

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

Item number: 8/2/18

18 Infantry Brigade

July - August 1941

18 AUST INF BDE
(47 LAD app)

123

TOBRUK

JUL 41

PERSONNEL

HONOURS AND
AWARDS

Official announcement was made of 12 decorations for gallantry when in the TOBRUK area by Bde personnel. Of these there were 3 MCs, 2 DCMs, and 6 MMs.

18 AUST INF BDE
JUL 41

INTELLIGENCE

INTELLIGENCE
SUMMARIES

of 18 Aust Inf Bde app.

18 AUST INF BDE
JUL 41

MAPS

TOBRUK (2)	1:100,000
EL ADEM	1:50,000
"	1:100,000
TOBRUK DEFENCES	1:50,000
TOBRUK	1:500,000

FEB 2 1942

app 47 LAD 123



Army Form C. 2118.

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK	JULY.1.		The weapon training course for Bde HQ personnel was finished today. As petrol restrictions were eased instructions were issued permitting the use of MT for the conveyance of personnel to the beaches for the purposes of swimming.	
	JULY.2.		It was quiet throughout the day and although ships were seen in the harbour and enemy recon aircraft flew over the fortress there was no bombing.	
	3.		As the Bde is shortly to occupy the Southern sector the Brigadier accompanied by Brig Comd, 24 Bde made a recon of the new front during the morning. In the afternoon Brig Murray, acting Fortress Comd, called on Brig Wootten. BM attended final conference in respect to 3 Armd Bde Exercise. There was still ships in the harbour discharging cargo but there were no airraids. Camouflage Course was commenced in TOBRUCH and selected personnel from the Bde incl 3 from Bde HQ attended. At 2100 hrs advanced parties 12 Bn moved into line on 32 Bn front <i>between EL ADEN Rd + Salient.</i>	<i>(asked EL ADEN Rd)</i>
	4.		9 Bn relieved 43 Bn on night 3/4 July. Enemy kept up mortar fire for three hrs at the rate of 1 bomb every 3 minutes causing casualties (1 OR killed 1 OR wounded) There was heavy enemy shelling during the afternoon and in the late afternoon and evening there were dive bombing attacks on the town and harbour area. Bde HQ was moved to 40954297.	
	5.		During the night 4/5 Jul 12 Bn relieved 32 Bn completing by 0145 hrs and 10 Bn relieved 28 Bn also completing by 0145 hrs. Both these reliefs were carried out without accident despite slight enemy shelling and mortar fire. Capt Coleman was the only officer to remain behind when Bde HQ moved at about 1830 hrs 4 Jul. and remained till Bn reliefs were completed. He then came on to the new HQ. During the day further holes holes were made in the roof of the large cave in which the orderly room and I Office had been established. This work which was carried out by the 7 Fd Coy with the aid of pneumatic drills greatly improved the lighting and ventilation. Enemy arty fire was intense covering the three main exits from Tobruk. It is believed that the enemy has become nervous as a result of (a) our engineers picking up 1000 yds of his mines at a point 2000 yds outside the perimeter (b) increased harbour activity (c) numerous recon by Officers prior to the reliefs mentioned above, and (d) the use of w/T during recent tank exercises.	
	6		ENEMY shelling considerably diminished. A fair quantity of canteen stores arrived today being distributed at the rate of 4oz tobacco, some Chocolates and a toothbrush per man.	
	7.		Capt Parry-Okeden and Lieut Kent exchanged jobs temporarily. Brigadier Wootten accompanied by Lieut Marshall visited HQ 9, 10, 12 Bns.	

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUCH	Jul. 8		<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Carried out a harassing shot.</i></p> <p>Quiet day and night . MG's of LRNF's combined with arty and the 9 Bn in an attack on FIGTREE area.. BM visited 9 and 10 Bns and inspected their areas.</p> <p>9 Orders were given for the relief of the 9 Bn by the 10 Bn , advance parties moving in tonight. Brig. Wootton accompanied by Lieut Stephenson made recon of center and left coys of 12 Bn including four perimeter posts - two fwd and two rear. In morning from 0630 hrs onwards considerable enemy MT movement was seen in the SOUTH. 130 vehs moving from WEST to EAST and later 45 from EAST to WEST . Subsequently some armd cars and some motor cycles were seen. It is thought possible that enemy were making a recon it having been previously rumoured that General Romell had returned to Germany and that an Italian General had taken his place. Camouflage course was extended for a further week for those personnel showing promise and enthusiasm.. BM went in evening to 9 Bn to carry out a close recon with this right side on right <i>of enemy Bde boundary on S.E. of Salient</i></p> <p>10 G.O.C Major General Morshead called on the Brigadier. Canteen stores to the extent of 7½ pt worth of sweets etc were distributed.</p> <p>11 During the night 10/11 Jul 10 Bn relieved 9 Bn , the latter becoming reserve Bn. This relief was effected without incident.</p> <p>12 During the night 11/12 two 12 Bn patrols with arty support surprised the enemy and inflicted 50-60 casualties. These casualties were in addition to those which must have been caused by arty and MG fire. They also took five Pw . Our own casualties were 10 ffr 9 ORs wounded and 3 OR's missing. The right of the 10 Bn was heavily shelled.</p> <p>13. The sector was quiet and our patrols continued to plot posns of enemy minefields and to remove enemy mines 10 Bn right was lightly shelled. Official announcement was made of 12 decorations for gallantry when in the TOBRUCH area by Bde personnel. Of these there were 3 MC's, two DCM's and 6 MM's. (</p> <p>14. Normal patrol activities continue. More enemy mines being removed. 10 Bn area was again shelled. In the harbour area there was again some shelling by enemy guns and some bombs were dropped by EA which have lately adopted the method of using singly aircraft at frequent intervals throughout the night.</p> <p>15. The G.O.C. Maj.Gen. Morshead made a personal call on the Brigadier. Patrolling last night was normal and enemy shelling of 10 Bn area heavier. WADI AUDA was shelled by enemy A.A gun and some damage was done to two MC's and two MT, of the 47 LAD. There were no casualties. In consequence of this the LAD has been moved to a posn further EAST. During the night the enemy introduced the use of searchlights to hamper our patrols, and were in some degree quite successful.</p>	<p>See Routine Order No 325. App A.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>28</i></p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUCH.	JULY 15	.(CONT)	<p>XXXXXXXXXXXX . It is interesting to note that between 10 April and today there have been 199 daylight raids with the use of bombs , 146 recesses close enough to be engaged and 137 night raids. The harbour was again shelled.</p> <p>16. Our patrols were out constantly throughout the night but No contact was made with the ENEMY. Our tps have undisputed command of NO MAN'S LAND and in consequence the morale of our patrols is very high.</p> <p>17. The night 16/17 Jul saw considerable activity in the 18 Bde sector. The "Bush" arty fired 749 rounds into square 403420 where 10 Bn patrols had extended observed sangars and dugouts occupied by the enemy. No results could be observed from this shoot but the use of numerous flares showed that the enemy were on the alert against another raid. The 12 Bn sent out two fighting patrols with support from A/E Bty 1 RHA and 12 guns <i>MGs</i> 1 RNF and engaged 2 LMG posts and 20 men about 408418. It is believed considerable casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Our casualties were Lt. STEDDY and 4 ORs wounded, one seriously.</p> <p>18. The night 17/18 July saw a lot of activity in the MEDAUUAR Sector where patrols from 28 Bn, 18 Cav and SS tps raided enemy strongposts and inflicted casualties estimated at 200. All was quiet on the 18 Bde front and our patrols were confined to recesses of the enemy positions and minefields.. Maj. Gen. Morshead called this afternoon to see Brig. Wootten and discussed particulars of the raid planned by 10 Bn for tomorrow night.</p> <p>19. During last night a small patrol of 1 Offr (Lieut D. Tweedie) and 4 OR's of 10 Bn visited FIGTREE (40304240) and engaged enemy in 4 sangars with bayonets and hand grenades . It is estimated that at least 20 enemy were killed and 10 wounded before heavy DF forced our patrol to withdraw. This was accomplished without casualties but some members of the patrol damaged their feet as the raid was carried out without foot-wear.</p> <p>Orders were received today that Capt. I. D. Hayward, SC 18 Bde was to return to 10 Bn and resume Regimental duties, and also that Capt. Parry-Okeden, TO 18 Bde was to return to 9 Bn. Capt. S. H. Good, Bde I.O. was today called to 9 Aust Div for an indefinite period. Lieut Roberts who has been serving as TO 9 Bn is to become Bde TO and Lieut Kent, formerly SC learner is to take over the duties of SC.</p> <p>During the night 18/19 Jul 9 Bn relieved 12 Bn in the line, the latter moving back to reserve posn. This relief was carried out without incident.</p> <p>20. Two fighting patrols from 10 Bn during the night attacked enemy posns in vicinity of FIGTREE and inflicted casualties est at 50-60. Our casualties were 1 Offr (Lieut ELLENBY) and 6 OR's wounded. Under instructions from 9 Div there was a "practice standto" at 1750 hrs. Order to stand down was received at 2025hrs. An allotment of canteen stores to the value of 16 Pt was issued to every man in the Bde . Sgt. Forward of 18 Bde <i>Hg</i> today reported to staging Camp en route for OCTU, Cairo.</p>	

BR

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

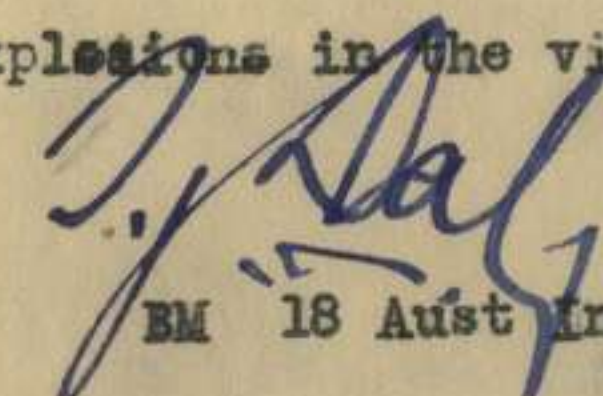
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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUCH.	Jul 21.		Patrols throughout the night continued to make recess of enemy dispositions and minefields. No contact was made with the enemy. Orders were received today that owing to restrictions on petrol there were to be no more swimming parades even from the Res Bde area.	
	22.		The situation remains quiet in 18 Bde sector. Normal patrolling activity with no contact with enemy. A warning order was received today to the effect that 20 Bde will relieve 18 Bde in SOUTHERN sector. Interchange of Comd to take place at 0300 hrs night 26/27 Aug.	
	23.		The second practice "Standto" under 9 Div orders took place this morning at 0406 hrs. Our fwd tps reported an increase in enemy patrolling during the night 22/23 Jul.	
	24.		Today Capt. I. D. Hayward relinquished duties as SC and returned to Regimental duties with 10 Bn. He was succeeded by Lieut Kent. Our patrols were out throughout the night in continuance of the policy of vigorous and incessant patrolling, but NO contact was made with the enemy.	
	25.		During the night 10 Bn was relieved without incident by 13 Bn and moved to PILASTRINO area. 10 Bn came u/c 20 Bde and 13 Bn u/c 18 Bde.	
	26.		The 9 Bn were relieved during the night by 17 Bn and with the completion of this relief the Comd of the SOUTHERN sector passed to 20 Bde. The Brigadier and BM remained until 0300 hrs when they handed over and rejoined the remainder of Bde HQ who had moved to the PW cage the previous afternoon.	
	27.		The 12 Bn was relieved by 15 Bn during the night and this completed the interchange of the Bdes. Following on the policy laid down by 9 Aust Div rear Bde HQ was established at 41434314 which will now become the reserve Bde rear HQ. Swimming parades were held in the morning and afternoon.	
	29.		Lieut. Roberts P.C.G. former TO 9 Bn and previously C/MS Bde HQ commenced duties as TO Bde HQ.	
	30.		Capt. Parry-Okeden W.N. having relinquished duties as TO Bde HQ, returned to 9 Bn from which he had been seconded when first coming to Bde HQ.	
	31.		OP(s) reported that RAF bombers started fires from which there were loud explosions in the vicinity of ACROMA.	


 Maj.
 BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

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WAR DIARY

or

47 LAD

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUCH	Jul 3.		<p>Meeting of all AAOC personnel attached to Bde. Staff Capt points out their responsibilities as part of the service and that they are attached to Bde to help and advise Bde on their arms, weapons, vehicles etc. I point out that weapons and vehicles have been having a hard time and it is up to us as Ordnance to keep at them so as to keep them all serviceable. It is pointed out that any defect or maltreatment must be reported immediately so that steps can be taken to prevent this occurring again.</p> <p>4. Brigade go into line.</p> <p>5. I arrange to leave LAD workshop where it is and go forward with B Ech. with Breakdown lorry and 2 fitters. This because area that Bde is operating is subject to sandstorms with no protection from them.</p> <p>9. Five vehicles recovered from our own minefields in four days. Complain to IO.</p> <p>10. Start inspection of vehicles and submit all reports of those requiring rings to S.O.M.E. Explain that if rings obtainable LAD could put 97% cars and trucks in running order for say 2000 more miles. NO rings on hand. Bde being more or less static, no serious consequent as only 15% are US through oiling up and can be used in short bursts as when changing over.</p> <p>15. Now Recoveries and W'shops have moved out, I tell S.O.M.E by bringing say 1 or 2 fitters from Battalions to LAD and leaving the Bn mechanics to carry out minor repairs, the LAD should be able to do all the repairs except the major smashes.</p> <p>17. Impossible to work in forward areas, all work adjusting and otherwise has to be sent back to rear. Dust is terrific.</p> <p>18. Rings are still being waited for and those trucks oiling up are being parked in LAD area as US, so as to preserve the bearings. A case of 100 sets of rings would go a long way to put the vehicles of the Tobruk area in good condition.</p> <p>19. M.160 is being used for motors instead of M220. This has been going on for two months and is no doubt one of the causes of early breakdown of motors. Oiling up and bearing trouble is becoming more acute. S.O.M.E issue instructions to use 50-50 M160 / M600 for bad cases but this is of NO benefit.</p> <p>20. Inspection of Bn vehicles shows that apart from those with ring and bearing trouble that considering the work they have done and the conditions under which they have worked they are in very fair order. All vehicles requiring attention other than rings are being withdrawn and serviced by LAD.</p>	

(3110) W 1764 1600m 12/89 BPL 5175634 Forms C2118/22

WAR DIARY

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TOBRUCH	Jul. 20. 25. 26. 27.		<p>LAD rear area shelled and has moved to area vacated by No. 6 recovery.</p> <p>Bde now on reserve and fwd Bde moved back but rear remains as it is expected that the Bde will go into the line again in a few days. Another vehicle on one of our own minefields.</p> <p>Bn armourers advised to go right through their respective Bn weapons and to report any defects to Bde armourer whom will assist wherever possible.</p> <p>Rear Bde moved to new position. LAD remain at their posn at rear, with rear Bde are OC and B'down van.</p>	

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SECRET.

5 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 75.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

The relief of 24 Aust Inf Bde by 18 Aust Inf Bde in the PILASTRINO sector was completed last night when 2/12 Bn relieved 2/32 Bn on the left flank, and 2/10 Bn relieved 2/28 Bn in reserve. The relief of 2/43 Bn by 2/9 Bn on the right flank was completed on night 3/4 Jul. Last night's reliefs were carried out without incident.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. (Based on reports of following patrols.)

- (a) 2/9 Bn :- Pt 40494206 - enemy heard driving in stakes.
Pt 40354232 - enemy heard digging.
- (b) 2/12 and 2/32 Bns :- About SIX enemy on EL ADEM Rd tried to cut off a recce patrol which had gone out 3000 yds SOUTH from R 43.
- (c) N M S :- (i) From R 11 to pt 40054263 to 39994268 and return to R 15.
(ii) From R 17 to 40294245 for 2000 yds along front to R 17.
(iii) From R 21 to pt 40414245 for 2000 yds along front and return to R 21.
(iv) From R 37 to 40424229 where patrol split. Rt party to pt 40384234 and return to R 25. Lt party to 40474222.
(v) From R 29 to pt 40444228 where patrol split. Rt party to 40414233 and return to R 27. Lt party to 40684221 and return to R 27.
(vi) Standing patrol 1000 yds fwd of R 43.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Active patrolling but NO contact with enemy.

4. OWN AIR ACTIVITY.

One of our patrols reported that some of our aircraft appeared to be bombing EL ADEM aerodrome at 0145 hrs this morning.

Al Marshall Lewis
for Capt.
I.O. 18 Aust Inf Bde.

6 Jul 43.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 76.

From information received up to 1600 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

Enemy arty activity has been much lighter than usual, and there has been NO enemy ground activity.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Nil.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

2/12 Bn reports :-

- (a) An all day standing patrol at 43474130 approx saw 30 enemy trucks early in morning moving from EAST to WEST on road under EL AEMH escarpment. Dust storm from 1300 hrs onwards prevented further visibility over 100 yds.
- (b) Night patrol to 4164190 and return saw SIX enemy inf moving NORTH along EL AEMH Rd.

2/9 Bn reports :-

- (a) Night patrol met minefield at 40224245 - ONE row anti-personnel on our side then TWO rows of TELLER, then wire on enemy side. Field was followed 450 yds to 4024215 whence enemy working party withdrew.
- (b) At 4016412 minefield was met. Well defined furrow marked fwd edge then 2 ft behind is row of S type mines, then 14 paces farther back is double row of TELLER mines 4 ft apart, then approx wire fence. TWO occupied weapon pits were observed behind wire, one containing A/DK gun or long-barrelled M G. Wire was also patrolled, the being apparently ITALIAN. (This confirms previously established minefield).
- (c) Working party heard near pt 40564212 - sound of hammering and hand drilling near Pt 174. Saw weapon pits facing EAST at 40224201. At 40244192 patrol found SIX weapon pits filled with baskets containing shells of A/A type. TOOLS, clothing, ITALIAN equipment were lying about. One of pits was gun post and approx 40 shell cases were adjacent. Patrol found minefield running parallel with road about pt 4024194.
- (d) Odd parties of 2 and 3 men observed from road. From 40264235 patrol saw TWO troop-carriers and a working party of 60 men at 2335 hrs driving pickets about 400 yds SOUTH of FIGHTER. By previous arrangement our arty engaged this area at 0800 hrs.

N M S.

- (a) For 2000 yds SOUTH of Post R 37.
- (b) For 2600 yds SOUTH of Post R 45 and R 53.
- (c) For 1200 yds along pipeline to 4164190.
- (d) Patrols covering whole front of 2/9 Bn for depth of 2000 yds reported N M S except for TWO enemy in contact at 40244244.

(cont over).

4. LOCATING HOSTILE BATTERIES.

The following is from a message of C.R.O. TORONTO FORTRESS :-

"It is felt advisable to issue a note of warning re the reliability (and deception) of sound rays in connection with possible H B fixations. Sound rays, unless carefully and intelligently applied, lead to mere errors and false deductions than any other source of C B information. THREE sound ray intersections are the most dangerous of all intersections and to bombard such areas, especially under existing ammunition restrictions, is practically a waste. 'Sound rays accurate to 10 deg are accurate sound rays', and the knowledge of this fact might assist arty unit I.90, who have been prone to accept such rays on their face value."

Good

Capt.
E.I.9 18 Aust Inf Bde.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Includes some markings like (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).]

7 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18
866th Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 77.From information received up to 1200 hrs.1. GENERAL.

Enemy activity in PILASTRINO sector has been confined to light shelling on our right flank and a considerable amount of M G fire onto our patrols along the enemy minefield.

23 Patrols operated from the Bde front to a depth of 3600 yds, and several of these exchanged fire with the enemy. Enemy M G fire was particularly heavy at approx 40384220. In most cases the enemy fire covered his minefield.

The FIGTREE area was again shelled by our arty with 48 rounds gunfire at 0130 hrs after patrols had established that it was still occupied.

The line of the enemy minefield in the vicinity of Pt 171 (40214243) has been practically tied in with the field on top of the escarpment. A new type of field was established here (40244244) being of ITALIAN mines with NO "S" type booby traps in front. Sketch as supplied by 2/9 Bn is attached as Appx "A".

The whole of Pt 171 area is held in some strength by M Gs in sangars and weapon pits, all sited behind the field, in nests of THREE at about 100 yd intervals. The field in sq 404420 was established and a working party seen there may have been engaged in extending it.

We suffered NO casualties in the numerous fire fights.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

NIL, save for M G fire along his minefield against our patrols.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

2/9 Bn patrols :-

- (a) N M S as follows :- From R 33 to 40584207 to 40474216 to 40344223 to 40684211 to R 33; from R 31 to 40534210 to 40714195 to R 37; from R 13 to 40154268 to approx 40154245 and return; R 11 to 40124252 to 40314252 to R 15.
- (b) Minefield encountered at 40534197 just behind which stakes were heard driven in; then came fire from weapon pits 50 yds behind 'field. There appeared to be a continual belt of wire between 'field and pits. Patrol withdrew and again approached 'field from 40604191 and was again fired on from sangars from behind 'field. The continuous wire fence behind the 'field ran generally S S E.
- (c) On SOUTH side of 'field at 40484208 patrol found THREE completed weapon pits with NO wire in front except a trip wire along rear edge of 'field. 30 enemy, believed ITALIAN, approached and were fired on, and casualties are thought to have been inflicted. L M G fire was returned, and during enemy confusion, patrol withdrew when further enemy were seen approaching.
- (d) Patrol met minefield at 40214244 and followed it to 40204240 where it curved EAST up a gully. Double sentries were patrolling at 20 yds behind 'field at 200 yd intervals. Enemy occupied

(cont on sheet 2)

.... occupied sangars and section posts 100 yds behind the minefields in section groups. At ~~40244244~~ 40244244 the minefield changed from GERMAN to ITALIAN mines as shown on Appx "A" attached. At 40204240 strong enemy resistance was met and fire exchanged. Much movement was seen during traverse of field.

(e) Many enemy were observed at Pt 171 in sq 402424; also some and a troop carrier in vicinity of FIGTREE.

(f) Re-entrant located 40344237. A few enemy seen using cave and sangars within 300 yds of FIGTREE and were fired on, but enemy did NOT reply.

(g) At 40394220 patrol was put to ground by at least 10 MGs firing from both flanks and front, 50 % tracer being used. After 10 mins, mortar fire fell among patrol, which withdrew. At least ONE A/Tk gun also fired from enemy defences. Closest M G range estimated 200 yds.

(h) The minefield information mentioned in 18 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No. 76 is amended in accordance with fresh reports as follows:- Minefield definitely ends 40094245. Sangars at Pt 171 are definitely occupied. Patrol from R 33 encountered minefield in sq 407418.

(2) 2/12 Bn patrols:-

(a) A daylight standing patrol at 41484190 saw only normal enemy M T movement on EL ADEM escarpment.

(b) A fighting patrol from R 45 to 411418 to 410418 found NO enemy, save TWO near wrecked carrier.

(c) At 200 yds from EL ADEM Rd and in rear of 40954132, THREE enemy gps each of 15 men observed but NOT contacted.

(d) N M S from R 45 to 412419 to R 49 ; from R 43 along pipeline for 1200 yds; at VWALLED CAMP and at 41334188.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

The only shelling has been some 36 shells in 2/9 Bn area. NO flash or sound bearings were obtainable.

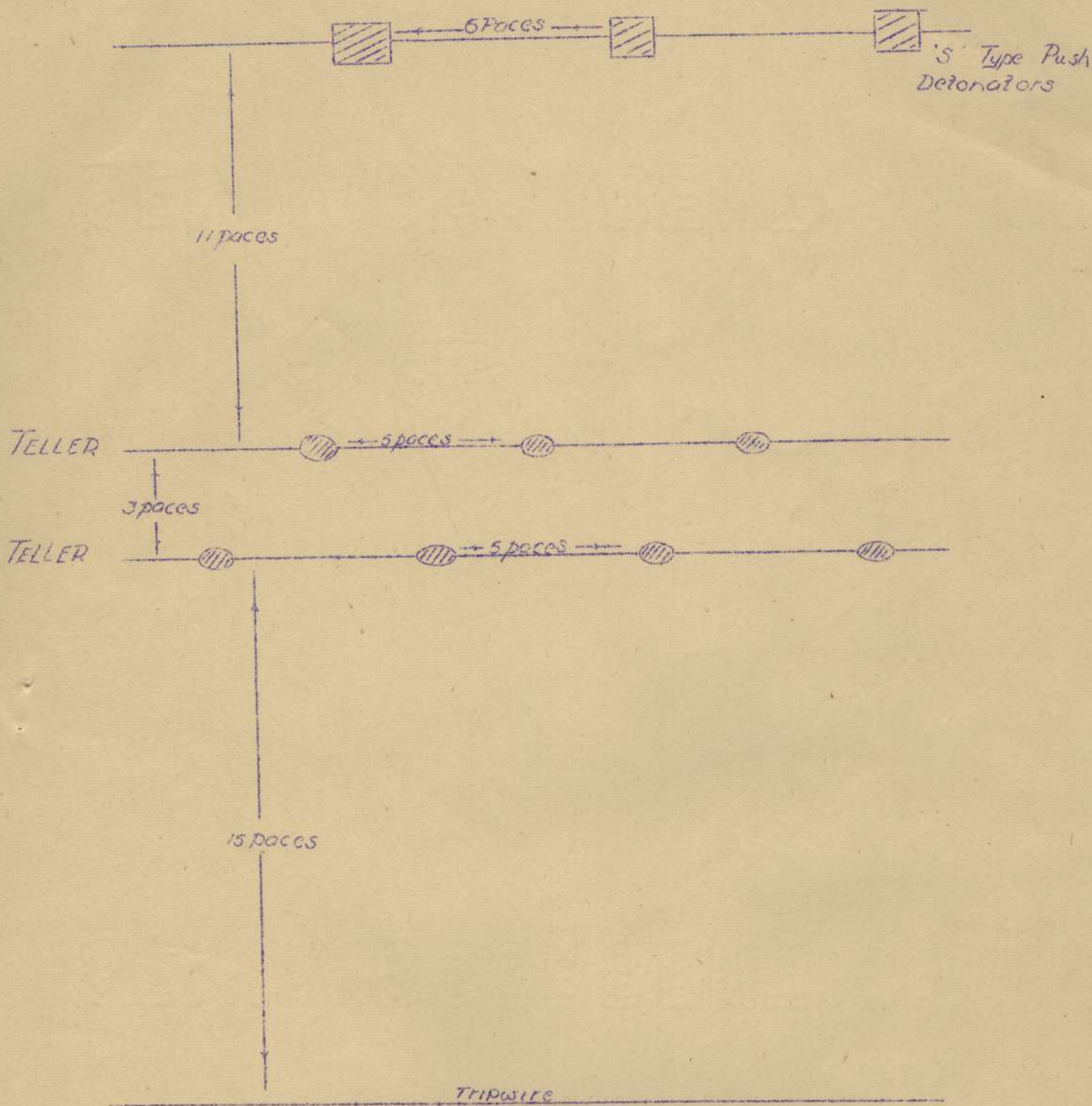
Strook

Capt.
B.I.O. 18 Aust Inf Bde.

MINEFIELD DIAGRAM

FROM 2/9 Bn PATROL REPORT OF 7 JULY 41

Appendix A to
18 Clust Inf Bde
Int. Summary
No 77

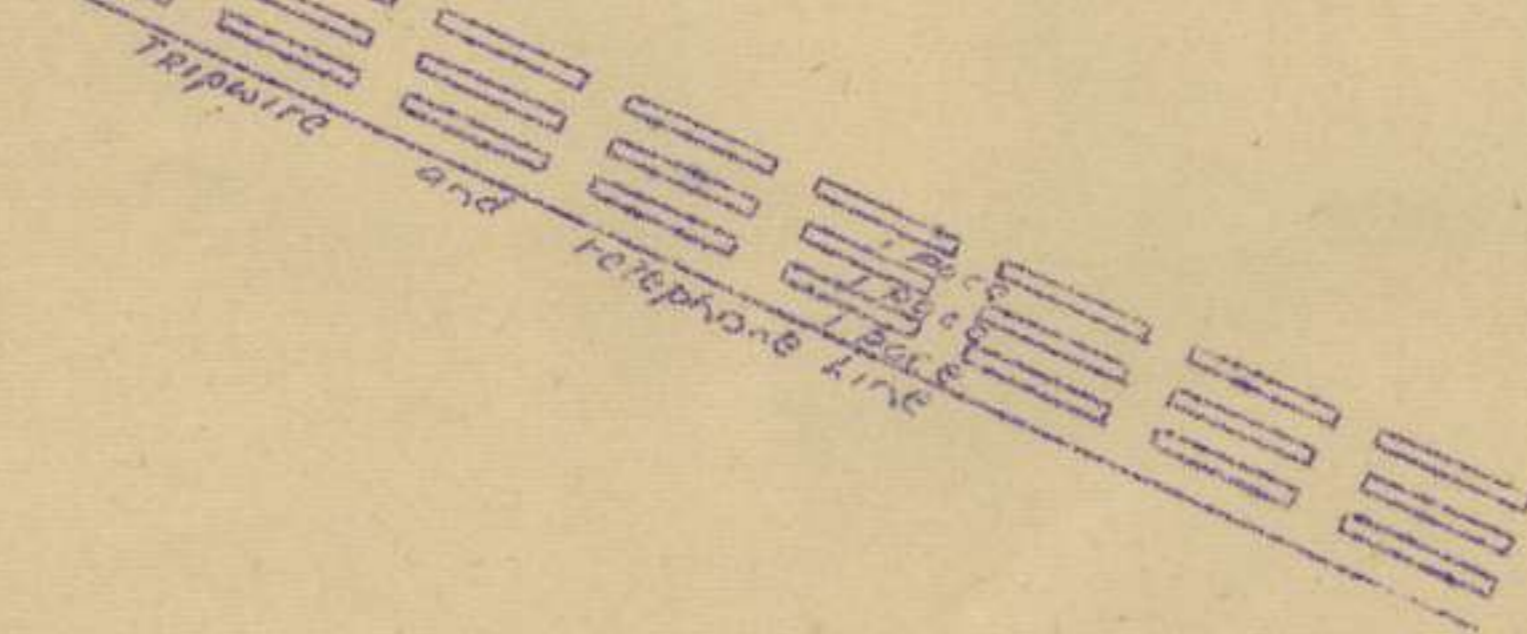


5 paces → ●
3 paces ↑
●

End of Teller
Field

Whole Field shows as
ploughed strip 3 paces wide

40244244



War Diary

SECRET.

8 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 78.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

Situation in PILASTRINO sector generally quiet.

WEST of EL ADEM Rd our patrols found NO enemy activity save in the FIGURE area, upon which a shock was carried out by TWO pls of 2 Coy 1 RNF in conjunction with arty and 2/9 Bn from 0005 to 0055 hrs, with unknown results. Enemy replied with mortar fire on 27, but we suffered NO casualties. On this front, the enemy does NOT appear to patrol in front of his defences.

It is thought possible that our patrols in this area failed to draw fire last night because the long range patrols operated after midnight.

EAST of the EL ADEM Rd enemy was found widening his minefield at 40854195, and an enemy patrol working with THREE AFVs was seen moving from 41084175 to approx 41084175.

N M S between enemy minefield and the perimeter.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Enemy patrol moved in conjunction with THREE AFVs from approx 41084175 to approx 41084175, then halted and withdrew 15 mins later.

Several small gps of enemy inf seen at odd times during the night in FIGURE area.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

(A) 2/9 Bn patrols :-

(a) Minefield unbroken from 40454207 to 40854216 and appeared to run on in the same direction to the limit of visibility. The field was of the usual type of "8" mines in front with TWO rows of TELLER behind. It is thought that this field is joined to main field. NO enemy sentries seen along field. About 5 enemy seen about Pt 171, where digging later was heard at 0330 hrs.

(b) Minefield followed from 40164245 to 4008-4244, where work ceased.

N M S between field and perimeter.

(B) 2/12 Bn patrols :-

(a) N M S WALLED CAMP. At 41454170, patrol made gap in minefield astride road by removing the fuses from 50 TELLER mines. Mines had the appearance of being freshly laid in rows 3 yds apart, with 5 yds spacing staggered. Heavy tank tracks were seen on the ground.

(b) Enemy working parties at 40854195 were widening minefield to a depth of 2 yds. 50 yds behind were a number of occupied sappers. While defusing the mines, our patrol was fired on and returned the fire, it is thought with some effect. Enemy brought down mortar fire and tanks were heard. The minefield is evidently protected by tps in field defences and with M Gs on fixed lines. We suffered no casualties.

(c) At 1200 hrs TWO men seen 40854175 for a short time. ONE RT at 1500 hrs seen moving WEST towards EL ADEM Rd. At 1515 hrs a bty 2500 yds due SOUTH opened up. A single booby trap was found and unloaded at 40854245. This patrol was a daylight observation patrol at 40734195.

(d) N M S along Coy fronts.

4. ENEMY SHELLING.

This was light. Only 20 shells fell in 2/12 Bn area. 98 shells fell in 2/9 Bn area. NO casualties.

B.I.O. 18 Aust. Inf. Bde. *8.7.41* Capt.

Spax

SECRET.

8 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

13 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 78.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

Situation in PULASTHIND sector generally quiet.

WEST of EL ANNE Rd our patrols found NO enemy activity save in the FIGURE area, upon which a shoot was carried out by TWO pls of 1 Coy 1 RHF in conjunction with arty and 2/9 Bn from 0005 to 0055 hrs, with unknown results. Enemy replied with mortar fire on R 17, but we suffered NO casualties. On this front, the enemy does NOT appear to patrol in front of his defenses.

It is thought possible that our patrols in this area failed to draw fire last night because the long range patrols operated after midnight.

EAST of the EL ANNE Rd enemy was found widening his minefield at 40354125, and an enemy patrol working with THREE AFVs was seen moving from 41054175 to approx 41054175.

N M S between enemy minefield and the perimeter.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Enemy patrol moved in conjunction with THREE AFVs from approx 41054175 to approx 41054175, then halted and withdrew 15 mins later.

Several small gps of enemy inf seen at odd times during the night in FIGURE area.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

(A) 2/9 Bn patrols :-

(a) Minefield unbroken from 40354207 to 40354215 and appeared to run on in the same direction to the limit of visibility. The field was of the usual type of "g" mines in front with TWO rows of TELER behind. It is thought that this field is joined to main field. NO enemy sentries seen along field. About 5 enemy seen about Pt 171, where digging later was heard at 0530 hrs.

(b) Minefield followed from 40164245 to 4008-4244, where work ceased.

N M S between field and perimeter.

(B) 2/12 Bn patrols :-

(a) N M S WALLED CAMP. At 41434170, patrol made gap in minefield astride road by removing the faces from 50 TELER mines. Mines had the appearance of being freshly laid in rows 3 yds apart, with 5 yds spacing staggered. Heavy tank tracks were seen on the ground.

(b) Enemy working parties at 40354125 were widening minefield to a depth of 2 yds. 30 yds behind were a number of occupied kangaroos. While delousing the mines, our patrol was fired on and returned the fire, it is thought with some effect. Enemy brought down mortar fire and tanks were heard. The minefield is evidently protected by tps in field defenses and with M Gs on fixed lines. We suffered no casualties.

(c) At 1200 hrs TWO men seen 40354175 for a short time. ONE HT at 1500 hrs seen moving WEST towards EL ANNE Rd. At 1825 hrs a bty 2500 yds due SOUTH opened up. A single booby trap was found and unloaded at 40354245. This patrol was a daylight observation patrol at 40734125.

(d) N M S along Coy fronts.

4. ENEMY SHELLING.

This was light. Only 20 shells fell in 2/12 Bn area. 98 shells fell in 2/9 Bn area. NO casualties.

Spax
B.I.O. 18 Aust. Inf Bde.

SECRET
9 Jul. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

88 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 79.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

Although patrolling by own tps has been active the situation generally remains quiet.

2. OBSERVED ENEMY MOVEMENT.

The presence of the enemy was observed in the following areas :-

(a). In sangars near minefield at 40794189 from which they fired on a patrol which returned fire silencing a mortar and a Breda. Enemy originally using four light Bredas, one Spandau, A.Tk rifles and the mortar.

(b). At abandoned carrier (40954187). Here movement was seen suggesting use of carrier as O.P. Subsequently one of our patrols was fired on from this point by one L.M.G. Also one gun each from posns 20 yds EAST and WEST of this point. A compressor was also heard in this area.

(c). Area around pts 39854250 and 39804251, digging and staking of stones being heard in the vicinity of the former and LMG fire being opened from sec posts on right and left of latter upon one of our patrols.

(d). There was some movement in vicinity of FIGTREE (4030-4240) and sangars 200 yds from tree were occupied by enemy

(e). 107 RHA report the following approx posns of Ladder OPs visible from their OP at R50 :-

Squares 424413, 423416, 421413

These have all appeared within last few days.

(f). 150 M.T. today seen moving East behind EL ADEM escarpment.

3. Own Movement.

(a). Patrols - Twenty five patrols from 9 and 12 Bns covered the Bde front during night 8/9 Jul, twelve of which reported NMS. The remainder reported seeing enemy at various points (vide Para 2 above) and also odd normal MF.

(b). Harassing fire was put down by MG of 1 RNF in enemy area west of EL ADEM Rd. No sound was heard from enemy in this area.

(c). During night 8/9 Jul 43 Bn relieved 15 Bn in salient area.

4. Enemy Shelling.

A total of 107 shells comprising twenty one 105 mm, twenty two 75 mm, forty two 5" Mortar and twenty two of unknown calibre fell in 9 Bn area with-out causing casualties or damage.

The TOBRUK Harbour was again shelled at 2100 hrs, six shells falling in the area. Our 60 pdrs replied at 2150 and MB stopped after four rounds had been fired.

Finck

Capt.
B.I.O 18 Aust Inf Bde.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

10 Jul 41

18 Aust Inf Bde.
Intelligence Summary No. 80
From information received up to 1100 hrs.

18 Aust Inf Bde

1. GENERAL.

Situation is fairly quiet. Shelling in EL ADEN sector still very moderate but on slightly increased scale. Our patrols last night found the ENEMY apparently expecting us. He had suspended work, had manned his minefield and brought heavy fire to bear on our patrols, including DP from HMG, LMG and mortars. One ITALIAN patrol was encountered while tracing the minefield to the escarpment.

The general line of the ENEMY minefield now appears to run from 39904280 to 42044243 to 42174247 to 40284200 to 40844185 to 41104269 to 41454170 to 41584165. Gaps have been made at 40474204, 41424178, 41454178, from 41494170 to 41584165, while for at least 500 yds NORTH of 39904280 there is NO gap. The minefield varies in density and composition. "S" type vary from one to three deep and tellers from three to four deep. Spacing between the two types varies from 15 to 40 yds. There are also ITALIAN and BRITISH Mk. I Mines used.

WILLIAM MITCHELL

An attempt last night to observe shoot with an FCO operating with an Inf Patrol was NOT successful owing to atmospheric disturbances with the peak wireless sets and the lack of any opportunity to observe.

During this morning, ENEMY MT movement westward along EL ADEN Escarpment has been considerable, though apparently NOT on as large scale as yesterday's movement.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

The ENEMY has manned his minefield and established strong fire points and at least one fighting patrol to meet our patrols. He had NO casualties. Some 60 MT had been observed moving WEST along EL ADEN escarpment since 0945 hrs today. Another report is that the enemy MT movement westwards has been continuing since 0800 hrs, but NO details are given except that the density of traffic is much less than yesterday's traffic eastwards.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

3 Aust Inf patrols: (a) Enemy strongpoints.

- (i). Patrol at 40484214 was fired on from pits behind field by three HMGs, one heavy Breda and rifle fire.
- (ii). 40484209 fire from at least 7 HMGs, two A.Tk Bredas, 2 8cm mortars, from a line about 1200 yds long, running NW and SE. Fixed lines along field. Patrol was allowed to commence delousing mines here before fire opened. Weapon pits located previous night were manned last night.
- (iii). 39934258 standing patrol of 12 Italians. Minefield here was followed from 39934256 for 400 yds on bearing 185 deg. and northerly from 39934256 on bearing 140 deg for 700 yds ending 39904260 with two rows of BRITISH Mk I mines staggered at 5 yd intervals.
- (iv). 40154243 some enemy seen.
- (v). 40424237 fire from 5" mortar, heavy Breda and rifles.
- (vi). 40584220 fixed lines from up to 8 automatic weapons, 8 Bredas, 2 A.Tk guns and mortars. Our patrols found 10 one-man weapon pits recently occupied at 40584216 and another line of pits at 40424219.

(b). H M S

- (1). Along BA front.
- (ii). At FIGURES

SECRET.

11 Jul. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 81.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. ENEMY
1. GENERAL.

ENEMY arty activity has diminished during the past 24 hrs and despite MT movement along EL ADEM escarpment the situation generally remains quiet. During the night 10/11 Jul the relief of 9 Bn by 10 Bn was effected without incident. The general line of the minefield mentioned in 18 Aust Inf Bde Int Sum. issued yesterday, was misprinted and should read as follows :-

" 39904260 to 40044243 to 40174247 to
40264240 to 40684180 to 40844185 to 41104169 to 41454170
to 41704160 ".

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

ENEMY working parties were located at ,

- (a). Area 412416 where compressor was heard.
- (b). Approx 300 yds WEST of WALLED VILLAGE.
- (c). Near pt 171 (sq 408424)

In addition to normal MT movement 400 vehicles were seen moving WEST on EL ADEM escarpment.

One of our patrols was fired on from a point just SW of FIGTREE by MG and another encountered rifle and LMG fire in vicinity of BIR EL AZAZI.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Patrols are still active in front of FILASTRINO Sector. Twelve of these however reported EMS, while the remainder were responsible for collecting information contained in para 2 above. NO casualties were suffered by any of these patrols.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Sixty-nine ENEMY shells fell in 9 Bn area during the afternoon of 10 Jul without causing either damage or casualties.

Capt.
BIO 18 Aust Inf Bde.

War Diary

SECRET.

12 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 82.

From information received up to 1200 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

The situation generally has been quiet, although TWO of our patrols with arty support succeeded in making contact with the enemy, inflicting casualties and capturing several prisoners.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

There has been little enemy ground activity noted beyond working parties in areas mentioned in 18 Aust Bde Int Summary No. 81.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

TWO patrols, one of an officer and 19 O Rs and one of one Sgt and 19 O Rs left from Posts R 43 and R 41 respectively. With heavy arty support they crossed a starting line outside the perimeter at 2200 hrs. The patrol from R 41 reached the minefield without opposition en route but came under heavy fire on arrival. They crossed the field and assaulted enemy posts about 200 yds SOUTH, sustaining some casualties, incl patrol comd, as a result of booby traps. They inflicted heavy casualties and took THREE prisoners. The patrol from R 43 came under fire of a party of 50 to 60 enemy forward of the minefield at 40854183. They also inflicted casualties and brought back TWO prisoners.

In both instances bayonets, grenades and Tommy guns were used with good effect. Defensive fire from enemy arty was ineffective though mortar fire was most successful. The total of our casualties from this raid was ONE officer and NINE O Rs wounded and THREE O Rs missing.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

165 shells fell in 2/10 Bn area, most of them being 75 mm. Most of the shelling took place in the late afternoon and evening.

John B. Stephenson
for
Capt.
B.I.O. 18 Aust Inf Bde.

WD

SECRET.

13 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 83.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

During the past 24 hrs, ground activity has been slight. Single E A have dropped bombs by night at intervals of an hour or so. One bomb in TOBRIK H Q area at 0036 hrs caused TWO casualties. Enemy continued to shell the harbour this morning, but NO casualties or damage resulted.

A full report by 2/12 Bn as to their fighting patrol activities on night 10/11 Jul discloses that the enemy sustained 50-60 casualties in addition to H M G and arty fire, both of which were accurate.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

NIL, in our sector.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

2/12 Bn patrols :-

(a) A recon patrol made compass traverse of the enemy minefield.

(b) Patrol lifted FOUR TELLER mines from field WEST of WALLED CAMP, carried them to approx 41884141 where the dirt roads fork before joining the road running approx EAST-WEST at foot of escarpment, and there buried them in the loose dirt. A good deal of traffic appears to use this road.

(c) All day patrol saw, at 1030 hrs, TWO enemy approach and inspect minefield 600 yds WEST of WALLED VILLAGE and do some work there. At 1200 hrs, 12 enemy approached from the WEST but disappeared shortly afterwards. A number of anti-personnel mines had been freshly laid fwd of field WEST of derelict truck. The TELLER mines there which our patrol had previously disarmed have NOT been re-armed. Bad visibility hampered work of patrol.

(d) TWO armd cars and ONE med tank moved about in area 40894180.

2/10 Bn patrols:-

(a) Discovered sentries about every 30 yds along minefield.

(b) Found and deloused several ITALIAN booby traps about 450 yds from our wire about opposite H 11.

(c) Other patrols reported N M S.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

48 shells on 2/10 Bn area ; otherwise NIL. NO damage or casualties.

W. J. O'Connell

S.I.O. 18 Aust Inf Bde. Capt.

SECRET.

14 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 84.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

Situation generally quiet. Our patrols covered most of the area up to the enemy minefield, but found nothing new and there was NO fire-fight with the enemy. Shelling was again very light.

2/ ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Nil.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

2/13 Bn patrols :-

(a) Between 41014157 and minefield, pipeline was found to be free from mines and booby traps. Enemy seen 4087-4146 and 40874158 : on approach of our patrol enemy called down D F which seemed to indicate a line of defences running NORTH and SOUTH and probably linking with defences at 40864145.

(b) Little enemy activity seen by daylight patrol at 41404182. Work was done in morning on minefield some 1000 y EAST of WALLED CAMP, but nature of work is uncertain.

2/10 Bn patrols :-

(a) Some GERMAN overcoats and blankets found at approx 405342201.

(b) Enemy were active along minefield at 40374220 and developed a lot of fire ineffectively.

(c) The minefield at 40294241 was found to be of ITALIAN coffin-type mines running on bearing of 140 deg. Mines were 3 ft apart and in 2 rows 6 ft apart. On enemy side was a wire stretched lightly on 9" posts. One of our patrol trod on this wire and broke it, but nothing happened, and NO booby traps could be found for 300 yds along it. Enemy at 40254241 fired on our patrol but brought down on themselves their own mortar fire from an unknown point. The enemy appeared very jittery and maintained fire from 0302 to 0410 hrs.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

64 shells, incl 12 A/A, fell in 2/10 Bn area, but caused NO damage.

S. J. O. N.

Capt.
B.I.O. 18 Aust Inf Bde.

15 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

13 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 85.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

The general situation in the area remains unchanged, the main activity being extension of minefield on the part of the enemy and patrolling by our own tps.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Our patrols established the presence of the enemy at points indicated below :-

(i) A working party of 8 enemy were observed on minefield in vicinity of wrecked truck EAST of WALLED CAMP at 1230 hrs 14 Jul.. Soon after there was an explosion and after dust had cleared only 4 enemy were visible. It is thought that some of their own mines had exploded.

(ii) In sangars in area 409417 from which patrol was fired upon by TWO L M Gs.

(iii) One patrol reports having found a minefield at 40334238 and followed it to 40314241 where they found guide wires indicating intended extensions due NORTH and due WEST.

(iv) A patrol was fired upon by L M G when at 40494208 but it is difficult to say exactly from which point the fire came.

(v) A mortar was located at 40364224 and L M G posts at 40354225 and 40384221.

(vi) TWO patrols reported the use by the enemy of a small searchlight on the EL ADEM escarpment to the WEST of the EL ADEM Rd. This light was used only for a very short interval and the exact posn has not been determined accurately but it is thought to be in sq 409413.

(vii) Patrol observed enemy apparently strengthening posn to rear of derelict carrier at 40944186.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Patrols were successful in removing mines from enemy fields as follows :-

(i) For 150 yds on each side of pipeline in sq 410417.

(ii) A gap in vicinity of UPTURNED TRUCK 40454208.

(iii) Booby traps from near minefield in sq 400424.

4. ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy shelling was heavier during the past 24 hrs, 366 shells falling within 2/10 bn area and 6 within the reserve area occupied by the 2/9 Bn.


Maj.
13 Aust Inf Bde.

16 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust. Inf. Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 88.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

The situation still remains unchanged, the most notable activity on the part of the enemy being the shelling of the WADI AUDA area in addition to the harbour. Their M T movement as observed by a patrol was normal. Our arty had some success in neutralising some H B fire in the southern area and Bns continued their policy of patrols.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

The presence of enemy as observed by patrols as under:-

(i) A patrol which remained at 41404182 throughout the hours of daylight observed 86 vehs travelling EAST and 8 WEST.

(ii) Listening post were reported at approx 40764196 and when in vicinity of minefield at 40764186 our patrol was challenged by rifle bolt action.

(iii) 15 to 18 enemy were observed working about 2000 yds WEST of WALLED VILLAGE.

(iv) New enemy O P was observed at 40604182. This O P had the appearance of being an upturned Cornish boiler.

(v) A M G post was located at 40414207.

(vi) Enemy tps were seen and heard talking at sangars at 40014249 and our patrol was challenged in what was thought to be GERMAN.

(vii) Another patrol heard a challenge also thought to be in GERMAN from approx 40314239.

(viii) Shouting and talking by enemy (nationality NOT specified) was heard in vicinity of BIR EL CARMUSA.

(ix) Patrol was fired upon by enemy M G, light mortar and rifle when at 40474227 but the exact posn from which this fire came is NOT known.

The use of searchlights by the enemy was again observed between 2200 and 0200 hrs, and in some instances had the effect of hampering patrol activities. From information received at this H Q the exact posn of the light is 40994132. Information regarding additional lights which may be seen should be communicated to this H Q as soon as possible.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

(i) 13 Pl Z Coy 1 RNF from vicinity of R 38 harassed enemy in area 408418 between 2200 and 2300 hrs.

(ii) A patrol from 2/10 Bn tested THREE phone wires but found them to be dead.

(iii) A patrol from 2/12 Bn successfully disarmed 57 enemy mines WEST of PIPELINE by the removal of flash caps after which mines were restored to their original posns. A further 10 TELLER mines and 20 "Jumping Jacks" were disarmed by another patrol.

4. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

117 shells landed in 2/10 Bn area and 20 in 2/9 Bn area. TOBRUK Harbour was shelled at 1350 hrs, NOT with the usual 155mm but by something much lighter, probably A/A.

(Cont over)

SECRET.

17 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 87.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

At 2300 hrs night 16/17 Jul, two of our "stunts" took place, the one being the engagement of the enemy by TWO fighting patrols of 2/12 Bn supported by arty and M G fire, and the other a "bush" arty shoot by 2/10 Bn on to enemy posns about sq 403423. Otherwise activity is normal.

TWO fighting patrols, one of 1 Offr 19 ORs, and the other 1 LCO 19 ORs, of 2/12 Bn, supported by A/E Bty 1 RHA and 12 guns of "Z" Coy 1 RNF, attacked enemy posns in sq 403417 from the EAST at 2300 hrs. At least TWO enemy L M Gs and crews were knocked out and 20 casualties inflicted. Our casualties were Lieut SREDDY and 4 ORs wounded, mostly slightly.

The "bush" arty fired 749 rounds last night at 2300 hrs, but results are unknown. The enemy did NOT reply, so there was NO CG work.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

ONE enemy searchlight was fixed by 2/10 Bn at 4027/236. Another searchlight hampered the operations of the 2/12 Bn patrols.

3. ENEMY METHODS.

2/10 Bn patrol reported that enemy used a bird call to warn of our patrol's approach.

The enemy signal "WHITE RED - WHITE RED" brought down on 2/10 patrol in sq 399425 at least 25 shells in 15 mins, believed from a 3 gun 105 mm Bty. The area shelled was 300 yds by 75 yds approx.

A searchlight in 2/12 Bn area played after a RED flare signal went up.

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

In order to distract the enemy's attention from the approach of its fighting patrol, other 2/12 Bn patrols with engrs exploded 5 Thermite bombs by fuse at 40744199 and blew 15 mines at 40894183, these attracting the enemy's searchlight for some minutes just prior to Zero (2300 hrs). TWO sacs Carriers also operated. The fighting patrols engaged the enemy with L M G fire, grenades and "TOMMY" guns, ONE patrol being enabled to close with the enemy owing to the excellent fire plan of the arty and M Gs. The other patrol was unable to close with the enemy owing to the enemy searchlight and heavy M G fire.

On night 14/15 Jul, Lieut K.R. BROWN and Pte BENNETT M.K. of 2/12 Bn made a recon up the enemy escarpment. Proceeding first to a white post marked 24 at 41444185, they then moved on to a line of 220 deg to foot of escarpment. Here they found a heavily insulated 3" cable of black rubber running parallel to line of escarpment. A series of wide desert tracks showed constant use by heavy vehs and tanks. All wadis appeared to be occupied and ITALIAN voices were heard. A barking dog and a searchlight hampered movement. On the return journey, enemy tpt movement was heard some 600 yds from escarpment.

(cont over)

SECRET

5. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

An enemy cap picked up by fighting patrol has been identified as from 27 Regt PAVIA DIV.

6. HOSTILE SHELLING.

146 shells fell on 2/10 Bn area yesterday. No casualties or damage, and NO shells in other areas.

7. OWN SHELLING.

From Post R 32, an observer saw a conflagration in enemy territory on bearing 201 deg at 2300 hrs.

8. HOSTILE ACTIVITY ON TOBRUK.

Between 10 Apr and 15 Jul there has been 199 daylight raids with bombs, 146 near enough to be engaged. A total of 282, 137 night raids, supported by A/R Bty I RHA and other 150 Bn ORA, of 2/12 Bn, supported by A/R Bty I RHA and 12 Coy I RNF, attacked enemy positions in 404117. At least two enemy I M Gs and crews were knocked out and 80 casualties inflicted. Our casualties were mostly slightly. The enemy did NOT reply, so there was NO WORK.

Handwritten signature

Another searchlight hampered the operations of the 2/10 Bn patrol.

A searchlight in 2/12 Bn area played after a RED flare signal went up. 2/10 Bn patrol reported that enemy used a bird call to warn of our patrol's approach. The enemy signal "WHITE RED - WHITE RED" brought down on 2/10 patrol in 394255 at least 23 shells in 15 mins. The area shelled was 300 yds from 2 gun 100 mm Bty. The area shelled was 300 yds approx.

OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

In order to distract the enemy's attention from the approach of its fighting patrol, other 2/12 Bn patrols with enemy exploded 2 white bombs by fuse at 404419 and blew 15 mines at 404412, thus attracting the enemy's searchlight for some minutes prior to 2300 hrs. Two searchlights also operated. The fighting patrol engaged the enemy with I M G fire, grenades and "TOMMY" guns. One patrol being enabled to close with the enemy owing to the excellent fire plan of the sally and M Gs. The other patrol was unable to close with the enemy owing to the enemy searchlight and heavy M G fire. On night 14/15 Jul, Lieut K.R. BROWN and Pte BENNETT M.K. of 2/12 Bn made a race up the enemy escarpment. Proceeding to a white post marked 24 at 414418, they then moved on a line of 250 yds to foot of escarpment. Here they found a heavily "contaminated" apple of black rubber running parallel to line of escarpment. A series of wide desert tracks showed constant use by heavy vehicles and tanks. All walls appeared to be occupied and ITALIAN voices were heard. A barking dog and a searchlight hampered movement. On the return journey, enemy movement was heard some 600 yds from escarpment. (cont over)

18 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 88.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

Quiet on southern sector. Our patrols carried out normal patrolling activities and particularly continued recon of the enemy minefield.

In the salient and MERAUUR sector last night, FOUR raids were carried out by our tps. The first raid by 18 Cav inflicted about 20 casualties on the enemy for NO loss. The second raid by 1 Coy S S killed 30 enemy and wounded others, incl 1 PW. Sappers demolished 2 Spdr Bredas. S S casualties were THREE wounded 1 reported killed. In the third raid - made by 1 Pl 28 Bn - NO contact was made with the enemy. The fourth raid was made by TWO pls of 28 Bn, who killed 12 enemy and wounded others. A later report regarding the first and second raids suggests considerably greater success, but confirmation is at present lacking.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

A daylight patrol near WALLED VILLAGE saw only small enemy M T movement up to 1100 hrs, after which visibility became very limited. Another daylight patrol at 41084184 reports NMS.

At 41374168 a patrol which had moved along the minefield from the pipeline was challenged from 50 yds away in fairly good ENGLISH (" HALT. Who goes there ?") and was fired upon by TWO LMGs using tracer and by ONE other weapon.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.(a) Enemy minefields.

A working party of 12 was seen at 40304228 apparently laying mines.

At 40044246 patrol from R 15 located a single row of TELLER mines on bearing 265 deg for 44 yds, but then located 'S' type booby traps running on bearing 300 deg with TWO rows TELLER mines beyond 8 ft apart and 12 ft between rows. Field was followed to 40004248 where it turned on 245 deg for 80 yds. Here tripwire and minefield ran on bearing of 185 deg. 25 yds beyond this first tripwire was another on enemy's side of field. The enemy appeared to be patrolling SOUTH of the minefield.

Field met at 40544197 indicated by single strand fence 2 ft high supported on deal posts 10 yds fwd of furrow bordering field. Field was then followed on 125 deg for 70 yds thence 135 deg for 30 yds thence 130 deg for at least 100 yds. At this point 40564195 enemy M G fire came from 40544196 and 20 mm Breda fire from approx 40525 41960.

Field met at 39954256 followed on bearing of 165 deg for 100 yds. Field consists of TWO rows booby traps 'S' type 9 ft apart, rows staggered 4 ft apart. 15 yds to rear were THREE rows of TELLER mines.

Field met at 40244244; a single row of three-pronged booby traps 5 yds apart 275 deg for 250 yds to EAST and 65 yds to the WEST. The eastern end had 10 yds of wire after the last booby trap on pegs and then turned on 180 deg. The western end appeared to be fr recently laid and ran off at bearing of 280 deg.

(b) Other activity.

Cont over.

19 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 69.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

During night 18/19 Jul, our recon patrols were active, and one patrol of 1 Offr and 4 ORs to the FIGTREE area engaged enemy in four sangars with grenades and bayonet, and inflicted at least 30 casualties, including 20 killed. Enemy brought down D F behind our patrol, the fire being regarded as the heaviest yet heard in this area.

Apart from the FIGTREE area, the night was quiet.

8/9 Bn relieved 2/12 Bn without incident.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

6 enemy seen digging 40124249.

L M Gs at 40124241.

Several L M G posts behind enemy minefield.

3. ENEMY MINEFIELDS.

Field met at 40564194. Followed for 100 yds on 200 deg. At end was a gap of 30 yds inside furrow which appeared to be freshly dug. Patrol returned to 40564194, then traced field for 350 yds on 10 deg. At end of this leg was another gap of 30 yds.

From UPFURNED TRUCK 40454203 field followed for 100 yds in northerly direction.

Gap seen in minefield at 38904261 marked by white spots about 3" in diameter. Similar marks seen 300 yds further on on enemy side of field. Beyond white spots was spitlocked line running at 290 deg. Field 40 yds wide, 3 rows of mines then 1 row of booby traps. A well worn track on enemy side of field suggested regular patrolling.

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Patrols mainly concerned with recon of FIGTREE area and the enemy minefields.

A patrol of Lieut TWEDDIE and 4 ORs from 2/10 Bn moved on to enemy sangars from 40324238. When enemy L M G was brought to bear, the patrol was ordered to charge. They charged but first tripped over wires setting off booby traps. Undamaged however, the patrol regained their feet, silenced an enemy L M G with a 'Tommy' gun and then came onto FOUR enemy sangars 'cramped with men'. Into each of these four grenades were thrown and the patrol charged with bayonet, 'Tommy' gun and revolver. Before patrol withdrew under intense D F, all opposition from the sangars had been silenced. Of the estimated 30 enemy in the sangars, 20 were killed and the rest seriously wounded. We suffered NO casualties.

5. HOSTILE SHELLING.

66 shells fell in 2/10 Bn area, causing NO damage.

SA 200d

Capt.
B.I.O. 18 Aust Inf Bde.

20 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 90.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

Enemy activity was mainly confined to small formation air raids over TOBRUK and harbour and a certain amount of shelling of same area. Neither damage or casualties resulted.

Patrols from our fwd units were again active. In the southern sector 2/10 Bn sent out TWO fighting patrols to the FIGTREE area where they inflicted casualties estimated at from 50 to 60. Own casualties were ONE Offr and SIX ORs wounded. 2/9 Bn co-operated in this attack with M G and A/Tk gun fire and succeeded in attracting attention of the searchlight which has been active during the last week.

Otherwise the general situation has been quiet.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.(a) Minefields.

Minefields were encountered by our patrols as follows :-

(i) At 41454132 booby traps which appeared to be held down by stones with the probable object of their exploding when stones were moved.

(ii) NO booby traps or mines were found at WALLED VILLAGE on left hand side.

(b) Sangars.

Sangars were visited by our patrols as under :-

(i) SIX sangars at 40824197. TWO long-dead ITALIANS were found in these.

(ii) FOUR sangars at 40844197.

(c) Personnel.

Enemy were located at :-

(i) 40674200 - voices heard.

(ii) Vicinity of 40944170. When our patrol was at this point fire of SIX automatic weapons came from bearing of 210 deg.

(d) Signs of traffic along rd at 41424123 are very light and indicate smooth tyres. At this point on rd is a thick black cable joined by specially heavy plated holder.

(e) Arty O P reports trench approx 20 yds long running S W from FIGTREE and is suspected to lead to a well. TWO people were seen to be occupying this trench.

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

TOBRUK harbour and town were shelled from 0315 to 0415 hrs on 19 Jul by enemy gun SOUTH of salient and at 1735 hrs by gun outside eastern perimeter. Several shells fell in northern corner of Ordnance Depot. No damage resulted.

116 shells fell in 2/9 Bn area - 67 in 2/10 Bn area.

4. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY?

There were eight air raids over TOBRUK since mid-

Cont over.

4. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY, Cont.

..... MIDNIGHT ~~XXXX~~ 18/19 Jul by small formations of E A. Bombs were dropped on NORTH POINT, Harbour, Docks, but neither damage or casualties were reported.

5. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

TWO fighting patrols from 2/10 Bn supported by 1 and 107 RHA and M Gs of Z Coy 1 RNF were sent out to raid enemy posns in FIGTREE area, ONE patrol being from B Coy and ONE from D Coy.

B Coy.:- Advanced from F U P at 40364237 to within 100 yds of objective from where enemy were heard cooking M Gs. Patrol advanced at 2330 hrs firing on the move. Enemy opened fire with from 15 to 18 M Gs but NO arty or mortar fire noticed at this stage. Considerable amount of the M G fire came from near and beyond sangars. Grenades were thrown with good effect into SIX sangars and TWO M G posts. Fwd of sangars was a tripwire 18" high but NO booby traps. After inflicting casualties estimated at 30 patrol withdrew to Wadi (40364237) having sustained THREE casualties (wounded) itself. It is interesting to note that patrol comdr reported that a 20 mm Breda was fired into the air with Verey flare effect.

B Coy.:- From a posn 100 yds from enemy and on NORTH side of CARMUSA patrol advanced on 150 yds front to within 60 yds of enemy where tripwires were ~~XXXXXX~~ crossed and enemy M G fire encountered from fwd posts with support from rear. Advancing for a further 40 yds patrol was held up by a 5 ft high barbed wire fence which could NOT be surmounted nor was it possible to find a way round it. SIX enemy were found outside wire and were killed. As it was NOT possible to get through the wire, many grenades were thrown into enemy posns and after some M Gs had been silenced by grenades and L M G patrol withdrew, having sustained casualties of ONE Offr and ONE OR wounded.

The work of our arty and M Gs was most effective, preventing interference by enemy flanking fire during the raid. It was noted also that many M Gs which had fired during raid 18/19 Jul were kept silent.

6. OWN ARTY ACTIVITY.

During the afternoon 19 Jul our arty, using captured 149 mm ITALIAN equipment, fired 190 shells into EL ADEM aerodrome.

[Signature]
Maj.
BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.4. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY.

There were eight air raids over TORUK since 18/19 Jul.

22 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 92.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

The situation in 18 Bde sector was again normal, fwd units maintaining their usual programme of patrols. Most of these were recon patrols and little actual contact was made with the enemy with exception of one patrol. Enemy again made use of searchlights.

On western sector there was increased enemy arty activity on our F D Ls during 21 Jul.

Enemy guns in EAST and S W again shelled the harbour and FOUR casualties were incurred when No. 1 Quay was hit. During early morning of 21 Jul parachute magnetic mines were dropped by E. A. FOUR of these mines fell on land with very loud explosions but it is NOT yet known if any actually fell in the harbour. 25 shells, three of which were duds, fell in WADI AUUDA at 1645 hrs yesterday. NO casualties or damage were reported.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

The following dispositions were noted by patrols :-

- (a) Tps and weapons at :-
- (i) 40254245, 40264242, 40284241. Patrol fired on by automatic weapons from this point.
 - (ii) 40294243 - patrol surprised a sentry who ran S W from this point.
 - (iii) 40274244 - working party (6 men).
 - (iv) 40294239 - one SPANDEAU.
 - (v) 40274240 and 40234242 - several L M G incl EREDA.
 - (vi) 40274240 - L M G and rifle fire from this point.
 - (vii) 40254215 - 6 enemy seen at this point and disappeared into nearby wadi.
 - (viii) 40474207 - Hy EREDA, 5 L M G, 2 med mortars.
 - (ix) On line from 40364230 to 40414230 - L M Gs.
 - (x) 41494136 - sentry who ran down road to SOUTH.
 - (xi) 41084143 - 2 L M Gs.
 - (xii) 41094143, 41064143, 41044142, 41024144 - ONE L M G each.
 - (xiii) 40784194 - 45 mm mortar.
 - (xiv) 40804179 - movement seen and whistles heard.
- 40824198, pt 162 (sq 407419) - these are the ones containing decomposing ITALIAN dead mentioned in a former summary - and at 40854194 (these were from 12" to 15" deep with sandbag parapets 12" to 18" high.

(b) MINEFIELDS.

Minefields were contacted at following points :-

- (1) 40014243 from which it ran S W. The field was composed of 2 rows TELLER mines 5 yds apart with 2 yds between rows. On enemy side 6 yds from field was a black tripwire and the side nearest our lines was marked by spitlocking. This field was again contacted at 40124243.

(Cont over)

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS (cont).

(b) Minefields (cont).

(11) 40614177. Field was composed of 1 row 'S' type mines, TELLER mines to a depth of 3 yds. Furrows run on each side of field about 1 yd from it.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Most of our patrols were for recon purposes, information gained by them being found in other parts of the summary. One patrol from 2/9 Bn however made contact with the enemy.

Being challenged by a sentry at 41494131 the patrol moved S E, the sentry escaping by running SOUTH along road. Patrol was again challenged at 41084143 and as sentry was only sign of movement they advanced towards post, and when 30 yds away enemy opened fire with 2 L M Gs, being supported by further L M Gs at 41094143, 41084142, 41044142, 41024144. Mortar fire was brought down in front of enemy F D Ls and Hy Breda fired from N E. The patrol returned fire and charged with 'Tommy' guns, grenades and rifles, inflicting SMX certain casualties. Our casualties were ONE OR wounded and ONE OR missing. This patrol located the heavy black cable previously mentioned again and removed portion of it. The breaking of this cable did NOT however affect any searchlights that were in use at the time.

4. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

This was again light in the Bde sector, the heaviest being in the 2/10 Bn area where 139 shells fell, only 18 falling in 2/9 Bn area.

J. G. Holliman Capt

for Maj.
BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

(cont over)

35 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 95.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

The situation in the 18 Bde sector remains unchanged and although patrols were out as usual from fwd Bns NO actual contact was made with the enemy. 2/10 Bn reports however, that there is evidence of increased enemy patrol activity and in one instance an enemy patrol came as close as 200 yds to our F D Ls.

Patrols from 2/9 Bn were successful in plotting enemy F D Ls and minefield for about 2000 yds WES T of EL ADEM Rd. While they were doing this work there was a good deal of interference from enemy searchlights and M Cs but there were NO casualties.

A 2/10 Bn patrol suffered ONE OR killed and ONE Offr and THREE ORs wounded when an enemy mine exploded.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

Patrols were able to establish presence of the enemy at the following points :-

(a) Top and weapons.

- 40674177 - Strong post with 4 sentries 10 yds apart.
- 40744177 - Strong post with approx 30 men - seen by light of green flare.
- 41074185 - Probably advanced listening post - normal movement seen here during daylight.
- 40934181 - L M G.
- 40944179 - L M G.
- 40314251 - Automatic weapons thought to be sub-M G fired from here.
- 40304243 - Patrol of 15 enemy seen here endeavouring to cut off our patrol which withdrew to 40334258 when enemy went to ground and apparently withdrew.
- 40444210 - empty weapon pits with freshly opened food tins nearby.
- 40554158 - mortar and 2 M Cs.
- 39884270 - stationary truck with engine running.
- 40434214 - enemy standing patrol.

Enemy fire coming from CARMUSA area strongly suggests that they have moved their posns further fwd since raid of 18/19 Jul.

(b) Searchlights were seen at sq 409413.

(c) Signal lines were found at :-

- 40264207 - taut telephone cable running SOUTH.
- 40914203 - slack cable running SOUTH.
- 40854196 - cable running SOUTH.

(d) Works and diggings etc :-

- 40444207 - wire on posts.

(e) Minefields were contacted at :-

40724177 to 40834177. Running on bearing of 108 deg. Marked by furrow with ONE row mines in front of furrow and 4 rows 7 ft apart with ITALIAN mines 10 ft apart.

Cont over.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS cont.

(e) Minefields (cont).

40224244 - ONE OR accidentally stepped on a mine at this point and was seriously wounded, subsequently dying when brought back to R 19. ONE Offr and THREE ORs also wounded, TWO ORs being evacuated. Mine blew a crater 4 ft diameter and 2 ft deep 39954242 - running on bearing of 30 deg to 39944247 marked by tripwire.

The following is a precis of a report from 2/9 Bn. Enemy minefields and F D Ls WEST of EL ADEM Rd :- Line corresponds to old prepared line shown on Div map. Posts have been wired and previously prepared line occupied. The line is approx 100 yds behind minefield extending EAST-WEST. Minefield extends from 40604178 to 40854177 and NOT as marked on Div map. One row of mines, booby trapped, is 2 ftb in front of furrow marking northern side of main field. Main field consists of 4 rows of ITALIAN type mines 7 ft apart with 10 ft between mines.

There are NO outposts WEST of EL ADEM Rd for 2500 yds.

3. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

This was mainly confined to recone patrols, results of whose work appears mainly in enemy dispositions, para 2 above.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

There were 12 raids by E A over the Fortress area from 0900 till 2200 hrs 22 Jul, but NO damage or casualties reported.

5. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

Shelling was light in Bde sector, shells falling in 2/9 Bn and 2/10 En areas.

An enemy gun SSW of TOBRUK shelled town 1745 hrs 22 Jul, but NO damage was reported.

An unexploded shell from WADI AUDA has been identified as GERMAN 210 mm.

[Handwritten Signature]
EM 18 Aust Inf Bde

WD
SECRET.

24 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 94.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

There is NO change in the general situation in the 18 Bde sector, patrols failing to contact the enemy. One strong patrol which went to attack an enemy position revealed by previous recon was unable to achieve success as enemy were found to have withdrawn.

In the town and harbour area there were THREE air raids and bombs were dropped on Northern Pt and in the sea, but there was NO damage. The harbour was shelled at 2230 hrs 23 Jul and at 0550 hrs this morning but NO damage has been reported.

In western sector a patrol between R 5 and R 7 encountered heavy M G fire and 40 enemy made an attempt to encircle them. Patrol withdrew with ONE officer wounded and ONE sapper missing.

A patrol from 2/24 Bn with an objective in area 406418 met strong opposition and retired with ONE officer and TWO ORs killed and THREE ORs wounded.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

The following were noted by patrols:-

(a) Weapons and positions.

40554239 - listening post (unoccupied when patrol was there).

40604176 - bangars capable of accommodating from 2 to 6 men - recently occupied but no one there at time of patrol's visit, there being signs of hasty evacuation.

40604181 - enemy D F mortar task laid about O P in this locality.

40584175 and 40634173 - M Gs fired from these points.

THREE M T were heard in main escarpment area.

(b) Minefields.

Were contacted at following points - 40604193 and followed to 40504202.

(c) Searchlights.

Were reported at 40304177 and in vicinity of HIR EL GANT MUSA.

3. ENEMY METHODS.

C D F - it was noticed that when enemy sent up GREEN - RED - GREEN flares from Post R 7 M G fire followed. In another instance a similar signal was seen at a point (unspecified) by a patrol when at 40714209 and arty fire was brought down.

4. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

Shelling was light in the sector, 45 shells falling in 2/9 Bn area and 40 in 2/10 Bn area.

A patrol returning to our lines was harrassed by some high velocity and seemingly solid shells.

Cont over.

5. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

In addition to reconce patrols a strong fighting patrol was sent out by 2/8 Bn and submitted the following report:-

Raiding party from B Coy (4 sec) and Tank-Hunting Pl (1 sec) supported by A.M. Bty 1 RHA and 486 Bty 107 RHA, and a detachment of 3 Rd Coy RAE, carried out a raid on the enemy defences previously located in the area some 400 yds S W of O P at 40604151. Bush arty, 2 Coy 1 RNF and 47 mm gun of 24 Aust A/Tk Coy created a diversion on both flanks and succeeded in drawing down the whole defensive fire program in these areas for half an hour.

In the light of the searchlights it could be seen that shells were dropping well in the area occupied astride the EL ADEM Rd and the enemy must have suffered many casualties.

The arty program for the raid consisted of a lifting barrage, with concentrations on both flanks, which did neutralize a considerable amount of M G fire.

The raid itself was disappointing, however, as NO enemy were manning the defences in the area in which previously reconce patrols had drawn a considerable amount of fire on successive nights, despite the fact that the party penetrated 300 yds. On the other hand, both flanks were strongly held on this occasion and it appears that this section of the line is held by manning different sectors at different times, and relying on fixed lines from M Gs to cover wide gaps in the defences.

There appears to be a thin line only, with NO defence in depth from prepared posns.

So far as preliminary arrangements were concerned the whole raid worked smoothly. The arty barrage fell exactly according to plan, the tps arrived promptly on a previously taped start line with a 50 yds direction zone for each section, and engineers carried Bangalore torpedoes as it was suspected that wire may cover the defences. Actually there were only three tripwires.

The lifting barrage covering the assault was on a 300 yds front, lifting 200 yds at a time, and attacking tps kept close under the barrage.

The sides of the box had been timed to continue firing to cover the withdrawal back to the start line, and as NO opposition except D F from the flanks and enemy arty and mortars was met, the inf were able to keep to the program.

The enemy again used searchlights, but the main beam from the escarpment EAST of the EL ADEM Rd was engaged by a arty and flashed intermittently, while the other two beams operated only for a short time. ONE of the WEST would have silhouetted the party the whole time, but it is probable that shells from 2/10 Bn bush arty were falling in the vicinity.

So far as the main purpose was concerned the raid was a failure as there was NO enemy in the area while the raid lasted.

Our casualties were : ONE OR wounded, and TWO ORS of 1 RNF operating bush arty wounded.

[Handwritten Signature]
Maj.
Ld 10 Aust Inf Bde.

Cont over.

25 Jul. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 95From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

The situation in the 18. Bde Sector remains unchanged and although patrols still active NO contact was made with the ENEMY except by one patrol.

The Harbour area was shelled at 2219 hrs last night and a further fourteen rds were fired into Harbour between 0815 and 0830 hrs today - NO damage or casualties reported.

In Western Sector 32 Bn Patrol came upon unexpected trench system at approx 39854305. Patrol attacked with grenades inflicting casualties and sustaining 1 Off and 4 OR8s wounded and 2 OR8s slightly wounded.

2. ENEMY order of Battle.

Nothing to report.

3. ENEMY Dispositions.

The following dispositions were noted by patrols :-

- Sq
- (a). MG's Pt 171 (RN402424). Thought to be on fixed lines for purpose of harassing patrols. Fire being met at 40214242

4. ENEMY Ground activity.

The following information was supplied by patrols.

(a). Minefields.

40064227 MT track with 'S' Type booby traps spaced 4' apart were concealed in wheel marks. Track ran on bearing of 243 deg. Five yds on the ENEMY side of this track running on bearing 260 deg was a minefield consisting of one row 'S' type booby traps well concealed and two rows of TELLER mines.

(b). Wire.

40904184. Taut tripwire running parallel to Rd and 15 yds from it.

(c). Searchlights.

These were NOT used at all during night 24/25 Jul. Aerial photographs of EL ADEM Aerodrome and a strip NW of it reveal an extension of rd from 41004108 to 40894111 a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile since 7 Jul.

5. ENEMY Arty Activity.

Shelling in Bde area was light. Fifteen shells falling in 9 Aust Bn area and 111 in 10 Aust Bn area.

6. ENEMY Methods.

Whistling thought to be signals was heard by a patrol when at 40064247. A GREEN light was seen to flash immediately in front of a patrol when at 40454208 but it was not possible to ascertain its particular significance.

7. Own Ground Activity.

Two patrols from 10 Bn went out to act as decoys to lead ENEMY patrols into a trap but both reported NMS. Two other patrols from the same unit however saw ENEMY patrols which in both instances were stronger than our own and were endeavouring to carry out a flanking movement. Both patrols withdrew without coming into contact with the ENEMY. A carrier Patrol of three vehicles from 9 Bn moved as follows :-

To BIR AZAZI to WALLED CAMP, to 41204190, to 41034188. The object was to shoot up ENEMY outpost posts astride NEMEK EL ADEM Rd. ENEMY were attacked at Rd junc 41884180 and replied with A.Tk Guns and Hy Breda fire and our patrol suffered one casualty. This patrol returned to its lines very late and fuller details are not yet available.

P. H. Rowe Lt
Maj.
BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

26 Jul 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No. 96.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

The situation in the EL ADEM sector remains quiet. It was found by one patrol that the enemy have re-occupied the posn 600 yds S W of O P at 40604181 which was found to be unoccupied when an attack was made on it on the night 23/24 Jul.

During the night 25/26 Jul 2/10 Bn was relieved on the right of the sector by 2/13 Bn. This relief was effected without incident or casualties.

Enemy guns in EAST and S W shelled the harbour and town and although some near misses were reported there was NO material damage.

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE.

Nothing to report.

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

L M G 40974187, 40934183.

A/Tk guns 40934183.

Inf - 3 men seen at 41774177.

40584180 to 40604178 to 40634180 to 40634183 - Line held by enemy previously unoccupied when raided night 23/24 Jul. Now occupied strongly and in depth with M Gs pushed fwd some hundreds of yds on EAST flank.

4. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

The following was noted by patrols.:-

41124197 - line of shallow pits running EAST to WEST.

41054169 - minefield contacted by patrol.

5. ENEMY ARMY ACTIVITY.

38 shells which fell in 2/9 Bn area was the total of enemy shelling within the sector.

6. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

There is little to report from patrols which went out on night 25/26 Jul with the exception of one patrol from 2/9 Bn which found that the posn attacked on 23/24 Jul is now occupied in depth (see Enemy Dispositions above).

When this patrol reached 40614181 an enemy D F task involving THREE 5" mortars and TWO heavy Bredas was brought down on line generally EAST-WEST and 70 yds NORTH of patrol. The fixed lines were laid 18" above ground and small mortar fire fell along EAST-WEST line from O P (40604181). Fire came from semi-circular line 40584180, 40604178, 40634180, 40604183. This line is held strongly and in depth with M Gs pushed forward on Eastern flank from posns previously plotted. A large bush, possibly for registration purposes was placed on tape left on night of attack. This tape was also booby trapped.

J. Dal
Maj.
BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

W.D.

SECRET

18 Aust Inf Bde O. Instrn. No. 8.

(Issued in conjunction with 9 Aust Div. G.S.I. No. 66.)

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOR CLOSING GAPS IN MINEFIELDS AND WIRE, AND BLOWING DEMOLITIONS FWD OF BLUE LINE.

1. Unit.	2. Action if attack imminent.	3. Action if attack eventuates.	4. Remarks.
<p>a. HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde.</p>	<p>(i). Order Eng Sector Comd to take precautionary measures.</p> <p>(ii). Warn Bns that precautionary measures are being taken.</p> <p>(iii). Warn all concerned that gaps in RED LINE are being closed and other precautionary measures being taken.</p> <p>NOTE. Precautionary measures are laid down in G.S.I. 66 Coln 2 sub-para. (c).</p>	<p>(i). Advise eng Sector Comd what action is to be taken.</p> <p>(ii). Order Bns to proceed with closing of all gaps with the exception of permanent counter attack gaps. (vide GSI 66 Coln 4 (b)).</p> <p>(iii). Issue orders for blowing of prepared demolitions. (If though necessary.)</p> <p>(iv). Warn all concerned what gaps have been closed and what demolitions are being carried out.</p> <p>(v). Advise Div. HQ when action is complete.</p>	<p>In the event of an attack developing without warning or communications breaking down Bn Comds may give orders on their own initiative and advise Bde later. Similarly they are to instruct officers concerned to order blowing of demolitions on approach of enemy without reference to higher authority if it is considered the position will be overrun. It is consequently essential that the task of ordering the blowing of demolitions must be allotted to a responsible and experienced officer.</p>
<p>b. HQ of Bn of sub-sector concerned.</p>	<p>(i). Warn all sub-units incl units in support and u/c that precautionary measures are being taken.</p> <p>(ii). Check that precautionary measures in sub-sector have been taken and if the Eng sub-sector comd has not yet received orders from his Coy Comd, instruct him to proceed with precautionary measures.</p>	<p>(i). Order Eng parties to close all gaps except as shown in GSI 66. Coln 4 (b).</p> <p>(ii). Warn all sub-units and units u/c and in support that gaps have been closed.</p> <p>(iii). Order blowing of demolitions if ordered by Bde.</p> <p>(iv). Advise Bde HQ when action complete.</p>	<p>G.O.'s will detail an officer to be responsible for issuing orders to each Eng party in the event of an attack. The officer will be one whose normal duties require him to be in the vicinity of the work to be carried out. <u>A list of these officers will be submitted to Bde HQ within 24 hrs of taking over a new sub-sector and will be amended as becomes necessary.</u></p>

(Issued in conjunction with 8 Aust Div. G.S.I. No. 86.)

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FOR CLOSING GAPS IN MINEFIELDS AND WIRE, AND BLOWING DEMOLITIONS FWD OF BLUE LINE.

Unit.	Action if attack imminent.	Action if attack eventuates.	Remarks.
HQ 18 Inf Bde	<p>(i). Order Eng. Sector Comd to take precautionary measures.</p> <p>(ii). Warn Bde that precautionary measures are being taken.</p> <p>(iii). Warn all concerned that gaps in RED LINE are being closed and other precautionary measures being taken.</p> <p>(iv). Precautionary measures are laid down in G.S.I. 86 Coln 2 sub-para (c).</p>	<p>(i). Advise eng Sector Comd what action is to be taken.</p> <p>(ii). Order Bde to proceed with closing of all gaps with the exception of permanent counter attack gaps. (vide GSI 86 Coln 4 (b).)</p> <p>(iii). Issue orders for blowing of prepared demolitions. (if though necessary.)</p> <p>(iv). Warn all concerned what gaps have been closed and what demolitions are being carried out.</p> <p>(v). Advise Div. HQ when action is complete.</p>	<p>In the event of an attack developing without warning or communications breaking down Bde Comd may give orders on their own initiative and advise Bde later. Similarly they are to instruct officers concerned to order blowing of demolitions on approach of enemy without reference to higher authority, if it is considered the position will be serious. It is consequently essential that the task of ordering the blowing of demolitions must be allotted to a responsible and experienced officer.</p>
HQ of sub-sector comd	<p>(i). Warn all sub-units incl units in support and u/c that precautionary measures are being taken.</p> <p>(ii). Check that precautionary measures in subsectors have been taken and if the Eng sub-sector comd has not yet received order from his Coy Comd, instruct him to proceed with precautionary measures.</p>	<p>(i). Order Eng parties to close all gaps except as shown in G.S.I. 86 Coln 4 (b).</p> <p>(ii). Warn all sub-units and units u/c and in support that gaps have been closed.</p> <p>(iii). Order blowing of demolitions if ordered by Bde.</p> <p>(iv). Advise Bde HQ when action complete.</p>	<p>G.O. 12 will detail an officer to be responsible for issuing orders to each Eng party in the event of an attack. The officer will be one whose normal duties require him to be in the vicinity of the work to be carried out. A list of these officers will be submitted to Bde HQ within 24 hrs of taking over a new sub-sector and will be amended as becomes necessary.</p>

	2. Action if attack imminent.	3. Action if attack eventuates.	4. Remarks.
Bn of ctor ned.)	(iii). Warn all officers de- tailed to give orders to Eng parties, to make cert- ain that Eng parties are in position vide GSI 66 Coln 2, (iii).		This list will include the appointments of officers designated, in the form, "O/C" Right fwd Coy, "2 1/3" Left, centre coy. "O/C" Right fwd pl, Res Coy etc.
sub- or Comd.	(1) Immediately report to Bn Comd in his sub-sector. (ii) Carry out tasks as given in GSI 66 Coln 2 (c).	(1). Carry out tasks as allotted in GSI 66 Coln 3-C. (2) and (ii).	

DISTRIBUTION.Copy No.

1 Aust Bn.	1 - 5
2 Aust Bn.	6 - 10.
3 Aust Bn.	11 - 15.
4 Comd.	16
5 M.	17
6 Aust A.Tk Coy.	18
7 Fd Coy RAE.	19
8 War Diary.	20 - 21.
9 File	22.

J. Daly
Maj.
EM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

SECRET.

Copy No. _____

24 Jul. 41.

18 Aust Inf Bde O.Insta. No.9.

ROLE OF 18 Aust Inf Bde while in Div Reserve.

1. Defence against Parachute Tps.

(a). While in Div Reserve 18 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for the protection of rear areas against landings by parachute tps.

To carry out this role tasks are allotted as follows :-

(i). 9 Aust Bn, One Coy in vicinity L.G 406433. In addition Standing patrols (each of strength One Sec) will be maintained North of the DERNA Rd so disposed as to give adequate warning of any attempt to land tps in the coastal area between North point and grid 405. These patrols will be provided with some quick and efficient means of intercomm with Bn.H.Q. A mobile picquet of two Pls will be maintained in constant readiness in the AIRENTE area.

(ii). 10 Aust Bn, One Coy in vicinity aerodrome 412430

(iii). 12 Aust Bn, One Coy in area EL GUBBI aerodrome 414430

(b). Coys in occupation of LG's will maintain continual lookouts both by day and night to give immediate warning of any attempted landings, and MF and any portable obstacles in the area will be scattered about LG's in such a manner as to obstruct any landing by troop-carrying aircraft. In the event of our own aircraft requiring to land, instructions will be issued by the RAF Liaison Officer, TOBRUCH Fortress in sufficient time to enable LG's to be cleared.

(c). The following additional measures will be taken in regard to defence against parachutists.

(i). All ranks when outdoors will carry their weapons and will be instructed to engage parachutists the moment they are seen. Whenever possible the senior present will collect men in the vicinity and use them as a unit for engaging the enemy by fire or attacking with the bayonet. It should be explained to all ranks that it is most important to destroy parachutists the moment they are dropped and before they have had time to get together. Once together they will endeavour to hold strongposts and will be more difficult to deal with.

(2).

(ii) All ranks must remain on guard during an air raid and watch for parachutists. Slit trenches may be used, but men are NOT to be permitted to take shelter in deep dugouts etc unless in the opinion of the Formation Comd etc concerned it is necessary for them to do so in the performance of their duty or for other just reasons.

(iii). Units and sub-units will NOT wait for instns as to the action to be taken but will get to grips with the enemy and destroy him, at the same time advising Bde HQ of the action being taken.

2. Improvement of Defences.

(a). The following tasks of improvements to defences have been allotted to the Bde.

(i). 9 Aust Bn, Improvement of RED Line defences astride DERNA Rd.

(ii). 10 Aust Bn, improvement of BIANCA Switch.

(iii). 12 Aust Bn, improvement of BLUE Line defences immediately EAST of EL ADEM Rd.

Each Bn will provide one Coy to carry out the above tasks.

Coy responsible for work on the RED Line astride DERNA Rd will be required to work by night. Work will be carried out under the direction of the OC Fd Coy responsible for that particular portion of the defences or an engineer Officer appointed by him, and unit Fd works officer will be responsible for the continual supervision of work.

(b). The following additional tasks will also be carried out :-

(i). 9 Aust Bn, Improvement to GREEN Line defences astride DERNA Rd in vicinity LG 406433 to 406434.

(ii). 10 Aust Bn, Improvement to GREEN Line defences in area aerodrome 412430.


(iii). 12 Aust Bn, Improvement to GREEN Line defences in vicinity EL GUBBI aerodrome.

These improvements will be carried out by Coys engaged in Anti-parachutist roles in these areas. Each Coy will work on its particular task on alternate days, the remainder of the time being devoted to training.

(c). Work will be continued on the defended localities at PILASTRINO, AIRENTE and EL ADEM Rd junc.

Time of Signature 1645

Method of Distribution... DR


Maj.
EM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

(ii) All ranks must remain on guard during an air raid and watch for parachutists. All trenches may be used, but must not be deep dugouts etc unless the opinion of the formation commander is necessary for their duty or for other reasons.

(iii) Units and sub-units will not wait for instructions as to the action to be taken but will act as they see fit with the enemy and destroy him as soon as time advising the HQ of the action is taken.

9 Aust Bn
10 Aust Bn
12 Aust Bn
Comd.
B.M.
File
War Diary.

2. Improvement of Defences.

(a) The following tasks of improvements to defences have been allotted to the Bde.

- (i) 9 Aust Bn, Improvement of RHD Line defences at EL ALMEI and EL ALMEI RD.
- (ii) 10 Aust Bn, Improvement of BANGA SWAMP.
- (iii) 12 Aust Bn, Improvement of BLUE LINE defences immediately EAST of EL ALMEI RD.

Each Bn will provide one Coy to carry out the above tasks. Coy responsible for work on the RHD Line at EL ALMEI will be required to work by night. Work will be carried out under the direction of the CO of the Coy responsible for that particular portion of the defences or an engineer Officer appointed by him, and unit will work under his supervision for the continual supervision of work.

(b) The following additional tasks will also be carried out:-

- (i) 9 Aust Bn, Improvement to GREEN LINE defences at EL ALMEI RD in vicinity LG 60455 to 60465.
- (ii) 10 Aust Bn, Improvement to GREEN LINE defences in area between 61250.
- (iii) 12 Aust Bn, Improvement to GREEN LINE defences in vicinity EL GUBBI aerodrome.

These improvements will be carried out by Coys engaged in anti-parachutist roles in these areas. Each Coy will work on the particular task on alternate days, the remainder of the time being devoted to training.

(c) Work will be continued on the defended localities at EL ALMEI, EL ALMEI RD and EL ALMEI RD Junc.

Maj.
12 Aust Bn
12 Aug 42

Time of Signature.....
Method of Distribution.....

War Diary

SECRET.

Copy No. 18

23 Jul . 41.

18 Aust Inf Bde O.O.No.10.

Ref Map. TORRUCH 1/50,000.

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy force opposing our tps.

The enemy tps in the FILASTRINO sector have been identified as the ITALIAN 17 PAVIA Div of 3 (possibly 4) Bns, and 3 Div Arty Regt of 2 Gps.

ENEMY Posns.

As per 18 Aust Inf Bde Int Summaries, Sit Map and 9 Aust Div Int Summary No.87.

ENEMY Casualties.

During the past three weeks the enemy has suffered 140 to 150 casualties (killed, wounded and POW), from patrol activity alone.

ENEMY Methods.

Defensive patrols, sentries and dogs give warning of approach of our patrols. During hours of darkness MG's fire frequently on fixed lines, and mortars bomb areas of activity. Searchlights are used to locate our patrols.

ENEMY Morale.

The enemy is "jumpy" and uneasy, opening fire (sometimes with all he has got) at the slightest provocation.

2. OWN Tps.

NO change.

INTENTION.

3. 18 Aust Inf Bde will be relieved on the EL ADEM sector by 20 Aust Inf Bde, and come into Div Reserve.

METHOD.

4. Night 25/26 Jul. 10 Aust Bn will be relieved by 13 Aust Bn.
Night 26/27 Jul. 9 Aust Bn will be relieved by 17 Aust Bn.
Night 27/28 Jul. 12 Aust Bn will be relieved by 15 Aust Bn.

5. Command.

- (a). Comd of EL ADEM Sector will pass to 20 Aust Inf Bde at 0300 hrs 27 Jul. 41.

METHOD

5. Command. (Cont.)

(b). 2/10 Aust Bn will come u/c 20 Aust Inf Bde on completion of their relief and will revert to comd 18 Aust Inf Bde at 0300 hrs 27 Jul.

2/12 Aust Bn will come u/c 20 Aust Inf Bde at 0300 hrs 27 Jul and will revert to comd 18 Aust Inf Bde on completion of relief on night 27/28 Jul. 41.

6. Units u/c and in support.

At 0300 hrs on 27 Jul. 41 the following units will come u/c or in support of 20 Aust Inf Bde in their present locations.

(a). u/c.

24 Aust A.Tk Coy.
'2' Coy 1 N.F.

(b). In support.

1 R.H.A.
107 R.H.A.
9 Aust A.Tk Bty.
11 Aust A.Tk Bty.
3 Aust Pd Coy.
'C' Sub-sec No.1 Tp carryn g Coy A.A.S.C.

7. Times of Reliefs.

(a). NO movement fwd of PILASTRINO - POW Cage escarpment before 2130 hrs.

(b). Reliefs will be completed by 0200 hrs. Outgoing tps will be in new position by 0530 hrs.

8. Patrols.

Outgoing units will maintain patrols during night of relief. These will be withdrawn just before first light.

9. Positions in Reserve and Routes.

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Area.</u>	<u>Route.</u>
2/9 Aust Bn.	AIRENTE	EL ADEM Rd - POW Cage - TOBRUCH.
2/10 Aust Bn.	PILASTRINO	Direct.
2/12 Aust Bn.	EL ADEM Cross Rds.	Direct.

10. Busk Arty.

The following captured Italian equipment will be handed over to incoming units :-

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Calibre.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reference.</u>
2/9 Aust Bn.	75 mm.	1	40874216
	75 mm.	1	40304203

METHOD.10. Bush Arty. (Cont.)

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Calibre.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reference.</u>
2/10 Aust Bn.	75 mm.	3	40784228
	77 mm	2	
	149 mm	3	40694239
	149 mm	2	On loan R.H.A.
2/12 Aust Bn.	75 mm	1	41224247
	75 mm	1	41214248
	77 mm	2	40954289
	105 mm	1	41194248.

11. Guides.

The provision of guides will be arranged mutually between the outgoing and incoming units.

ADMINISTRATION.Medical.

Mobile det remain unchanged in their present locations.

Sup.

Rations to be exchanged are to comprise only bully beef and biscuits and unit comds will make mutual arrangements regarding these. Any deficiencies in rations and water to be brought up by incoming units.

Three days reserve rations and water to be in all posts at time of handover.

Units to ensure that all reserve water has been turned over.

Equipt.

Units will take with them only their G.1098 scale of equipt.

The undermentioned will be treated as trench stores and will be handed over to the relieving units :-

- (a). All telephones (excepting the G.1098 scale), switchboards and cables.
- (b). All weapons over and above the G.1098 scale by mutual arrangement.
- (c). All stores supplied by the Engrs incl wire, sandbags, timber, 45-gal water and storage drums, picks, shovels, periscopes etc.

Ann.

Units will take with them the G.1098 scale.

ADMINISTRATION.

Arm. (Cont).

.55 A.Tk, ST Grenades, Rifle Grenades No.68, and 3" Mortar will be exchanged by mutual arrangements between units.

A.P.'s will be as under -

- Bn. in AIRENTE area will use DERNA Rd. A.P.
- Bn. in PILASTRINO area will use ACROMA Rd. A.P.
- Bn. in EL ADEM Rd June will use BARDIA Rd A.P.

Tpt.

The tpt bringing in tps of the relieving unit will take back tps of the units relieved, and then come u/c reserve Bde.

'B' Sec No.2 Tp Carrying Tpt at present allotted reserve Bn of fwd Bde remains in the present locality and comes u/c 20 Aust Inf Bde at 0300 hrs night 26/27 Jul. 41.

Unit comds to arrange embussing points.

B.Ech.

B.Ech for the time being will remain in their present locations and separate instns will be issued later re their movement.

Post stores.

Incoming unit to ensure that there are 3 days rations and water, also that reserve am on the approved scale is in all posts taken over.

INTERCOMN

12. H.Q. 18 Aust Inf Bde will close down at present location at 0300 hrs 27 Jul and re-open at the same time at P.W. Cgge'.

Ack.

Distribution.

Copy No.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 2/9 Aust Bn | 1. |
| 2/10 Aust Bn. | 2. |
| 2/12 Aust Bn | 3. |
| J Sec Sigs. | 4. |
| Comd. | 5. |
| B.M. | 6. |
| T.O. | 7. |
| 24 Aust A.Tk Coy/ | 8. |
| 1 N.F. | 9. |
| 1 R.H.A. | 10. |
| 107 R.H.A. | 11. |
| 3 Aust A.Tk Regt | 12. |
| 7. Fd Coy R.A.E | 13. |
| 20 Aust Inf Bde. | 14. |
| 24 Aust Inf Bde. | 15. |
| 28 Aust Inf Bde. | 16. |
| File. | 17. |
| War Diary. | 18 and 19. |

J. Dalry
 Maj.
 HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde.

A I F

R On

by

Brig. G.F. Wooten D.S.O.
Comd 18 Aust Inf Bde.

6 Jul 41

Part 1

No. 324.

1. SWIMMING.

The attention of units is drawn to 9 Aust Div RO No. 246.

2. RETURNS.

Ref. Bde HQ instns re. above the following additions are to be made:-

(1) Daily Parade State W3006.

AZ to include all persons committed to detention.

(2) Field Returns, W3008-9

Secondments, evacuations to hospital, reported battle casualties, persons committed to detention and personnel transferred to X. List are to be struck off strength as soon as casualty occurs.

(3) Officers suitable for rank of Lt-Col.

" " for Staff Appointments

to reach this HQ by 12th day of each month.

(4) Certificate of audit Regimental Funds and monthly Statement of Expenditure - 2 copies. Units please forward one copy to this HQ for month of June.

Units to render ~~the~~ MIL Returns to this HQ if applicable.

Law D Hayward Capt.
SC 18 Aust Inf Bde.

A I F
R Os
by
Brig G. F. Wootten DSO
Comd 18 Aust Inf Bde.

13 Jul 41

Part 1

No. 325

1. HONOURS & AWARDS.

The Commander-in-Chief has approved of the following immediate awards for gallantry in action during recent operations:-

THE MILITARY CROSS.

QX254	Lieut. W.H. NOYES	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
SX1225	Lieut. F.W. COOK	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
TX2105	Lieut. A.L. REID	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
WX3421	Capt. C.H.B. NORMAN	24 Aust A.Tk Coy

THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

QX1399	A/Sgt. R.W. HOBSON	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
QX2687	L/Cpl. A.J. TAYLOR	2/10 Aust Inf Bn

THE MILITARY MEDAL.

QX4141	Pte. G.S. MCGROW	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
SX2448	Pte. O.G. HACKETT	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
TX677	Sgt. B.L. MCKAY	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
QX1799	Pte. F. MUNNICH	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
WX7959	Cpl. F.C. ASTON	24 Aust A.Tk Coy
WX6948	Gnr. R.J. BALDWIN	24 Aust A.Tk Coy.

The Bde Comd extends his heartiest congratulations to all who have received these honours.

2. E.F.M. CABLES.

Ref. D.R.O. No. 267 of 11 Jul 41 Bde will submit by 1200 hrs 15 Jul additional texts considered necessary with a view to publication as a supplementary list.

3. CANTEENS.

Attention is directed to D.R.O. No. 269 in reference to the payment of Canteen Accounts.

4. DISCIPLINE.

Ref. D.R.O. No. 263 (Ann in Kit Bags) units will ensure that this order is brought to the notice of all ranks under their comd.

Thos B Hayward, Capt.
SC 18 Aust Inf Bde.

W.D.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
ROUTINE ORDERS

By
ERIC G. F. WOOTTEN DSO
Comd 13 Aust. Inf. Bde.

28 Jul 41.

Part 1.

No. 326

1. GRAVES REGISTRATION.

Units concerned in the operations in the Western Desert and Cyrenaica will submit direct to 2nd Echelon GHQ ME any particulars they may have of burials in the field. If possible, a rough sketch map, map reference, and method of marking the grave should be attached to any such information.

2. COURTS OF INQUIRY - PRISONERS OF WAR.

Attention is drawn to the procedure for the assembly of Courts of Inquiry on officers and other ranks who are taken prisoners of war by the enemy and for disposal of proceedings as laid down in F.S.R. Vol.1, Sec 23(1).

The authority for deciding that a Court shall be assembled will be the Divisional or Force Commander under whom the individual was serving.

O's.C. units are responsible for bringing to the notice of Divisional or Force Commanders any cases in which they consider the convening of a Court of Inquiry advisable.

3. Unserviceable Stockings - Conversion to Hosetops.

Unit Commanders will take independent action to ensure that the feet of unserviceable stockings, woollen, are cut off and the legs of the stockings used as hosetops.

Unit Commanders will also ensure that any unserviceable stockings in excess of unit requirements, after the above action has been taken, are returned to nearest Aust Ord. Depot.

4. COMMUNICATION OTHER THAN THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

Many applications, requests and submissions are being made direct to formation etc HQ and to Australia instead of through the proper military channels.

Unit censors will ensure that matter of the nature referred to is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of AMR&O 1568(1) and 1569(1) which provide -

"Correspondence to be referred to superior authority will be forwarded through each officer in the chain of command. The same principle will be followed by a superior to a subordinate authority. A superior authority who communicates directly with a subordinate authority will usually notify his action to any intermediate authority.

An application from an officer will be submitted to his C.O..

An application from a soldier will be made to his company etc commander who will, if the nature of the application requires lay it before the C.O.

To be repeated in unit Orders.

5. PAYBOOKS - ENTERING PLACE OF PAYMENT.

The practice of entering location in which payment is made will cease immediately and the only entry which will appear in the third column will be "On Service."

6. INTER-UNIT TRANSFERS:

AIF Order (ME) No. 223 of 28 Feb 41 is amended by adding the following words at the end of para (b):-

"without approval being first obtained from HQ, AIF (ME).

7. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

The number of traffic accidents in the Nile Delta, involving third parties only, now amounts to approximately one hundred a week. This figure is excessive and must be reduced in the interests of efficiency and economy. Most accidents are caused by neglect of elementary traffic regulations or by speeding.

It is the responsibility of C.Os. and Officers in charge of Transport to ensure that adequate instructions on these points are given to all drivers under their command and to take severe disciplinary action where they are disobeyed or neglected.

It is the duty of all officers and O.Rs to report cases of speeding and bad driving immediately and all such reports are to be investigated most carefully.

This order is to be repeated in unit Orders and C.Os are to have this Order specifically brought to the notice of all drivers under their command at least once every month.

8. PHOTOGRAPHS.

The practice of forwarding to Australia personal photographs taken in such a manner as to show the portrait superimposed or inset on facsimile Australian Bank Notes on the blank open space reserved for the water-mark will cease. The possession of such photographs in Australia constitutes an offence under the Commonwealth Bank Act, and any person within the Commonwealth in possession thereof is liable to prosecution.

This Order will be repeated in unit Orders.

9. AUSTRALIAN ARMY PROVOST CORPS - TRANSFER TO

Transfers to the Australian Army Provost Corps are required immediately. Applicants must be of good physique, minimum height 5 ft 8 ins, have no punishments recorded on AF. B122, and have served in a forward area under fire. Men who are required to wear spectacles will not be accepted.

Unit Comds will call for volunteers having the above qualifications and will submit same to Bde HQ by 1200 hrs 31 Jul 41.

10. TRANSPORT.

Unit T.Os. will pay particular attention to the following points stressed by L.A.D. Officer attached to this Bde.-

- (a) Cars or trucks that get bogged should be towed out and not "jockeyed out." "Jockeying" tends to break heat spiders and strain to burn out clutches.
- (b) When trucks or cars are dug in, that a gentle slope for run in is provided and front wheels not merely put in a hole.
- (c) Vehicles that have been in a shelter during a sand storm should have the wheels dug out before attempting to move the vehicle.

These points are essential for maintaining unit transport in best possible condition as "spiders" and "rings" are practicable unobtainable in TOBRUK.

11. PAYBOOKS - LOSS OF

(a) C.Os. will ensure that paybooks remain in the possession of soldiers at all times.

(b) Cases of loss occasioned by the negligence or carelessness of the soldier are to be severely dealt with as breaches of military discipline.

(c) C.Os. will carry out periodical check parades for the purpose of establishing:-

- (i) The identity of soldiers without paybooks.
- (ii) The early detection of fraudulent or irregular entries.

12. SHRINKAGE OF KHAKE DRILL SHORTS AND TROUSERS.

Shrinkage up to one inch in waist and leg measurements in occurring in khaki drill shorts and trousers obtained under local contracts. C.Os. will make allowance for this when submitting indents.

13. BOTTLES, OIL, AND PULLTHROUGHS.

Heavy wastage in bottles, oil and pullthroughs is occurring. C.Os. will ensure that stricter supervision is exercised in regard to the carrying of these items in the butts of rifles. When pullthrough cords become unserviceable the weights must be returned to the nearest Aust O.D..

M. Kent
Lieut.
SC 18 Aust Inf Bde.

FEB 8 - 1942

123

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).



Army Form C 2118.

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK	AUG 1		Bde still in reserve with HQ at PW cage.	
		3 1/2	Bde stood to at 0600 hrs. 24 Bde attacking Salient. Post S7 captured. There was a swimming parade for available HQ personnel in afternoon. At 2200 hrs a dive bombing attack was directed at 10 Bn area and 10 Bn reported 3 ORs killed. Bde relinquished anti-parachute role on aerodrome being relieved in this by RAC units. Canteen stores to the extent of 20 1/2 Pt made available. At 2200 hrs 9 Bn stood to on instructions from Div HQ. 28 Bn believed to be making progress in salient and it was established established that S6 S6 had been taken. This report was later found to be incorrect, and it was definitely established that S7 had been counter-attacked and recaptured by the enemy.	M/S
		4	Orders received to relieve 24 Bde in Salient commencing night 5/6 Aug.	
		5	9 Bn relieved 43 Bn on left flank of Western sector during the night 5/6 Aug.	
		6	Bde HQ personnel moved in evening to new HQ. Duty officer only remaining to actual passing of command of Western sector from 24 Bde.	
		7	Command of Western Sector passed from 24 Bde to 18 Bde at 0400 hrs, and 10 Bn less one Coy relieved 32 Bn at Western sector reserve during night 6/7 Aug.	
		8	During night 7/8 Aug. 12 Bn plus one coy 10 Bn relieved 28 Bn.	
		9	There was little activity. Enemy on the Bde front appeared to be busy with working parties. Our own patrols were out during the night mainly for the purposes of recce, paying particular attention to enemy minefields. Bde HQ staff engaged in normal routine. During night 8/9 10 Bn from from reserve area and relieved 48 Bn.	8/2/15

12/39 BPL 51/54

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

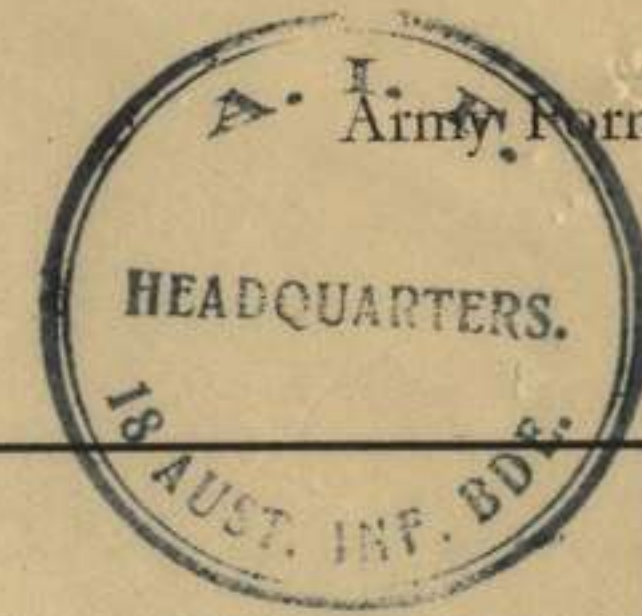
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required).



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK	Aug 10		G.O.C. 9 Aust Div visited Bde Comd and directed that plans be drawn up for another attack on Post S7. It was arranged that one coy SS would be available to create a diversion or provide flank protection. Arrangements made for necessary air photos to be obtained.	
		11	Conference held at HQ 18 Bde at 1000 hrs. Attended by CO's 9,10 and 12 Bns, 18 Cav, 51 Fd Regt, 2/12 Aust Fd Regt. and SS Tps. The proposed attack on S7 was discussed and orders issued for necessary recces to be carried out. 10 Bn were detailed to carry out the attack supported by all available Arty and MG's.	
		12	Enemy air activity on town and harbour area increased during the past few days. Heavy raids took place during the night 11/12 culminating with the destruction of an old Italian amn dump this morning. CO 10 Bn submitted outline plan for attack. Matter discussed and it was decided that the operation would require a full Bn at least, and probably further two coys, since S7 itself was indefensible unless opposition fwd and to the flanks was also accounted for. Comd 18 Bde instructed BM to prepare an appreciation of the situation to consider the operation. GSO I Called to inquire as to how preparations were progressing.	
		13	GOC visited Bde Comd.	
		14	GOC visited Comd and was given copy of appreciation of situation.	
		15	Capt.S.T.G.Coleman was today appointed to act as temporary I.O.	
		16	Brig Wootten accompanied by Capt Coleman visited 9 Div HQ. A warning order was subsequently issued that the Bde was to be relieved and that all projected special operations were to be cancelled. Warning order was received for advance parties (details) to leave Tobruk.)	

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required).



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK	Aug 17		O.O.No 12 issued with respect to relief by 26 Bde and was delivered by LO's during night 16/17. The G.O.C. called at Bde HQ during the day and inspected the Bde area accompanied by Capt. Coleman. Two war correspondents visited HQ and were taken to 10 Bn area by Lieut Stephenson during night 16/17 Aug.	
	18		9 Bn relieved by 24 Bn night 17/18 , former becoming Bde reserve.	
	19		The 9 Bn moved back to Airente during the night 18/19 having been relieved as Bde reserve by 48 Bn.	
	20		Bde HQ was moved back to PW cage in the morning, the command of Western sector having passed to 26 Bde at 0300 hrs. Advance party of the Polish Bde arrived in Tobruk, and their Bde HQ party came to Bde HQ lines in early morning. The advance party from 18 Bde left by destroyer for Alexandria. Lieut Marshall and 1 OR represented Bde HQ. During the night 19/20, 12 Bn was relieved by 1 Pnr Bn and moved back to Sidi Mahmoud.	
	21		Bde HQ moved from PW cage to Fort Solaro area where dugouts had been prepared for the establishment of a permanent reserve Bde HQ. Polish personnel remained at PW cage. 10 Bn moved to Pilastrino during the night 20/21 after relief by 23 Bn.	
	22 24		A draft from the Bde left for Alexandria. From HQ the quota consisted of Capt. Hall and 29 ORs (incl of signal and HQ Guard personnel) A letter was received by Bde from GOC Tobruk Fortress indicating his appreciation of the services of the Bde during its twenty weeks in Tobruk. Letter and reply attach. Appx	

18 AUST INF BDE

123

TOBRUK-PALESTINE

AUG 41

MOVEMENTS

TOBRUK -
KILO 89

Bde leaves TOBRUK, move starting 20 Aug
units arriving at KILO 89 by 30 Aug.

18 AUST INF BDE
AUG 41

INTELLIGENCE

BDE
INTELLIGENCE
SUMMARIES

appended.

18 AUST INF BDE
AUG 41

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required).



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK	Aug 25		Further draft of personnel left for Alexandria, HQ quota being Lieut Stephenson, Lieut Muir and 28 ORs (incl signal personnel). The advance party together with the next draft arrived at Kilo 89 camp (Palestine) having travelled via Alexandria - Amariya - El Kantara - Beit Jirja.	
	26		A draft including the Staff Captain and T.O left for Alexandria.	
	27		Bde rear parties left Tobruk for Alexandria at the same time as the Brig and Capt. Hayward. The B.M, Maj. T.J. Daly and one driver only remaining. Draft under Lieut Stephenson arrived at Kilo 89.	
	28		BM and one OR left Tobruk in HMAS Napier. The only representatives of the 18 Bde now remaining in Tobruk are Lieut R.G. Cundell (LO to 9 Div) and Lieut C.L. Durant and 2 ORs required for duties at a forthcoming courtmartial.	
PALESTINE	29		Party under Staff Captain arrived at Kilo 89.	
	30		Brig. Wootten and Maj Daly arrived at Kilo 89 camp, having travelled from Alexandria by road. Rear parties arrived having travelled by rail and spent the previous night at Beit Jirja.	

J. Massell
Maj.
BM.18 Aust Inf Bde.

18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary. No. 97.From information up to 11.00 hrs.1. GENERAL.

At 0400 hrs this morning command of the WESTERN Sector passed from 24 Aust Inf Bde to 18 Aust Inf Bde. Also during the night 2/10 Aust Bn relieved 38 Aust Bn who were in the reserve position in this sector. The situation generally has been quiet though a tendency to "jumpiness" on the part of the ENEMY seems to be evidenced by his frequent use of flares.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

The following ENEMY dispositions were reported by fwd units,

MG Posts at 39874511, 39884312, 39314308, 39864306.
SANGARS area 396425 grouped in two and three 300 to 800 yds apart. One sentry at each group.
40054285 (approx). These were empty.

ENEMY MINEFIELDS.

A 9 Bn patrol passed through a minefield at 39904282. This comprised of thick row 'g' type mines four feet apart and five feet in depth ten feet in front of four rows of TELLER type with a trip wire on WESTERN edge. There were NO 'g' type mines seen SOUTH of this point.

OBSERVED ENEMY MOVEMENT.

TWO tanks were seen in area TWIN PIMPLES from 0015 hrs till 0430 hrs when they moved to WADI GLEIFA

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

ENEMY shelling was light, the following being reported :-

9 Aust Bn area	31 shells.	- Mortar.
10 Aust Bn area	31 "	- "
26 Aust Bn area	143 "	35 "
48 Aust Bn area	49 "	136 "
18 INMK Cav area	- "	10 "

NO damage or casualties as a result of ENEMY arty has been reported.

26 Bn reported that there was a large percentage of "duds" among the shells falling in their area and that many others showed poor explosion and fragmentation

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Patrolling was in most instances difficult owing to the bright moonlight and although NO contact was made with the ENEMY, MG fire was encountered in several instances. Patrols reported that ENEMY seemed doubtful as to our intentions and consequently used flares frequently.

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY (Cont)

A patrol from 18 Coy went out with the intention of ambushing ENEMY previously observed in area 397439 but NO enemy were found on arrival.

MORTAR ACTIVITY.

29 Bn mortars carried out a shoot on targets area WADI No.4 (39744354) . TWIN SANGARS (39594340) Pt 69 (Sq 396432) and DERELICT CARRIER (39734337) but NO definite results were observed.

ARTY ACTIVITY.

Twenty to thirty ENEMY around MG Post at 396436 and twelve in sangars at Pt 69 (396436) were dispersed by gunfire from 51 Fd Regt. RA.

[Handwritten Signature]
Maj.
18 Aug 61

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8 Aug. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 93From information received to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

The situation in the WESTERN Sector was again quiet. Shelling was normal and patrolling was not so active as is usual owing to the difficulties imposed by the bright moonlight.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.(a). DISPOSITIONS.

MG - in sangars 39844306 and 39884312.

(b). WORKING PARTIES.

Large parties from Pt 86 to TWIN PIMPLES. Several parties in vicinity 39774374. ✓

(c). SANGARS.

Approx 39814371 (new) ✓

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

The distribution of shells landing within the sector was as follows :-

9 Bn. Area .	43 shells.	19 mortars.
10 Bn Area .	103 shells.	
12 Bn Area .	-	
48 Bn Area .	35 shells.	
18 Cav area.	68 shells.	

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

EA flew over the area at various times between 2200 hrs and 2330 hrs but NO bombs were reported by units.

5. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

patrolling was limited owing to the brightness of the moonlight but some success in interrupting ENEMY working parties was achieved by a patrol of 1 NCO and 7 men from 18 Cav. Opening fire on a working party in vicinity of Pt 86 with LMG, Tommy Guns and rifles the patrol threw ENEMY into panic and loud screams suggested that casualties were inflicted. ENEMY returned fire for about five minutes after which patrol waited for some time in hope that ENEMY would come forward from cover to deal with them. Nothing eventuated so patrol moved SOUTH causing disturbances amid working party in vicinity of 39774374 before returning just prior to daylight.

J. J. J. J.
 Maj.
 BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

9 Jul. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence summary No. 99.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

Situation in the 18 Bde area remains quiet and there were fewer reports of ENEMY working parties. Our patrols were active in finding much information. Contact with ENEMY being made by only one patrol. During the night 8/9 Aug 48 Bn were relieved by 10 Bn. Each of these units had one OR wounded but otherwise there were NO incidents.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.Dispositions - noted by patrols.

Sangers - Wadi No 2, (398435) dilapidated and unoccupied. Western slope Wadi No 3 (397435) new. 40044288 - unoccupied.

MG. 40004288 (well camouflaged)

WEAPON PITS. - 40084293 (L.P.)

From 40094289 to 40054285, old and unoccupied (Two rows of 'S' type mines several yds to SE of pits and inside of pits and parapets also mined)

MINEFIELDS. - 40054287 to 40054284 - Irregularly laid 'S' type. 40064294 - On bearing of 200 deg and 127 yds long consisting of single trip wire. 40074295 - Bearing of 150 deg for 100 yds - 3 rows TELLER with additional mines interspersed for 25 yds each side of this pit. 40054298 - Bearing 120 deg - Three rows of 'S' type staggered (Followed for 150 yds) 40094295 - Scattered 'S' type - general bearing 156 deg - Deloused for about 400 yds from point of contact. 40054293 - 'S' Type mines deloused by patrol at this point. 40054287 to 40054284 - Booby traps running between these points deloused. 40074296 - 'S' type field running NORTH & SOUTH - Mines were deloused for 100 yds NORTH of this point. 40064297 - 'S' Type of TELLER field running NORTH and SOUTH. ENEMY wire could be seen behind field.

In addition to the above dispositions the 51 Pd Regt O.P have noted a mortar in Sq 397437.

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

ENEMY shelling which was light was distributed over the sector as follows -

9 Bn	51 shells	16 mortars.
10 Bn	18 shells	26 mortars.
12 Bn	53 shells	-
18 Cav.	17 shells.	

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

PATROLS.

A patrol from 18 Cav was again successful in disturbing an ENEMY working party, this time outside the wire to SOUTH of TWIN PIMPLES (397439) . Fire from the patrol evoked the usual screams and sounds of very rapid dispersion. Following this patrol lay up for ten minutes but NO fire was brought to bear upon it nor did the enemy put up any flare lights. The patrol advanced but encountered NO further enemy.

A Recon patrol from 12 Bn made a thorough investigation of Wadis 2, 3, 4 and although NO ENEMY were seen a quantity of equipment was found in sangars. 9 Bn patrols were active delousing and investigating minefields.

5. OWN ARTY ACTIVITY.

AN ENEMY mortar in Sq 397437 fired sixteen rounds into 18 Cav FDL's. This mortar was engaged by 370 Bty B Tp of 51 Fd Regt and was neutralised and possibly hit as it did not fire again.


Maj.
EM 18 Army Inf Bde.

(3)
SECRET.

10 Aug. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No.100.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

The situation is still quiet in the Western Sector, the main activities being working parties on the part of the ENEMY and patrols by our own tps.

In 18 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No99 of 9 Aug, Para 2, (minefields) the second item: add - " 25 paces in front of 3 rows, 10,ft apart of 'S' type mines."

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

(a) DISPOSITIONS.- Noted by patrols.

Sangars.

39704337 (approx) either camouflaged sangar or large tent.

39834368

39844266

(b) Weapon Pits.

39804358 - unoccupied.

(c) Minefields.

39774359 - Double row ITALIAN Box type mines close together - Bearing 70 degrees several mines deloused.

39964252 to 39954262 - staggered TELLER . Gap of 15 yds at 39964258.

One only 'S' type mine was found at 40014298 and although locality was well searched NO more were found.

WEST from 40064295 - Traversed from this point to 40074294 - four rows TELLER.

Area 40054294 - This area previously deloused now appears to have 'S' type mines scattered haphazardly .

(b) WORKS IN PROGRESS.

A working party of approx forty men was seen digging and driving stakes on Eastern slope of WHITE KNOLL(3971-4337) and carrying heavy boxes from one sangar to another about 50 yds NORTH of KNOLL.

Explosions thought to be blasting occurred at 39614318.

39804332 - Thirty or forty men apparently building sangars and laying mines were observed at 0930 hrs.

39894264 - Working party on minefield.

3. ENEMY METHODS.

Light Signals. - A patrol noted that when a RED Veray light was fired heavy MG and Rifle fire was brought down.

4. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

The following enemy shells have been reported ,

9 Aust Bn	65 shells.	36 Mortar.
10 Aust Bn	132 shells.	
12 Aust Bn.	39 shells.	14 Mortar.

5. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY.

An increase in fixed line MG fire was noted in the Salient area.

6. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Patrols were out as usual paying particular attention to recess of minefields and booby-trap areas. During these operations 9 Bn suffered One OR killed and three wounded as a result of Booby-traps and one OR killed by MG fire.

J. J. Coleman
Capt.
BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

The situation is still fluid in the Western Sector, the main activities being working parties on the part of the ENEMY and patrols on our own side. It is noted that the Intelligence Summary No. 2 of 2 Aug. is a second item: add - "35 pages of 8' type mines".

(a) REPORTS - Noted by patrols.

39704337 (approx) either unaccounted for or large tent.
3984338
3984339

(b) REPORTS - unaccounted.

3984338

(c) MINEFIELDS

3974338 - Double row ITALIAN Box type mines close together - bearing 70 degrees several mines destroyed.

3974338 to 3974338 - staggered TELLER Gap of 15 yds at 3974338.

One only '8' type mine was found at 4001338 and although locality was well searched NO more were found.

WEST from 4006338 - Traversed from this point to 4007338 - four row TELLER.

Area 4006338 - This area previously delaminated now appears to have '8' type mines scattered haphazardly.

(d) WORK IN PROGRESS

A working party of approx forty men was seen digging and driving stakes on Eastern slope of WHITE KNOLL (3971-4337) and carrying heavy boxes from one camp to another about 50 yds NORTH of KNOLL.

Explosives thought to be blasting occurred at 3984338.

3984338 - Thirty or forty men apparently building concrete and laying mine were observed at 0830 hrs.

3984338 - Working party on minefield.

3. ENEMY METHODS

1. Light Stakes - A patrol noted that when a RED VORAY light was fixed heavy MG and Rifle fire was brought down.

2. ENEMY ART ACTIVITY

The following enemy shells have been reported:

9 Aust Bn	55 shells
10 Aust Bn	103 shells
11 Aust Bn	50 shells

11 AUG. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary. No. 101.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

During the night 10/11 Aug, although the situation was still quiet and without incident there was some intermittent ENEMY MG and mortar fire and ENEMY working parties continue to be active.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

The following was noted by patrols during the night 10/11 Aug.

(a) DISPOSITIONS.(i) Weapon Pits.

39704300 Extensive digging on flat. All pits appear to be disused.
 39704353 - remains of disused camp.
 39794377 - trenches.
 40054283 - CV3 Tk with diggings beneath. This Tk opened fire on one of our patrols.

(ii) Roads and Tracks.

39704353. June of six roads clearly marked with stones.

(iii) Sangars.

39704353 - Large number of small one man sangars in vicinity of Rd June (vide (ii) above). There are clearly defined tyre marks in area and sangars appear to have been used recently. There are also a number of shell holes in vicinity.
 39974265 - Unoccupied and showed NO signs of recent occupation.

(iv) Infantry.

39844357 - Two shots fired from this pt.
 39994298 - Flares sent up from here.

(v) MG's.

Sq 399441 WEST BANK of unnamed WADI near sea.
 40044285 and 40034283 (approx)

(vi) Minefields.

40024297 - Field with trip wire - bearing 150 deg.
 40084294 to 40084290 - Strip 150 yds wide deloused between these points.
 40074294 to 40074296 - strip deloused.

3. ENEMY WORKING PARTIES.

39844367 (approx) Working party heard at this point hammering and handling petrol drums. Party did a great deal of talking.
 39704377 - Unloading gear from truck.
 Although other working parties were heard it was not possible to pin-point them or to give an accurate estimate of the number of parties as it is possible that the one party may

8/2/41

12 Aug. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary, No 102.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

The situation in the Western Sector remains quiet and although our patrols continue to obtain useful information and to devitalise minefield area the ENEMY was contacted only once and as they went quickly to ground when a flare went up contact was lost.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

(a) Dispositions noted by patrols.

(i) Diggings and sangars.

- 39794311 - unoccupied dugouts.
- 39724338 - Shallow pits 6 ft by 2 ft by 1 ft deep, two yds apart. Digging very fresh.
- 39784347 - Sangars and old digging unoccupied.
- 39714350 - Recently dug weapon pits similar to our own section post - very shallow.
- 39694307 - Very recently dug one man holes very scattered.

(ii) Inf.

- 39774314 - suspected listening post.
- 50 yds SOUTH of WATER TOWER - sniper.

(iii) MG's.

- Fifty yds south of WATER TOWER.
- 39994297, 39954298, 39964298, 40014289.

(iv) Minefields.

- 39684352 - Field consisting of two rows ITALIAN B2 mines contacted here. Field runs approx NORTH & SOUTH and is easily discovered, some mines being merely placed among white stones.
- 39834284 - Field contacted here and traced for 200 yds each side - Bearing 170 deg - consists of four rows BRITISH MkII and five rows TELLER forty yards behind - NO 'S' type.
- 40084292 to 40084283 - Strip 150 yds wide cleared between these points.
- 40024298 to 40024297 - Strip 50 yds wide cleared between these points.
- 40074296 - Area about 100 yds square cleared in this vicinity.

(b) Works in Progress.

- 40024290 - Digging.
- 40024289 - Wiring.

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

Enemy shells were reported to have fallen in following areas,

9 Bn area	14 shells	16 mortar.
10 Bn area	93 shells.	
12 Bn area	180 shells.	48 mortar.
24 Bn area	20 shells.	
18 Cav area	3 shells.	

4. ENEMY METHONE.

(1). Flares.- OP of 51 Fd Regt reported that between 2045 and 2315 hrs flares were being sent up from ENEMY lines at intervals NOT exceeding five minutes.

5. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Normal patrolling took place and much useful recon was done. 9 Bn parties successfully devitalised large portions of ENEMY minefields.

6. OWN ARTY ACTIVITY.

51 Fd Regt carried out a shoot on S7 and WATER POINT sangars and observation gave indications of its success.

W. G. ...
Maj.
BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

13 AUG. 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No.103.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

The Western Sector continued to be quiet and although many patrols were out NO ~~contact~~ contact was made with the ENEMY.

There seemed to be some increase in the use of flares by the ENEMY and his working parties continue to be active.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.(a). Dispositions - as noted by patrols.(i). M.G. 39734313.

39764365 - appears to be first of a series of such posts extending NE.

(ii). Diggings etc.

39994299 - shallow earthworks 10 to 15 feet long 18 inches deep.

(iii) Minefields.

From DERNA Rd on bearing 225 deg to a point 20 yds from Escarpment at approx 39744357 thus leaving much used passage for MT. Field consists of two rows seven feet apart of long ITALIAN pattern mines.

From 39924261 - Bearing 225 deg - Consists of three rows BRITISH Mk11 mines 18 feet in depth with 9 feet between mines with four staggered rows of TELLER 25 yds in rear and a single trip wire five feet further to rear.

40054295 (Crossed by patrol here) - Bearing 165 deg, Three rows TELLER.

(iv) Wire.

Seen at 40034294 - Bearing 335 deg.

Seen at 39964296 - Running on line approximately parallel to own wire, probably DA.

(b). Works in Progress.

Although sounds of working parties in various areas were heard it was not possible to pin point the works. There did however seem to be digging proceeding in the vicinity of R5 and it is thought that sawing and a compressor were heard in the vicinity of Pt 209.

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

Units have reported the following ENEMY shells as having landed in their areas :-

9 Bn area	23 shells	40 mortars.
10 Bn area	35 shells	135 mortars.
12 Bn area	457 shells	18 mortars.
24 Bn area	15 shells	12 mortars.
18 Cav area	55 shells	12 mortars.

As result of a shoot carried out by 2/12 Fd Regt RAA ENEMY brought down retaliatory fire lasting from 1810 to 1855 hrs. The localities which suffered most as a result of this were FIGTREE, S15, S17, S10, WADI GIADA, 51 Fd Regt OP9, C&E Tps

(cont overleaf)

2/12 Fd Regt, R12, R14. It is interesting to note that Arty OP's 5, 6, 8, 9, 16 of 51 Fd Regt were in area shelled. NO damage has been reported. HB's believed responsible are 9529A, 9533B, 9530C, 9334A and probably 9629A. 9533B was bombarded by 75 mm and 25 pdrs.

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Recece patrols were out as usual and 9 Bn continued with the systematic clearing of ENEMY mines, clearing strips 150 yds wide from 40074296 to 40074292 and from 40004300 to 40024298. A strip 100 yds wide has been cleared of 'S' type mines from 40074282 to 40054279.

J. G. Ballman
Maj
HM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

14 Aug 41.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary No.104.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

Although contact was made with the ENEMY by one of our patrols, the WESTERN SECTOR remained quiet. ENEMY working parties continue to be busy digging and once again a compressor has been heard. As many of these parties were located by sound it was not always possible to ascertain the exact nature of their work.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

(a) Dispositions.

(i) Sangers, Weapon pits etc.

- 39834365 - Large sanger occupied by 10 - 12 men all of whom were killed by 12 Bn patrol.
- 39874338 - Sangers occupied.
- 39714357 - Sangers and dugouts, unoccupied.
- 39894339 - Several sangers, unoccupied.
- 39884340 - One large and four small sangers - unoccupied, also small protective walls about 1 ft high in this locality.
- 40004292 - Five sangers - old GERMAN post. One was surrounded by a trip wire.

(b) Works in progress.

Working party attached by our patrol was constructing trenches in vicinity 39884365.
 Working party heard digging in vicinity 39874340, thought to be laying mines.
 Compressor heard working at 39744338.
 39884269 - Working party seen.
 39834236 - Working party seen.
 40004279 - Stakes being driven into ground heard.

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

ENEMY shelling was heavier, its distribution over the sector being as follows :-

9 Bn area	8 shells	17 mortar.
10 Bn area	129 shells.	163 mortar.
12 Bn area	385 shells	15 mortar.
24 Bn area	60 shells.	
18 Cav area	6 shells	

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Patrols were out as usual from all units on the RED LINE. Of these one only made contact with the ENEMY. This patrol of 1 OFtr and 20 OR's of 2/12 Bn went out from 923 to a large sanger at 39834365 which they reached at 2215 hrs. Killing the sentry they proceeded to kill the 10 or 12 occupants of the sanger with grenades and bayonets. The patrol then engaged a large ENEMY working party 100 yds further on with BRENS, TSMG and grenades.

(Cont Overleaf.)

The working party quickly occupied the trenches they were digging and fired on our patrol with LMG and mortar. Our patrol then withdrew. Our casualties were 1 Offr and 5 OR's wounded.

Another patrol from 12 Bn brought in 100 secondary charges for ITALIAN 80 mm mortar.

A patrol from 10 Bn found a loaded but unattended Spandau Gun in vicinity 39764314 and brought it in with them.

9 Bn continued delousing of ENEMY mines on a somewhat reduced scale, and an additional area 200 yds by 175 yds about 40154287 may now be considered clear.

5. OWN ARTY ACTIVITY.

Arty activity within the sector was as follows :-

51 Fd Regt RA and 3/12 Fd Regt RAA engaged targets as under :-

Mortar areas 39804500 -	133 rds.
Mortar areas 39944299 -	24 rds.
Inf Posts 39684314 -	120 rds.
Inf posns sqs 396032 and 396434 -	199 rds.
(several casualties thought to have been inflicted here).	
S7Harassing fire....	48 rds.
Area 39624324 " "	240 rds.
Area 39654314 " "	240 rds.
BB 9530C... " "	172 rds.
R7..... " "	92 rds.
Working party 39934397,)	
Harassing fire)	13 rds.
Pt 86 - 397439- Harassing fire	17 rds.
Enemy songars. Pt 69, 39824386-	7 rds.
TWIN PIMPLES , 398438	7 rds.

R. G. Coleman Capt
Majr

BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

15 Aug 41.

18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No.105.From information received upto 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

ENEMY arty activity on our FDL's was generally heavier and the usual patrolling was done by our Tps, but generally the situation is unchanged.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.(a). Dispositions.(i). Sangars and dugouts.

- 39774313 - Twenty boxes of BRITISH SAA including amm for TSMG and some HE grenades.
- 39674337 - Sangars and weapons pits unoccupied.
- 40054289 - Sangar used throughout day as an OP.
- 40044298 to 40044299 - line of dugouts.
- 39974283 - Sangar containing A.Tk gun.

(ii). Minefields.

- 39894264 - Bearing 174 deg - Four rows TELLER with trip wire six ft in rear.
- 40044292; 40044291; 40054288; 40064286 'S' mines both push and pull type in these areas but follow NO definite pattern.
- 40054289 - Some British MkII and a few German mines in this area.

(iii). Inf.

Four men were observed moving from 40054288 at 0515 hrs 14 Aug taking up a posn with LMG in enemy wire and returning late in evening.

(iv). Wire.

Observed as extending from 40024292 to 40034289 where it bends further observation of its course not possible at time.

39974298 - Double DA at this point NO posns being visible behind wire.

(b). WORKS in progress.

- 39804329 - Working party seen here with strong covering party. Their activity were confined to a small space but our recon patrol was not able to ascertain what they were doing.
- 40004282 - Working party of 30 men seen.
- 40014283 - Blasting.
- 40034284 - Working party seen.

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

Shells are reported as having landed in following areas :-

- 9 Bn area 178 shells 10 mortar.
- 10 Bn area 127 shells 87 mortar.
- 12 Bn area 544 shells 5 mortar.
- 24 Bn area 90 shells -
- 18 Cav area 45 shells.

9 Bn suffered 1 OR killed and 2 wounded.

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Patrols which were mostly out for purposes of recon had a quiet going with the exception of one patrol of 1 Offr and 13 ~~OR's~~ OR's from 9 Bn. When at 39814262 a working party was heard to NORTH. While preparing to attack patrol Comd saw 2 ENEMY putting MG in posn and about eight other figures on ground nearby. This was about 60 yds from patrol which opened fire. This was followed by guttural squeals and growns. ENEMY were firing a few yds short and our patrol withdrew without casualties as strong ENEMY reinforcements appeared from sangars in the area.

(cont Overleaf)

5. OWN ARTY ACTIVITY.

Following targets were engaged by 51 Fd Regt RA and 2/13 Fd Regt RAA.

S4 area	-	50 rds.
S7 "	-	57 rds.
S5 "	-	100 "
S3 "	-	255 "
Sangers beyond)		
WHITE KNOLL)	526	"
Mortar areas)		
Sq 398430)	152	"
Enemy working party)		
(12 men) 39704389)	11	"
Harrassing fire on		
Pt 89, Sq 398438	15	"
Harrassing fire on		
Working party HB 9536B.	9	"

1365

Maj.
EM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

17 Aug. 41.

18 Aust Inf Bde.

Intelligence Summary. No.107.

From information received up to 1100 hrs.

1. GENERAL.

ENEMY activity on WESTERN and SALIENT sectors was normal throughout past 24 hrs.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

(i). Sangars, and dugouts.

- 39784308 - Sangars vicinity WATER TOWER unoccupied.
- 39744364 - Sangar occupied by sentry.
- 39944259 - Approx mortar posn.
- 39964270 - BIR MEDAUAR, unoccupied.
- 40054786 - Section Post occupied.

(ii). Wires.

Trip wire with cans attached from 39794388 NORTH. Wiring in progress on NORTH end of WADI GLEIFA (probably in conjunction with MG post 39924421.)

(iii). Patrols.

ENEMY patrols active from 39964260 to 39934260 (probable minefield patrol) and from 39984267 to 40054265.

(iv). Works in progress.

- In WADI about 39804366 - Strength of party not estimated.
- 40004282 - Digging party. Strength not estimated.
- 39994282 - Digging party. " " "
- 40014284 - Digging party " " "

3. ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy shelling was slightly decreased on WESTERN sector and on EASTERN end of SALIENT sector but has been maintained on NORTHERN end of SALIENT sector. Especially in sq 399430.

- 9 Bn 72 shells. 1 OR killed. 1 wounded.
- 10 Bn 436 shells. NO damage.
- 12 Bn 174 shells. 1 OR wounded.
- 18 Cav. 6 shells. NO damage.

4. OWN SHELLING.

- HB 96300 350 rds.) Ceased firing but opened up again
- HB 9533B 240 rds.) at later period.
- Mortars 39744297 - 26 rds.
- Mortars 398430 349 rds.
- Sangars. 396436 40 rds.
- Sangars. 399431 18 shells.
- MG Posts 399428 40 " . Direct hits observed and a small ^{fire} started.
- Area 397434 168 rds.
- Sangars Pt.69 398436 - 50 rds.

During shelling this morning another success was observed at S4, an explosion occurred, much black smoke followed.

R. G. Coleman Capt

BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18 Aug. 41.

18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 108.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

The ground situation generally has been quiet. About 300 ENEMY infantry were successfully engaged by our arty NORTH of DERNA Rd before dark 17 Aug. The ENEMY used a considerable number of flares in the salient night 17/18 Aug.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.(i). Dispositions.

39774376 -- Trenches occupied.
 39884308 -- Sangars occupied.
 39884306 to 39904310 sangars occupied.

(ii). Minifields.

Patrol MKK located minifield at 39884311.

3. ENEMY SHELLING.

2/9 Aust Inf Bn.	Nil.	
2/10 Aust Inf Bn.	353 (incl 253 mortars.)	Nil damage.
2/12 Aust Inf Bn.	249.	Nil damage.
18 Cav	16.	Nil damage.

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn relieved 2/9 Aust Inf Bn without incident.
 An 18 Cav patrol to enemy posn 39774376 found it protected by wire in crisscross posn.
 A 2/10 Aust Inf Bn patrol to WATER POINT 39874311 returned with 3 sets of British equipt and 2 service rifles. These have no identification on them.
 A 2/12 Aust Inf Bn patrol reports further digging in progress at Pt 154 at 39694331.

5. OWN ARTY ACTIVITY.

Targets were engaged as follows :-

36 area.	43 shells.
39744309. Suspected OP.	48 shells.
S7 area.	40 shells.
398430	} Mortar areas. 123 shells.
399429	
399429	} 31 shells.
39754308 sangars.	
WHITE KNOLL.	55 shells.
397437. Sangars.	30 shells.
Pt. 84. 396439. Sangars.	11 shells.

W. H. ...
 Maj.
 EM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

19 Aug. 41.

18 Aust Inf Bde.Intelligence Summary No. 109.From information received up to 1100 hrs.1. GENERAL.

The WESTERN sector has remained quiet during the past 24 hrs and though our usual patrols have been out during the night contact was not made with the ENEMY.

On one occasion their promptness in leaving their position prevented 18 Cav patrol from making such contact.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

An ENEMY patrol about twenty strong was seen about 50 yds from our FDL's on 10 Bn front, but had disappeared again before our patrols were able to intercept it.

3. ENEMY ARTY ACTIVITY.

10 Aust Bn.	93 shells.	157 mortars.
12 Aust Bn	55 shells.	35 mortars.
24 Aust Bn	20 shells.	
18 Cav.	Nil.	

As a result of this shelling there was one OR killed and one wounded in 24 Bn area.

4. ENEMY EQUIPT AND UNIFORMS.

51 Fd Regt RA report an ENEMY OP at 39604361. Three men standing nearby were wearing WHITE uniforms and others were wearing green-blue uniforms. It is thought they may be GERMAN although this fact has not yet definitely been established.

5. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

Our patrols had very little to report and in NO instance was there any actual contact with the enemy.

A patrol of 1 Indian Offr and 16 OR's from 18 Cav set out to attack an enemy posn at Pt 85 (39854410) from the rear. The patrols having arrived in rear of these sangars, the Patrol leader and two men went forward to make a final recon. As they approached the sangars, enemy were seen and heard running SOUTH towards the strongly and newly wired posn NW of TWIN PIMPLES. The sangars were then immediately attacked but the alarm had been given and the remainder of the enemy managed to escape in the dark, before the patrol reached the sangars. Mortar and MG fire was meanwhile opened on the patrol, from the enemy main posn on the west bank of GLEIRA WADI and from a sangar 200 yds to its right. The patrol leader then charged this MG post but once again the enemy proved his abilities at sprinting, this time WEST to his main posn, leaving behind him a heavy MG also fixed as on previous occasion to a wooden upright in the ground. By this time, heavy MG and mortar fire was coming down in the vicinity and across the enemy main posn and so the patrol leader then withdrew his patrol.

6. OWN ARTY ACTIVITY.

Following were targets engaged by 51 Fd Regt RA and 2/12 Fd Regt/ RAA.

0800 hrs. Infantry in trenches 39604368.	15 shells.
0855 hrs. Area west of WHITE KNOLL.	31 shells.
0930-1125. Mortars 39804300.	58 shells.
1910 hrs. Infantry gun 150mm observed by SHAM OP 13 and engaged and neutralised. Location 39754284.	

(cont overleaf).

6. OWN ARTY ACTIVITY. (cont.)

1918 hrs. Mortars area 398430 52 shells.
 Explosion observed in area.
 2020 hrs. 2 MG's silenced 377436. 9 shells.
 Other targets included Harassing fire on a number of
 strongposts and sangars.

John L. Stephenson
 for Maj.
 BM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

OWN ARTY ACTIVITY

10 Aug 41. 52 shells.
 12 Aug 41. 52 shells.
 14 Aug 41. 52 shells.
 15 Aug 41. 52 shells.

As a result of this shelling there was one OR killed
 and one wounded in 24 hrs.

OWN ARTY ACTIVITY

CI 14 Regt RA report on 14/8/41. Three men
 appearing near by were wearing olive uniforms and others were
 wearing khaki uniforms. It is thought they may be
 German soldiers. This fact has not yet definitely been est-
 ablished.

OWN ARTY ACTIVITY

Our patrol was very little to report and in 20 minutes
 we there was actual contact with the enemy.
 A patrol of 1 Indian Coy and 10 Coy from 2 Coy RA
 to search an enemy post at 12.30 (12.30) from the east.
 The patrol having arrived in front of three sangars, the
 patrol leader and two men went forward to make a final recon-
 as they approached the sangars, enemy were seen and heard
 running down the wadi and away west from the
 of their rifles. The sangars were then immediately silenced
 but the alarm had been given and the remainder of the enemy
 managed to escape in the dark before the patrol reached the
 sangars. However and in the meanwhile opened on the
 patrol. From the enemy sangars on the west bank of GILIA
 and from a sangar 200 yd to the right. The patrol
 leader then changed the MG but once again the enemy
 proved his ability by returning this time west to his
 main post, leaving behind him a heavy MG also fixed as in
 previous occasion to a wooden upright in the ground. By
 this time, heavy MG fire was coming down in the
 vicinity and soon the enemy main post and so the patrol
 leader then withdrew the patrol.

OWN ARTY ACTIVITY

Following are reports given by 24 Regt RA and 21st RA
 Regt RA.
 0500 hrs. 12 shells in trenches 398430. 12 shells.
 0600 hrs. 12 shells in trench 398430. 12 shells.
 0700-1100 hrs. 12 shells in trench 398430. 12 shells.
 1910 hrs. 12 shells in trench 398430. 12 shells.
 and sangars and neutralised. Location 398430.

(cont. overleaf)

APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION

OF ATTACK ON S6-S7 ORDERED BY 9 AUST DIV 10 AUG 41.

OBJECT

1. To capture and hold Posts S7 and S6.

CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECT.

2. Relative strengths and armaments

(a) Enemy

It is difficult to assess the actual enemy inf strength that would be involved in an attack on S7 and S6, but from Int reports it seems reasonable to assume that the enemy's inf strength capable of immediate participation in the battle would be at least one bn. From his strength in Mortars and MGs disclosed during previous operations in this vicinity it seems probable that either additional sub-units are att or that he has been supplied with fire power in excess of his normal WE in order to carry out the specific task allotted to him in holding this portion of the salient. Reports by previous units who have been engaged in ops in this area indicate approx 40 Mortars capable of bringing down defensive and counter preparation fire in the area concerned. The same reports, together with observations made by our own tps indicate a considerably large number of MGs of all types sited in depth and to the flanks capable of producing hy cross fire across the escarpment below S6-S7 and in the area of our FDLs.

Arty

It is impossible to estimate the number of guns which the enemy will be able to bring to bear in the event of an attack being made on S6-S7 owing to his frequent practice of moving numbers of guns to different parts of the perimeter. It seems likely, however, from present observations that a minimum of 12 btys of calibres varying from 75 mm to 150 mm could be brought to bear in this area at any time.

Mines and Booby Traps

From observations elsewhere it seems highly likely that his FDLs in this area will be heavily mined and in addition it is definitely known that the vicinity of Post S6 is thickly laid with Booby Traps.

Nature of Defences

His defences in this locality vary from a large number of mutually supporting sangars to well concealed diggings. In addition a thick belt of wire can be seen running along the top of the escarpment, although whether this is continuous or not is not known. It is considered likely that in view of the recent attack by 24 Bde on S6 and S7 that these localities will have been strengthened. It is definitely known that areas previously unoccupied have now been occupied in strength, i.e. area WATER TOWER.

Tks

It is not known whether the enemy could produce tks in sufficient quantity for an immediate counter attack but it is considered that within 24 hrs he could produce from 20 to 30 tks for this purpose and could reinforce with large numbers within a few days.

(b) Own Strength

The forces which we will be able to employ in the assault are limited to three coys of inf, or possibly one complete

bn supported by six btys of arty and one coy of MGs. The arty consists, for the greater part, of fd pieces designed primarily as anti-personnel weapons. The MGs, owing to difficulty in securing suitable posns can be used only to a limited extent in a supporting role but would be of utmost value in a fwd role to assist in consolidation.

Tks

A small number of inf tks are available to assist in repelling a tk counter attack by the enemy but in view of what is known of minefields and the difficulty of the terrain, e.g. the steep escarpment below S6-S7, their value in this role is problematical.

(c) Deductions

A consideration of the above factors brings out two salient features. The first is the hy defensive fire which the enemy is capable of putting down at very short notice. To overcome this it will be necessary to pin-point his bty posns and MG and Mortar posns and so enable our own arty to neutralise these weapons at the outset. As opposed to this is the fact that our arty consists mainly of anti-personnel weapons and is comparatively ineffective in destroying strongly constructed posns, the total number of pieces available capable of being employed on a destructive role being - 4 60 pdrs, 2 149s of doubtful efficiency and 8 4.5 hows. Furthermore the large number of posns involved as against the amount of arty available and the added difficulty of locating even a proportion of these posns precludes this being carried out with any degree of success. Mortar posns, particularly, are such small targets that the chances of neutralising any or all of them is very remote.

The alternative would then appear to be to endeavour to reach the objective undetected and so be able to assault the enemy posns before he has had time to bring down his D.F. The assaulting tps would then be faced with a task of taking well prepared posns, the defenders of which had not previously been subjected to any bombardment and who, in consequence, would be able to work their own weapons with a maximum of efficiency. This alternative, however, does not overcome the possibility of the attackers having severe casualties from unsuspected booby trap fields, nor is it possible to accurately plot or remove these booby traps fields beforehand. Furthermore, the possibility of the silent adv being detected in the early stages, must be considered. D.F. brought down at this stage would certainly cause hy casualties. This possibility has been considerably increased, recent ops in this area having resulted in additional alertness on the part of the enemy with the consequent increased difficulty in obtaining surprise.

3. Ground

(a) The ground over which the attack must be made is in the form of an escarpment at the top of which is the objective and at the bottom of which are our FDLs. The enemy occupies a line running along the top of the escarpment which peters out about 1000x East of Post S6 but continues for a considerable distance to the West of S7. This ground formation enables the enemy to observe all the ground between our FDLs and the objective from both flanks and his weapons are so sited as to enable him to produce hy enfilade fire from MGs while the narrowness of the immediate front enables him to cover the area most effectively with arty and mortar fire. Between our FDLs and the objective there are no covered lines of approach. A number of small wadis provide slight protection for part of the way against flanking MG fire but these are thoroughly covered by mortars.

It is obvious, therefore, that failing the complete neutralisation of the enemy's D.F. it will not be possible to adv over this country in daylight or, having advanced, to bring further tps across it.

(b) The capture of the objective presents us with a linear posn which, owing to the nature of the ground and the impossibility of either giving direct supporting fire or securing observation from our present posns, is virtually without depth. In addition it will be subjected to hy fire from both flanks which, unless subdued, will also effectively prevent comm with the rear and the bringing up of necessary reserves and stores. Consequently it will be necessary to exploit fwd from these posns sufficiently far to give depth necessary to hold these posns, which from our present knowledge, would appear to be to the general line of the ACROMA rd. In addition exploitation to the East at least as far as the WRECKED PLANE 39874309 will be necessary in order to protect the left flank of the captured posn and to prevent it forming a narrow salient jutting out towards RAS EL MEDAUUAR. This will require a hy arty preparation before being undertaken. Simultaneously, a front must be formed facing West to meet any threat from that direction.

4. Time and Space.

Precluding the absolute neutralisation of the enemy's defensive fire the factors mentioned above necessitate the attack being carried out during the hours of darkness.

The time at which the operation can commence is bound up with the surprise factor. It is essential that no abnormal movement should be observed by the enemy during daylight and that no excessive MT movement should be heard by him during darkness. Consequently the attacking tps cannot be brought further fwd in daylight than the general area of the wadis in Sq. 401432. The distance from there to the possible Start Line is approximately 3,500 yds by the most direct route and by night this would mean at least two hrs marching to F.U.P. Movement could not commence before 2115 hrs which would mean the attack would not commence before about 2400 hrs. The movement of the attacking tps in the early stages must be slow in order that they may approach as close as possible to the objective, undetected and it is unlikely that the actual assault on S6-S7 would take place before 0045 hrs. Assuming the capture of these posns by, say 0100 hrs this would leave five hrs of darkness for reorganisation exploitation and consolidation. At the same time this provides sufficient time for the enemy to organise a counter attack at first light or shortly afterwards.

In an attack carried out under these conditions exploitation during the hrs of darkness must necessarily lead to an almost complete loss of control and it is doubtful if our force would be able to withstand a determined counter attack at first light. On the other hand failure to exploit would greatly increase the difficulty of holding a line S6-S7 on the following day. By the time this operation could be carried out the moon will be in its last quarter and will be so faint as to exercise no appreciable influence on the course of the battle.

5. Security

Our primary task is to hold the line where present occupied. This task cannot reasonably be entrusted to the bn carrying out the attack and will consequently involve its relieve by another bn in sufficient time to carry out the necessary tng and preparation for the operation.

6. Comms.

Failure to successfully exploit the area between post S6 and FORBES MOUND would leave our comms between S6-S7 and our present FDLs open to enfilade fire from that area and in any case from the escarpment West of S7 and point 155 39644322. His observation of this area would render impossible any comm during hrs of daylight, whereas by night sounds of MT etc moving in this area would almost certainly bring down hy arty, MG and mortar fire.

The problem of bringing up reserves, engr stores, rations, water and amm becomes extremely acute, and until such time as the situation becomes normal could only be carried out by the risk of considerable casualties to men and eqpt.

7. Intercomm

From the point of view of sig comm present experience in posts S8, S9 and S10 practically rule out the use of L/T with any success, and in consequence it would be necessary to rely on V/T or wireless. The Number 18 Pack set has proved unreliable under conditions involving hy shelling and it would be necessary to use 101 Sets although these are difficult to manhandle, under hy fire.

COURSES OPEN TO BOTH SIDES

1. To Ourselves

(a) To simultaneously attack posts S6 and S7 subsequently exploiting south to the general line of the ACROMA rd and east to FORBES MOUND, meanwhile consolidating S6 and S7.

(b) To attack S6 and S7 and to consolidate the ground gained without exploitation.

2. To the Enemy

(a) To stand and fight on his present line.

(b) To withdraw from S6-S7 in the face of a strong attack and to counter attack on the following day before we have been able to properly consolidate or reinforce our posn, or later when he could mass a tk attack.

(c) To launch an attack against some other portion of our front, probably on the Western Perimeter, in order to prevent our making full use of our res and to distract the attention of our arty.

(d) To continue (c) with a counter attack on R6-R7 locality. This would jeopardize our arty supporting fire plan and might require the employment of res elsewhere.

Of the above courses the first appears to present the greatest chance of success for us, while course (d) seems the one most likely to be employed by the enemy. In any event it is considered probable that hy casualties will be incurred in the initial assault and exploitation. Judging by previous operations against this posn it is reasonable to expect that allowing for the leading tps to pass through the defensive fire zone undetected (which would be a most difficult movement) that casualties to reserves would be in the vicinity of 50%. This may be obviated to some extent by the tps attacking the R7 locality moving wide to a flank and possibly avoiding some of the D.F.

The casualties incurred by booby traps cannot be estimated but from reports of the recent ops against post S7 it may be expected that these will be considerable and no suggestions can be advanced for overcoming them.

The greatest danger however, is the possibility of our disorganised forces having to meet a well planned counter attack on the following morning. In the event of hy casualties having been suffered and strong reserves being not available or unable to be got fwd it is possible that they would be wiped out or captured as has happened during previous ops in this area.

This op, once having been entered upon, cannot be broken off at will. As it is our intention to capture and hold S6 and S7 and environs, then we must fight continuously until such time as the enemy gives up counter attacking. This may, and almost certainly will, mean much reinforcing and possibly re-attacking. Added to this, constant ~~constant~~ and plentiful arty support will be required for an indefinite period. This brings up the question of amm available, and if such amm is sufficient to sustain the prolonged D.F. and C.P. programme. How long this will be required however, rests entirely with the enemy.

If it is the enemy's intention to retain S7 and S6 then we may expect a series of counter attacks in strength and strongly supported by arty, mortars and possibly tks etc, and should an attacking bn have suffered hy casualties, as seems likely in the light of experience of previous

[OVER]

attacks it will be necessary to put a further bn in to take over the fight. The Number 18 Pack set has proved unreliable under conditions involving by shelling and it would be necessary to use 101 sets although these are difficult to manhandle, under by plan.

Detailed plan is still under consideration, awaiting finalisation on receipt of Air photographs.

1. To Ourselves

(a) To simultaneously attack posts 26 and 27 subsequently exploit- ing south to the general line of the ACROMA rd and east to FORBES MOUND, meanwhile consolidating 26 and 27.

(b) To attack 26 and 27 and to consolidate the ground gained with- out exploitation.

2. To the Enemy

(a) To stand and fight on his present line.

(b) To withdraw from 26-27 in the face of a strong attack and to counter attack on the following day before we have been able to proper- ly consolidate or reinforce our position, or later when he could mass a th attack.

(c) To launch an attack against some other portion of our front, probably on the Western Perimeter, in order to prevent our making full use of our reserves and to distract the attention of our arty.

(d) To continue (c) with a counter attack on RE-RV locality. This would jeopardize our arty supporting fire plan and might require the employment of reserves elsewhere.

Of the above courses the first appears to present the greatest chance of success for us, while course (d) seems the one most likely to be em- ployed by the enemy. In any event it is considered probable that by casualties will be incurred in the initial assault and exploitation. Judging by previous operations against this post it is reasonable to expect that allowing for the leading ops to pass through the defensive fire zone undetected (which would be a most difficult movement) that casualties to reserves would be in the vicinity of 50%. This may be offset to some extent by the ops attacking the RV locality moving wide to a flank and possibly avoiding some of the D.F.

The casualties incurred by booty traps cannot be estimated but from reports of the recent ops against post 27 it may be expected that these will be considerable and no suggestions can be advanced for overcoming them.

The greatest danger however, is the possibility of our disorganised forces having to meet a well planned counter attack on the following morning. In the event of by casualties having been suffered and strong reserves being not available or unable to be got fwd it is possible that they would be wiped out or captured as has happened during previous ops in this area.

This op, once having been entered upon, cannot be broken off at will. As it is our intention to capture and hold 26 and 27 and exploit them, we must fight continuously until such time as the enemy gives up counter attacking. This may, and almost certainly will, mean much re-attacking and possibly re-attacking. Added to this, constant harassment and pinning of arty support will be required for an indefinite period. This brings up the question of am available, and if such am is sufficient to sus- tain the prolonged D.F. and C.F. programme. How long this will be re- quired however, rests entirely with the enemy.

If it is the enemy's intention to retain 27 and 26 then we may expect a series of counter attacks in strength and strongly supported by arty, mortars and possibly the etc, and should an attacking bn have suffered by casualties, as seems likely in the light of experience of previous

[over]

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
ROUTINE ORDERS

by
BRIG G. F. WOOTTEN DSO
COMD 18 AUST INF BDE.

13 Aug 41.

Part 1.

No. 327.

1. BEARDS.

The growing or wearing of a beard is NOT permitted. This order applies to all military personnel (except Indians) in the garrison. Units will ensure that the practice of regular shaving is maintained.

2. BOUNDS, 9 BSD.

All ranks are warned that the whole of the area comprising 9 BSD is out of bounds to all personnel not required to be there in the course of their duties. Disciplinary action will be taken against personnel who infringe this order.

To be repeated in unit orders.

3. TRAFFIC - EL GUBBI AERODROME.

The surface of EL GUBBI aerodrome is rapidly becoming unserviceable through vehicles driving across it and making deep ruts. In future all vehicles will drive around and NOT across the aerodrome.

4. ITALIAN AMMUNITION.

Units will NOT remove Italian ammunition from dump bounded by Grids 411412 - 432433. This ammunition forms part of the FORTRESS Reserves and is controlled by 301 AAD.

5. PETROL DRUMS.

It has come to notice that units are failing to return petrol drums when emptied. To ensure that drums are returned, no petrol will be issued from the depot unless an equivalent number of drums complete with bungs is returned prior to issue. A number of drums have also been returned in a dirty condition inside owing to bungs being left out for a period before return. Units will ensure that bungs are replaced in drums as soon as the latter are empty.

6. BANK ACCOUNTS - PERSONNEL.

Personnel who have opened private banking accounts in the MIDDLE EAST will furnish particulars thereof through the usual channels to the Chief Paymaster AIF. This information is required in order that balances of bank accounts held by deceased personnel will not be overlooked.

7. AIF KIT STORES - Kits of Personnel transferred from one Unit to another.

Where personnel have deposited kits in any AIF Kit Store and subsequently have been transferred to another unit, kits remain with those of the original unit until withdrawn. Requisitions for and inquiries as to kits of such personnel will, therefore, be made to the store in which the original unit's kits were deposited. The requisition or inquiry will quote the original and present units. A list of units whose kits have been transferred to No. 30 AIF Kit Store is shown in AIF Order (ME) No. 485 of 12 Jul 41.

8. STRETCHERS, AMBULANCES - ILLEGAL USE OF.

It has been brought to notice that troops are using stretchers, ambulances, as beds. Stretchers will only be used for legitimate purposes. O.Cs. will take immediate steps to stop this practice and will take disciplinary action where necessary.

M. Wooten Lieut.
COM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

SECRET

Copy No. //.....

5 Aug 41.

Ref. Map: TOBRUK 1-50,000.

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy.

Opposite 18 Cav and 2/29 Bn fronts 18 and 20 Infantry Regts of the BRESCIA DIV have been identified. In this area there has been increased activity of working parties on arty bty positions, O.Ps. and trenches.

In squares 396 433, 396 432, 396 431 booby traps and minefields have been located.

In the SALIENT two Bns of 115 GERMAN Mot Inf Regt, together with elements of 2 MG Bn (GERMAN) and some ITALIAN tps, have been identified. The front is strongly held by large numbers of MG posts and mortars. Mine fields and booby traps exist along the whole of this front both inside and outside the wire. In certain areas a partial clearance has been made.

2. Own Tps.

24 Aust Inf Bde with units as follows occupies WESTERN SECTOR:-

U/c

- ✓ 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
- ✓ 18 Cav
- Det. LAYFORCE
- ✓ X Coy, Z Coy and W Coy less one Pl, 1 NF.
- MMG Pl AASC
- ✓ 20 Aust A/Tk Coy
- ✓ 26 Aust A/Tk Coy
- ✓ C. Sec. No. 3 Tp Carrying Coy AASC.

In support

- ✓ 51 Fd Regt RA
- ✓ 2/12 Aust Fd Regt, less one tp.
- ✓ J. Bty 3 RHA (6 guns)
- ✓ 10 Bty 3 Aust A/Tk Regt.
- ✓ 2/15 Aust Fd Coy.

INTENTION.

3. 18 Aust Inf Bde will relieve 24 Aust Inf Bde in WESTERN SECTOR.

METHOD.

4. System of Relief.

- (a) On night 5/6 Aug 2/9 Aust Inf Bn will relieve 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
- (b) " " 6/7 " 2/10 Aust Inf Bn, less one Coy, will relieve 2/32 Aust Inf Bn.
- (c) " " 7/8 " 2/12 Aust Inf Bn, with u/c one Coy 2/10 Aust Inf Bn will relieve 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

- (d) One Coy 2/10 Aust Inf Bn u/c 2/12 Aust Inf Bn will take over left of 2/13 Bn front, i.e. Posts S.8, S.9 and S.10.

5. Comd.

- (a) Comd of WESTERN SECTOR passes to 18 Aust Inf Bde at 0400 hrs 7 Aug 41.
- (b) At 1800 hrs 6 Aug one Coy 2/10 Aust Inf Bn will come u/c 2/12 Aust Inf Bn
- (c) Tps mentioned in Para 3 will come u/c and in support of 18 Aust Inf Bde on passing of comd.
- (d) 2/43 Aust Inf Bn will come u/c 18 Aust Inf Bde on 6 Aug and revert to 24 Aust Inf Bde at 0400 hrs 7 Aug.
- (e) 2/9 Aust Inf Bn will come u/c 24 Aust Inf Bde and revert to 18 Aust Inf Bde as in (d) above.
- (f) 2/12 Aust Inf Bn, with u/c one Coy 2/10 Aust Inf Bn will come u/c 24 Aust Inf Bde from 0400 hrs 7 Aug and will revert to 18 Aust Inf Bde on completion of relief of 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.
- (g) 2/28 Aust Inf Bn will come u/c 18 Aust Inf Bde from 0400 hrs 7 Aug and revert to 24 Aust Inf Bde on relief on 8 Aug.
- (h) At 0400 hrs 7 Aug No. 1 Tp Carrying Coy AASC ceases to be u/c 18 Aust Inf Bde and comes u/c 24 Aust Inf Bde.

6. Times of Reliefs.

- (a) No movement fwd of WADI EL GHESSIMA or PULASTRINO before 2130 hrs.
- (b) Reliefs will be completed by 0800 hrs and outgoing tps clear of fwd area by 0530 hrs

7. Reece.

Reece will be carried out as extensively as possible by mutual arrangement between units.

8. Patrols.

24 Aust Inf Bde will provide patrols on nights of reliefs. Relieving units will have personnel in these patrols which will return in sufficient time to allow outgoing tps to be clear of fwd areas by first light.

Tpt will be supplied by relieving unit.

9. Listening Posts.

These will be taken over by relieving unit as relief progresses.

ADMINISTRATION.

10. Medical.

- (a) A.D.S. situated 40394335.
- (b) 2/3 Fd Amb situated 40394350.
- (c) 2/8 Fd Amb situated 40914324

11. Supplies.

- (a) Three days reserve rations to be taken over in all posts from outgoing units.
- (b) Rations to consist of Preserved Meat and Biscuits.
- (c) Supplies to be drawn from No. 1 FSD at 40854340.

12. Water.

- (a) Three days reserve water to be taken over in posts and equivalent to be handed over to outgoing unit.
- (b) All water to be checked on relief.
- (c) Water Point at 40974344.

13. Equipment.

- (a) Foreign weapons will be left in posts and taken over by relieving units.
- (b) 2/13 Bn will take over 5 Vickers MGs from 2/28 Anst Inf Bn.
- (c) All signal equipment surplus to G.1098 scale to be treated as trench stores.
- (d) Trench stores, including periscopes, parachute flares, smoke grenades and engineer stores will remain in posts.

14. Amn.

- (a) Units will carry G.1098 scale.
- (b) Surplus to G.1098 scale will be left in posts by outgoing units.
- (c) A.P. situated 40664350.

15. P.O.L.

Point remains unchanged.

16. B. Ech.

B. Echswill move to area at heads of Wadis Square 408435 under instrs issued by Bde T.O.

17. Tpt.

No. 1 Tp. Carrying Coy will come n/c 24 Anst Inf Bde at completion of relief

War Diary

SECRET.

Copy No. 23

18 Aust Inf Bde O.O No.12.

17 Aug. 41.

Ref Map TOBRUCE 1/50,000.

INFORMATION.

1. ENEMY.

- (a). The SALIENT is held by 115 Motorised Inf Regt of 2 Bns and One Bn 104 Motorised Inf Regt, both of the 5 Lt Colonial Armd Div, supported by 2 or 3 Btys of 33 Arty Regt. All these units are GERMAN.
- (b). The WESTERN Sector is held by ITALIAN 27 Brescia Div of 2 Inf Regt each of 2 Bns with the 24 and 28 close support Btys and 3 Gp Mob. Arty Regt in support.
- (c). Patrols.
In the SALIENT the GERMANS put out patrols as far as their listening or 'Safety' posts.
In the WESTERN sector ITALIAN strong protective patrols cover working parties.
- (d). Habits.
The enemy does not sleep at night, using the darkness to improve his defences and to keep watch for our patrols.
- (e). Morale.
Our patrols have shaken the enemy to such an extent that he has doubled his sentries. The GERMANS appear confident and have called on our patrols to surrender when encountered.

2. OWN TPS.

- (a). The following units are u/c and in support :-
- (i). u/c.
18 Cav.
J Bty 3 RHA.
2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
16 Aust A.Tk Coy.
20 Aust A.Tk Coy.
26 Aust A.Tk Coy.
W Coy INF less one Pl.
X Coy INF.
Z Coy INF.
1 Pl. (MMG) AASC.
C.Sec No.2 Tp Carrying Coy AASC.
- (ii). In support.
51 Fd Regt. RA.
2/12 Aust Fd Regt. Less 1 Tp (Four 60 Pdrs.)
4 Aust Fd Coy.
3 Aust Fd Amk.

- (b). Dispositions.
Vide Int Summaries and Situation maps.

INTENTION.

3. 18 Aust Inf Bde will be relieved by 26 Aust Inf Bde in the WESTERN sector and will come into Div Reserve.

METHOD.4. System of Relief.

- (a). 2/9 Aust Inf Bn will be relieved by 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on night 17/18 Aug and will come into Bde Reserve.
- (b). 2/9 Aust Inf Bn will be relieved by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn night 18/19 Aug, and will move to AIRENTE.
- (c). 2/12 Aust Inf Bn will be relieved by 2/1 Aust Par Bn night 19/20 Aug, and will move to SIDI MAHMUD.
- (d). 2/10 Aust Inf Bn will be relieved by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn night 20/21 Aug and will move to PILASTRINO.
- (e). 16 Aust A.Tk Coy will be relieved by 10 Aust A.Tk Bty on nights 18/19 and 19/20 Aug. Details of this relief will be arranged by the CO 3 Aust A.Tk Regt.

5. Times of Reliefs.

- (a). NO movement fwd of PILASTRINO escarpment before 2130 hrs.
- (b). Reliefs will be completed and relieved units clear of fwd areas by 0530 hrs.

6. Comd.

- (a). Comd WESTERN Sector passes from 18 Aust Inf Bde to 26 Aust Inf Bde on completion of relief on night 19/20 Aug.
- (b). The following units will come u/c 26 Aust Inf Bde on completion of relief night 19/20 Aug.
 - 18 Cav.
 - J Bty 3 RHA.
 - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 - 20 Aust A.Tk Coy.
 - 26 Aust A.Tk Coy.
 - W Coy INF. Less 1 Pl.
 - X Coy INF.
 - Z Coy INF.
 - One Pl. (MMG) AASC.
 - C Sec. No.2 Tp Carrying Coy AASC.
- (c). 2/9 Aust Inf Bn on completion of relief on 19/19 Aug, will come u/c 26 Aust Inf Bde and will revert to Comd 18 Aust Inf Bde on completion of relief night 19/20 Aug.
- (d). 2/10 Aust Inf Bn on completion of relief on night 19/20 Aug, will come u/c 26 Aust Inf Bde and will revert to Comd 18 Aust Inf Bde when relieved by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn on night 20/21 Aug.

7. Patrols.

Units of 18 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for patrolling on the nights of the relief. Patrols will be withdrawn in sufficient time to enable them to be clear of the fwd areas by first light.

ADMINISTRATION.

8. Medical.

- (a). 2/3 Fd Amb MDS situated 40884356.
- (b). 2/8 Fd Amb MDS situated 40914324.
- (c). 2/11 Fd Amb MDS situated 41534277 .

9. Sup.

- (a). Three days reserve rations to be left in all posts.
- (b). Rations to consist of preserved meat and biscuits.
- (c). 1 FSD situated 40854340.
2 FSD situated 41234303.

10. Equipt.

- (a). G1098 scale of weapons only to be taken out.
- (b). G1098 scale of signal equipment only to be taken out.
- (c). Trench stores, incl periscopes, parachute flares, smoke grenades and engineer stores will be left in posts.
- (d). Vickers Guns (MMG's) will not be taken out unless in G1098 scale.

11. AMB.

- (a). All amb surplus to G1098 to be left in posts.
- (b). A.P's situated at BARDIA Rd 41244322.
PILASTRINO 40794310.
DERNA Rd. 40664350.

12. P.O.L.

Remains unchanged.

13. Water.

- (a). Three days reserve water will be exchanged mutually between units.
- (b). All water to be checked on relief.
- (c). Water points situated at -

- (1) BARDIA RD 41314282.
- (2) DERNA RD 40974344
- (3). PILASTRINO 40734307.

14. B Ech.

B echs will move under instructions issued separately by Bde T.O.

15. Tpt.

- (1). No.1 Tp Carrying Coy will carry out reliefs.
- (ii). One sec Tp Carrying Coy will be attached to each Bn on completion of relief.

INTERCOMM.

16. 18 Aust Inf Bde HQ will close down on completion of relief on night 19/20 Aug at its present location and open at the same time at PW Cage, 41244276.

ACK.

Method of Distribution
 Time of Signature
 L.O.
 1115

[Signature]
 By 18 Aust Inf Bde. Maj.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 2/9 Aust Inf Bn. | 1. |
| 2/10 Aust Inf Bn. | 2. |
| 2/12 Aust Inf Bn. | 3. |
| J. Sec Sigs. | 4. |
| 18 Cav. | 5. |
| J. Bty RHA. | 6. |
| 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. | 7. |
| 16 Aust A.Tk Coy. | 8. |
| 20 Aust A.Tk Coy. | 9. |
| 26 Aust A.Tk Coy. | 10. |
| INF | 11. |
| One Pl (MMG) AASC | 12. |
| Comd. | 13. |
| BM | 14. |
| TO | 15. |
| 51 Fd Regt RA. | 16. |
| 2/12 Aust Fd Regt. | 17. |
| 4 Fd Coy. | 18. |
| 3 Fd Amb. | 19. |
| File. | 20 - 21. |
| War Diary. | 22. - 23. |

Yb Answer Imp Bde

24

10 Aug 41.

Copy No. 15...

18 AUST INF BDE O. INSTN NO. 10.

ANTI-PARATROOP DEFENCE.

The following arrangements for the defence of TOBRUK against airborne landings will be brought into effect forthwith:-

1. GENERAL.

Irrespective of responsibilities defined herein, any troops which are in the near vicinity of paratroop landings will engage them automatically with all weapons available and prevent them from gaining footing. Their presence will be reported immediately to the nearest Unit HQ for transmission through Bde to Fortress HQ.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES FORWARD OF THE BLUE LINE.

a. The responsibility for engaging paratroops fwd of the Blue Line will rest with the Bde in whose sector the landing is effected.

b. This will be carried out by the res. Bn as follows:-

c. Area A - North of line GABR BEL GHEMEL 403436 - BIR EL MECIUB - S89/3 will be the responsibility of Coy on Western slope of WADI BEL GHEMEL 404439.

d. Area B - North of line of escarpment CAF GUEIDER 407455 and South of Area A will be the responsibility of Coy South of Derna Rd at 403454.

e. Area C - Area South of Area B and North of inter Bde boundary exel R11 and 4034294 will be the responsibility of Coys at 40304300 and 40304306.

f. Two PIs of each Coy at 403454 and 40304306 will be detailed and kept mobile for this purpose.

3. ARMBANDS.

The memo dated 14 Jun 41 relating to organising a system of armbands to be worn by friendly troops in the event of paratroops landing is still effective.

W. G. Collman
HM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

Time of Signature... 15/8/41

Method of Distribution... *DX*

DISTRIBUTION:

2/9 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No. 1.	J. Bty 3 RHA	Copy No. 9
2/10 "	" 2.	4 Fd Coy	10
2/12 "	" 3.	1 M.F.	11
2/24 "	" 4.	Comd	12
18 Cav	" 5.	BM	13
51 Fd Regt	" 6.	TO	14
2/12 Aust Fd Regt	" 7.	War Diary	15 & 16
16 Aust A/Tk Coy.	" 8.	File	17.

18 AUGUST INF BDE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 11.ANTI-PARATROOP ROLE OF RESERVE BRIGADE1. General.

Irrespective of responsibilities defined in this instruction any tps which are in the near vicinity of paratroop landings will engage them automatically with all weapons available and prevent them from gaining a footing. Their presence will be reported immediately to the nearest unit H.Q. for transmission through Bde. to Fortress H.Q..

2. Responsibility of Reserve Brigade.

The Reserve Bde will be responsible for the area between BLUE LINE and line (all inclusive) UADI EL TEMAL 405437 - PIIASTRINO, thence along escarpment to SIDI MARMUD 413427 - to BLUE LINE at head of uadi 417427 (This line will be referred to as the Reserve Bde Line).

3. Sub-division of Responsibility.

Responsibility for this area will be sub-divided as follows:-

(a) Area 'A'

The area between BLUE LINE and Res Bde Line East of the road PIIASTRINO - Point 148 40674268 (exclusive) to be the responsibility of unit situated at EL ADEM rd June.

(b) Area 'B'

The area between BLUE LINE and Res Bde line bounded on the East by Road PIIASTRINO - Point 148 (inclusive) and on the North by foot of escarpment in squares 404433, 404433, 405433, to be the responsibility of unit situated at PIIASTRINO.

(c) Area 'C'

The area between BLUE LINE and Res Bde line, bounded on the South by foot of escarpment as in 'B' above and on the North by the sea, to be the responsibility of unit situated at ARIENTE.

4. Units are responsible that sufficient sentries with an efficient means of inter-communication to En H.Q. are posted to enable immediate warning to be given of any attempted landing in their areas.
5. Units will at all times have a minimum of two pls in their area with sufficient tpt available to enable them to proceed rapidly to any area threatened by para-troops.

6. Responsibility in rear of Reserve Bde Line (incl. Town of TOBRUK).

(a) KDG will be responsible for the primary engagement of Para-troops in this area in cooperation with any other tps who are near the scene and will be responsible for the provision of standing patrols to cover the area.

(b) On learning that paratroops are landing KDG will advise nearest Bn and Bde H.Q. immediately, meanwhile engaging the para-troops without delay.

(c) In this event the Bn so informed will take immediate action to assist KDG, at the same time informing Bde HQ. of the action taken, and in the event of Bde HQ. being first informed by KDG the Bn nearest the area will be detailed to take immediate action to assist KDG. (This does not relieve units of responsibilities vide Para 1 above).

7. Arm Bands.

The system of arm bands to be worn by friendly tps in the event of Para-troops landing is still effective.

[Signature]
Maj.
EM 18 Aust Inf Bde.

Time of Signature 1600 hrs.

Method of Distribution DR

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Copies Nos.</u>
2/9 Aust Inf Bn	1-5
2/10 Aust Inf Bn	6-10
2/12 Aust Inf Bn	11-15
Comd	16
E.M.	17
W.D.	18-19
File	20.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

18th Aust Inf Bde (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED. *2nd Aug 1941*

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
<i>Brigadier</i>	<i>1</i>		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	<i>1</i>		
Captains ...	<i>2</i>		<i>2</i>
Lieutenants ...	<i>6</i>		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...			
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>3</i>		
TOTALS ...	<i>13</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Serge</i>	<i>Roberts ECG</i>	<i>18th Aust Inf Bde</i>	<i>29.7.41</i>	<i>Attached from 9th Aust BN for duties as TO</i> <i>Application for this appointment has been forwarded to A.I.F. HQ</i>

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Capt</i>	<i>HARRY OKEDEN WN</i>	<i>18th Aust Inf Bde</i>	<i>1.8.41</i>	<i>Attached to 9th Aust BN</i> <i>Application has been forwarded to A.I.F. for this off. to cease to be recorded and resume Regt. duties</i>

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Squadier		Wootton G F	Bde Comd	yes	
Major		Aaly J J	Bde Maj	yes	
Captain		Coleman S G	Staff Train	yes	
Lieut		Durant B L		No	at School
Lieut	*	Kent W R	Staff Capt	yes	
"		Overhall G	L Officer	yes	
"		Bowie R A	L Officer	yes	
"		Stephenson J H B	L Officer	yes	
Captain		Good S H	Staff Officer	No	at 65 9 Aust Div
Captain		Reynolds	Chaplain	No	at 65 9 " BN
"		McLennan	"	No	" 10 " BN
"		Blake	"	No	" 12 " BN
Lieut		Roberts E C G	Trans Officer	yes	
* Application for this appointment has been forwarded to AIF Headquarters					

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher Acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Captain		Hace P M	AASC		Adm Supply Officer
Lieut		Rich G A B	AADC		of 47 LAD
"		Baird A	Hq 60 Bn		of A Coy Hq 60 Bn

18th Aust Inf Bde
(Unit.)
3rd Aug 1941
(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)
18th Aust Inf Bde
7th Aust Div
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3009
(page 1)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

12th Army Coy Bde (Unit). *5th August* 19 *41* (Date).

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required. (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.			1
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quarter-master-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	1		
Staff Serjeants	3		
Serjeants	3		
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.		1	
Corporals	6		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	42		10
TOTALS	53	1	11

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
S/SATS	1 47 LAD AAC	SATS	1 C Coy Hq Co. BN
O/Pls	1 " " "	O/Pls	2 " " " "
O/ks	6 " " "	O/ks	25 " " " "
O/Pls	1 7 Div Postal Unit	O/ks	1 AAC
O/ks	2 " " "	A/Sgt (Labourer)	1 AAC
O/Pls	1 Inter Corp	O/ks	1 AAC
O/Pls	1 " " "		

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

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).
8X303	Plt	Willoughby H	47 LAD AAC	Required by 47 LAD (Base)
1X152	Plt	Kelly B.A.	47 LAD AAC	Required by 47 LAD (Base)

48th Div. Inf Bde Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.										REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.		
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.		Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners ..																				
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
" " (Wheeled) ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ..																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ..																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties ..																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
<i>ARMOURS</i>																				
General duty personnel ..									1				1						9	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).									1				1						10	11

15th Aug, Inf Bde Unit.

Date of Despatch 3 August 1941

P. G. S. ... Signature of Commander.
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

18th Aust Inf Bde (Unit)

PART A.— STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED. *9th Aug 1941*

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
<i>Brigadier</i>	<i>1</i>		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	<i>1</i>		
Captains ...	<i>2</i>		<i>2</i>
Lieutenants ...	<i>5</i>		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...			
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>3</i>		
TOTALS ...	<i>12</i>		<i>2</i>

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
LIEUT	<i>Bowie RA</i>	<i>18th Aust Inf Bde</i>	<i>9.8.41</i>	<i>Detached attending RIF(ME) Junior Staff School</i>
LIEUT	<i>Aurant BZ</i>	<i>18th Aust Inf Bde</i>	<i>7.8.41</i>	<i>Rejoined Unit from Staff School</i>

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Lieut</i>	<i>Bowie RA</i>	<i>18th Aust Inf Bde</i>	<i>9.8.41</i>	<i>Detached attending RIF(ME) Junior Staff School</i>
<i>Lieut</i>	<i>Aurant BZ</i>	<i>18th Aust Inf Bde</i>	<i>7.8.41</i>	<i>Detached to 10th Aust Bn Application has been forwarded to RIF for this officer to cease to be seconded pursuant Regt Rules</i>

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Brigadier		Wooten GF	Boulton	yes	
Major		Daly JT	Ade Maj	yes	
Captain		Coleman 179	Staff Captain	yes	
Captain		Good JH	Inf Coy	No	ATT to 9 AUST DIV
Lieut	*	Kene WR	Staff Capt	yes	
"		Marshall A	L Officer	yes	
"		Bowie RA		No	ME Junior Staff School
"		Stephenson JLB	L Officer	yes	
"	*	Roberts 869	Trans Officer	yes	
Chaplain		Keenleys	Chaplain	No	Att 9 Aust Bn
		Blake	"	No	Att 15 Aust Bn
		Hellmore	"	No	Att 10 Aust Bn
Application for these appointments has been forwarded to AIF HQ.					

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher Acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Captain		Hall 943	AAFC		Att Supply Officer
Lieut		Rush 916	AAFC		Att 47 L B D
"		Munn A	HQ 60 Bn		Att 19 Coy HQ 60 Bn

18th Aust Inf Bde
(Unit.)

10th Aug 1941
(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)

16.15th Aust Inf Bde
7 Aust Div
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

15th Hussar Lancers Bde (Unit). 9 August 1944 (Date).

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required. (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.			1
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	1		
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	3		
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals	6	1	
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	41		10
TOTALS	52	1*	11

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1	476130	1	C Coy HQ CO Bn
1	"	2	"
6	"	25	"
1	7th Hussar Lancers Unit	1	AAML
2	"	1	AAOL
1	Intell Corps	1	AAOL
1	"		

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

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).
4X 3803	Pte	Willingoughby H	47 LAD AAOL	Required by 47 LAD (Base)
4X 1542	Pte	Kelly B W	47 LAD AAOL	Required by 47 LAD (Base)

15 Aust Inf Bde

Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.								REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners ..																				
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
" " (Wheeled) ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ..																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties ..																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
ARMOURERS																				
General duty personnel <i>MIT FINDER</i> ..																				9
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).									1		1		1						10	11

15 Aust Inf Bde

Unit.

Date of Despatch 10 August 1941

M Kent

Signature of Command

15 Aust Inf Bde
7 Aust Div
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

18th Aust Inf Bde (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

16th Aug 1941

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
<i>Brigadier</i> *	<i>1</i>		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	<i>1</i>		
Captains ...	<i>2</i>		<i>2</i>
Lieutenants ...	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...	<i>3</i>		
<i>Chaplain</i>			
TOTALS ...	<i>13</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Lieut</i>	<i>Porter RB</i>	<i>18th Aust Inf Bde</i>	<i>12.8.41</i>	<i>Seconded from 710th Aust Inf BN L.O.</i>

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Brigadier		Wooten G J	Academy	yes	
Major		Daly J J	Academy	yes	
Captain		Belcham 159	Staff Captain	yes	
"		Good 14	Staff Officer	No	ATT 9 th AVT DIV
Lieut		Henry W R	Staff Capt	yes	
"		Marshall A	L Officer	yes	
"		Bowie R A		No	ME Junior Staff School
"		Stephenson J H B	L Officer	yes	
"		Roberts E G	Trans Officer	yes	
"		Porter R B	L Officer	yes	
Chaplain		Reynolds	Chaplain	No	ATT 9 th Aust Bn
"		Hellmore	"	No	" 10 th Aust Bn
"		Blake	"	No	" 12 th Aust Bn
<p>Application for these appointments have been forwarded to AIF HQ.</p>					

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher Acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Captain		Nall D A S	AASC		Ac Supply Officer
Lieut		Rick G S B	AAOC		OP 47 LAD
"		Buir A	HQ 60 Bn		OP C Coy HQ 60 Bn

18th Aust Inf Bde
(Unit.)
17th Aug 1941
(Date of Despatch.)

S. B. 15th Aust Inf Bde
(Signature of Commander.)
7th Aust Div
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

15th Aust Bn (Unit) 16th Aug 1941 (Date).

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required. (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.			1
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	1		
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	32		1
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals	6		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	41		10
TOTALS	81	1	12

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Pte	47 LAD	1 Pte	47 LAD
1 Pte	"	2 Ptes	"
6 Ptes	"	25 Ptes	"
1 Pte	7 Div Postal Unit	1 Pte	AAVC
2 Ptes	"	1 N/Sgt (AAVOC)	AAVC
1 Pte	"	1 Pte	AAVC
1 Pte	"		

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

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).
8X3803	PTE	WILLOUGHBY H	47 LAD AAVC	Required by 47 LAD (Base)
8X1542	PTE	KELLY EN	47 LAD AAVC	Required by 47 LAD (Base)

15th Aust Inf Bde

Unit.

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

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

15th Aust Inf Bde

Unit.

Date of Despatch 17 Aug 1901

[Signature]
Signature of Command
15th Aust Inf Bde

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

18th Aust Inf Bde (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
<i>Brigadier</i> *	<i>1</i>		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	<i>1</i>		
Captains ...	<i>23</i>		<i>1</i>
Lieutenants ...	<i>65</i>		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...	<i>3</i>		
TOTALS ...	<i>13</i>		<i>1</i>

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Lieut</i>	<i>Marshall a</i>	<i>18th Aust Inf Bde</i>	<i>21.8.41</i>	<i>Moved out with Advance Party</i>

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Brigadier		Wootton G F	Adv. Comd	yes	
Major		Daly J J	" Maj	yes	
Captain		Goobin J H	I Officer	No	ATT 9 Aust Air
"		Coleman B G	(Capt/Comd)	yes	
"		Kent W R	Staff Capt	yes	
Quart		Marshall A	L Officer	No	moved with Advance Party
"		Rowie R A	"	No	M.E Staff Officer
"		Stephenson J B	"	yes	
"		Foster R E	"	yes	
"		Roberts B B G	Trans Officer	yes	
Major		Reynolds	Captain	No	ATT 9 Aust Inf Bn
"		Hellman	"	"	" 10 " " "
"		Blake	"	"	" 12 " " "

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher Acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		Hall W N A	RASC		Supply Officer
Quart		Hewitt A D	Hq. General		Op. Hq. Hq. Gen. Bn
"		Ritch S A B	RASC		Op. 47 LAD

18th Aust Inf Bn HQ
(Unit.)
24th Aug 1941
(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)
18th Aust Inf Bn HQ
7 Aust Air
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

H.Q. 18 Aust. Inf Bde. Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.										REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.		
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.		Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners ..																				
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
" " (Wheeled) ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ..																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ..																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties ..																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
<u>ARMOURS</u>																				
<u>FITTERS</u>																				
General duty personnel ..																				
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).								1	1									9	9	

H.Q. 18 Aust. Inf Bde. Unit.

Date of Despatch 24 AUG. 1941

S. C. 18 Aust. Inf Bde. Capt. Commander.

7 Aust. Div. Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

LJM/RNN

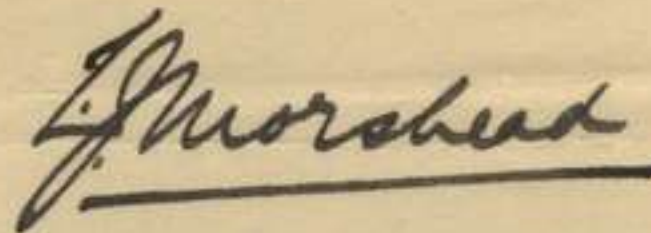
G114/116/1

Headquarters,
TOBRUCH FORTRESS,
24 Aug 41.

Commander,
18th Australian Infantry Brigade.

On the eve of your departure from
Tobruch I wish first to say how glad I have been to have
had the Brigade here and secondly to compliment you and
all ranks on their splendid work. All through the
twenty weeks the Brigade has been in Tobruch it has given
continual evidence of efficiency and the fighting spirit
and it gives me much satisfaction in acknowledging this.

Will you accept yourself and kindly
convey to all your Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers
and Men an expression of my appreciation for all that
they have done and my best wishes for the future.



Maj. Gen.
Comd TOBRUCH FORTRESS.

Brig. G.F. Wootten D.S.O.,
Headquarters,
18 Aust Inf Bde.

H.Q. 13 Aust. Inf. Bde.

26 Aug 41.

(Ref. G/114/116/1)

Commander,
TOBRUCH FORTRESS.

I wish to thank you very much on behalf of myself and of all Officers, N.C.O's, and men of the Brigade for your letter of appreciation of the work, efficiency and fighting spirit of the Brigade during its period of duty as portion of the Garrison of TOBRUCH FORTRESS. I shall be most pleased to communicate the contents of your letter to all ranks and they will be very proud and happy to receive them.

May I, Sir, express to you what a great satisfaction it has been to all ranks of the Brigade to have taken part in the defence of TOBRUCH FORTRESS under your command, and personally how pleasant my service under you has been.

On leaving TOBRUCH FORTRESS I wish you, Sir, and all remaining under your command the very best of good fortune for the future.


Brig.
Comd. 13 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Maj. Gen. L. J. Horshead C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.
Headquarters,
TOBRUCH FORTRESS.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

18th Aust L Inf Bde (Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
<i>Blindfold</i>	1		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	1		
Captains ...	4		
Lieutenants ...	2	1	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...	3		
Totals ...	13	1	

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Capt</i>	<i>Coleman</i>	<i>189th Aust L Inf Bde</i>	<i>29.5.41</i>	<i>Attending M.E. Staff School</i>

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Major		WOMEN B.F.	Inf Coy	Yes	
Captain		JARBY T.J.	Inf Coy	Yes	
Captain		FIELD S.H.	Inf Coy	No	Inf 9 Aust Div
	TEMP	LEWIS W.R.	Inf Coy	Yes	
		COLEMAN S.T.G.	Inf Coy	No	RECORDING OFF
		MARSHALL A.	Inf Coy	Yes	
Lieut		BUNNIE R.A.		No	RECORDING OFF
		ANDERSON J.L.B.		Yes	
		RYAN R.E.		Yes	
		ROBERTS E.C.G.	Inf Coy	Yes	
Captain		REYNOLDS	Inf Coy	No	RECORDING OFF
		WELLS		No	" " " "
		ROSE		No	" " " "

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Captain		HALL W.H.S.	9950		Inf Coy
Lieut		MURPHY G.D.	4150 3rd		Inf Coy
		LEWIS G.E.B.	9906		Inf Coy

118 15th Aust Inf Bde
27th August
(Unit.)
(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)
118 15th Aust Inf Bde
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving).

