posn 63776850
Capt WALKER's patrol yesterday definitely killed 4 Japs and
wounded others, own cas 6 wounded.
- 0855 hrs - strafing vicinity PALANKO
- 0845 hrs from 2/32 - found two dead Japs and one LMG in front of D Coy
posn as result of shelling.
- 0915 hrs from 26 Bde - patrol from 48 Bn up along SIKI R.
- 0922 hrs from 2/32 - patrol met opposition small enemy post between
A & B Coys approx 100 yds South B Coy
- 0942 hrs from 2/32 - located 2 pdr out in front D Coy in use by Jap
- 1008 hrs from 43 Bn - Shelling own patrol area BONGA. Request to cease
fire.
- 1017 hrs to 43 from BM - suggest to get a sound brg from OP onto gun
- 1027 hrs from 2/43 - A Coy report shell landing coy HQ area. Thought

24 OCT (cont'd) -2-

- to be enemy.
- 1032 hrs from 2/43 - shelling previously reported as enemy turned out to be own guns
- 1044 hrs from 2/32 bn - 2 pdr reported by D Coy confirmed as 3" mountain gun. Enemy unable to man gun as under observation and fire.
- 1055 hrs from 2/28 - strength of A Coy 5 and 81
- 1102 hrs from 2/28 - request for loan of jeep to tow Tk A gun to posn
- 1125 hrs from 2/32 - request for water containers to carry water to D Coy - supplied
- 1141 hrs from 26 Bde - 2/43 and 2/32 to arrange mutual fire sp from mortars.
- 1148 hrs from Div - Enquiry whether 4 sec grenades efficient from discharger cup - answer - yes - suggested ration one box 7 sec to 5 boxes 4 secs.
- 1158 hrs to 2/32 - to get in touch with 2/48 bn and arrange mutual mortar fire - already done. At 1300 hrs 2/32 B Coy to fire flare 2/48 will fire smoke then corrections to be made.
- 1216 hrs to DAQMG - request for 3 Vickers to replace losses suggested withdrawal from Div res
- 1223 hrs to 2/43 - to send ACoy Pnrs to Bde OC to report to Maj WHITE
- 1300 hrs to 2/28 - to warn res coy they may have to move West to fill gap
- 1310 hrs from 2/28 - one Jap shot in rear of lines evidently infiltrating through gap.
- 1320 hrs from 2/32 - reported that enemy mountain gun knocked out of action by Tk A gun
- 1330 hrs from 26 Bde - trk West of BCoy posn and 2/48 want to find Jap supply line to 2/32 front 634677 SP going North to KATIKA trk 635 Easting North to KATIKA and possibly on a further 200 yds West 63 grid.
- 1325 hrs from 2/28 bn - A Coy Pnrs to move within the hr to a posn on left A Coy 28 we will then contact them through A 28
- 1350 hrs from 2/28 - bringing into RAP a wounded Jap picked up between B & C - stretcher case to be sent into Bde
- 1410 hrs from 2/32 - 3" mountain does not appear to be knocked out 2 pdr to be returned.
- 1412 hrs to 26 Bde - patrol OK send us TI and TO
- 1413 hrs from Arty LO - fire started at PALANKO possibly amn dump.
- 1415 hrs from 2/28 - gun to be returned tonight and will be kept ready for use by 2/32
- 1430 hrs from Div - 9 Bostons target 1515 hrs
- 1435 hrs from 26 Bde - patrol leaving not before 1430 IN not after 1730.
- 1440 hrs from 2/28 - rifles and little amn small bag rice and old Taro on Japs one killed and others coming in.
- 1445 hrs from 20 Bde - Where 597 Easting cuts the TAREKO trk 3/17 bn carrying party struck trouble.
- 1450 hrs C-in-C and GOC arrived Bde HQ
- 1650 hrs from Pnrs - B Coy who were to move are in the line between C & D Coys Pnrs A Coy to move instead B Coy comp force to relieve A Coy who are to move to SIKI R
- 1640 hrs from 2/32 - firing on A & B Coys front while they were moving to straighten the line.
- 1715 hrs from 2/43 - patrol along SONG reported in NMS.
- 1822 hrs from 2/28 - instns to Arty offr to harass as much as possible KATIKA trk
- 1830 hrs from 2/32 - A & B Coys moved fwd and digging in may require readjustment tomorrow. Cas 5 killed number wounded mostly light

24 OCT(contd) -2-

unable to give estimate of enemy cas.

- 1841 hrs from 2/32 - locations B Coy HQ and 11 Pl 63796865 10 Pl 63766858 12 Pl 63806851 A Coy approx 63906850
- 1855 hrs from 2/32 - D Coy side only booby trapped CCoy still to be done 7 sec grenades to be cut down to 4 sec.
- 1930 hrs from 2/43 - fwd of our posns BONGA trk booby trap sprung
- 1950 hrs from 2/43 - beach post report one red tracer fired out to sea vic 32 flap
- 1955 hrs from Div - Maj TUCKER moved to MLO tomorrow first thing one days rations.
- 2015 hrs from 2/43 - 20 yds fwd of 18 Pl D Coy booby trap went off otherwise sitnor
- 2020 hrs from 26 Bde - sitrep patrol to KATIKA trk at 617680 observed by enemy but successfully withdrew before enemy encircled.
- 2021 hrs from Div - indications show possible mvt of regtl gp from SIO to LAKONA BONGA are (239 Regt ?) probable fwd elements reached LAKONA BONGA area 24 Oct. Likelihood of commencement of ops 25 Oct.
- 2040 hrs from 2/32 - B Coy out of comm otherwise sitnor
- 2105 hrs from 2/43 - CO would like Tac R passed to 43 as soon as possible.
- 2107 hrs from 2/32 - firing is on D Coy front and partly on C Coy. MG and rifles used. Enemy attempted to creep into our lines.
- 2120 hrs from 2/32 - still cannot raise B Coy. B Coy cannot be raised through B Coy 2/28.
- 2122 hrs from 2/28 - 2015 hrs D Coy front one booby trap exploded. 2021 second booby trap exploded and coy opened fire. No development. 2100 C Coy HQ shelled by own arty 5 cas. This is the second time this has happened today. CO has informed BM.
- 2150 hrs from Div - Have requested airstrike coastal trk not south ARNDT PT.
- 2210 hrs from 2/32 - Jap fired few rifle grenades into A Coy lines. We replied with 2" mortar to which we had no reply B Coy line still out D Coy 2150 heard an attack come in on them on their front and have not been able to raise them since. Otherwise sitnor. **AND**
- 2300 hrs from Div - Tac R coast trk to/North of BONGA shows signs of recent use.
- 2317 hrs from 2/32 - B Coy not in comm with B Coy 28, but B Coy 28 will advise if any firing on B Coy 32 front.
- 2355 hrs from 2/32 - sitnor all coys in comm B Coy Morse only.

25 OCT

- 0040 hrs from 2/32 - A, C, D & Pars sitnor out of comm with B.
- 0200 hrs from 2/32 - firing on D Coy front no contact yet with B Coy trying through 2/28
- 0615 hrs from 2/43 - Calling urgently for DF 20
- 0625 hrs from 2/43 - order to cancel arty fire enemy getting ready to attack outpost posn
- 0630 hrs from 2/43 - Col JOSHUA suggests moving more of his tps up to outpost area
- 0646 hrs from 2/43 Bn - Lieut Cawthorne outpost thinks it was recce party as when fired upon enemy returned with grenades.
- 0710 hrs from 2/28 - standing patrol 641696 with line comm stay at night is possible arrange for guides from 2/43

25 OCT (contd) -3-

- 1745 hrs - heard firing on 2/32 front spasmodic bursts to 1830
- 1920 hrs from 20 Bde - 2/15 bn sent patrol 1500 yds West to ~~554652~~
554652 where there is a water pt recently used no contact.
patrol along trk to SATELBERG trk found listening post
and bunkers which may be a jumping off place for a attack
North towards KUMAWA. Very thick country difficult to
penetrate NMS. Patrol fwd to find flank found OP on trk
2/17 continued on trk unable to contact and get LOB
personnel in are going to put ~~xxx~~ out standing patrol.
2/13 NR.
- 1945 hrs from 2/32 - report from 638631 red flare 340 deg M
- 1950 hrs from GIII Air - aircraft will be late. Moving to NAZDAB
~~proposition~~
- 1952 hrs from 2/28 - proposed patrol D Coy one sec are patrolling
South bank SONG 629700 TO after arty shoot TI 1700
B Coy 63846900 West 1000 yds to locate flank. General
recece one pl TO after arty shoot TI 1700
- 1955 hrs from 2/32 - will mortar enemy fwd of B Coy 26 Oct 200 bombs.
- 2005 hrs from GIII Air - Tac R - 1540 hrs to KANOMI NMS coastal trk.
More noticeable daily is the use of the top of ridge
as a trk particularly between AGO and KANOMI. NMS trks
WARRO BONGA. Wide trk across headwaters R MASAWANG North
to East. 1700 hrs NMS in foxholes 626686. 1736 foxholes
seen at 628682. NMS FIOR. NMS PALANKO.
- 2040 hrs from 2/32 - mvt on C & D Coys front otherwise sitnor.
- 2145 hrs from Div - Tac R. Sq 6174 6274 6275 6175 is a mixture of
jungle and open kunai and commands an excellent view
BONGA and South to R SONG. Numerous trks were seen in kunai
which was flattened area suggests recent mvt. 24 Oct.
1/25000 5469 5569 5669 shows signs recent extensive mvt
becoming more visible each day 602678 coconuts appear
diggings and tunnel undergrowth

25 OCT (contd) -2-

- 0715 hrs from 2/43 - guides for standing patrol arranged
- 0725 hrs from 2/32 - inquiring about arty arrangement today also B Coy now in comm much enemy mvt at 655708 0620 hrs. Engaged by our standing patrol enemy apparently withdrew patrol investigating now. Have asked Div for TacR of Northern area urgently required.
- 0740 hrs to 2/28 - advised of arty programme.
- 0745 hrs from 2/43 - DF fire killed one Jap paybook and papers being sent in also advised of arty programme.
- 0745 hrs from 2/28 - patrol will pick up guides at 0830. 43 advised.
- 0750 hrs to GIII(I) - advised that Jap killed was wearing 65 on collar was Cpl.
- 0820 hrs from 2/32 - most of activity last night was on DCoys front and same type of activity on same axis.
- 0830 hrs from 2/32 - Locstat B Coy Pnrs HQ 64066790 pls at 63926822 640679 64046782 A Coy 2/32 63936848 in the garden. Making traverse today some arty refs wrong will send in infm later.
- 0830 hrs from 2/43 - checking on arty map ref for todays shoot and stating that guides have left for 2/28
- 0845 hrs from 26 Bde - checking on coordinates say they are wrong. C Coy 2/48 sending out recce patrol strength 1 offr 17 ORs TO 0930 TI 1300 route along SATELBERG rd to 626669 and follow ridge North to 624674 returning by same route.
- 0900 hrs to 2/32 from BM - notification of delay in arty shoot. Some firing on front. B Coy found some Japs only just out of the perimeter. Suggest use mortar for close tps.
- 0915 hrs to 2/28 - notification of delay in arty shoot.
- 0915 hrs - fairly by firing on 2/32 front duration approx 5 mins.
- 1020 hrs from GIII - identification of enemy tps on our front 2 Bn 79 Regt and tps moving South are 7 or 8 Coy 238 Regt. which have been at NAMBEREWA protecting the barge staging pt.
- 1121 hrs from 2/28 bn - standing patrol to be a night and day one and giving all infm re patrols North.
- 1130 hrs from 2/32 - re patrol from B Coy suggest that B 28 put one out as B Coy 2/32 is in close contact. Have counted 13 dead so far. MMG in good posn.
- 1135 hrs to 2/28 - re putting out a patrol or listening post to try and find enemy North flank
- 1145 hrs from 2/28 - re patrol to test Japs flank and est post with phone to report on enemy posns so the arty can get to work.
- 1145 hrs from 2/43 - re airops no bombing heard or seen.
- 1155 hrs to 2/43 - Brig will visit Col JOSHUA this afternoon.
- 1255 hrs from 2/32 - B Coy report no contact on West but contact to South and East 75 yds to left of 12 Pl and 50 yds to the right. Have counted 5 enemy dead.
- 1315 hrs from 2/32 - Engrs have not arrived here yet.
- 1410 hrs from Div - 2/32 2 pdrs are being used for coastal defence recheck on air ground recce code lost by 2/32.
- 1450 hrs from 2/28 - located enemy flank
- 1451 hrs from Div - ref photo 45 run ~~xxx~~ C asking if diggings and trks shown are own tps or worth bombing
- 1650 hrs to Div - ref photos we think they are C Coy Pnrs oil posn Div to try and contact OC who is in that vicinity

26 OCT

- 0002 - 0201 hrs from all units - Sitnor
0206 hrs from 2/43 - reported booby trap set off A Coy front. Burst of fire onto it no further action
0227 - 0708 hrs from all units - Sitnor.
0825 hrs from GII - Lieut Stiker 532 EBSR to return to unit
0910 hrs to 2/15 from 6 Div OBS - Lieut Shinder to return to Div today
0945 hrs from DAPM - re traffic control and release of MP personnel
0950 hrs from Div - to BM - query re Pnrs. 2 coys plus one pl to remain here.
0955 hrs - Arty shoot finished
1000 hrs from 2/43 - Sigs for school unable to leave until after lunch please notify 2/32
1005 hrs from GII to BM - re mvt and work Pnrs and general situation on A & B Coys remain HQ may move today
1020 hrs from GIII - Pte Luxton Pnrs is to move to MLO with other members for school
1030 hrs from GII - at 1200 hrs GOC and General Berryman DCGS will visit area
1040 hrs from 2/3 Pnrs - re nos of personnel other than A & B Coys. Maj Rosevear reports that he has 94 persons over and above A & B Coys
1115 hrs to GIII - re rpt for sig school personnel
1118 hrs from GII to BM - re mvt of Pnrs submit to GC proposed mvt table
1230 hrs from 2/32 - patrol has been 350 yds along KATIKA trk NMS. The gun is totally wrecked shell approx 2'6" long, bringing in. 14 dead Japs evidence of many more being dragged away. 5 dead in front of A Coy with another 6 buried in one hole. 100 holes in front of C & D Coy appears 2 coys in occupation 2 Japs shot in gully near D Coy
1300 hrs from GII to BM - Pnrs mvt HQ today A Coy morning 27 Oct B Coy and 15 Pl in afternoon to BUMI R. 4 personnel to remain two with 2/32 2 with 2/48 for lifting booby traps round old Pnr HQ
1305 hrs from 2/28 - 2/28 B Ech to beach area. Tk A to move Bn area less gun crews
1330 hrs to ACoy Pnrs - Capt Swift to move with coy to BUMI R
1450 hrs to Brig from Div - 2/48 coy moving to 634680. 24 Bde to move fwd as soon as 48 in posn to reform perimeter. The Bde bndy now KATIKA trk incl 26 Bde
1455 hrs to 2/32 - send recce party to 2/43 coy to find posn of coy of 2/32 who will ~~then~~ link with that coy keep depth in that area
1507 hrs to 2/28 - re booby traps between this HQ and D Coy NIL
1550 hrs from 2/32 - moving from South A & B swinging in D coy in rear C Coy moving 634683 A 635684
1405 hrs to 2/32 - make sure that booby traps are lifted from old posns and put down fwd of new posns
1520 hrs to BM from 2/32 - readjustment of line. Still require left flank of 2/28 to move fwd to high ground on right of B Coy 2/32
1535 hrs to Div - re Pnrs disposns A Coy with 2/32 B Coy with 2/28
1750 hrs from 2/28 - Projected patrol (1) Coy strength 1 offr 18 ORs TO 0830 TI 1630 task recce in force route from 637692 brg 267 deg 2000 yds (2) BCoy strength 1 and 23 TO 0830 TI 1630 task recce in force from 637690 on brg 259 2000 yds
1800 hrs from 2/43 - two white flares up BONGA trk at 1830 hrs to aid arty to pinpoint two posns
1815 hrs from GII to BM - GOC wants a patrol to go North level with BONGA but West to recce trk TAC R reports trk activity BONGA WAREO

26 OCT (contd) -2-

- 1845 hrs from Engrs - Re booby traps and reported fields. All work to be submitted and allotted by Engr CO
- 1920 hrs from 26 Bde - 2/48 bn found file on POSTERN ops and landing on SCARLET BEACH possibly belong to Pnrs
- 2035 hrs from 2/32 - C Coy 63356830 A Coy 63496835 11 Pl 63516840
- 2045 hrs from 2/43 - one craft believed barge reported from N and E coast watch 655696
- 2050 hrs from 2/43 - barge appears to be up near BONGA
- 2110 hrs to 2359 hrs - Sitnor all units

27 OCT

- 0005 to 0606 hrs - Sitnor from all units
- 0607 hrs - heard unidentified plane flying SW encircling over Bde area
- 0750 hrs from 2/48 - one pl D Coy to ascertain if enemy hold KATIKA trk between own posn and where trk crosses creek 623683 TO 0745 TI not after 1700 route from 633681 along KATIKA trk to kunai patch 623683. Have advised 2/32 Bn.
- 1120 hrs to 2/32 - Can arty and 2/48 fire on area where enemy have been located without danger to your patrol. Answer NO.
- 1130 hrs from Engr Offr - all booby traps fwd 2/32 are out now
- 1405 hrs to 2/32 - re mortar and arty shoot and calling patrol in. BM and Arty LO to visit
- 1505 hrs to BM(L) from PIB - patrol report to BONGA. patrol reports that 37 enemy dug in about 100 yds North of BONGA in the creek The three trks radiating from BONGA well used traffic both ways (coast trk WAREO trk and trk to unnamed village) but no numbers could be estimated
- 1635 hrs to 2/32 - asking fr OPO to get DF task in on right flank 5 rds from two tps on villages NE of SATELBERG 600715
- 1640 hrs from 2/43 - mortaring 622684 and 614685 1730 hrs
- 1715 hrs to 2/32 - the boy employed by Maj MOLLARD is a Jap spy recognised by ANGAU
- 1740 hrs from 2/43 - 9 Bs 17 Fs dropped 65 chutes SATELBERG area our Fs ~~xxxx~~ intercepted
- 1900 hrs ~~xxxx~~ to Div - report 2 ships on brg 23 deg will OP on NORTH HILL report (passed to 2/43)
- 1918 hrs from 2/43 - OP can only see round to 20 deg and have not seen any ships. Asked fwd units are they able to see any ships.
- 1950 hrs from 2/43 - unable to see ships. Coln of black smoke West of SATELBERG seen from A Coy
- 2000 hrs to BM from Div - Mr Lonnie returning from Div tomorrow
- 2040 hrs from Div - 2/2 MG at SALANKAUA report light flashing in direction SCARLET BEACH or ARNDT PT
- 2042 hrs to 2/2 MG - no signal from SCARLET PT boats have passed
- 2045 hrs to 26 Bde - registration of arty tomorrow will finish before 0832
- 2050 hrs to GII from BM - no report on light. report on general situation and arrangements for 2 pdr amn.

2245 hrs from 2/43 - Cpl from patrol interrogated
2 of the 4 missing were badly wounded if not killed. Definitely
established there were two LMGs and that fire came from
PINO HILL. Sitnor
2305 hrs to Div - Advised of patrol from 2/43 and disposes Coy HQ 2/32
2310 - 2356 hrs - Sitnor all units

28 OCT

0030 - 0635 hrs - Sitnor all units
0735 hrs from 26 Bde - re our shoot 634685 BM advised that shoot is
about to begin any moment.
0750 hrs from 2/32 - wants aerial photo for own use, other map gone out.
1035 hrs from 2/28 - D Coy being relieved by A Coy. D Coy then taking
up posn on coast. Move to be completed by 1500 hrs. Checking
on two explosions.
1037 hrs from 2/43 - no knowledge of explosions, checking. Nil report.
1115 hrs to 2/32 - Brig Evans on way over to visit
1120 hrs from 2/28 - enquiring if Brig is going round to have a look
at their posns today. Advised that Brig may go over BCoy
posn but to ring 2/32 and have a word with them.
1220 hrs from 2/2 MG - one LCM arriving SCARLET
1740 hrs to CO 2/43 from Brig by L/T - two day recce to continue
also patrols to find strength of PINO HILL outpost
CO 2/43 will send out strong patrol tomorrow to find out
strength. Posn will be shelled before patrol goes out.
Vickers to lay harassing fire on area also.
1927 hrs from 2/32 - ref report on activity behind enemy lines.
There are no volunteers from this unit
2010 hrs to Div from IO - interrogation report of native passed
to GIII(I).
2050 hrs from 2/28 - check on/ patrols
2115 hrs - 2306 hrs - Sitnor all units
2308 hrs - burst of LMG fire and few rifles
2330 hrs from 2/32 - above report of firing came from C Coy front
fired at movt - nothing eventuated.
2330 - 2359 - Sitnor all units

29 OCT

0005 - 0700 - sitnor all units
0937 hrs from MG - 5 shells on beach area wounded one MG OR
1240 hrs to 2/43 - Coy posns to be established North SONG R at approx
sq 6469 to be occupied by one pl 2/28 booby traps and wire
will be put in posn fwd of post work to start this afternoon.
1320 hrs to 2/32 - CO to report in this afternoon if convenient.
1418 hrs to HQ from 9 Div - 2 nominees for ref GOCs letter to move
to jetty by 1600 hrs to report SIBANG 2200 hrs
1605 hrs from Para - re 2" mortar at 629687 approx 30 yds South of
KATINA trk just where the trk enters the kumai. Not buried
but firing pin at Bde
1610 hrs to all units - COs to report to Bde for conference
1730 hrs from Div - at 1600 hrs a plane reported 2 barges fully loaded
with tps moving SE from BUCHER PT there were also 2 enemy
aerial recon over Bde area today. In view of this you are
advised to keep a vigorous lookout both landward and seaward
over the defence area cove and NORTH HILL 649708
1735 hrs to GII - asking for release of 20 Brens for units.
1805 hrs from MG - re Southward mvt and disposal of tps on beach.
2005 hrs from 2/28 - A Coy patrol are of opinion they heard HT NW
of plantation No. 11 Pl B Coy in posn 1700 hrs.
2055 hrs from 2/43 - report sounds of mortars 30 deg from D Coy
verified by coast watching patrol of same unit
2100 hrs - report from 2/43 - noise of barges stopped
2102 hrs from Div - report barges probably PT boats as these craft
left PINSCHAPEN 2000 (advised Beach Control)
2132 hrs from 25 Bde - projected patrols from B Coy 2/43 along
KATINA trk to 617663 1 off 8 ORs TO 0800 TI 1700
2239 hrs from 2/43 - barge or PT boats out to sea from listening
post on pt approx 655695
2245 hrs to 2/43 - asked for further report in 10 mins re barges
2310 hrs from 2/43 - barges still heard seem to be moving South
still a long way out (2/28 and 2/32 advised)
2335 hrs - approx 17 distant explosions thought to be Navy up North

30 OCT

- 0010 hrs from 2/43 - approx 14 shots heard a long way up coast possibly PT boats barges not heard now
- 0030 - 0535 hrs - sitnor all units
- 0536 hrs from 2/43 - one post report mvt coming down coast thinks PT boats well North and out to sea
- 0550 hrs from 2/43 - mvt seems to be milling round about BONGA.
- 0552 hrs from 9 Div - passing on infm re barges
- 0608 hrs from 2/32 - sitnor sound to barges to sea
- 0610 hrs from 2/43 - report that motor sounds to sea moving South
- 0630 hrs from 2/28 - sitrep sitnor
- 0650 hrs from 2/43 - 3 PT boats proceeding towards FINSCHAPEN
- 0703 hrs from 2/43 - 13 Pl report 243 deg M a large cooking fire on SONG R at ford 63 grid
- 0714 hrs from 2/43 - sitnor. Enquiry as to shots at North in night and if P00 can get onto fire reported above
- 1100 hrs from 2/32 - enquiring re trks on MASAWENG SHEET 1 inch to mile
- 1105 hrs from 2/43 - a Vickers on BONGA trk will fire half belt to sea at approx 1130 hrs
- 1118 hrs to BM(L) from 9 Div - re est RADAR on NORTH HILL at junc 6570 grid. Not favoured by Div as it means bringing a large amount by eqpt into vulnerable posns
- 1230 hrs from 2/43 - asking if 2 MGs can test their zone of fire with guns at 1500 hrs
- 1250 hrs all units from BM - O 229. re improving posns, camouflage etc.
- 1415 hrs to 2/43 from BM - asking for MG shoot to be postponed until 1700 hrs so 2/28 can get their patrols in.
- 1455 hrs from 2/43 - MG shoot postponed until 1700
- 1500 hrs to 2/28 from BM - re MG shoot. Pro will clean area East of A Coy.
- 1515 hrs from Div - 15 Brens to be picked up for 24 Bde tomorrow.
- 1645 hrs - bombs dropped South West
- 1700 hrs - 1700-1725 MG shoot finalised.
- 1755 hrs from 2/43 - sitrep sitnor
- 1840 hrs from 2/28 - re patrols any special tasks. Answer NO.
- 1925 hrs from 2/32 - patrol report. NMS whole area suitable for defence ex from all pts. Visibility East NIL. Visibility trk 626688 NOT suitable observation SONG VALLEY. Large quantities of our amm part buried 62926870. A good well defined pad from plantation 62206865 to A Coy this pad runs West generally and has had considerable use by enemy up to a week ago. Impossible to make trk jeepable. Many enemy helmets found on this trk along with foxholes 629683 area. Kx Mary (50) completed posns and 5 stretchers appears to have been MDS. Tomorrow a patrol will recce this trk for 2500 yds strength 1 offr 20 ORs TO 0830 TI 1530 SP ACoy Hq
- 1935 hrs to BM from Div - TacR. There appear to be foxholes at 655735 654753. Considerable blue smoke 592676 1/25000. Smoke at 611387 on North bank MASAWENG R. Aircraft went out after barges but could not sight them. Tomorrow close recce of area is indicated by PIB and native report will be undertaken.
- 1953 hrs - explosion and Vickers fire to NW followed by about 8 mortar bombs.

30 OCT(contd) -2-

1956 hrs from 2/43 - report on firing from D Coy front a booby trap
was sprung.

1958 hrs from 26 Bde - report on days activities. 2/43 patrol 1 offr
8 ORs moving 60 yds off trk at 616680 struck party of Japs
shot 14 incl 1 offr remainder withdrew our cas NIL

2010 hrs from 2/43 - Capt GORDON investigating no result.

2050 - 2100 - sitnor all units

2114 hrs from 2/43 - can't tell until morning what caused booby to
explode.

2124 hrs from 2/43 - patrol from D Coy one pl. TO 0830 FI not after
1630. Route 614685 and return. Patrol may use 3rd mortar
advise later.

2202 hrs from 20 Bde - sitrep O 556

2202 hrs from 26 Bde - sitrep I 53

2202 hrs from Div - airstrike O A58

2205 - 2359 hrs - sitnor all units

31 OCT

0004 - 0630 hrs - Sitnor all units
0710 hrs from 2/43 - Sitnor. Further infm of the booby explosion proved that it was probably an animal
0755 hrs from Div - enquiring for sitrep - given verbally
0920 hrs to BM from 2/28 - please arrange for two sappers to come up to A coy to locate booby traps
0935 hrs - Jap recce plane over
1020 hrs to 2/28 from BM - arty are going to fire on garden now
1025 hrs from 2/28 - hold arty until 1115 as patrol will not be fwd to observe until then. (too late 5 rds gunfire going over now but another 2 rds gunfire at 1115)
1150 hrs to units - Small craft identification sigs to 2 Nov.
1645 hrs to 2/43 from Arty LO - enquiring if the patrol is in (Patrol in)
1728 hrs from BM from 2/28 - asking for arty fire on plantation at 1115 hrs tomorrow. Time synchronised tonight and checked in the morning.
1830 hrs to BM from Div - BOSTONS to strike bivouac areas, dumps, WAREO BONGA trk first light Nov 1, 2, 3 & 4. Bomb line NOT South of grid 72. Confirmation later (OK by us)
1925 hrs from 2/43 - infm re objects out to sea. 2/43 will ring later (objects approx 6 miles out and drifting in SSE direction).
2045 hrs from 26 Bde - I 60. sitrep to 1900L/31 Oct.
2125 hrs from 2/32 - shelling 615683 times 0700, 1200, 1730 & 2000 hrs tomorrow. SITREP.
2133 hrs from 2/28 - Sitnor. calling for 2 boys or 2 PIB for patrol tomorrow.
2143 hrs from Div - No Tac R or strike 31 Oct reminder BOSTON strike WAREO BONGA trk
2145 hrs from 20 Bde - sitrep
2156 - 2310 hrs - sitnor all units
2300 hrs from 2/43 - Sitnor. shots heard at 2300 hrs thought to be on 2/28 front.
2323 hrs from 2/28 - sitnor. checking on shots (2300)
2330 hrs from 2/28 - rifle fire from C Coy front (.) coy have not reported. Presume false alarm.
2330 hrs from 2/43 - boats heard approx 1 mile out from SCARLET BEACH
2330 - 2400 hrs - sitnor all units