

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

Item number: 8/3/23

2/23 Infantry Battalion

June 1945

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARKAN	1		During night 30/01 a Jap raiding party—estimated str 10—penetrated RAAF camp in AIRFIELD area. Using a 75mm shell as a grenade, they killed 1 and wounded 1 of the RAAF personnel. The guards engaged killing four. At the same time 1 enemy was killed by 13 pl on Rippon. At first light 17 pl killed 3 Japs who were moving in front of pl area. Our troops began mopping up MARGY area and in three operations 20 Japs were killed. Flame throwers were used with great effect, and engr s using explosives sealed many tunnels.	
AIRFIELD				
MARGY		0700I	7 pl patrol, which had remained with D Coy night 31/01, left MARGY at 0700 and patrolled down SE spur of MARGY. Patrol found area unoccupied. There were 15/20 enemy posns in area, and signs of recent enemy occupation indicated that enemy had just vacated area. 5 enemy dead were found and stench indicated presence of many more. Equipment and clothing were found in several places.	
MARGY 2		0930I	At 0930 patrol from 9 pl pushed NORTH acting in conjunction with a patrol from 18 pl, towards MARGY 2. Plan was to consolidate on MARGY 2. Patrol reached 427683 where they were fired upon from WEST, one of our tps being killed. Patrol engaged the enemy killing one, but posn became untenable and patrol was forced to withdraw, losing 1 Bren and 10SMG. Enemy was occupying SOUTHERN area of MARGY 2 in strength.	
RIPPON		1030I	At 1030 18 pl pushed EAST towards MARGY 2. On reaching 426685 they were forced to withdraw by enemy fire from MARGY 2. C O and IO visited D Coy area and inspected mopping up operations.	
AIRFIELD			At 1030 13 pl patrol in RIPPON area killed 1 Jap and wounded another, who committed hari-kari. Other patrols in AIRFIELD area reported NMS.	
SNAG'S TRACK		1500I	At 1500 B Coy relieved D Coy in MARGY area. D Coy now on SNAG'S TRACK at 414684.	APPX 12Q

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 18
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 Jun 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	1 (continued)		In response to a request from Force Comd one wounded Jap PW was taken by 10 pl at 1700. At the same time 13 pl captured another PW on Rippon. Both were sent to Bde for interrogation. These were the first Psw taken by the Bn in TARAKAN operation.	
RIPPON		1700I		
RIPPON-API		1900I	Tracks in RIPPON-API area showing recent enemy movement were booby-trapped at last light by 13 pl. At 1900 a booby-trap was set off, killing one enemy.	
MARGY			Enemy cas for the day: 35 killed. Own 2 killed. To date 118 enemy have been killed in MARGY operation.	
SNAG'S TRACK - SYLVIA	2	0300I	At 0300 a Jap was killed by a booby trap on track near A Coy H.Q. He was armed with a short sword and one Dutch grenade, and was carrying a small bag of rice and a bunch of bananas, presumed to have been brought from the village SW of SYLVIA.	
JANET, MARGY		0830I	At 0830 7 pl patrolled EAST along ck between JANET and MARGY, but did not see any enemy movement.	
90 FEATURE			At 0830 a patrol of 1 offr and 10 ORs moved from 90 feature NE along spur. They reached 424688 where they were fired on from 424689. Patrol engaged-killing one enemy. Own cas 1 wounded. Patrol was NOT able to advance, so returned to pl posn.	
MARGY 2		0900I	At 0900 12 pl pushing EAST twds MARGY 2, reached knoll at 426685 without opposition. One sec then advanced SE down spur. One enemy rifleman fired from 426684, wounding one of the sec, but when our tps returned the fire, two enemy hurriedly withdrew and 12 pl occupied the knoll at 1000.	
		1000I		

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Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	2 (continued)		10 pl took over the defence of Knoll 1 at 426685. Further advance by 12 pl was held up by fire from 1 JUKI, 2 LMGs, 1 DSGM and rifles at 427683. Mortars then engaged the posn. Further probing patrols during the afternoon found the enemy still in posn occupying from 427684 to knoll at 427683. Harassing fire was continued on enemy posns.	
SYLVIA ANZAC HIGHWAY		1015T	At 1015 a patrol from A Coy moved SOUTH down SYLVIA to village at 420667 and returned via ANZAC HIGHWAY. Patrol found 4/5 sets of footprints 2 days old on SYLVIA. Thorough investigation of SYLVIA area found no trace of enemy.	
AIRFIELD			C Coy continued to patrol the AIRFIELD area finding footprints estimated to be 2 days old at road bend 403686 and several heaps of rice, one containing a Dutch sword. It is thought tht these were left by raiding party on AIRFIELD night 31 May. At 1720 10 pl relieved 12 pl at 426684. 12 pl posn 426685.	
			C O at D Coy Hq during 12 pl advance. Cas-Enemy 2 killed own 2 wounded.	
	3		Fine throughout night 2/3. Small enemy parties operated in B Coy area. They were engaged with grendes. Patrolling commenced early—all coys sending out several patrols. B Coy pushed SOUTH twds enemy posns at 427684, but enemy were still in str and patrol withdrew to enable area to be engaged with mortars, LMGs and 75 mm gun. At 0830 a patrol from 4 pl moved from 105 to contact C Coy 2/24 bn on BEECH. Patrol returned at 1130 reporting NMS. At the same time a patrol of 1 offr and 10 ORs from 8pl moved NE from MARGY to cut the track which runs SE down LIZZIE at 429686. A patrol reached 428686 and from here observed 3 Japs moving down the track and at intervals of 3/4 mins.	
BEECH 105 FEATURE		1130I		
MARGY				
LIZZIE				

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 318
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Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	3 (continued)		<p>three more Japs came down the track. Leaving part of the patrol as a firm base the remainder moved down into a re-entrant and reached ck at 428686. Here they observed a sentry at 429686 and 3 more enemy were seen to move into what appeared to be a tunnel. Considerable moaning and talking was heard from this area. It may be a Jap medical centre. Timber had been blasted by bombing and obs was good. Patrol comd estimated one pl in this area.</p>	
JOYCE		1200I	<p>At 1200 11 pl patrol from 422688 NE along along spur to JOYCE returned. They reported contacting enemy at 424689 dug-in along track running up spur. Our patrol killed 2 enemy, but came under fire and had to withdraw. Attempts to approach from flanks drew enemy fire and patrol returned.</p>	
ESSEX RIPPON-KNUCKLE KNUCKLE-PATTY- MAJOR			<p>C Coy patrolled in AIRFIELDS area during the day. Patrols EAST in ESSEX area reported no sign of enemy activity. A patrol NORTH from RIPPON along re-entrant to KNUCKLE saw three sets of fresh footprints at 4 02683. This and a further patrol searched the area but were unable to locate any further footprints. Patrol in KNUCKLE-PATTY-MAJOR area reports tracks that have not been used recently. RAAF today located another dead Jap, probably killed night 31/1. To date 9 have been killed and 1 PW taken from the 15 members of the raiding force.</p> <p>CO visited the fwd coys during the morning. Cas Enemy 2 killed Own NIL.</p>	
	4		<p>Fine. The only one report of movement during night 3/4 came from B Coy. After a grenade was thrown no further movement was heard.</p>	
MARGY 2		0830I	<p>At 0830 after harassing fire on enemy posn on MARGY 2 10 pl probed SOUTH twds 427684. They found posn on a small knoll unoccupied but when fwd scout advanced beyond the knoll, 1 Juki and 1 LMG opened fire along both sides of the track from a bunker.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	4 (continued)		The fwd scout was killed and the sec leader wounded. Enemy fire made the posn untenable and the pl ^s withdrew to 426684. Further fire was then brought down on occupied area.	
LIZZIE			As 2 Japs had been seen on track at 428688 at 1330, 12 pl patrol to ck at 427687 for the purpose of ^{observing} enemy movement on track running SW down LIZZIE reported no further movement.	
		1355I	At 1355 B Coy saw 10 Japs carrying what appeared to be boxes along track at 428689. Another patrol was sent out to 427687, when they returned they reported that there had been no movement along the track during the time they had observed.	
RIPPON			C Coy patrolling in swamp area WEST of RIPPON saw one set of footprints leading into and from the swamp at 397678 and another at 394679. Patrol attempted to follow but as the mud was kneedeep they returned.	
AIRFIELD 105 FEATURE		1440I	Further patrols in the AIRFIELDS area by C Coy did not observe any recent signs of enemy. At 1440 five 75mm shells fell 200 yds NE of 105 ref 422689 causing neither damage or cas.	
		1600I	At 1600 ambush patrol from 9 pl at 430681 returned. They report observing movement at 429682 at 1530. This was the only movement seen. A patrol from 11 pl reported in at 1600, after recce of SE spur of MARGY. They stated that vegetation was very thick and that any movement in that area was slow and noisy.	
MARGY			CO was at A and B Coys during the morning. Cas Enemy NIL. Own 2 killed 1 wounded.	

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Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

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To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN MARGY 2	5		Fine. Night 4/5 was quiet in all areas. B Coy continued harassing fire with 75mm gun and MMG son enemy posns on MARGY 2.	
BEECH		0830I	At 0830 a contact patrol of 1 NCO and 5 ORs from 4 pl moved from 105 to BEECH. Patrol returned at 1115 and reported no movement seen.	
RIPPON-API-PATTY- MAJOR-ESSEX-FRANK			D Coy took over C Coy's patrolling for today. Patrols in RIPPON and API-PATTY and MAJOR areas and one to ESSEX-FRANK found no signs of enemy activity.	
AIRFIELD		1130I	At 1130 an NEI soldier reached B Coy posn after escaping from Jap lines. At 1145 A Coy was relieved by C Coy and moved to AIRFIELD area.	
MARGY			Lt. Gen Sir Leslie Moreshead G O C 1 Aust Corps visited B Coy and inspected the Jap posns on MARGY. He also inspected 16 pl who are now in No 1 Rest Camp. CO accompanied him on his visit.	
FUKUKAKU AREA 105 FEATURE		1200I	Pamphlets had been dropped over the Jap HQ area on 3 Jun and 4 Jun asking the senior Medical Officer to meet the Senior Medical Officer of our force on 105 feature. 11 pl took up a covering posn on spur 424688 for our representatives who were in posn at 1150. At 1200 two 75mm shells fell 50yds NORTH of 105, and it is thought that this was the enemy's answer to our proposals, for although our forces remained in posn until 1330 the enemy did not send a representative.	
MARGY 2		1400I	At 1400 C Coy ^{patrol} followed footprints from 423682 EAST along ck to 426681 then NORTH to 406682 where footprints led into Jap posn at MARGY 2.	
		1600I	Patrol returned at 1600.	
		1540I	B Coy sent out a patrol from 12 pl of 1 sjt and 8 ORs at 1540 hrs.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	5 (continued)		Patrol moved NE to ck at 428686 thence NW along ck to 426687 along re-entrant 422687 and returned along 90 ridge. They reported hearing rattling objects at 427689. Just before last light 13 pl set booby traps on ck at 424681. Engrs had now completed a track for tanks to MARGY enabling the use of tanks from that area.	
MARGY			Own and enemy cas. NIL.	
AIRFIELD	6	0800I	Fine. Active patrolling was carried out in bn sector during the day. 0800 two patrols from A Coy in the AIRFIELD area found no sign of recent enemy activity.	
SNAG'S TRACK-SYLVA		0900I	0900 14 pl patrolled SOUTH from their coyposn on SNAG'S TRACK on SYLVIA but did not see any enemy movement. 15 pl set ambush at 428681 at 0900, but had not observed any movement when they returned at 1630.	
JOYCE		0915I	B Coy again engaged enemy posn at 427683, with 2" and 3" mortars LMGs, 75mm gun and 2 pdr from tanks of 11 tp 2/9 Armd Regt. At 0915 12 pl patrolled in JOYCE area for infm of enemy posns in that area. Patrol reported 1 Juki manned by two Japs on track on spur 424688. Juki was sighted down track which runs down spur. Timber in this area had been blasted by bombing and obs is good. Steep side of spur made approach difficult.	
105 FEATURE			B Coy found four Juki barrels, 6 LMG barrels and 3 Juki springs in a tunnel on 105.	
BEECH		1800I	D Coy carried out a recce of BEECH area. CO visited B and C Coys area. At 1800 COs conference on expected "Banzai" Charge. All coy comds attended. Own and enemy cas. Nil.	

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To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	7		Fine. Night 6/7 quiet on all sectors. Vigorous patrolling was carried out in all areas.	
ESSEX-WILLS- MAJOR-PATTY- RIPPON			A Coy patrolled EAST to ESSEX and WILLS and WEST to MAJOR and PATTY from RIPPON, but found no trace of enemy movement.	
			C Coy patrolled NORTH and WEST of their coy posns. Other than a set of footprints leading into a swamp at 419681, no sign of enemy movement was observed.	APPX 12Q
TIGER			D Coy sent patrols SOUTH in TIGER area to follow footprints along a wash from 417684, but nothing further was observed of enemy movements. These footprints are thought to have been made by persons seen in vicinity of RAP during night 6/7.	
CRAZY RIDGE		1100I	At 1100 16 and 17 pls occupied posns on CRAZY RIDGE.	APPX 12Q
		1130I	At 1130 10 pl patrol observed 7/8 Japs at 424683. This area was engaged by 2" mortars on return of patrol. At 1215 11 pl patrol reported enemy activity on ridge 429686 and chopping at 429683.	
FUKUKAKU AREA		1615-1630I	Between 1615 and 1630 six explosions were heard in FUKUKAKU posn. As Jap often blows up his dumps before vacating an area it was thought that the enemy might be preparing to vacate this area.	
KNUCKLE-LIZZY		1630I	A Coy had dug in by 1630 in their new posns in KNUCKLE area.	APPX 12Q
		1800I	Considerable enemy movement down track on LIZZY had been observed and MMGs at 426685 were sighted on the track. At 1800 10/12 enemy wearing packs were fired on killing 1 and probably killing 2.	

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To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	8		Heavy rain at night, day fine. Very active patrolling occurred in all coy areas.	
SNAG'S TRACK- ELBOW			All patrols report no sign of enemy movement. Engrs have completed ^{booby trapping} all likely lines of approach. Heavy rain caused wash-out in the road in vic of SNAG'S ELBOW. Engrs are working on the road and expect it will be jeepable on the 9 JUN. During the afternoon a patrol from 10 pl found enemy posns on knoll at 427683 unoccupied .	
		1630I	A sec from 11 pl immediately pushed fwd and occupied the knoll at 1630. Stench from enemy dead made the posn untenable for permanent occupation, so after heavily booby trapping the knoll our tps withdrew to their pl area. Area will be cleared and re-occupied on 9 Jun.	
MARGY			Enemy has stubbornly resisted any attacks on this area from 2 Jun, and it is thought that 75mm firing from MARGY forced his withdrawal. Timber on the knoll has been blasted by the fire and broken limbs litter the ground. Four enemy dead were found in foxholes on the knoll. Defences were of the normal round type, and the only one dug in under a log had any head cover. The bodies of 2 of our personnel were recovered in this area.	
			CO visited the newly won posn and later C Coy. Today the bodies of 7 Japs were found.	
	9		Fine. Early this morning a standing patrol was sent out from covering the clearing and occupation of knoll 427683.	

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To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	9 (continued)		10 pl are now in posn in this area. Active patrols operated during the day from all coys.	
MAJOR-ANZAC HIGHWAY			A Coy patrols reported re-entrant between MAJOR and ANZAC Highway to be covered with water and impassable between 683 grid.	
			D Coy patrols found no trace of enemy activities.	
			B Coy patrols at dawn report NMS. Small recce patrols to SOUTHERN spurs of MARGY 2 contacted enemy, killing 2.	
LIZZY			Papers were recovered from the bodies. An LMG covering track on LIZZY at 426685, effectively engaged any movement along track. Two enemy were killed and 2 probably killed during the day.	
JOYCE			12 pl patrolling towards JOYCE reached 424688 where they killed three Japs. On the return of this patrol two 25 pdr guns in posn on MARGY turntable put down direct fire on JOYCE. At the completion of the shoot a further patrol again reached 424688, where they saw three enemy coming down the track. A patrol probably killed all three. As ground was unsuitable for defence, they withdrew. Comd reported that arty fire had been effective and timber on SW spur had been blasted.	
MARGY		12151	C Coy 14 pl standing patrol observed 4 Japs crossing the ck at 429682. At 1215 a patrol from 15 pl moved out, but did not find any trace of the enemy.	
			Cas: Enemy 7, Own NIL.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	10	0300I	At 0300 enemy began firing from JOYCE and LIZZY towards MARGY. The firing was wild and there were no cas, most of the rds passing high over the feature. Enemy used 1 MMG, 2 LMGs, rifles and explosives. Some movement on the slopes of MARGY was engaged with grenades. At 0325 as an E.A. approached from the EAST three flares, 2 red and 1 green, were fired from vic HQ area. The plane fired three green illuminating parachute flares, and as it turned EAST over FUKUKAKU area four explosions were heard, immediately followed by lights which sprang up from area of explosions. Firing stopped as soon as plane left the area at 0330. 11 75mm shells fell in bn area from 0325 to 0330. No damage was caused. One man in D Coy was wounded.	
LIZZY-MARGY		0325I		
FUKUKAKU AREA		0330I		
			Patrols were active during the day.	
MARGY 2			B Coy patrols heard movement in ck EAST and SOUTH of MARGY 2 but were unable to locate and engage any enemy.	
			C Coy standing patrols at 426681 saw three Japs moving SOUTH across the ck at 427681. They engaged the enemy killing two and wounding 1. Apparently the enemy crossed the ck on approach of a patrol from B Coy.	
			Cas Enemy three killed. Own four wounded.	
	11	0900I	Overcast until 0900. At 0900 an airstrike by 46 B24s on four targets in HQ area was reported by ASP to be on the target area. Of these strikes, one was in bn area on LIZZY. Following the strike B Coy re-occupied their posns on MARGY and MARGY 2. From 1035 to 1055 arty, mortars, MMGs, and 2 pdr guns on the tanks laid down fire on JOYCE preparatory to 12 pl advancing twd the feature. Advance commenced at 1055. Fwd scouts ran fwd and killed 5 enemy still crouched in the pits	
LIZZY		1035		
FUKUKAKU AREA		1055		
MARGY 2		1055I		

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TARAKAN MARGY 2	11 (continued)		at 425696. An LMG engaged from further up the spur and pl withdrew to enable further arty fire to be laid down. A Bren was recovered in posn overrun. After a heavy concentration 18 pl moved through 12 pl, but on reaching 425690 came under fire and were not able to advance. B Coy searched the SOUTHERN spurs of MARGY 2 to clean out enemy who had been seen in that area for several days. Patrols did not find any signs of enemy and it was thought that enemy had withdrawn from this area.	
105 FEATURE TIGER		1835I 1940I	At 1835 enemy began shelling 105 area. In all 12 shells landed in vic 105. 2 cas were caused to 17 pl by tree bursts at 419690. Other shells fell on TIGER causing no damage or cas. At 1940 12 enemy HE Mortar bombs fell on the SOUTHERN slopes of 105. No damage or cas were caused.	
ELBOW RIDGE			CO and IO watched the strike from ELBOW Ridge and then moved to MARGY during 12 pl's attack. Cas enemy 6 killed, own 2 wounded.	
JOYCE	12		Heavy rain fell during the night. Day was fine. 12 Pl patrol towards Joyce found enemy still in occupation at 425690. After supporting fire cut out at 1100, two pls from D Coy moved out. 18 pl moved along track twds JOYCE while 16 pl moved into the re-entrant twds 90 ridge in an encircling movement to cut track between 425690 and the HQ area. 18 pl reached 424689, but were unable to advance further as the enemy had automatic weapons sighted along track which ran along the top of an extremely narrow ridge with sheer sides. Branches blasted by the arty fire covered the track making movement slow and difficult. Enemy posns could not be observed as they were in thick timber. 16 pl after moving a most difficult line of approach	
FUKUKAKU AREA				

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TARAKAN	12 (continued)		reached the crest of the ridge at 426689. whilst reconnoitring before pushing twds 425690, fwd sec came under hy automatic fire which swept the top of the ridge causing one cas.	
			Pl withdrew slightly. 18 pl again probed fwd, under cover of LMG fire and grenades fired from dischargers, but once again were stopped by enemy fire. Both pls were in areas not suitable for consolidation, so withdrew to their previous locations. Arty fire again engaged areas in which enemy was known to be in occupation. An observation platform was observed by a member of 16 pl during a patrol and the tops of all trees in the area were blasted by 3.7 guns. No enemy activity was seen in other areas.	APPX 9A
			CO 21C and 10 visited B and C Coys. Own cas 1 wounded.	
JOYCE	13		Rain fell during the night, clearing at first light. Arty continued clearing of the timber of JOYCE. A patrol from 12 pl after this fire found enemy still in posn at 425690. Following further shelling two patrols from D Coy were sent out. 18 pl patrol was to patrol to the NORTH to a spur NORTH from JOYCE while 16 pl attempted to cut track at 426689. Both were to hold any suitable ground taken. Timber littered the steep approaches from the SOUTH and 16 pl was unable to reach the top of the ridge. 18 pl patrol reached 425690 in a wide encircling move and there consolidated in readiness for further advance next day. Remainder of the pl quickly moved up to assist.	
LIZZY			Patrols were sent out to find a suitable approach to LIZZY. Only one approach was found. Patrol investigated and reached track at 427686, but an enemy LMG post nearby sighted the fwd scout and the patrol withdrew hurriedly under cover of grenades. All other areas quiet. CO on MARGY during the day.	
MARGY				

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	14		18 pl was prepared to attack enemy posn at 425689, when a party of NEI PWs and coolies came down the track bearing a white flag. They came from the HQ area and passed along JOYCE. A Chinese MO who spoke fair English told of an evacuation of the FUKUKAKU area. quickly 16 and 18 pls pushed fwd and took posn 425689 without opposition. 16 pl then advanced along JOYCE. Enemy in bunkers were cleaned out as they moved fwd and by 1100 JOYCE was cleared. 15 Japs were killed in this phase.	
JOYCE FUKUKAKU AREA		1100I	Immediately 16 pl had occupied the track junc 17 pl moved SOUTH. They encountered opposition from bunkers at 427689, which they cleared with grenades killing three enemy. Pl then occupied track junc at 428689. Meanwhile 18 pl advanced NORTH along DUTCH track, where they contacted patrols from C/24. Pl then consolidated on track junc 427692 at 1515. 18 pl moved EAST along the NORTH track of the circuit and reached 430694 without opposition. Here they dug in for the night.	
DUTCH TRACK		1515I	At the same time a patrol from 17 pl moved SE down LIZZY and again found the enemy had withdrawn. A Coy had moved up in rear of D Coy and as soon as 17 pl had cleared track to 428689 moved through twds CLARICE and HILDA. At 1800 7 pl had taken CLARICE killing three, and had reached 431688, where they consolidated before last light. Coy HQ and 8 pl moved on to CLARICE whilst 9 pl took up a posn at 428689. Today 87 NEI PWs and 25 coolies reached our lines. Enemy comd sent a letter to our comd asking that they be well treated. B and C Coys patrolled their coy localities actively.	
LIZZY		1800I	Enemy cas 18 killed and 1 PW.	
CLARICE-HILDA				

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TARAKAN	155		Commencing early 7 pl advanced twds HILDA which they occupied without opposition at 0800. 8 pl passed through and continued the advance twds UNCLE. D Coy also advanced early. 16 pl passing through 18 pl twds AUNTY whilst 17 pl cleared SOUTH part of circuit track. At this stage a message came from the 2/24 that they has cleared AUNTY and were moving to UNCLE. D Coy and 8 pl were ordered to move as quickly as possible to their objectives and relieve the 2/24 for further operations.	
HILDA, UNCLE AUNTY			8 pl encountered opposition from a bunker at 436693, but quickly over ran the posn killing 2 enemy and wounding 2. D Coy reached UNCLE and AUNTY without incident.	
UNCLE-AUNTY			C Coy less 14 pl moved up to take over defence and clearing up of FUKUKAKU as reports had indicated that this area was extensively mined, engr made a careful search of the area, but were unable to locate any mines or booby traps. In the first stages of the clearing of the enemy from this area 15 pl captured 6 enemy wounded who had been abandoned by their force. By 1430 D Coy with under Comd 8 pl were dug in on UNCLE and AUNTY. A patrol from 8 pl contacted the 2/48 bn on FAITH and NELLIE. This confirmed the report that enemy had withdrawn to CHARITY-ESSIE ridge as no organized resistance remained SOUTH of this area.	
FUKUKAKU AREA		1430I		
UNCLE- AUNTY, FAITH-NELLIE CHARITY-ESSIE			At 1530 11 pl captured 2 Japs on LIZZY. A preliminary search resulted in the finding of medical stores, 81 mm mortar, damaged 70 mm Bn Gun and a grenade discharger.	
LIZZY		1530I		
FUKUKAKU AREA UNCLE, ESSIE			CO visited FUKUKAKU area. At 2200 ^{A coy} was ordered to prepared to move to UNCLE at first light in anticipation of an advance twds ESSIE.	
			Today 7 enemy were killed and 8 PsW taken.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN CLARICE-HILDA- UNCLE	16		A Coy was ordered to take ESSIE. 8 pl moved to ck junc at 443704 at first light, whilst remainder of coy moved from CLARICE and HILDA via UNCLE to ck junc. 8pl found enemy posns on ck unoccupied, but a recce patrol EAST along the ck contacted five enemy killing one.	
ESSIE-CHARITY		17001	Coy then pushed NORTH on to ESSIE-CHARITY feature where coy took over from A Coy of 2/24. Coy began advancing NE twds ESSIE and reached 445708 when fwd recce patrols contacted enemy at 446709 at 1700. Approaches and flanks were very steep, with hy undergrowth, and coy was unable to clear posn by last light. Coy dug in, and Arty was put down on enemy area.	
LIZZY AGNES			Other coys patrolled actively during the day. B Coy took two PWs during the day on LIZZY. Other patrols from B Coy found four enemy dead in AGNES area, and 1 OSMG and threedepth charges and two Yard Stick mines at 461683.	
CLARICE			C Coy clearing enemy from HQ area buried 47 ^{enemy} dead. Two Japs were killed in a tunnel at 427691. 13 pl took over CLARICE from A Coy.	
			D Coy patrol encountered three or four enemy in huts. Enemy fled and patrol opened fire, killing 1. Cas; Enemy 4 killed and 2 PW.	
	17		A Coy continued their advance at first light. 8 pl moved slowly twds posn occupied by enemy at last light, but found posn unoccupied. 100 yds past posn four enemy were seen moving SW twds pl, but they observed our tps. and escaped into the thick undergrowth before they could be engaged. 8 pl reached 447707, where they were held up by LMG and rifle fire.	

B

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	17 (continued)	1400L	Arty was brought down on enemy posn, and when pl again advanced they found enemy had withdrawn at 1400.	
			7 pl, having passed through 8pl, reached 451710, where enemy fire on a broad front prevented any further advance. Country was very heavily timbered and arty OPO had to range by sound. This took a long time and coy dug in ready to advance at first light on 18 Jun.	
CLARICE-LIZZY			B Coy patrolled extensively during the day. 11 pl during a recce of their area killed 1 Jap on ck between CLARICE and LIZZY.	
FUKUKAKU AREA			C Coy patrolled locally in area. 13 pl found four enemy dead at 431688. During the clearing of HQ area a considerable amount of enemy equipment was found at 429691.	
			D Coy patrolled WEST and SOUTH of coy locality. 1 wounded PW was taken by 16 pl at 432696. A large enemy food dump containing 90 bags of rice and cased and loose tinned foods were found in 16 pl area.	
			Cas: Enemy 1 killed and 1 PW.	
	18		A Coy patrol at first light found the enemy still in occupation of 453710. Arty was used and when coy again probed they found posn unoccupied. Three enemy were seen withdrawing hurriedly to NE. Coy occupied ESSIE feature and immediately exploited down the spur to the NE. All tracks were investigated and three enter the swamp area at 454721, 458724 and 463724. These showed a recent track showing that enemy had crossed during the day. At 455714 two large shelters capable of holding 15/20 men and six smaller shelters, a small amount of clothing in a pit, and a 5 valve wireless receiver were found.	
ESSIE				APPX 9B.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	18 (continued)		This was probably a CCS as there many used bandages lying about. Six bodies, half buried in a shallow trench, and four others in a wash were also found in this area. One other body was found at 463724. ESSIE was a razorback ridge and enemy had established posns on several knolls on the feature. These were the foxhole type, showing that the enemy had not had time to complete his defences.	
			Arty support had been extremely accurate and concentrations had been laid down on pin-point targets.	
			Other coys patrolled actively throughout the day. No signs of recent enemy movement were found. B and C Coys found one body in each coy area.	
ESSIE	19		Whilst A Coy began to clear ESSIE, C and D coys were actively patrolling. A patrol from 9 pl found and killed 1 enemy at 463722, 1 at 462724 and 2 at 461717. Only one enemy carried a rifle.	
			A patrol from 8pl to further search this area killed one Jap at 458716.	
DINGO			B Coy was transported to DINGO area, as reports had been received of 30/40 enemy in this area. While 10 pl was moving to their new pl area they heard movement, but were unable to locate the source. Patrols in the afternoon killed 4 Japs in the area.	
			C Coy found three enemy, who appeared to have died from exposure at 432692. A carrier train sighted and fired upon a Jap at 428688. Later a shot was heard and on investigation it was found that the Jap had committed suicide.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form (2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN FUKUKAKU AREA	19 (continued)		He had taken off his boot, and placing the muzzle of his rifle beneath his chin, pressed the trigger with his toe. D Coy patrols found no trace of enemy movement. 3 escaped NEI PWs were found by a patrol at 431702.	
ESSIE			Further examination of bodies found yesterday revealed that at least two of those bodies found buried had their hands tied behind their backs, and one was also gagged. Facial structure appeared to be Oriental. Enemy cas; 6 killed.	
	20		All coys patrolled extensively. No signs of enemy activity were found by A, C and D Coys. Patrols from 10 pl found a Jap who had recently died of wounds at 474642. 11 pl patrol killed 6 enemy at 472624. 12 pl saw and killed a further two Japs at 477626.	
			C O visited B Coy's fwd pls. Enemy cas for day: 8 killed.	
SNAKE	21	1210I	At 1210I 2/24 Bn captured SNAKE, the only point that the enemy was holding. All organized resistance has ceased.	
POKER-SNOOK			200/250 enemy in small groups still remained, and to eliminate these Bde was regrouped to carry out an intensive patrolling policy. A and B Coys in accordance with the Bn plan, moved to occupy new areas. A Coy in POKER-SNOOK area and B Coy in GARDENS area at 422664. Before being relieved by C Coy of 2/3 Fnr Bn, B Coy patrols inflicted the following cas on the enemy: 10 pl killed two at 473643. 11pl killed 2 at 465627 and 1 at 466626. 12 pl killed 1 at 475624.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	21(continued)		C and D Coys were again active with patrols. C Coy area showed no signs of recent enemy movement. D Coy found 6 dead in area 451714. These had their hands tied behind their backs.	
ESSIE	22		TARAKAN was divided into patrol sectors. Bn was allotted a sector with boundaries EAST from JUMBO CK to ESSIE incl and SW to coast at SIMPANTIGA. This sector was divided into Coy sectors, and Bn began to patrol these areas. A Coy in XXXXXX PATTY-LARCH-SNOOK-BEECH-SANDY-ROGER areas found no trace of recent enemy movement.	
PATTY LARCH BEECH SNOOK SANDY ROGER				
SYLVIA JANET OSTRICH			B Coy patrolled areas SYLVIA-JANET-OSTRICH, finding one set of fresh footprints between 429677 and 427676. Other patrols reported NMS. C Coy patrol from 15 pl killed 1 enemy, at 434696. Patrol to investigate enemy movement during night 21/22 found footprints at 427690, but could not locate enemy. D Coy searched spurs and re-entrants on ESSIE, but found no trace of enemy. Cas: Enemy 1 killed.	
	23		Intensive patrolling was carried out by all coys during the day. All coys found no trace of enemy movement within their sectors. Five natives, recently escaped from the enemy were found by 15 pl in a hut in HQ area. C O accompanied by the IO visited A C and D Coys during the day. Coys now out of immediate contact with the enemy have improved their areas greatly, and live in comparative comfort.	
FUKUKAKU AREA				
	24		From PW reports it was learned that there are 2/300 enemy in NORTH of the island attempting to escape by sea. Bn was ordered to send two coys to move NORTH from CHEAT-OWNER and STOUT-LEMON xxxxxx features.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	24 (continued)		A Coy commenced to move at 0800, and by 1100 had taken over from a pl of D Coy 2/24 Bn in STOUT-LEMON area 417748.	
STOUT-LEMON			7pl met ^{opposition} at 427754, estimated str 8/9. Pl probably killed 2 enemy. Enemy used rifles, and owing to close nature of the country, pl withdrew slightly to allow 100 rds of Arty fire to be put down on posn. Pl again pressed, but enemy remained in posn. Arty fire was continued during the night.	
CHEAT-OWNER			B Coy moving towards CHEAT-OWNER took up posns at 418757 at last light. Other coys patrolled in Bn sector, but no enemy were contacted.	
	25		Early in the morning A Coy began to advance towards enemy posn at 427754. 7 pl found enemy was still in posn. Pl engaged with rifle and automatic fire. After about one hour had passed, pl heard the enemy shouting and calling out, and shortly afterwards the enemy withdrew from the feature and retreated NORTH. Four enemy dead were found. Meanwhile, 9 pl met scattered resistance on ridge WEST of STOUT, and a series of small engagements occurred. After pl had occupied STOUT, a patrol met opposition at 424764, and in the ensuing action 2 of the patrol were wounded. One later died of wounds. The other man was missing for 24 hours. In these actions pl killed 3 enemy. Enemy still in posn on LEMON.	
LEMON			8 pl pushed NORTH whilst 7 pl patrolled EAST, and 9 pl dug in on STOUT. 7pl patrol to 430755 found enemy shelters (about 100) large enough to accomodate about 300 personnel. Today 7 pl killed three enemy. 7 pl found 1 JUKI HMG at 430755.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN CHEAT-OWNER	25(continued)		By Coy continued their advance at 414764. Fwd pl killed 1 enemy. Coy occupied CHEAT-OWNER features without opposition.	
			Late in the afternoon a contact patrol between these two features was fired on by four riflemen. No cas were caused. Other local patrols did not contact any enemy.	
		1330I	Other areas were quiet. 4 pl patrol killed 1 Jap at 418693. 2 escaped NEI PWs came in to D Coy lines at 1330. Cas: Enemy 8 killed.	
DJOEATA			20 pnsr under comd Lt Wenborn moved to DJOEATA to construct Bn camp area.	
SELAJANG	26	1200I	A Coy began to push fwd early, with 7pl moving along the spur EAST of the SELAJANG. By 1200 pl had reached 435760. 8 pl moved EAST through STOUT and LEMON and passed through 7 pl and exploited to 437765. 9 pl remained on STOUT and patrolled NNORTH. A contact patrol to B Coy found a track leading along the ridge. This was selected as a supply route to B Coy. B Coy patrolled NORTH and found spur NORTH of CHEAT and OWNER clear. 12 pl moved EAST to 425770, where they killed 1 Jap, thence to 429772, and took up a defensive posn. Meanwhile 10 pl patrolled NORTH along spur to 425775, where they reported ground fell into a swamp. No enemy were seen.	
STOUT-LEMON				
CHEAT-OWNER				
MAIA river			11 pl moved to 424772, and took over patrolling to the NORTH, when Coy HQ and 10 pl moved to occupy 425770. 11 pl patrol found several shelters at 425770, then moved NW to MAIA River at 422782. No movement seen.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form 62118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	26(continued)		<p>12 pl patrol NORTH along spur from 429772 heard chopping at 433780, but could not reach this area owing to difficult movement. They continued NORTH and at 432783 saw and fired on 1 Jap who fled. Here a track led SE and patrol followed to 433782, where they killed 1 Jap with grenades. Patrol was then fired on by 1 IMG and 6 rifles from the ck area. Terrain was not suitable to engage enemy, so patrol withdrew.</p> <p>Other Coys patrolled within their sectors, but found no signs of recent movement.</p> <p>C O visited A and B Coys. Cas: Enemy 2 killed.</p>	
	27		<p>All Coys commenced patrolling soon after first light. 7 pl NE to 447774 found several shelters recently used. A well used track from the SOUTH led into this area, and as all enemy footprints led NORTH, it was presumed that it had been used as an escape route to the NORTH coast.</p>	
SELAJANG RIVER			<p>8 pl patrolled NW to SELAJANG at 434775 then NE to swamp at 444785 but did not see any movement.. Patrol reported that SELAJANG River at 434775 was 20ft wide 6 ft deep and slow flowing.</p>	
			<p>9 pl moved to occupy area 435770. 1 Jap killed in vic Coy HQ.</p>	
MAIA RIVER- SELAJANG RIVER			<p>B Coy patrolled NORTH along MAIA RIVER and SELAJANG RIVER. 12 pl killed 1 Jap at 433782. Other patrols NMS. Patrols reported the rivers in areas patrolled were 30 ft wide, 3/4 ft deep. Banks were 4/10 ft high and on top were swampy, covered with swamp forest with heavy undergrowth.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	27 (continued)		D Coy patrol was fired on at 444708 by three riflemen. Patrol engaged, killing 1 enemy, later identified as a Naval Ensign. Other patrols in Bn area did NOT see any enemy movement. Cas: Enemy 3 killed.	
CROYDON			The CROYDON Airstrip was used for the first time yesterday, when 2 Sqn of P40s, 1 Sqn of Spitfires and 6 Beaufighters landed. These are the first element of the RAAF to be based on TARAKAN.	
MAIA RIVER SELAJANG RIVER	28		Two long range patrols moved out early. One from B Coy up the MAIA RIVER and the other from A Coy up the SELAJANG RIVER, in an attempt to reach the coast. A Coy patrol on the SELAJANG reached a point 300 yds from the coast later in the afternoon. As they were knee deep in the swamp and movement slow, patrol returned to 442792, where they bivouacked for the night. The patrol was very successful, killing 14 enemy during the day. Rafts and enemy equipment found at several places were destroyed.	
		1800I 1830I	B Coy patrol reached 432793. No enemy movement was seen until 1800, when patrol contacted 4 Japs at 432793. Patrol engaged with unobserved results. At 1830 patrol contacted further enemy in general area 432794 and found signs indicating that 40/50 enemy had been living in the area for 3/4 days.	
			D Coy patrols met enemy opposition for the first time for 4 days. A patrol EAST towards ESSIE was fired on by four riflemen. When our patrol engaged, 10 enemy hurriedly withdrew from the area. Another patrol EAST to ESSIE contacted 2 Japs, killing one at 450709. 16 enemy were killed during the day.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form 62118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	29	0730I	A Coy patrol pushed towards the coast at first light, killing 3 Japs at 0730. Swampy ground prevented patrol from reaching the coast. At 1200 hrs a patrol under LT HEAD relieved them. Using another route 7 pl patrol waded waist deep through 500 yds of NIPA swamp to reach the coast at the mouth of the SELAJANG. Logs deep in the swamp made movement possible. Here patrol killed 2 enemy. A few others escaped when warned by the shots. Patrol withdrew to firm base.	
SELAJANG RIVER		1200I		
MAIA RIVER			B Coy patrol pushed fwd towards the coast, but swamp made further advance impossible. Several members then used a raft constructed by Japs, and floated down the MAIA to the mouth. Although an LCM on patrol had been warned to contact them, they were unable to attract the attention of the barge. They killed two Japs as they attempted to move along the beach. Unable to move far owing to mud, they returned to firm base by raft.	
			B Coy saw two Japs foraging in 12 pl area. Enemy were fired on with unknown results.	
			C Coy killed 2 enemy at 425692. Other patrols in the Bn area saw no signs of recent enemy movement.	
			Enemy cas: 8 killed 2 PW.	
	30		Members of B Coy patrol again floated down the river on a raft. The LCM was seen and four of our tps swam out. LCM was unable to find a suitable place to beach. Patrol then returned to firm base. Patrol then sent out small patrols from firm base at 432792.	
			The patrol from A Coy searched the general area in vic of their firm base at 442792. 1 Jap was killed by a small patrol to the EAST. One PW was captured by D Coy at 435699.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C/2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TARAKAN	30 (continued)		B Coy killed 1 enemy at 445792.	
			A Salvation Army coffee train was attacked by 3 Japs. Escort killed one, the others fleeing. All other patrols reported no movement seen.	
			Enemy cas: 3 killed 2 PW.	
			Lt Gen MORESHEAD G O C 1 Aust Corps visited the area.	
			<i>W. L. L. L.</i>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(adapted.)

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Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>C O's REPORT</u>	
			<p>OPERATIONS: Battalions main operation in the first days of the month were against MARGY 2, which fell on 8 Jun. Bn had been actively patrolling JOYCE area, and on the capture of MARGY 2, ops were directed against JOYCE. A feature of these ops was the use of a 3.7 inch and two 25 pdr guns, giving direct support over open sights.</p>	
			<p>JOYCE was captured against minor opposition on 14 Jun, following the enemy's evacuation of the FUKUKAKU area. A swift follow up of the retreating enemy resulted in the capture of many feature. The enemy had apparently NOT anticipated such swift action, and was NOT able to re-establish reorganized defensive posns.</p>	
			<p>On 21 Jun, all organized resistance by enemy ended on TARAKAN. A Bde regrouping took place, and an intensive patrolling policy was implemented. On 24 Jun, following reports of enemy concentrations on the NORTH coast, A and B Coys moved to CHEAT-OWNER and STOUT-LEMON areas where patrol bases were established. From these bases, long range patrols were sent out to the coast along MAIA and SELAJANG rivers. Many cas were caused to the enemy, and the concentrations were split up into small groups over the island.</p>	
			<p>Defensive measures, including extensive booby trapping were undertaken on 7/8 Jun. It was learned that the enemy comd intended to break through the FDLE, and to inflict as much damage and cas in rear areas as possible. This Banzai charge did NOT eventuate.</p>	

D313 /5.2 -C.4788.

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			C O's REPORT (continued)	
			AIRSTRIKES: A heavy airstrike on FUKUKAKU area by 46 B24s took place on 11 Jun. Great damage was done to enemy HQ area by the very accurate strikes.	
			CASUALTIES: Casualties inflicted on the enemy by bn during Jun:- Killed 142 PWs 15 Own casualties were light for the ops undertaken. They were 5 killed, 2 DOW, 25 WIA. Details are shown in RMOs report.	
			POSTAL: The air mail service was good, and letters took an average of five days to arrive from AUSTRALIA. Some mail was lost when a plane crashed at MOROTAI, approx 13 Jun. One shipment of surface mail arrived during the month.	
			AMENITIES: The Amenities Service Representative, Capt PEARSON worked tirelessly in providing comforts to all troops. Coffee and biscuits were delivered to all sub-units each day. This was particularly in the latter part of the month, when the coys were long distances from the jeep-head. Other comforts such as note paper, envelopes, tooth paste and soap were distributed regularly. The troops were very appreciative of these comforts. 78 Fighter Wing RAAF were most kind and invited the Bn to send tps to their camp for 48 hrs rest. Whenever ops permitted 30 tps were sent out every two days and given clean clothes by B Ech before going to the RAAF. Swimming parties were sent to TARAKAN pool whenever possible.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			C O's REPORT (continued)	
		VISITS TO THE BN:	<p>Comd 1 Aust Corps (Lt - Gen SIR LESLIE MORSHEAD) visited the Bn early in the month. He inspected the enemy's defences on MARGY and observed ops against JOYCE. Bde comd (Brig D A WHITEHEAD) was a regular visitor to the Bn.</p> <p>Many visitors from own and Allied forces visited MARGY and FUKUKAKU areas, and were very interested in the methods which had been used to capture these objectives.</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;"><i>J. H. Lohol</i></p>	

A.343 /5.29.—C.4788.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.												
			<u>RMO's REPORT - 1 JUN 45 to 30 JUN 45.</u>													
			<p>The TARAKAN action continued until 21 Jun 45, when organized resistance ceased, and mopping up operations began. RAP had performed in this month creditably—having moved its site 7 times and for most of the latter half of the month, having four RAPs dispersed throughout the BN's posn.</p> <p>An interesting patrol was undertaken through the Jap hospital area, and HQ area 15 Jun 45, following capture of these features on 14 Jun. His RAP posts, medical supply store, and 4 nursing and convalescent wards, were all inspected. Considerable surgical equipment was obtained from his main RAP and forwarded through official channels to Bde HQ. Towards the end of the month when A and B Coys moved inland, forming bases from which to patrol to NORTH coast, fwd RAP was established with Mortar pl as protection, and which pl also acted as supply of carriers for two abovementioned coys—approx 1800/2000 yds behind these coys. Lines of evacuation this month were naturally longer than those during May, as the chase inland after the fleeing enemy soon led to this. Hand carriage of cas out to the rd resulted, some of which were long and arduous. On such a carry from hill feature AUNTY through POKER and out on to DJOEATA rd, a wounded soldier Pte JOHNSON D C, D Coy received two litres intravenously of plasma, both from replacement of lost fluid point of view and combatting of shock induced by this 6 hour trip.</p> <p>Evacuations for month:-</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Battle cas</td> <td style="text-align: right;">24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PUO</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skin diseases</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diarrhoea</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other diseases</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">74</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Killed in action 6</p>	Battle cas	24	PUO	11	Skin diseases	16	Diarrhoea	4	Other diseases	19	Total	74	
Battle cas	24															
PUO	11															
Skin diseases	16															
Diarrhoea	4															
Other diseases	19															
Total	74															

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45 To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			RMO'S REPORT - 1 JUN 45 to 30 JUN 45. (continued)	
			Figures for diarrhoea cases still exceedingly low, thereby indicating the Bn's strict adherence to water discipline and personal hygiene.	
			Rations and water were in adequate supply. Malarial precautions such as erection of nets, which could now freely be used, were maintained at their previous high standard.	
			Morale of troops excellent.	
			<i>J. J. Thomas Capt.</i>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>Q M's REPORT - JUNE 1945.</u>	
		RATIONS:	The SWP ration was much improved during the month by the inclusion from time to time, of fresh foodstuffs—meat, butter, vegetables and fruit.	
		WATER:	The supply of treated water was maintained at a high level with the assistance of a 400 gal water vehicle from ASC, and the establishments of additional Water Points.	
		EXPENSE STORES:	All requirements were met and included the necessary range of anti-malarial stores.	
		CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT:	The wear and tear of clothing was fairly heavy, but Ordnance supplies were sufficient to keep up reasonable requirements, except for trousers JG, which were in short supply, particularly in the shorter sizes. Towards the close of the month, messing gear and tents shelter halves were difficult to obtain. Boots wore very well, and replacements were readily available. Unserviceable items collected were returned to RSD.	
		CONTROLLED STORES:	Demands for replacements of weapons were on a modest scale and were met as required. The Armourers paid constant attention to weapons, and visited coy areas to service them. Other items except Watches GS were sufficient for needs.	
		WARLIKE STORES (NON CONTROLLED)	Stores under this head were maintained at a level commensurate with the efficient working of the unit. A new store, cans billy 7 qrt, proved a useful addition to kitchen stores; permitting the breaking up of wet rations into pl lots. They were convenient for carrying and also kept food warm.	

U.S. 13 / 5.29. — C 4758.
Boat

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>Q M's REPORT- JUNE 1945 (continued)</u>	
		CANTEEN SUPPLIES:	A wide range of canteen goods was available and regularly distributed to fwd posns by ration parties. Beer was available regularly and distributed as circumstances permitted.	
		LINE OF COMMUNICATION:	Carryinh parties had to travel longer distances to maintain supplies of all kinds to fwd posns, and where it was only possible to make one trip per day, larger parties of native porters were required. ASC and RAAF personnel assisted B Ech personnel with escort duties.	
		B ECH:	Towards the close of the month, A and B Coy kitchens were moved from B Ech to the same location at DJOEATA to reduce the supply line. A separate day camp was made and manned to care for the native porters.	
		COMFORTS:	Tobacco, PKs , Soap, Boot Polish, Toothpaste and Socks were received from the A C F. The Salvation Army continued to carry coffee to fwd posns. Troops used the Rest Camps established last month whenever possible, and parties were entertained regularly in R A A F camps. The laundry made possible to give these personnel a clean change of clothes.	
		KIT STORE:	Personal effects of personnel evacuated to MOROTAI through medical channels were forwarded through the kit store detachment for delivery to them.	
		TRANSPORT:	Unit vehicles continued to serve efficiently, and additional transport was made available regularly from Transport Coys.	

John H

B

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>VOL 58 LIST OF APPENDICES JUNE 45.</u>	
			1. OP ORDERS: (a) Defence of Airstrip. (b) OO No.3 (c) Addendum to OO No.3. (d) O P 7-9. (e) Airstrike - FUKUKAKU area. (f) OBOE ONE OO No.4. (Trace attached). (g) Review of Attack on MARGY.	
			2. PLANS FOR DAY: 1 Jun - 30 Jun.	
			3. PATROL REPORTS: 1 - 29 Jun.	
			4. SITREPS: 22-30 Jun.	
			5. 26 AUST INF BDE REVSITS: 1 - 30 Jun.	
			6. 2/23 AUST INF BN SUMMARIES: 1 - 21 Jun	
			7. ROUTINE ORDERS: Nos 77 - 94.	
			8. FIELD RETURNS: ORs 44/26 - 44/22. OFFRS 44/26 - 44/22.	
			9. GENERAL ENEMY INFM: (a) Enemy infm. (b) Enemy equipment. (c) To Japanese Force Comds KAHARO and TOKOI evacuation of Japanese wounded. (d) Enemy cas.	
			10. ADMINISTRATION: (a) TARAKAN Swimming Pool.	
			11. MUD and BLOOD: VOL VI No.2.	

D.313 / 5.29. — C.4758.
Booth

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 JUN 45

To 30 JUN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>VOL 58 LIST OF APPENDICES JUNE 45. (Continued).</u>	
			12. MAPS: (a) TARAKAN NORTH (Spec) 1/25,000.	
			(b) TARAKAN SOUTH (Spec) 1/25,000. (c) TARAKAN	
			(Intelligence Review) 1/50,000. (d) TANGKOL SPEC 1/10,000.	
			(e) API SPEC 1/10,000. (f) TARAKAN SOUTH (Part)	
			Enlargement 1/12,500. (g) TARAKAN NORTH & SOUTH	
			(Dyeline) 1/5,000. (h) SNAG'S TRACK (Dyeline) 1/5,000.	
			(i) SNAG'S TRACK (Dyeline) 1/5,000. (j) PATROL TRACE 8-16 Jun.	
			(k) CROYDON-SNAG'S TRACK (Dyeline) 1/12,500.	
			(l) CROYDON-SNAG'S TRACK (Dyeline) 1/25,000.	
			(m) 2/24 Bn PATROL POLICY TRACE 1/25,000.	
			(n) ARTY DF TASKS 1/25,000.	
			(o) BOOBY TRAPS TRACE 1/10,000.	
			(p) COY SECTORS OF RESPONSIBILITY TRACE 1/25,000.	
			(q) 2/23 BN DISPOSITIONS 1-29 Jun.	

B

Op orders

WD

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
4 Jun 45.

HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde

DEFENCE OF AIRSTRIP

Ref Map : Captured Dutch Map 1:5000

1. Disposns

- 4 Secs RIPPON
- 3 Secs Birds beak area ESSEX
- 2 Secs Coy HQ High ground WEST of ANZAC Highway SE corner of airstrip
- RAAF area EAST of ANZAC Highway between ESSEX and RIPPON

2. Patrols

- (a) Fighting patrols str 1 offr 10 ORs from ESSEX, RIPPON, FRANK from 11 May till 21 May 45. From 21 May 45 till 31 May 45 recce patrols from ESSEX and RIPPON.
- (b) From 1 Jun onwards recce patrols are carried out twice daily :
 - (i) from RIPPON NW via MAJOR to PATTY.
 - (ii) from Birds beak area ESSEX through ESSEX SYLVIA returning via FRANK thence to WILLS and STURT alternately A.M and P.M

3. Co-ordination with RAAF

- (a) disposns as per attached trace.
- (b) area NORTH of Birds beak, EAST of ANZAC Highway to RIPPON is lighted at night by arc lights as is the area of the airstrip itself.

4. Picquets

- (a) Normal sentries in section posns.
- (b) RAAF as per attached trace.

5. General

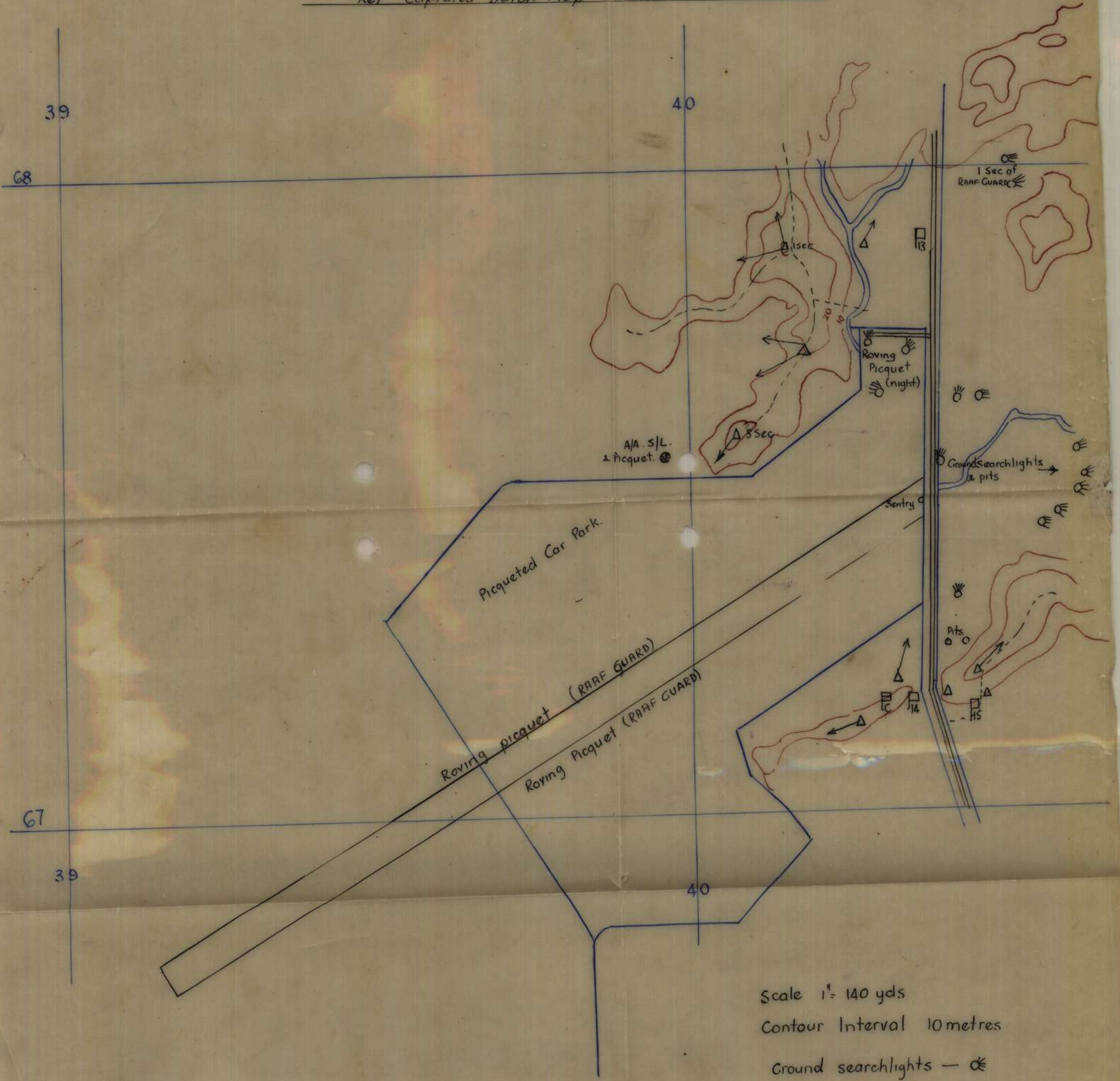
As operations progressed EAST along SNAGS track it became necessary to vacate certain areas; these areas have been patrolled constantly since date of vacation. Area SOUTH of AIRSTRIP is thence swamp and as such is impassable to patrols beyond 100 yds.

Lt col
Comd, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

.....Jun 45

1
TRACE SHOWING DEF. PLAN OF AIRSTRIP.

Ref Captured Dutch Map 1:5000



SECRET

7 Jun 45

Copy No. 2.....

2/23 AUSTRALIAN INF BN - CO HQ 3

Ref Map : TARAKAN SOUTH SPECIAL 1:25000
 TARAKAN NORTH SPECIAL 1:25000
 CAPTURED DUTCH MAP 1:10000

INFORMATION

1. Enemy
 - (a) Dispositions - as per special map issued FURUKAKU area.
 - (b) Intention - as per CO's conference 6 Jun 45.
2. Own Troops
 - (a) Troops under command :-
 - (i) 3 Pl D Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 - (ii) 2 troops C Sqn 2/9 Aust Arm Regt.
 - (iii) 1 Sqn 7 Pl 2/13 Aust Inf Coy.

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will defend area - SINGAPORE TRACK - MARGY - CRAZY RIDGE - HE API and destroy enemy penetration into area.

METHOD

4. Summary of Own
 Coys will hold areas as per attached trace (Appx A) and be prepared to counter attack and destroy enemy penetration.
5. Preliminary Moves
 A Coy will move to HE API area by 071400 I.
 D Coy will move to CRAZY RIDGE area by 071400 I.
6. Dispositions
 As per attached trace (appx A).
7. Sectors of Responsibility
 - Right - C Coy
 SINGAPORE TRACK at 45 grid to creek 422682 incl.
 - Centre - B Coy
 MARGY - 105
 - Left Centre - D Coy
 CRAZY RIDGE - SINGAPORE TRACK from ELBOW - WEST to ANKAC HIGHWAY.
 - Left - A Coy
 HE API - Rd junction ANKAC HIGHWAY - SINGAPORE TRACK.
8. Counter attack
 - (a) Areas of responsibility, see attached trace (Appx A).
 - (b) All coys will prepare counter attacks on their own BELs.
 - (c) B & D Coys with in sp 1 tp tanks each will prepare counter attacks along SINGAPORE TRACK as indicated on attached trace (Appx A).
 - (i) B Coy will counter attack if rear tp required by A Coy.
 - (ii) D Coy will counter attack if rear tp NOT required by A Coy.
9. Outposts
 All coys will man outposts during hours of daylight.
10. Army
 DEPT - JOYCE
 INNOV 2
11. MGs
 - (a) 3 Pl D Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn in sp B Coy.
 - (b) Bn MGs :-
 1 sec under command B Coy.

- 1 see under comd D Coy.
- (i) Task - Defence of RAP.
- (ii) Alternate Poen - High ground 41096925.

12. Mortars

- (a) Disposes as per attached trace (Appx A).
- (b) 2 dots under comd D Coy.
- 3 dots under comd B Coy.
- 1 dot under comd A Coy.

13. Flt A

Fl less 3 guns under comd B Coy. Guns will return D Coy poen 071200 I.

14. Engs

(a) Engrs

- (i) Defence of Bn HQ.
- (ii) Assist engrs to booby-trap approaches to coys.

15. Engrs

(a) Engrs

- (i) Booby-trap approaches to ALL coy poens.
- (ii) Mine detection for counter attack with tks.

16. Flts

- 1 tp in op B Coy.
- 1 tp in op D and A Coys.

Role : Counter attack - SERCS TRACK - ANZAC HIGHWAY.

17. Ops

Int Sec will establish OP on 105 by 071200 I. Strength 2 Gns.

18. Patrols

Active patrolling by day along all ridges and valleys in sector of responsibility.

ADMINISTRATION

19. Arm

- (a) Normal
- (b) SAA reserve - 414694

20. Med

- (a) RAP - 409683
- (b) ADS - 40546836

21. Surv

- (a) Rations - Normal
- (b) Water - Normal

INTERCOM

22. Bn HQ - 406692

23. LF

Alternate line will be laid to ALL coys.

24. RF

- (a) 108 set - A, B, C, D Coys, Tac HQ.
- (b) 536 set of 2 - A, B, D Coys, Tac HQ.

25. Sigs

- (a) DEs by LF only.
- (b) E. through Tac HQ.

26. Password

As issued by Int Sec.

27. Synchronisation

By sigs 0700 hrs daily.

ACK

Issued by Hand

Signed at 071300 I

DISTRIBUTION

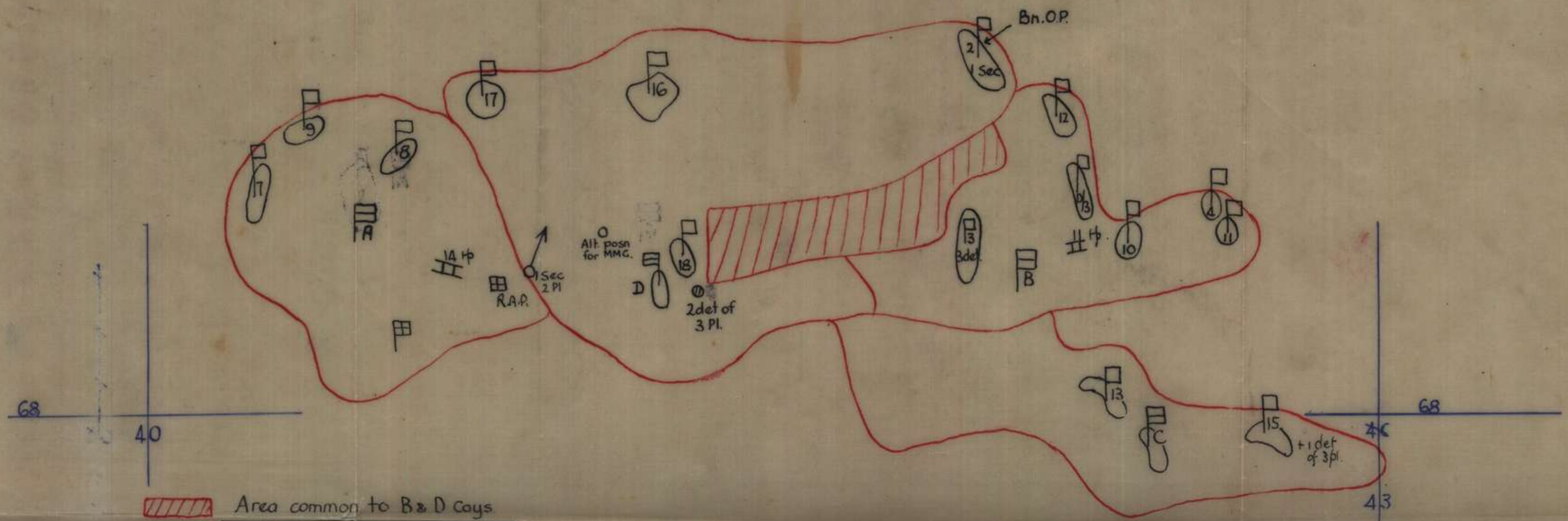
[Signature]
Lt
Sgt 2/33 Aust Inf Bn
(P T HEATON)

2/23 BN DISPOSITIONS & AREAS of RESPONSIBILITY

RF 1:10,000

Ref Map API SPECIAL 1:10000

SECRET
APPX "A"
Op Order 2



SCALE 1 inch to 280 yds

Int Sec
2/23 Aust Inf Bn
7.6.45

SECRET

7 Jun 45

Copy No. 2.....

ADDENDUM TO 2/23 AUST INF BN - 00 NO 3

Ref Maps : TARAKAN SOUTH (SPECIAL) 1 in 25000
 TARAKAN NORTH (SPECIAL) 1 in 25000

INFORMATION1. Enemy(a) Strength.

- (i) It is estimated that present effective strength remaining on the island is approx 415.
 (ii) This figure excludes an unknown number of ineffectives who may be capable of fighting in an emergency.

(b) Likely enemy action

- (i) As the enemy force is now almost completely surrounded and subjected to constant pressure from all directions it is possible that he may attempt a large scale counter-attack.
 (ii) Such a counter-attack may be carried out in one of the following ways :-
 A. A banzai charge by all his remaining effectives directed against our rear areas with a view to causing great havoc to personnel and vital installations.
 B. A planned counter-attack with the object of re-capturing some vital objective such as MP API, SEAGS TRACK or the area in the vicinity SIMPENPIGA.
 (iii) It is likely that these operations may be commenced at night in the hope of penetrating our fwd posns and reaching the rear areas before light.
 (iv) These operations may also be co-ordinated with previously sent out raiding parties destined to infiltrate unobserved into rear areas and to disorganise our defences.

2. Air

The enemy is capable of mustering from distant sources a number of aircraft to support his counter-attack.

3. Mct

	8 Jun	9 Jun	10 Jun
Sunrise	0700	0700	0701
Sunset	1918	1918	1918
Moonrise	0458	0553	0604
Moonset	1735	1829	1929
Moon phase	Last quarter	New Moon	New Moon

METHOD10. Arty

DFs SOS JOYCE
 Star Shells if required.

18. Patrols(a) Recco

Coys will carry out constant daylight patrols fwd of their posns with the object of ascertaining if enemy is either vacating his fwd posts or forming up for an attack.

(b) Standing

Coys will ensure that engr parties, setting booby-traps, are protected by standing patrols.

ADM19. Amn

Coys will exercise strictest economy in use of amn and only fire if directly attacked and NOT because firing occurs in other areas.

21. Sund 1 day F O R 0/2 Reserve


INTERCOMN

23. LE All lines will be poled.

ACK

Issued by Hand

Signed at 072230 I


Lt
Adjt #23 Aust Inf Bn
(F T HEATON)

DISTRIBUTION

See List D

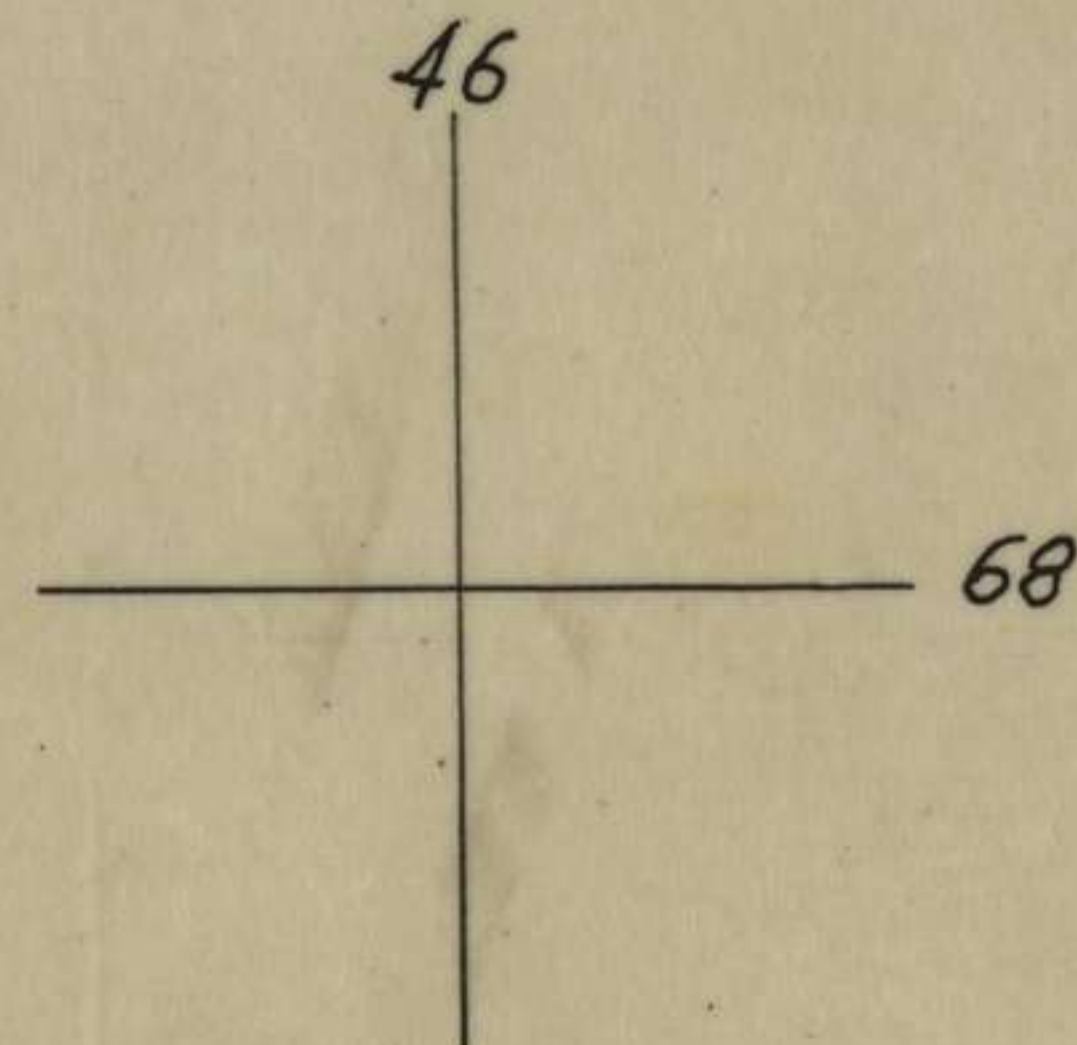
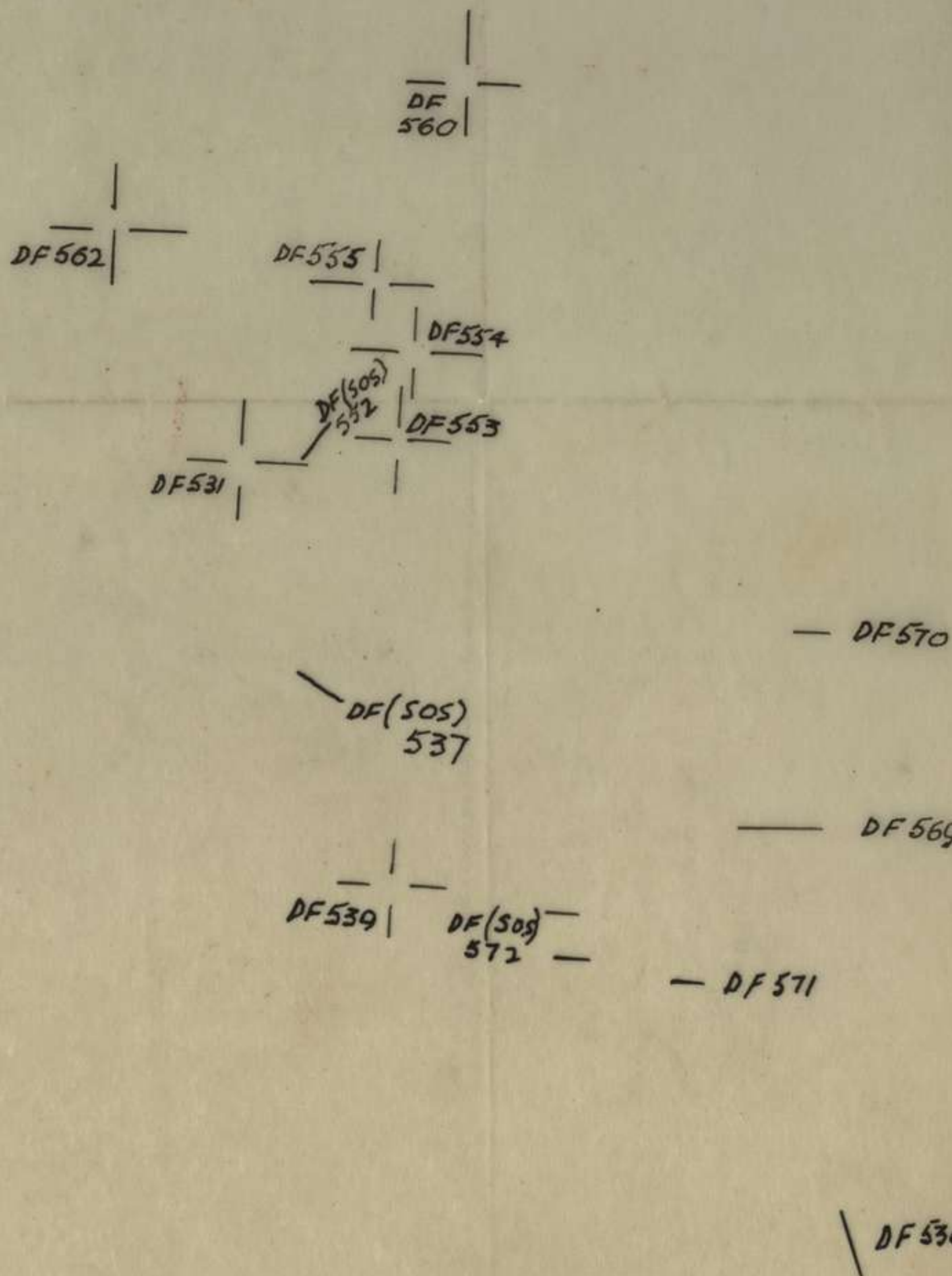
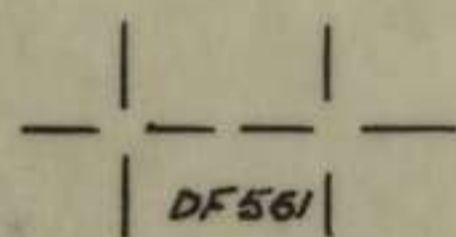
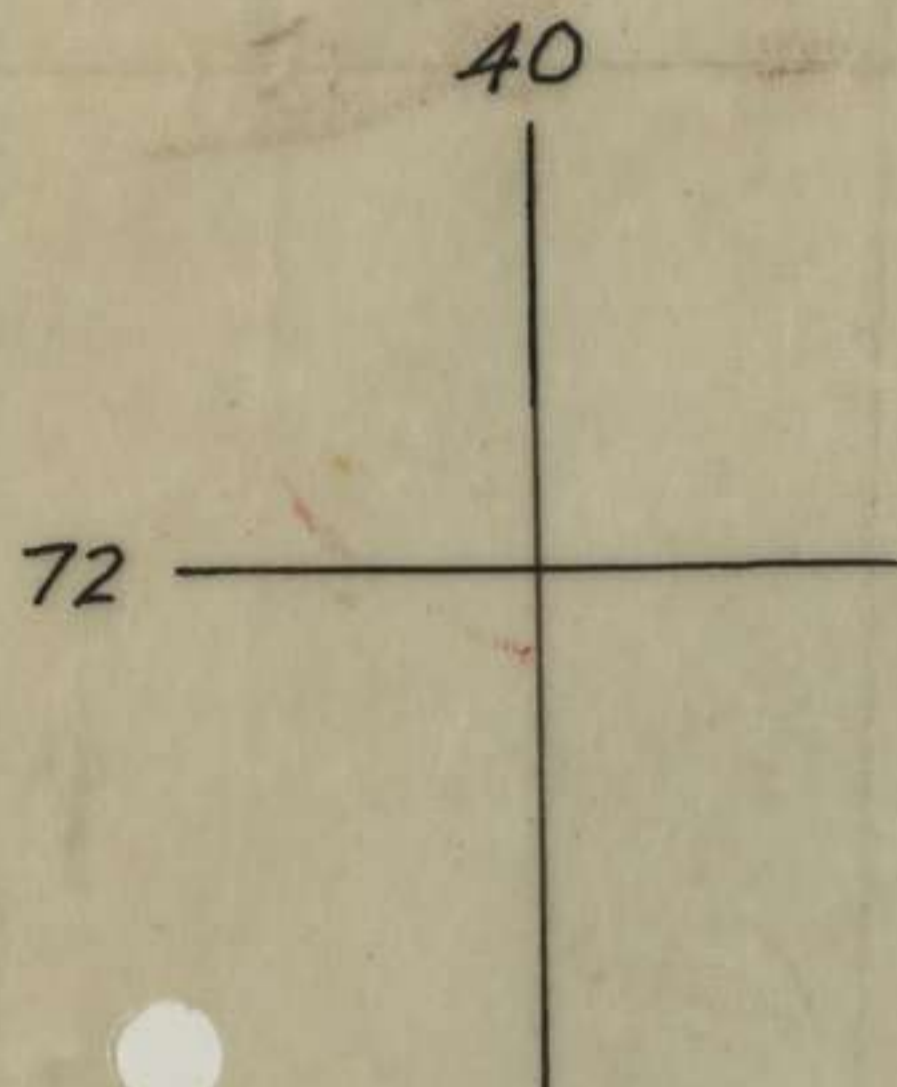
ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH
26 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN 2.

27 Aust Fd Regt DF TASKS

Ref Map TARAKAN ISLAND (Special)

Scale 1/25000

W.D.



OBSERVATION LOG

SECRET

By L. CPL R. OAKLEY
Pte G. BATCHELOR
MAP REF OF O.P. 4200 6886

From 071330 I
To 071930 I

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	DEDUCTION	ACTIONS TAKEN
1	1330	O.P. manned		Tac HQ adv
2	1425			NTR to Tac
3	1515			NTR to Tac
4	1515	From Tac. B Coy on MARGY reports raft with 2 persons on it, bearing 255° M between island & BORNEO		unable to observe owing to timber CRAZY RIDGE
5	1530	Mock attacks heard, unable to observe fire, no sound of enemy fire being returned		
6	1615			NTR to Tac
7	1710			NTR to Tac
8	1715	The action of our and enemy's arms heard, no signs of flashes or smoke, direction by sound HILDA 10.		
9	1755	Contact patrol from 16 pl, advised they will be making contact again first light 8 JUN 45		Tac advised
10	1810			NTR to Tac
11	1812	Mortar bomb (smoke) landed 200' North of OP approx 4200 6912		Tac HQ advised
12	1820	4 more smoke bombs in ck zone 4217 6920, uncounted number of HE bombs to the NORTH EAST unable to observe them fall	21/20 Brn ranging	Tac HQ advised
13	1905	Arty barrage on JHP HQ area, unable to observe		Tac advised
14	1908	Arty fire from B Coy unable to observe fire		Tac advised
15	1930	OP cloud down, visibility NIL		Tac HQ advised
16	2210	Arty star shells between JOYCE & STEVEN/2 NMS. See back for recommendations		Tac advised

The OP on the 195 feature can only observe on the NORTH side
of SOYCE. This feature prevents observation of the HQ area. Heavy
growth prevents view of ground. A search was conducted all afternoon, but
unable to locate JAP OP. It is strongly recommended that OP be
shifted along the 90 feature nearer to MARGY.

R. Oakley
G. Batchelor

OBSERVATION LOG

SECRET

By L. Cpl R. OAKLEY
Dtc G. BATCHELOR
MAP REF. OF O.P. 42006886

From 080645 I
To

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	DEDUCTIONS	ACTION TAKEN
17	0700	Hy rain starts,		noted
18	0615	Stand to, no visibility through glasses.		noted
19	0720			Tac advised NTR
20	0755	Contact patrol from 16 pl		Tac advised
21	0830	Down to hy rain, no visibility		Tac advised
22	0845	Down to small landslides, 5 booby traps on EAST side of 105 feature exploded.		noted
23	1000	NTR		Tac advised
24	1100	NTR		" "
25	1200	NTR		" "
26	1300	NTR		" "
27	1405	Movement seen at 42456896 MME sighted onto pens but no further movement seen		Tac HQ advised
28	1515	Mortars fired 3 smoke (ranging) and 11 HE, right on target		B Coy advised
29	1530	OC B Coy ordered patrol of 1 NCO & 7 ORs out to observe results		noted
30	1540	Let JARDINE in area, advised area is same as JUKI seen it, our patrol cancelled, and patrol from 12 pl will be leaving about 1640, mortar smoke and more fire tied up if JAP fires on our patrol		Tac HQ advised
31	1605	NTR		Tac advised
32	1700	NTR		" "
33	1805	NTR		" "
34	1830	12 pl patrol returns		
35	1845	3 smoke shells are 42206929 followed by HE	2/24 B Coy notified	Tac advised
36	1930	visibility NIL, OP closed down		Tac advised
37		75 m fired during night (some only) unable to observe when shells landed		" "

OBSERVATION

SECRET

By L. CAP R. OARBY
Pte G. BATCHELOR

From 0630 - 9 June
TO

MAP REF OF O.P. 42006886

SERIAL No	TIME	INFORMATION	DEDUCTION	ACTION TAKEN
38	0700	NTR night 8/9		Tac advanc
39	0900	NTR		" "
40	0915	contact patrol 16 pl am		" "
41	0945	75mm arty range on Joyce		" "
42	1000	searching gd arty falling in - otherwise NTR		" "
43	1100	NTR		" "
44	1200	NTR		" "
45	1300	NTR		" "
46	1335	Unable to see the effect of our arty fire on mms.		" "
47	1400	NTR		" "
48	1500	NTR		" "
49	1600	3 Mortars (smoke) bear 20° M falling at 422 693 area	2/24 Bw mortars	" "
50	1605	Mortars (HE) in same area unable to observe fall owing to dense timber		" "
51	1610	NTR		" "
52	1700	NTR		" "
53	1800	NTR		" "
54	1900	NTR - closing down for night.		" "
55	0330	10 JUN six enemy 75mm shells land on fwd slope 105 - fuel passing overhead		" "
56	0700	Report on enemy action night 9/10		" "
57	0800	NTR		" "
58	0815	contact patrol from 16 pl		" "
59	0900	NTR		" "
60	1015	arty on MARGY firing on JOYCE		" "
61	1100	NTR		" "
62	1230	C Coy 2/24 B contact patrol in tracks from BEECH 1. to 105 clear of enemy - NTR from O.P.		" "
63	1410	NTR		" "
64	1500	AUSTER drops Sarakom Jones on 105.		" "
65	1600	NTR		" "
66	1700	NTR		" "
67	1800	NTR		" "

JOYCE 4245 6895

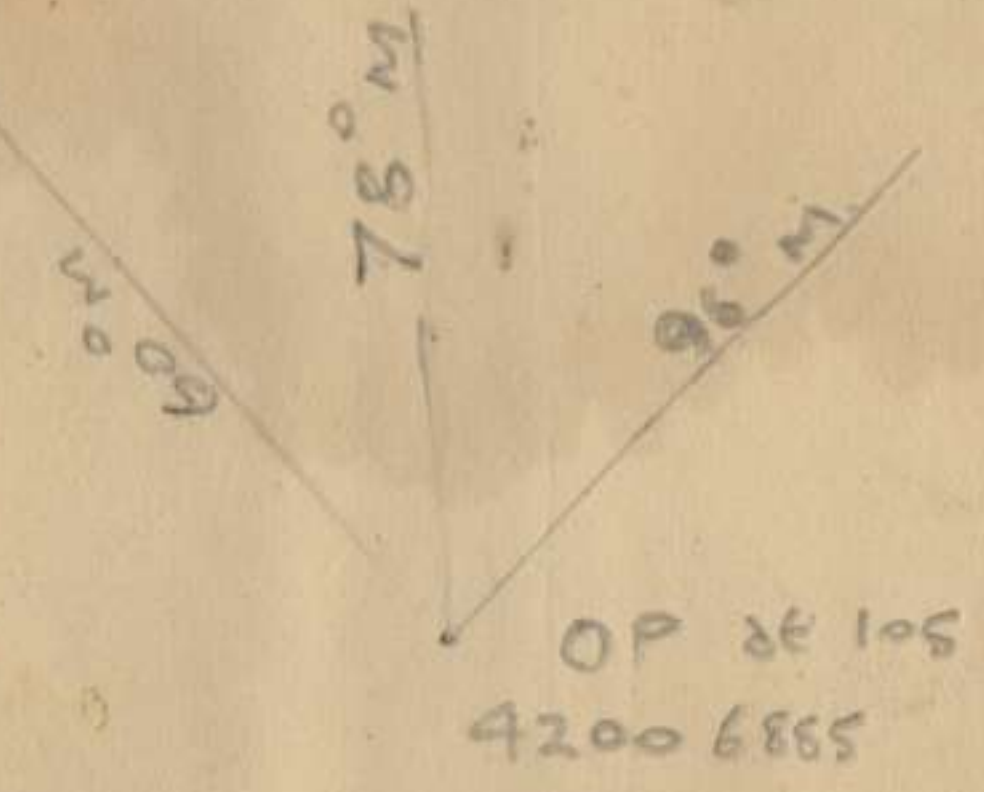
SECRET



Movement
081405 I

SEEN

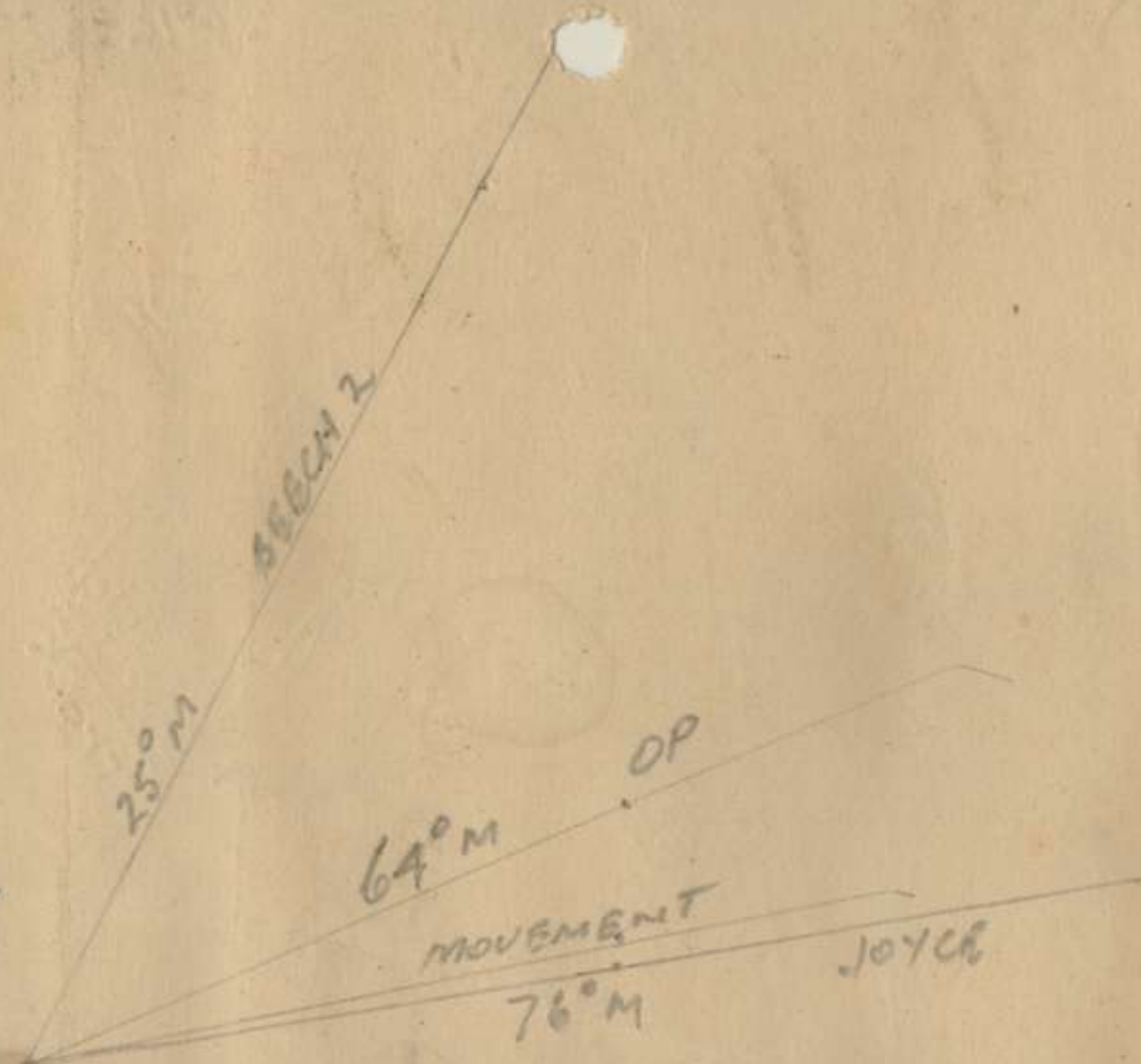
Possible
track



Light Good
Visibility Poor, owing to dense foliage
Time Taken 1 hour
Method Eye & Compass

PANORAMA VIEW OF JOYCE
FROM 105 FEATURE

By R. OAKLEY
 Int Sec
 2/23 Aust Int S
 7 JUN '45



SECRET

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
In the Field
10 Jun 45

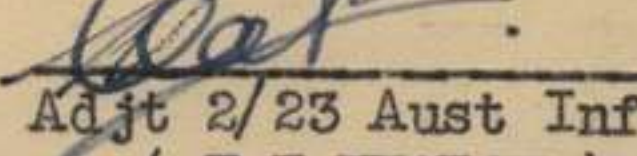
A Coy
B "
C "
D "
Tac HQ
Mortar Pl
War Diary
File

W.D

Subject : AIR STRIKE - FUKUKAKU AREA

1. A request has been submitted for eight sqns of B24s to strike the FUKUKAKU area.
2. Subject to any emergency operational requirements for another theatre, this strike will be made on 11 Jun 45, at a time to be fixed depending on the weather forecast.
3. Attached is trace showing the following details :-
 - (a) Targets and centre points.
 - (b) Line of fwd tps.
 - (c) Location of flourescent panels.
 - (d) Location of T panels.
 - (e) Line of run of bombers for respective targets.
4. It is proposed to use 2 sqns on each target.
5. The Air Sp Sec will be stationed at MARGY ONE in order to control the strike.
6. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will provide 3 mortar smoke as required by Air Sp Sec on each centre point.
7. The flourescent panels will be laid as follows :-
 - (a) On ELBOW and JANET by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 - (b) On FRED A by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.
8. T panels will be laid as follows :-
 - (a) On SNAGS TRACK by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 - (b) On COLLINS HIGHWAY by 26 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec.
9. The only adjustments in posn of fwd tps will be by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, which will withdraw its tps from MARGY TWO.

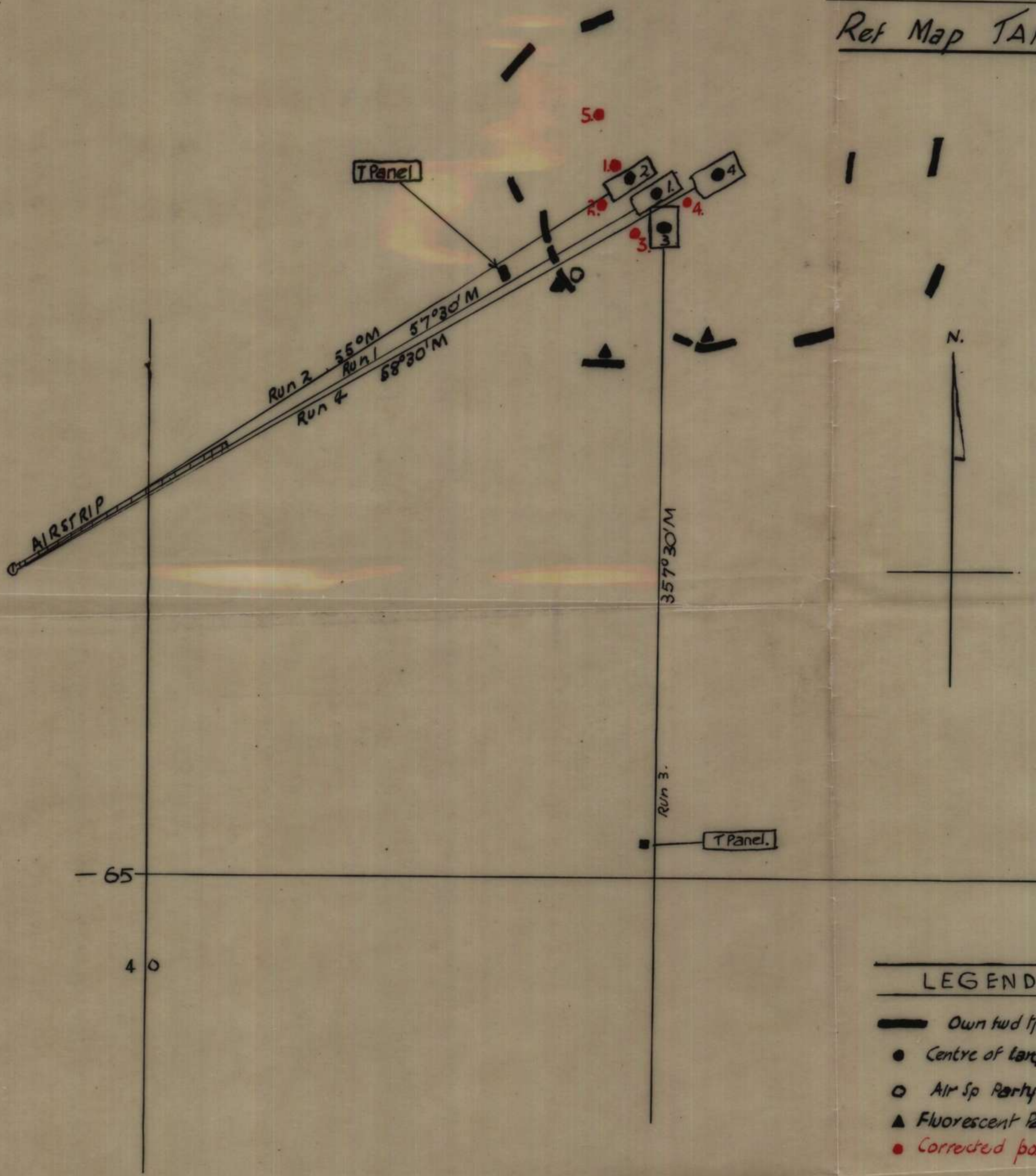
ACKNOWLEDGE


Lt
Adj t 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(F T HEATON)

52 MWA
 85/8
 14.01
 7.0023

Trace showing details for air-strike on
FUKUKAKU AREA

Ref Map TARAKAN SOUTH
 1:25000



LEGEND

- Own fwd lps
- Centre of target.
- Air Sp Party.
- ▲ Fluorescent Panel.
- Corrected posns of targets.

Int. Sec.
 2/23 Aust. Inf Bn
 10.6.45.

W.P.

2/23 AUST INF BN
ORDERS FOR 11 JUN 45

Ref Map : TARAAN SOUTH SPECIAL 1:25000

INFORMATION

1. AIR STRIKE

(a) Air strike will consist of 60 B24s on FUKUKAKU AREA and will commence at 0830 hrs 11 Jun 45.

(b) Order of attack on targets :

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

(c) Movement of Tps :

(i) ALL tps on MARGY TWO will withdraw to rear of MARGY.

(ii) 12 pl will withdraw 100 yds towards 105.

(iii) 3.7 AA Gun and crew will withdraw to WESTERN slope of ELBOW.

(iv) ALL tps to be in rear posn by 0815 hrs.

(v) Mortar pl will sup spasmodic covering fire, on call by Coy Comd, during withdrawal of fwd tps.

(d) Smoke :

(i) 2/23 Aust Inf Bn mortars will sup smoke indication on targets 1, 2, 3 and 4.

(ii) 2/24 Aust Inf Bn will sup smoke indication on target No 5.

(e) Signs :

(i) SO will ensure that the following lines are tested prior to 0730 hrs and maintained throughout airstrike.

TAC HQ to MARGY

MARGY to MORTARS at ELBOW

(ii) Direct line will be maintained between ASP on MARGY and 2/24 Aust Inf Bn during strike on target No 5.

(iii) T panel will be placed as indicated in instr issued for airstrike dated 10 Jun 45.

(f) Adm :

(i) QM will arrange for hot tea and sandwiches for 15 personnel (ASP) on MARGY by 0730 hrs.

(ii) RP Sjt will establish a check post as follows by 0715 hrs.

- 1. REST CAMP
- 2. WRECKED DUTCH PLANE

NO jeeps will be permitted past post No 2 other than official observers and ASP.

2. ACTION ON COMPLETION OF AIRSTRIKE

(a) Following airstrike 12 pl will attack and capture JOYCE.

(b) D Coy will move as previously ordered and be prepared to exploit JOYCE feature.

FIRE PLAN

The following supporting fire will be given to 12 pl.

...../ARTY

3. ARTY

(a) Indirect

Serial	Unit	From	To	Target	Rate of Fire	Type of Fire
1	2 guns	H hr	H plus 20	UMBRELLA TREE	1 rpm	HE
2	4 guns	H hr	H plus 20	JOYCE	1 rpm	HE

(b) Direct

Serial	Unit	From	To	Target	Rate of Fire	Type of Fire
1	2 guns	On call from H+20		JOYCE	On Call	HE

OFO will control fire from 12 pl.

4. MORTARS

Serial	Unit	From	To	Target	Rate of Fire	Type of Fire
1	3 dets	H hr	H plus 20	UMBRELLA TREE	1 rpm	HE
2	3 dets	On call from H plus 20		JOYCE	On call	HE

5. MGs

Serial	Unit	From	To	Target	Rate of Fire	Type of Fire
1	1 sec (105)	H hr	H plus 20	JOYCE	1/2 belt in 2 mins	
2	2/2 Pl MG Bn	H Hr	H plus 20	JOYCE	1/2 belt in 2 mins	

6. SAVES

Serial	Unit	From	To	Target	Rate of Fire	Type of Fire
1	14 Tp	H plus 20	On call	JOYCE LIZZIE (Top End)	slow	BESA

7. H HR

To be advised by LT.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Signed at 110400 I

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 Lt
 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 (F T HEMTON)

SECRET

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22 Jun 45

2/23 AUST INF BN - OO NO 4

OBOE ONE

Ref Maps : TARAKAN SOUTH SPECIAL 1:25,000
TARAKAN NORTH SPECIAL 1:25,000

INFM.

1. Enemy

- (a) Organised resistance by the enemy as a force has ceased.
- (b) The force has broken into separate gps operating independently throughout the island.
- (c) Estimated effective strength - 250.

2. Likely Enemy Action

- (a) Each gp is likely to continue resistance.
- (b) Attempts may be made to escape from the island.
- (c) Isolated gps in search of food may attempt to enter bivouac, camp or garden areas.

3. Own Tps

Sectors of Responsibility :

- (a) The island has been divided into four sectors.
See Appx "A" att.

SECTOR	RESPONSIBILITY
WILLIAM	2/24 Aust Inf Bn Gp
X - RAY	2/23 Aust Inf Bn Gp
YOKE	2/48 Aust Inf Bn Gp
ZEBRA	2/3 Aust Pnr Bn Gp

(b) Tps in support

Two tps C Sqn 2/9 Aust Armd Regt.
13 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt.

(c) Tps on Call

One Bty 53 Aust Comp A A Regt.

INTENTION

4. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will patrol and destroy enemy in X-RAY sector.

METHOD

5. Summary of Ops

- (a) Coys are allotted areas of responsibility.
(b) Vigorous patrolling in these areas for the purpose of mopping up and security.

6. Sectors of Responsibility

Coy sectors are allotted as per Appx "A".

7. Patrols

- (a) Coy sectors have been sub-divided and numbered. These will be patrolled according to the plan of the day.
(b) Route.
As dictated by terrain in patrol sector.
(c) Strength.
1 NCO 5 ORs (minimum)
(d) Tasks
(i) Contact and destroy enemy.
(ii) Protect all vital installations within coy area of responsibility.
(iii) Report all topographical infm, re tracks etc.
(iv) Report and investigate any signs of enemy movement and recent occupations.
(v) Report all enemy eqpt and food dumps.
(e) Written reports will be forwarded to reach this HQ NOT later than 1900 hrs daily.
(f) Fighting patrols, str 1 offr 10 ORs will be required and will operate as directed by this HQ.

8. Arty.

One POC and party 13 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt will remain at Bn HQ and be prepared to move out to coys as required.

9. MMGs.

1 sec under comd C Coy.
Pl HQ and 1 sec SESANIP RD - 414683.

10. Mortars

3 dets under comd C Coy
Pl HQ and 3 dets SESANIP RD - 418685

- 11. Pnrs. - Bn HQ
 - (a) Available to coys for improvement of tracks in coy sector.
 - (b) Constructional works within Bn area.

ADM.

- 12. Rations. Normal
- 13. Water. "
- 14. Amn. "
- 15. Native Labour. "
- 16. Medical.
 - (a) RAP - 404695
 - (b) ADS - 417683

- 17. Hygiene.
 - (a) Special effort will be made to prevent fly and mosquito breeding in coy sectors.
 - (b) Hygiene Sjt will visit coys once every second day.
 - (c) QM to arrange disinfectant as required.

- 18. Enemy Dead.

All bodies of enemy dead will be searched for identification, buried and the map ref of the grave, together with the identification will be forwarded to this HQ.

- 19. Enemy Eqpt.

All enemy weapons, amn, food or other eqpt likely to be of value to the enemy will be salvaged. Where it is not practicable to bring in this salvage this HQ will be notified of all details.

INTER COMM.

- 20. LT.
 - (a) Line will be laid to all coys.
 - (b) Line will be used for special patrols as directed by this or Coy HQ.

- 21. WT.

108 sets

22. Password.

As issued by Int Sec separately.

23. Synchronization

By sig 0700 hrs daily.

ACK.

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Signed at 221200... I
Issued to Sigs at 221200.. I

Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Lt
(F T HEATON)

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List "D" Restricted

		<u>D.O</u>	<u>Appx A Copy No</u>
A Coy	Copy No 1	1	1
B "	2	1	1
C "	3	1	1
D "	4	1	1
HQ "	5	1	1
CO	6	1	1
Adjt	7	1	1
IO	8	1	1
RMO	9	1	1
RSM	10	1	1
26 Aust Inf Bde	11	1	1
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	12	1	1
2/48 " " "	13	1	1
2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	14	1	1
C Sqn 2/9 Aust Armd Regt	15	1	1
13 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt	16	1	1
53 Aust Comp AA Regt	17	1	1
War Diary	18	1	1
File	19	1	1
Spare	20	1	1

SECRET

Copy No. 18.....

2/23 AUST INF BN

22 Jun 45

PLANS OF THE DAY - 23 JUN 45

(To be read in conjunction with 2/23 Aust
Inf Bn - O.O. NO 4.)

1. patrols.

A Coy	Sectors	1, 4 and 5.
B "	"	1, 2, 4 and 5.
C "	"	1, 2, 3, and 4.
D "	"	1, 2, 4 and 6.
HQ "	"	1, 2 and 3.

2. Adm.

Tracks leading to Coy areas will be improved.

ACK

Issued through Sigs

Signed at 221200 I

Issued to Sigs at 221200 I

Heaton Lt
Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(F T HEATON)

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As for O.O. NO 4.

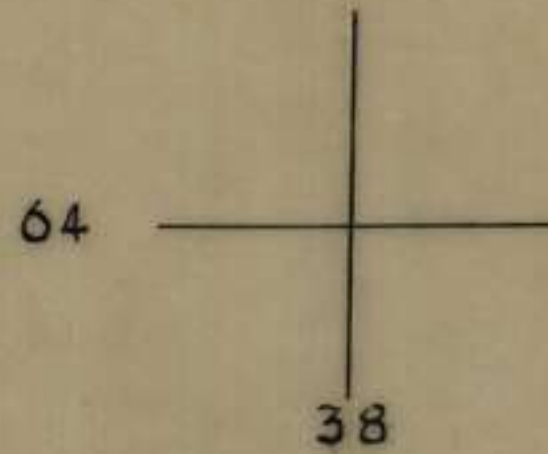
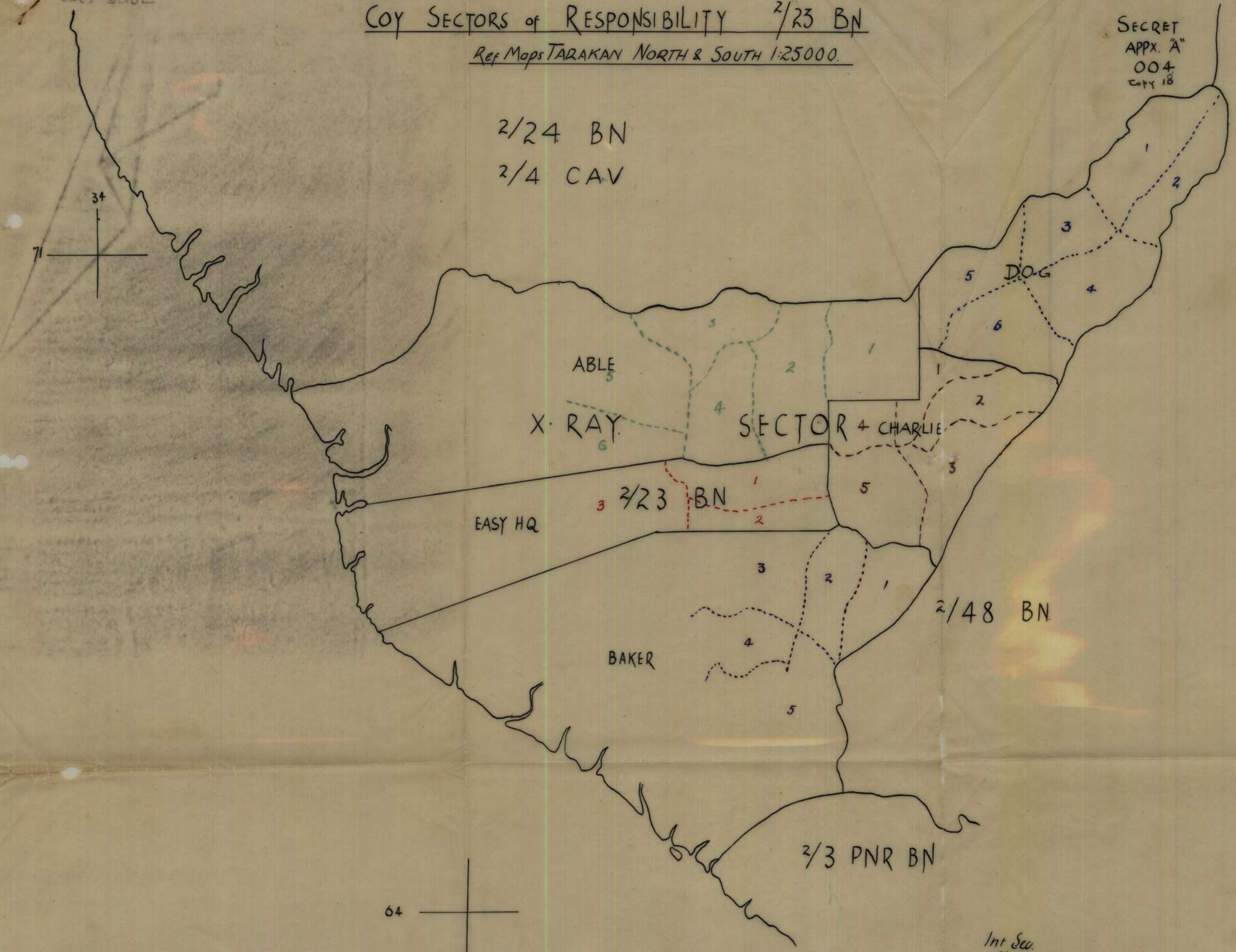
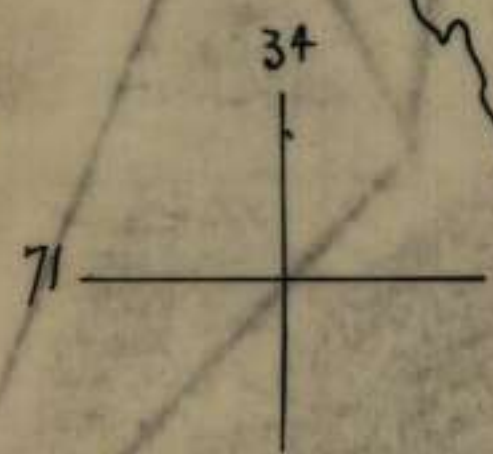
52 MWA
8/2/53
Zone 1002

COY SECTORS of RESPONSIBILITY 2/23 BN

Ref Maps TARAKAN NORTH & SOUTH 1:25000.

SECRET
APPX. "A"
004
copy 18

2/24 BN
2/4 CAV



Int Sec.
2/25 Aust Inf Bn
22 Jun 45.

SECRET WD

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

3 Jun 45

REVIEW OF ATTACK ON 'MARGY'

At 310830 I D Coy withdrew from their posns in readiness for the air-strike, mortars being used to cover the moves. To prevent enemy from occupying our posns, Engrs had laid booby-traps on all approaches.

The air-strike on MARGY commenced at 0930 I with 17 LIBERATORS dropping 102 one thousand pound bombs. This was followed by 16 MITCHELLS in a low level attack with delayed action bombs. Strike was completed at 1045 I when 15 LIGHTNINGS had dropped NAPALM bombs.

Mortars engaged targets on MARGY whilst the Coy moved back into their posns. At 1100 I 17 Pl commenced their attack. The first sec passed through 16 Pl area and advanced SOUTH along 90 ridge towards MARGY. The track led along the top of a razor-back saddle, and it was possible only for one man to move at a time, and 1 LMG could have held up any advance from this direction.

As the track rose to the first pimple 42226860 movement, which was necessarily slow, was hindered by fallen timber covering the top of the ridge. It was found to be unoccupied and the remainder of the Pl followed up quickly, enabling the forward sec to continue. The sec was just clearing 1, when an enemy LMG, sighted to cover the top of the ridge between the two pimples, opened fire from No 2 pimple 42266856, posn preventing any further advance from this direction. This posn was engaged with LMG fire, whilst a sec from 17 Pl moved along the WESTERN side of the ridge, and approached No 3 pimple 42266854 from the WEST by slowly working up a very steep slope. Posns in this area were quickly overcome by the use of grenades. Leaving a holding party on 3, remainder of the sec worked back towards 2 and finally from a posn on top of the pimple cleaned out this strong-point by throwing down grenades. Pl then mopped up enemy in tunnels and foxholes in this area with grenades and automatic fire. The enemy appeared to be still dazed from the bombing, though some enemy fought with stubborn resistance before they were overcome. Quickly re-organising, Pl again continued their advance and 16 Pl moved up to to No 1 to form a firm base.

As soon as the forward elements moved over the top of No 3, they came under heavy LMG fire from area of No 4 pimple 42296846. Coy Comd then ordered 18 Pl to attack MARGY, while 17 Pl worked forward along the ridge. 18 Pl advanced up the road, with 1 sec forward. Leaving the road at 42306845, the forward sec reached the bottom of the MARGY feature at 42366844, when they were fired on by a JUKI on the EASTERN side of 4 pimple. This weapon was sighted to cover a bare patch between 4 pimple and MARGY and which had to be crossed to reach their objective. Realizing that it was impossible to advance, the Pl Comd withdrew the sec to 42286845. Here LMG group covered the MARGY feature, whilst the remainder worked forward up onto 4.

At the same time a sec of 17 Pl slowly crept forward along the ridge, cleaning out foxholes with grenades and OSMGs, as they advanced. Finally personnel from both pls got on top of the pimple, and threw down grenades. Unable from here to properly overcome the posns, tps moved forward onto the enemy posns. With a concerted action the posns were overcome with grenades and SA fire.

16 Pl immediately pushed forward onto MARGY without opposition. Orders for consolidation were quickly given. 17 Pl in area pimples 2 - 4, 16 Pl plus two secs 18 Pl on MARGY, 18 Pl less two secs original posn. The time was then 1830 I. Quickly digging in, Coy had obtained cover by last light.

During night 31/01 any movement was engaged with grenades, as there has been no time for mopping up. During the morning 1 Jun, final mopping up took place, and by lunch-time, area had been cleared. Engrs used explosives and flame-throwers on tunnels and bunkers, and in these operations, 20 enemy were killed and 1 wounded PW taken. Other enemy were buried in tunnels as they were sealed.

GROUND

A razor-back ridge of average width 6 ft links 105 to MARGY. Ground falls very sharply away on EAST and WEST sides. A narrow foot-pad ran along the EASTERN slopes of the ridge from 42236865 to 42366845 linking all foxholes, bunkers and tunnels. This enabled the enemy to move along his line of defences without being observed from the WEST by our tps.

DEFENCES ON 'MARGY'

1. Observation

An observation and snipers' post consisting of a wooden platform approx 6 ft x 4 ft in the fork of a large tree approx 50 ft from the ground. Iron spikes driven into the trunk formed a ladder.

2. Haulage

A block and tackle together with some pulleys found near a heavy wire cable attached to two heavy trees, was possibly used for hauling stores and heavy equipment up to a point on the main feature at 42216861.

3. Earth-works

Tunnels were strongly constructed of sawn and rough timber throughout the top of the ridge with firing posns from well concealed openings to the WEST and were invulnerable to SA fire. Captured 75 mm gun was used to good effect on them from ELBOW ridge. From these posns all approaches from the WEST and NORTH-WEST from the direction of 105 were well covered. Foxholes in this area consisted of the normal type used by the Jap, many had head coverings constructed of sawn timber and earth.

4. Effects of Airstrike

The effects of the air-strike was great. The objectives were cleared of most of the standing timber, making observation good. Falls of earth caused by the bombing exposed many posns which would have previously been hard to locate.

The accuracy of the strike was extremely good, ASP report 90% of the bombs fell on the target.

Strike took one hour to complete. Failure of one LIBERATOR to bomb and its subsequent runs caused a lag of 15 mins between the LIBERATOR and MITCHELL strikes.

It appears that some of the enemy did not attempt to resist, apparently demoralized by the severity of the strike. This is borne out by the fact that many live enemy remained in tunnels all night, and took no offensive action either during the night or in mopping up operations next morning.

GENERAL

The following ammunition was used by D Coy in the attack and consolidation of the feature :-

194	grenades
3500	9 mm
6050	.303 (by Brens)

Cas inflicted by D Coy in the attack and consolidation :-

36 killed

In operations by this Bn prior to this date approx 80 enemy were

- 3 -

killed in this area. In addition many have been killed by bombing and supporting fire.

Lt
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(J L BOARD)

ENEMY DEF POSN MARGY

Ref Map TARAKAN SOUTH 1: 5000 (Dutch)

LEGEND

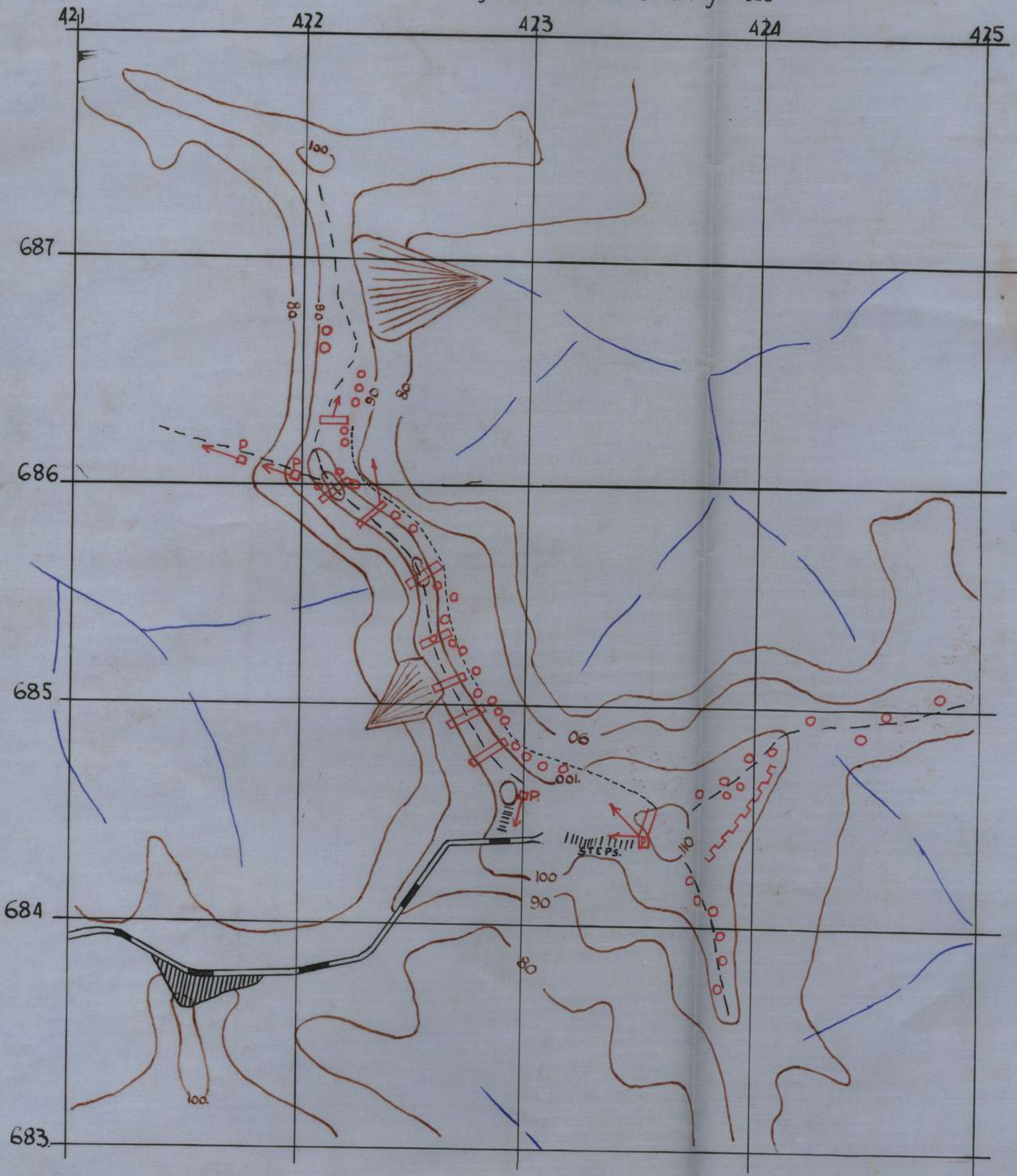
Pillbox □
Tunnel —

Foxholes ○
Trench ⋈

RF 1: 1970.

NOTE

Arcs of fire from def. posns difficult to determine owing to air strike clearing trees



SCALE 1 inch = 50 metres

50 0 50 100 200 metres.

Contours in metres