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

Item number: 8/3/13

2/13 Infantry Battalion

August 1942

WAR DIARY

For the month of AUGUST, 1942

UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES
IN THE FIELD	1 Aug	0900	Conference at 20 AUST INF BDE. After conference, CO made recce in company with 20 AUST INF BDE Comd and Comds of 2/2 MG BN and 2/3 AUST A Tk Regt of area between TELL EL EISA posns and EL ALAMEIN.	53
		1400	CO returned and sent for B Coy Comd. B Coy to man 5 outposts linking TELL EL EISA with EL ALAMEIN defended area, together with 1 Sec MGs and 2 A Tk guns (1 x 6 pr and 1 x 2 pr) per post to be supplied by 2/2 MG BN and 2/3 AUST A Tk Regt. Recce to be made immediately. New outposts to be fully constructed and manned by evening 2/3 Aug.	
		1415	All other Coy Comds warned to attend conference at 1530 hrs and to be prepared to go on a recce immediately after, also to prepare advance parties to move to new area tonight.	
		1500	Coy Comds conference. CO stated that 20 AUST INF BDE is to relieve 26 AUST INF BDE in Northern Coastal Sector. 2/15 AUST INF BN would move tonight to relieve 2/24 AUST INF BN plus one Coy 2/23 AUST INF BN. On night 2/3 Aug, 2/17 AUST INF BN would relieve 2/23 AUST INF BN less 1 Coy plus the three forward Coys of 2/48 AUST INF BN. 2/13 AUST INF BN would relieve remainder of 2/48 AUST INF BN and remain in Bde Res. and would, in addition man, with support from 2/2 MG BN and 10 AUST A Tk BN five strong pts to link up the Bde Posns with the ALAMEIN defences, the latter task to be undertaken by B Coy. Each strong pt would have two A Tk guns (1x6 pr, 1 x 2 pr) one Sec MGs and one inf sec. CO then indicated probable Coy areas which would be det rmined after recce following the conference.	C
			The area at present held by 24 AUST INF BDE was to be vacated, and the policy would be to make every effort to conceal this fact from the enemy.	
			20 AUST INF BDE policy in new area would be one of aggressive patrolling. Special patrols or raids would probably be supplied by 2/13 AUST INF BN. Mines would be lifted by Engrs. No stores to be left in area. All sandbags to be taken, wire to be taken up and stacked, wire on fwd slopes not to be removed until after dark on night of relief.	
			MG Pl would revert, on relief taking place, to Comd 2/2 MG BN.	
		1540	CO, Adjt, Sig Offr and Coy Comds proceed on recce.	
		1700	Lieut MARTIN(Bde LO) called with further infm. Patrolling East and incl of QUATTARA TRACK would be responsibility of 24 AUST INF BDE. Night of move back of 24 AUST INF BDE would be postponed to night 3/4 Aug.	
		1930	Recce parties return.	
		2100	Advance parties have moved to new area.	
	2 Aug	0900	BM rang to inform CO that 2/17 AUST INF BN would not take over 2/23 BN left fwd Coy area which would be incl to 2/13 AUST INF BN.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WAR DIARY

For the month of AUGUST 1942.

UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES
IN THE FIELD	2 Aug	0945	CO, 2/17 AUST INF BN called to discuss with CO the alteration of the inter-Bn boundary.	
		1000	CRE called to discuss laying of new minefield across strong pt posns.	
		1015	Coy Comds Conference. At 2100 hrs BN would revert to Comd 20 AUST INF BDE. Start time would be 2250 hrs. Starting Pt: Junc of track with telegraph wires. Order of march: D Coy, A Coy, HQ Coy and A Tk Pl, BN HQ., C Coy. RPs would be stationed at all turnings on route. Speed 6 mih, vtm visibility distance. Vehs to report at 2030 hrs except troop carrying tpt which would report at 2130 hrs. After debussing, C Coy vehs would be handed over to guide from 2/23 AUST INF BN to move C Coy, 2/23 AUST INF BN. BN HQ, HQ Coy and D Coy tp carriers would lift 2/48 AUST INF BN. Remainder to return to B Ech. After move, AASC tpt would cease to be attached to BN. B Ech would be brigaded and move to new area at 88602948.	54 C
		1100	CO and IO went to new area calling at HQ, 2/48 AUST INF BN and HQ 2/23 AUST INF BN RPs made recce of route. Padre THOMAS G marched in vice Padre ROBJOHNS AJ (evacuated sick).	
		2130	Tpt arrives.	
		2250	Head of convoy moves off. 2/13 AUST INF BN reverts to Comd 20 AUST INF BDE.	
	3 Aug	0040	Convoy arrives in new area.	
		0140	Move completed.	
		0830	BN HQ area shelled.	
		0900	CO recced fwd areas.	F
		1200	20 AUST INF BDE informs us that Lieut ~~FLETCHER~~ HEDGER of 1 AUST COMMANDO will call this afternoon.	
		1230	Major STEVENS (Bty Comd 58 Bty) called to discuss arrangements for defensive fire. One troop is in continuous support. CO requested that arrangements be made to register tasks on the ground.	
		1430	CO visited TAC HQ, 24 AUST INF BDE and obtained infm of booby traps and mines to be left in area after withdrawal of 2/32 AUST INF BN. CO proceeded to HQ 2/32 AUST INF BN and made arrangements with Maj GILLESPIE (Adm Comd) for a party of offrs and men of this BN to recce 2/32 AUST INF BN area in daylight tomorrow.	
		1600	Preparatory to patrol activity, Lieut ~~FLETCHER~~ HEDGER and 14 ORs of 9 AUST DIV COMMANDO PL reported in and will be stationed near B Coy.	
		1630	CO met OC, B Coy and looked over his area.	
		1900	Ridge near BN HQ was shelled, apparently a registration shoot.	
	4 Aug	0730	One offr and one NCO from each of A, C & D Coys and Carrier Pl Comd made recce in 2/32 AUST INF BN area. (Pt 22)	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WAR DIARY

For the month of AUGUST, 1942 — UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES
IN THE FIELD	1 Aug	0900	Conference at 20 AUST INF BDE. After conference, CO made recce in company with 20 AUST INF BDE Comd and Comds of 2/2 MG BN and 2/3 AUST A Tk Regt of area between TELL EL EISA posns and EL ALAMEIN.	
		1400	CO returned and sent for B Coy Comd. B Coy to man 5 outposts linking TELL EL EISA with EL ALAMEIN defended area, together with 1 Sec MGs and 2 A Tk guns (1 x 6 pr and 1 x 2 pr) per post to be supplied by 2/2 MG BN and 2/3 AUST A Tk Regt. Recce to be made immediately. New outposts to be fully constructed and manned by evening 2/3 Aug.	
		1415	All other Coy Comds warned to attend conference at 1530 hrs and to be prepared to go on a recce immediately after, also to prepare advance parties to move to new area tonight.	
		1500	Coy Comds conference. CO stated that 20 AUST INF BDE is to relieve 26 AUST INF BDE in Northern Coastal Sector. 2/15 AUST INF BN would move tonight to relieve 2/24 AUST INF BN plus one Coy 2/23 AUST INF BN. On night 2/3 Aug, 2/17 AUST INF BN would relieve 2/23 AUST INF BN less 1 Coy plus the three forward Coys of 2/48 AUST INF BN. 2/13 AUST INF BN would relieve remainder of 2/48 AUST INF BN and remain in Bde Res. and would, in addition man, with support from 2/2 MG BN and 10 AUST A Tk BN, five strong pts to link up the Bde Posns with the ALAMEIN defences, the latter task to be undertaken by B Coy. Each strong pt would have two A Tk guns (1x6 pr, 1 x 2 pr) one Sec MGs and one inf sec. CO then indicated probable Coy areas which would be determined after recce following the conference.	C
			The area at present held by 24 AUST INF BDE was to be vacated, and the policy would be to make every effort to conceal this fact from the enemy.	
			20 AUST INF BDE policy in new area would be one of aggressive patrolling. Special patrols or raids would probably be supplied by 2/13 AUST INF BN. Mines would be lifted by Engrs. No stores to be left in area. All sandbags to be taken, wire to be taken up and stacked, wire on fwd slopes not to be removed until after dark on night of relief.	
			MG Pl would revert, on relief taking place, to Comd 2/2 MG BN.	
		1540	CO, Adjt, Sig Offr and Coy Comds proceed on recce.	
		1700	Lieut MARTIN(Bde LO) called with further infm. Patrolling East and incl of QUATTARA TRACK would be responsibility of 24 AUST INF BDE. Night of move back of 24 AUST INF BDE would be postponed to night 3/4 Aug.	
		1930	Recce parties return.	
		2100	Advance parties have moved to new area.	
	2. Aug	0900	BM rang to inform CO that 2/17 AUST INF BN would not take over 2/23 BN left fwd Coy area which would be incl to 2/13 AUST INF BN.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WAR DIARY

For the month of AUGUST 1942.

UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES
IN THE FIELD	2 Aug	0945	CO, 2/17 AUST INF BN called to discuss with CO the alteration of the inter-Bn boundary.	
		1000	CRE called to discuss laying of new minefield across strong pt posns.	
		1015	Coy Comds Conference. At 2100 hrs BN would revert to Comd 20 AUST INF BDE. Start time would be 2250 hrs. Starting Pt: Junc of track with telegraph wires. Order of march: D Coy, A Coy, HQ Coy and A Tk Pl, BN HQ,, C Coy. RPs would be stationed at all turnings on route. Speed 6 mih, vtm visibility distance. Vehs to report at 2030 hrs except troop carrying tpt which would report at 2130 hrs. After debussing, C Coy vehs would be handed over to guide from 2/23 AUST INF BN to move C Coy, 2/23 AUST INF BN. BN HQ, HQ Coy and D Coy tp carriers would lift 2/48 AUST INF BN. Remainder to return to B Ech. After move, AASC tpt would cease to be attached to BN. B Ech would be brigaded and move to new area at 88602948.	C
		1100	CO and IO went to new area calling at HQ, 2/48 AUST INF BN and HQ 2/23 AUST INF BN RPs made recce of route. Padre THOMAS G marched in vice Padre ROBJOHNS AJ (evacuated sick).	
		2130	Tpt arrives.	
		2250	Head of convoy moves off. 2/13 AUST INF BN reverts to Comd 20 AUST INF BDE.	
	3 Aug	0040	Convoy arrives in new area.	
		0140	Move completed.	
		0830	BN HQ area shelled.	
		0900	CO recced fwd areas.	F
		1200	20 AUST INF BDE informs us that Lieut ~~FLETCHER~~ HEDGER of 1 AUST COMMANDO will call this afternoon.	
		1230	Major STEVENS (Bty Comd 58 Bty) called to discuss arrangements for defensive fire. One troop is in continuous support. CO requested that arrangements be made to register tasks on the ground.	
		1430	CO visited TAC HQ, 24 AUST INF BDE and obtained infm of booby traps and mines to be left in area after withdrawal of 2/32 AUST INF BN. CO proceeded to HQ 2/32 AUST INF BN and made arrangements with Maj GILLESPIE(Adm Comd) for a party of offrs and men of this BN to recce 2/32 AUST INF BN area in daylight tomorrow.	
		1600	Preparatory to patrol activity, Lieut ~~FLETCHER~~ HEDGER and 14 ORs of 9 AUST DIV COMMANDO. PL reported in and will be stationed near B Coy.	
		1630	CO met OC, B Coy and looked over his area.	
		1900	Ridge near BN HQ was shelled, apparently a registration shoot.	
	4 Aug	0730	One offr and one NCO from each of A, C & D Coys and Carrier Pl Comd made recce in 2/32 AUST INF BN area (PT 22).	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WAR DIARY

For the month of AUGUST 1942

UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES
IN THE FIELD	4 Aug	~~0730~~	~~(Pt 22).~~ (Lt-Col CAIRNS)	
		0900	CO, 50 RTR called to discuss tk sp. B Sqn has been allotted to this unit. Maj HUGHES, OC, B Sqn called. Arrangements were made for a demonstration of Valentine tk to tps.	
		1200	2 i/c (Maj COLVIN) and Lieut WILSON visited the unit. from LOB Gp.	
		1430	Maj STEVENS (Comd 58 Bty) had conference with CO to settle def fire.	
		1930	CO and Adjt 50 RTR called.	
		2030	Bde Comd and BM called. Message from Bde that 30 Corps advise that an enemy intercept suggests that there may be an attack on this front tomorrow. 26 "X" List and 2 Reinfts marched in, incl Lieut NW SIMMONS.	A
	5 Aug	0104	Own arty and fwd MGs commenced firing and continued to 0200 hrs	F
		1600	Maj GURMAN (2/13 AUST FD COY) called to advise of mines in area.	
		2230	Patrol lead by Lieut BISSAKER moved out from post 2 of B Coy, 2/13 AUST INF BN (87542972) to a depth of 3500 yds in a South Westerly direction.	F
		0415	Patrol reported in. No contact made.	F
	6 Aug	0900	A, C, &D Coy Comds recced 2/15 AUST INF BN area with CO.	
		1400	Maj ROGERS (13 Bty) and Maj REID (58 Bty) called to settle SOS signal. HQ Coy and B Coy Comds recced 2/15 AUST INF BN area.	
		2230	Lieut GREEN and 6 ORs from C Coy patrolled from Post 2 (87842972) for 3200 yds ~~xx~~	F
		0400	~~x xxxxxx~~ to the Cairn at feature 22 thence 2600 yds due SOUTH, returning to starting point. Area was found to be unoccupied.	
	7 Aug	0600	D coy moved to new area in reserve.	
		0700	Comds of A and C coys further recced 2/15 Bn area.	
		1000	CO attended conference with Bde Comd and G O C 9 AUST DIV at BDE. It was decided that 2/13 AUST INF BN would each night place a standing patrol of 1 Platoon on ~~xxxx~~ Trig 22 feature and send out deep patrols from that area.	
		1200	CO returned from Bde. OC A Coy was summoned to a conference at BN HQ. A Coy is to be responsible for placing each night one platoon on Trig 22 as a standing patrol plus an additional section for deep patrolling. Recce to be made at once of area. Different locality will be occupied each night. Communications by L/T and W/T to be established.	
		1230	CO, 40 RTR called to inform CO, 2/13 AUST INF BN that 40 RTR would relieve 50 RTR in this area tonight.	
		1400	OC, A Coy proceeded on recce and marked route out to area.	
		1430	IO sent to contact 9 AUST CAV for infm concerning new patrol area.	
		1600	Enemy aircraft bombed BN area. 2 bombs falling close to RAP.	F

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WAR DIARY

For the month of AUGUST 1942 — UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES
IN THE FIELD	7 Aug	1815	Message from 20 AUST INF BDE that 2/13 AUST INF BN is to occupy and hold Trig 22 area with one Coy for 36 hours, pending the re-occupation of the area by 2/43 AUST INF BN. Support: 1 Pl MGs, 1 Pl A Tk guns (from 10 AUST A Tk Bty), FOO to accompany the Coy. Engrs to lay minefield around the area.	
		1830	OC, A Coy sent for, and A Coy warned of move. After receiving further instns, OC, A Coy went out to the area to recce Pl areas and arrange guiding.	
		1840	Enemy aircraft bombed the area EAST of our posns.	
		1900	IO sent fwd to recce route to Trig 22.	
		2100	A Coy convoy moved out.	
		2300	A Coy arrived in new area. Patrol of 1 Sgt and 6 ORs sent out.	F
		2400	Convoy of minelaying party and FOO moved out to Trig 22.	
	8 Aug	0200	Patrol returned after penetrating fwd to a depth of 1900 yds range. Flares were fired and MG fire brought down near the patrol but no enemy were encountered.	F
		0215	Engr party arrived at A Coy and minelaying proceeded immediately.	
		0345	All trucks reported back safely ~~to~~ from A Coy	
		0930	CO visited A Coy in their new posn.	
		2100	2/43 AUST INF BN took over posns in Trig 22 area occupied by A Coy which moved back to its original posn.	
		2230	A Coy reported in.	
	9 Aug	1000	Sqn Comd, 40 RTR, recced BN Area.	
		1100	CO went to 20 AUST INF BDE. Patrol boundaries laid down. Patrol area for this BN is between 297 and 299 Northing Grid Lines.	
		1430	Consequent on fixing of new boundaries, CO went to 2/17 AUST INF BN to arrange for taking over the new patrol area, but failing to contact CO, 2/17 AUST INF BN, the CO decided to take over new patrolling area as from tomorrow.	
	10 Aug	1030	CO and IO visited 2/17 AUST INF BN in order to arrange for patrolling of the area allotted to this BN which is in front of 2/17 AUST INF BN FDLs.	
		1900	CO and Adjt 40 RTR visited CO.	
		2130	Patrol under Sgt BLOWES, of strength 1 NCO and 6 ORs (2 ORs from each of A, C, & D Coys) went out by MT from B Coy area, 2/17 AUST INF BN area via TELL EL EISA STA to 87442800 and to go thence on a bearing of 242 degrees.	F
		2400	Today has been an exceptionally quiet day.	
	11 Aug	0145	Bombardment by our arty.	
		0150	Patrol reported in and that enemy had been heard on second leg but no contact made.	F
		0700	Four ME 109s made a low level recce of D Coy's posns.	F
		1000	Lt-Col FINIGAN, 40 RTR, made recce of BN area.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WAR DIARY

For the month of AUGUST, 1942 — UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES
IN THE FIELD	11 Aug	1300)	Heavy shelling by our arty.	
		1530)	GOC, 9 AUST DIV and Bde Comd, 20 AUST INF BDE called at BN HQ and left to inspect D Coy area.	
		2130	Patrol from C Coy (Lieut DH GREEN and 6 ORs) went out through B Coy lines, 2/17 AUST INF BN by MT to 87452980, thence on a bearing or 245 degrees for ~~xxx~~ 2100 yds. 21 X List personnel rejoined unit.	F
	12	0300	Patrol reported in. At 87272972 a single dannert fence with short pickets was found, and 50 yds inside the wire two sangars, from one of which a glow of light was seen to issue. The patrol moved northwards. At about 87252974 four men were seen but the alarm was given before the patrol could engage.	F
		0830	CO wentto 20 AUST INF BDE and thence on a recce of EL IMAYID area in anticipation of the move fwd of LOB personnel and the construction by them of a defensive posn in that area.	X
		1145	Adjt went to Bde in connection with tonights patrol.	
		1300	CO returned.	
		1600	IO went to 2/43 AUST INF BN to arrange ~~Commando area~~ patrol an extension of the bn patrol area.	
		2130	Patrol of 1 Sgt (Sgt McDOUGALL and 6 ORs) from C Coy went out.	F
	13	0245	Patrol reported in. No contact was made.	F
		0330	L/Cpl McPHAIL (C Coy) and Pte GRINTELL ("I" Sec) moved out to 87462982.	F
		1000	Lieut LOGAN of 1 AUST COMMANDO called and was given instns for tonights patrolling.	
		1030	OC, C Coy, Lieut GREEN and Maj STEVENS (58 Bty) attended a conference, at which details were fixed for a fighting patrol with arty sp.	C
		1100	Daylight patrol reported in.	F
		1200	CO went to 20 AUST INF BDE.	
		1400	Further conference with Comd C Coy and Lieut GREEN.	
		1500	Patrol of 1 AUST COMMANDO (with 1 Sgt from B Coy) went out.	
		1900	CO and Adjt visited 40 RTR then went fwd to 2/17 AUST INF BN to patrol area.	
		2100	Lieut DH GREEN and 12 ORs, a fighting patrol, left by MT for starting pt.	F
		2400	Enemy air activity over this area today was on a greatly increased scale.	
	14	0330	Patrol reported in. Patrol found no occupation where occupied sangars were found previously but on moving NORTH an enemy party was discovered. However the enemy gave the alarm and the party eluded our patrol before it could attack.	F
		0740	Hurricane 'crash landed' in B Coy FDLs. Pilot seen to be walking about.	
		1000	GOC in C, EIGHTH ARMY, accompanied by GOC, 9 AUST DIV and Comd, 20 AUST INF BDE visited the BN and met CO.	F
		1200	Lieut EDMUNDS and Comd D Coy attended conference with CO.	
		1230	Lieut LOGAN reported for orders for tonights patrol.	
		1400	CO made further recce of proposed LOB area.	
		2100	D Coy patrol went out through B Coy, 2/17 AUST INF BN area.	F

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WAR DIARY.

For the month of AUGUST 1942 — UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES
IN THE FIELD	Aug 15	0355	Reports have been received from 2/17 AUST INF BN that some members of D Coy patrol have returned who state that patrol was caught and dispersed by a circle of enemy fire and that some members are missing.	F
		0500	1 AUST COMMANDO PATROL reported in. No contact was made with the enemy.	F
		0530	Ptes MYERS and ANDERSON from D Coy patrol questioned by CO.	F
			Message from 2/17 AUST INF BN that Ptes WILLETTS and SUTCLIFFE of D Coy patrol have come into 2/17 AUST INF BN lines.	F
		0630	Ptes WILLETTS and SUTCLIFF questioned by CO. It appears that after proceeding on his bearing for 2800 yds, Lieut EDMUNDS, put the patrol to ground and investigated fwds, then returned to move the patrol fwd. The patrol was challenged twice by a sentry, Lieut EDMUNDS charged the sentry who shot him. Fire then came from all directions, and it is clear that the patrol was surrounded by enemy dug posns, from which fire was directed onto the patrol. Cpl HUMPHRIES was heard to rally the patrol and attempt to lead it out, but he ran right into an enemy posn. Lieut EDMUNDS, Cpl HUMPHRIES, ANLEZARK and Pte SING are still missing.	F
		1000	Maj STEVENS (58 Bty) conferred with CO to arrange arty harassing shoots on area of last nights patrol.	
		1145	CO went to 20 AUST INF BDE to report on last nights patrol.	
		1200	CO returned and sent for Comd, D Coy.	
		1300	58 Bty bombarded area of last nights patrol with 3 rounds gunfire.	
		1400	Conference with Comd D Coy. Patrol of Pl strength to go out tonight to posn WEST of where patrol was heard on the previous night with the object of ambushing any enemy encountered. Lieut HESLOP to comd. It has been arranged that personnel from the patrolling Coys should go out each day with 9 AUST CAV daylight patrols near Eastern Pt 25, with the object of studying this units patrol area further WEST and NORTH.	F
		1515) 1805) 1935)	Further harassing shoots by 58 Bty.	
		2300	Message from 2/17 AUST INF BN that a member of last nights patrol, Pte ANLEZARK, had come in through their right fwd Coy lines.	F
	16	0500	Lieut HESLOP reported in with his patrol and reported that no enemy were encountered or heard.	F
		0530	Lieut LOGAN reported his patrol in. This patrol, which was a combined patrol of 1 AUST COMMANDO and D Coy personnel recced the area 87312968.	F
		1000	Pte ANLEZARK was questioned by CO.	
			Maj STEVENS had a conference with CO.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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).

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IN THE FIELD	Aug 16	1030	16 ME 109 circling about BN HQ at a great height.	
		1200	Our Med Arty has been exceedingly active throughout the morning.	
		1400	CO, 2/17 AUST INF BN called in to arrange tomorrow nights patrol.	
		1500	Conference with Comd A Coy and Lieut BARRETT to settle tonights patrol.	
		1600	Lieut HEDGER relieved Lieut LOGAN in Comd 1 AUST COMMANDO GP at B Coy	
		1815	Lieut HEDGER with patrol (1 Sgt 3 ORs, 1 AUST COMMANDO, and 1 Sgt 3 ORs of C Coy, 2/13 BN) moved out.	F
			LOBs reporting in. 6 offrs 44 ORs. The following posting of offrs is made: Maj GE COLVIN, 2 i/c; Capt KC WILSON, QM; Capt RJ SOMERVILLE, No 4 Pl; Lieut CLARK, Pl Comd; Lieut DS WEBB, Pl Comd; Capt P DESCHAMPS, OC, A Tk Pl.	A
		2000	Message received from GHQ, ME thanking unit for photographs of suspected snipers of Sgt SEDGER, which have proved valuable and have been fwded to the War Office.	
		2200	Lieut BARRETT and patrol moved out.	F
	17	0230	Lieut HEDGER reported in and that enemy wire had been followed for 600 yds without contact being made with enemy.	F
X		0430	Lieut BARRETT and patrol reported in. No contact was made with the enemy.	F
			3 Offrs and 7 ORs of 44 English Div have been attached to this unit for experience and instruction in patrol work and will report for duty tomorrow. Lieut HEDGER attended conference with CO to arrange a patrol. His patrol tonight is to investigate Western Pt 23 and will have strength of 1 Offr, 1 Sgt and 6 ORs from 1 AUST COMMANDO. This unit will not patrol its normal patrol area between 277 and 299 grid lines, in order not to embarrass 2/17 AUST INF BN patrols which are operating close to that area.	A
		1031	Three enemy shells landed in A Coy area, the first enemy shelling of this area for more than one week.	F
		1400	CO attended a conference at 20 AUST INF BDE.	
		1800	CO visited B Coy area.	
			Capt JR BURRELL was evacuated for medical treatment to 2/8 ADS. and Capt KC WILSON took over duty as QM.	A
		1815	1 AUST COMMANDO patrol moved out to patrol area.	F
	18	0500	Comd patrol reported in and having been in close proximity to enemy working parties - it is thought unobserved - near Western Pt 23.	F
		0900	Comd C Coy and Lieut HEDGER attended conference held by CO to arrange tonights patrol. Lieut NORTH and 1 NCO and 6 ORs from C Coy with 1 Offr Learner will attempt to capture or destroy enemy working party or truck located by Lieut HEDGER last night.	

(3110) Wt 35842/1764 1000M 12/39 BPL 51/5684 Forms C2118/22

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

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date Aug	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IN THE FIELD	18	0930	CO and Adjt made recce with offrs of 40 RTR to arrange details of counter attack should this unit be called on with 40 RTR in such role. 11 ORs reported in from X List.	
		1230	Coy Comd, C Coy and Lieut NORTH attended at BN HQ in connection with patrol.	
		1430	CO went to 20 AUST INF BDE.	
		1500	Conference of COs at Bde attended by CO.	
		1800	Message received from 20 AUST INF BDE that a MG Pl is to be established.	
		1815	CO returned from Bde and held conference of Coy Comds. The New Army Policy was expounded and it was explained that the object was to destroy the enemy forces in EGYPT. The idea of consolidation after attack was to give way to the idea of reorganisation for further advance. The term (BOX) was abolished and would be supplanted by the term (DEFENDED AREA). Defended areas are to be regarded as bases for further operations. G(r) Sections would be revived. The new patrol policy would be to obtain identification and infm of minefields and defences through patrols rather than to inflict casualties. This BN would be responsible for anti-parachute defence as far East as the EL ALAMEIN defended area. All tpt except minimum required on on a stable defensive basis would be withdrawn to an Admn Area near EL HAMMAM. In the policy of fighting in and holding our present FDLs, 2/13 AUST INF BN would have the primary role of counter attack in conjunction with 40 RTR. Counter attack would probably be either towards Pt 33 or towards Western Pt 24. A practice would probably be held tomorrow night and possibly with infantry.	
		1830	Message that A Tk Pls should be immediately increased to full establishment.	
	19	0400	Lieut NORTH and patrol reported in. No enemy was contacted near Western Ptb23 as enemy appeared to cease work after moonset, but patrol was very close to an enemy reflector used in conjunction with ground flares for searching for patrols. It is believed that searchlights previously reported in use by the enemy were in fact searchlights of this type.	F F
		1000	An Me 109 flying low along the coast was engaged by our AA and driven out to sea.	
		1015	Patrol orders for tonight were issued by the CO. A patrol from A Coy, 1 Offr (Lieut BARRETT) 1 NCO and 6 ORs, will penetrate 2400 yds WEST from 87452972 unless enemy is encountered earlier. A patrol from 1 AUST COMMANDO (1 Sgt 6 ORs) will go to the cross rds at 87312967 and search the area 1500 yds to the SOUTH.	
		1030	Coy Comds conference.	
		1100	CO and ~~Capt WATSON~~ Coy Comds recced counter attack routes.	
		1400	9 ORs marched in from X List.	
		1430	Lieut JORY apptd to comd MG pl	

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

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date Aug	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IN THE FIELD	19	1600	All patrols for tonight cancelled.	F
		1630	CO attended conference at 20 AUST INF BDE.	
		1815	Coy Comds conference. 2/13 AUST INF BN is to relieve 2/15 BN by first light 22 Aug. B Coy will relieve B Coy 2/15 BN, A Coy will relieve A Coy, D Coy will relieve C Coy, C Coy will relieve D Coy 2/15 BN. A Coy, C Coy, Carrier and Mortar Pls will carry out their reliefs tomorrow night, the remainder, the succeeding night. Advance parties of 1 Offr per Coy and 1 rep per section and per Coy HQ to leave the night before relief, reporting to 2/15 BN HQ at 2200 hrs.	C
			BN HQ adv party to leave at 0930 hrs. A Tk Pl Comd to complete take over tomorrow.	
			Men to march fwd but one veh per pl to take mens' gear.	
			Move will commence after evening meal and will be completed fwd at 0300 hrs.	
			Amn and two days rations and water will be taken over in the posts.	
			One 81 mm mortar and three Spandaus will be taken over from 2/15 AUST INF BN, whereas 2/13 BN will hand over one 21 mm Breda.	
			A counter attack practice will be held tonight. The code word for the operation being (KINROSS)	
			Our med arty will carry out from fwd posns a bombardment of enemy encampments tomorrow morning.	
		2000	Message confirmatory of verbal movement orders received from 20 AUST INF BDE.	
	20	0240	Message from 20 AUST INF BDE (KINROSS). D Coy 2/17 AUST INF BN have been driven off Eastern Pt 24. Some enemy tks are in the vicinity. 40 RTR with one Coy 2/13 AUST INF BN under Comd will attack to reestablish Coy posn on Eastern Pt 24. Further instns following by LO.	
		0300	BN standing to.	
		0310	Bde IO arrives. D Coy ordered to cooperate with 40 RTR.	
		0700	Exercise completed, having been carried out successfully. BN stands down.	
		2140	A & C Coys commence move to new BN area. B & D Coy adv parties move to new area.	C
		2330	A & C Coys reported move was completed. A & C Coys now under comd 2/15 AUST INF BN. A & D Coys 2/15 AUST INF BN moved into area vacated by A & C Coys.	C
	21	0630	Patrol of 1 AUST COMMANDO reported in, having patrolled 1500 yds SOUTH of X rds.	F
		0635	C Coy heavily shelled. 1 OR wounded.	
		1000	4 Offrs and 26 ORs went to Bde to be inspected by C in C, ME.	C
		1030	C in C (ME) accompanied by GOC in C, EIGHTH ARMY, GOC, 30 Corps, and COC AIF (ME) visited BN area and were met by CO and Adjt.	
		1130	CO visited new A & C Coy areas.	
		1855	Enemy plane dropped pamphlets over BN area.	
		1930/2130	BN HQ, B & D Coys personnel moved to new area.	C
		2250	B & D Coys have reported in.	C

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date Aug	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IN THE FIELD	21	2300	BN HQ closed at old location and reopened at 87673017.	C
	22	1100	Bde Comd and G2, 9 AUST DIV visited CO.	
		1130-1330	Conference with offrs of sp arty followed by patrol orders.	
			Conference with Coy Comds. Orders for tonights patrol given.	
		1500	CO visited B & A Coy areas.	
		1630	Bde Comd and G2 met CO in A Coy area.	
		2100	CO and Adjt visited D Coy.	
	23	0600	Patrols did not go out until 2400 hrs because of the moon. Patrols have brought in useful infm.	F
			A patrol from A Coy (Lieut BARRETT and 6 ORs) established that there was no enemy wire where it had previously been reported.	
			A patrol from C Coy (Cpl GENNER and 4 ORs) found the enemy in occupation of a posn at 87543038 which it was thought he had only occupied temporarily.	F
			A patrol from D Coy (Sgt MORRIS and 6 ORs) found a previously unreported minefield.	F
		1200	During the morning, CO has conferred with Comds of proposed patrols and with arty comds.	
		1230	Code word received from Bde indicating general enemy attack is imminent.	
		1400	OP has been established on hill 33 to be manned by Intelligence section.	
		1500	CO visited B & C Coy areas.	
		1600	A daylight patrol from C Coy which went out to observe in vicinity of suspected enemy posns at ~~8743~~ 87543038 has reported in.	F
	24	0150	3 members of D Coy patrol reported in ~~leaving only one out.~~ and that patrol had become separated after an encounter with the enemyin which it is believed that the enemy suffered casualties.	F
		0300	Sgt. MORRIS took out a party to get the remainder of patrol in.	F
		0330	Two more members of D Coy patrol reported in leaving only one out.	F
		0410	Sgt MORRIS returned. One man still out.	F
		0430	CO and ADJT went to D Coy	F
		0500	Member of patrol returned.	F
		0600	Other patrols did not engage the enemy but a patrol from A Coy (Sgt Slaughterand 6 ORs) was only extricated with great difficulty.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Aug		~~1922 CO Maintx to 20 AUST INF BDE.~~	
IN THE FIELD	24	0830	CO attended conference at 20 AUST INF BDE.	
		0915	Message from 20 Bde that an enemy attack is likely on 25/26 Aug.	C
		1115	Coy Comds conference. Co explains 9 AUST DIV Policy and tasks in the event of an enemy attack. 2/15 BN is to raid Western Pt23 area with under comd 2 tps 9 AUST CAV and 2 Sqns 40 RTR. This unit will employ deception to simulate an attack on its front along the axis of the main rd. Methods of deception will include simulated recce in carriers, simulated registration by arty and MGs, and laying of false startline and simulating tks by noise of carriers at night. Lieut EP BEVAN will comd four 81 mm mortars under comd 2/15 BN for the purpose of the raid.	
		1130	Message received that a new A Tk minefield is being laid between us and 2/15 AUST INF BN.	
		1230	Comds 14 Bty, 2/7 FD Regt conferred with CO.	
		2110	All units of 9 AUST DIV will be prepared in all respects to open battle from 2359 hrs tonight. By DIV programme there is no ground activity on our front tonight but fwd coys are busily improving the defences in the FDLs. This unit is to take over the responsibility for closing the gaps in the minefield from the Engrs.	C
	25	1330	Spandau is firing onto 4 Pl area from a posn on the coast. CO visited fwd OP at Pt 17. Tonight a minefield is being laid between this BN and 2/15 BN. By DIV Programme there are no patrols tonight but our arty are to fire 180 rds onto the enemy FDLs.	F
	26	0430	CO and Adjt visited D Coy.	
		0500	Capt WILLS (Div IO) called and visited the OP at Pt 17. Shelling of D Coy and A Coy areas.	
		0930	CO went to Bde with Sgts MAIR, SLAUGHTER and McDOUGALL.	
		1100	Comd C Coy conferred with CO in reference to a patrol to suspected enemy strongpost on the coast. Lieut NORTH is to take this patrol. Deep patrols are also to go out from the other two Coys despite the full moon. Further shelling.	
		1800	Padre AJ ROBJOHNS returned. Padre G THOMAS ceased to be ~~detached.~~ att.	A
		1900	Bde & Div IOs called and went to OP on Ridge 33.	
	27	0230	Patrol from A Coy reported in.	F
			Patrol from D Coy reported in	F
			Patrol from C Coy reported in.	F
			Patrol from C Coy((Lieut NORTH and 1 OR)(1 NCO Learner)) examined, crawling throughout, the entire area where the enemy was seen in occupation by Cpl HD GENNER on night 21/22 Aug and from which the enemy fired on to our FDLs on 25 Aug 42, but found the enemy posns unoccupied	F

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date Aug	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IN THE FIELD	27		The enemy is shelling D Coy area.	F
			Shelling in A Coy area. Three casualties of which one was fatal.	F
		1100	IO, 2/32 AUST INF BN called on CO in connection with that unit taking over from 2/15 AUST INF BN the counter attack role for this sector.	
		1200	Comd C Coy at conference with CO. Patrol well fwd will recce posns between the coast and CLOVER LEAF area (87403044) supported by covering party from the unoccupied enemy posns. Deep patrols will go out from other Coys with the object of engaging enemy working parties.	
		1700	GOC, 9 AUST DIV called, accompanied by Bde Comd.	
		2300	Firing heard in front of A Coy.	F
	28	0015	A Coy patrol (Sgt MN McVICAR) reported in. Patrol had engaged enemy in an enemy post and inflicted casualties, then withdrawn without suffering any injury.	F
		0130	D Coy patrol reported in. No contact made.	F
		0330	Joint patrol of B & C Coys made no contact with the enemy.	
		1200	Comd B Coy in conference with CO.	
		1245	Two ME 109s appeared to be making a recce of the BN area.	
		1400	Two Offrs of R. SUSSEX, three Offrs of 2 GHURKA and 13 ORs have arrived, to be given instn in patrolling.	A
		1515	Coy Comds conference. Patrolling is to be more offensive. Night 30/31 Aug B Coy will relieve D Coy. D Coy will relieve C Coy later. Lecture by Maj MUNRO (14 Bty) on fire direction of arty by inf offrs.	C
		1800	It has been an exceptionally quiet day, with no sign of enemy movement.	
		2230	Sound of heavy MT or tk movement heard South of BN.	
		2320	Aircraft crashed over enemy lines in flames after flying West over this area.	
	29	0115	C Coy reported that Sgt MAIR'S patrol had returned.	F
		0200	Our mortars have been firing on targets in enemy territory for two hours from behind Trig 33. Enemy mortars can now be heard firing near the coast.	
		0215	Enemy amn dump blazing at 87483025, probably set alight by shrapnel from our mortars.	
		0220	Sgt MAIR reported to Comd Post. Wire was unexpectedly encountered by the patrol across the coastal rd 100 yds beyond a rd junc.	F
		0500	Special patrol sent out by C Coy to attempt to observe the wire reported by Sgt MAIR.	F
		0800	Special patrol reported in. The wire was not seen. It appears Sgt MAIR was very close to the enemy FDLs.	F
		1000	CO went to Bde.	
		1130	Lieut TIMSON and 2 offrs att to 9 AUST DIV for translation and general intelligence duties visited the area. They stated that documents sent in by this Unit had proved of great value.	

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1942 — WAR DIARY — UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES
In the Field	29 Aug 42	1400	CO went to 20 AUST INF BDE.	
		1530	Three Recce Patrols of strength of 1 Offr, 1 NCO and 6 ORs.	F
		1730	Patrols' strength increased. A Coy will send out a fighting patrol tomorrow, night, if the present enemy inactivity continues.	
		1800	A quiet day. Tonight patrols will not go out owing to the harassing fire policy, except on the coastal sector where Sgt DC MAIR will take out a deep recce patrol to investigate the area recced last night by Lieut AR.ROBERTS.	
	30 Aug 42	0115	C Coy reported that Sgt MAIR's patrol had returned.	F
		2130	Relief of D Coy by B Coy commended.	C
		2315	All of B Coy in posn. D Coy pls have completed change over, but Coy HQ has not yet moved back	C
		2326	C Coy reported mortar and SPANDAU fire from the direction of strong point vicinity 87573044.	
		2330	Mortar and arty shelling commenced of the Bn area. Enemy MG fire was heard in the region of the enemy FDLs (Comment: This may have been designed to cover the sound of enemy inf movement) Shelling, mortar and MG fire continued. Contact was maintained by CO with coys, by whom no enemy movement was reported.	
		2350	Enemy MGs commenced firing closer in to the Bn front.	
		2355	Enemy SPANDAU reported seen 500 yds in front of C Coy.	
	31 Aug 42	0010	Sgt TJE WARD reported that enemy were on the left flank of No.4 Pl firing LMGs.	
		0012	SDF fired from Bn HQ by Adjt. Co requests arty to bring down fire on CLOVER LEAF feature.	
		0015	Further SDF fired.	
		0030	No.4 Pl reported enemy to be of at least coy strength and that some enemy were penetrating through the wire. CO requests Bde to call down arty fire in front of No.4 Pl FDLs. Bde Comd offers CO reserve MG Pl which was sent fwd.	
		0035	CO requests arty OP to fire in front of No.4 Pl. No.4 Pl reports that enemy have been driven back from wire. Report that enemy party of at least 20 on right front of B Coy about 100 yds from wire.	
		0040	CO is attempting to contact D Coy but the line "out".	
		0045	CO contacted Capt HH COOPER (OC D Coy) by L/T in the fwd coy posn, who informed him that although the remainder of the coy had completed their move, Coy HQ had been cut off fwd. Co instructed OC D Coy to return to his coy at the earliest possible moment.	
		0048	Line to D Coy has now come through. CO instructed Lieut JE WOOD (A/ 2i/c D Coy) to move one pl fwd to occupy the alternative pl position up the hill and to flank of No.4 Pl.	
		0050 hrs	CO directed C Coy to switch their fire to ground in front of No.4 Pl FDLs, and ordered B Coy to get fire into the same area.	
		0110	Enemey MG fire appears to be less instense. Enemy rifle fire has ceased.	
		0015	Reserve Pl MGs open fire on ~~enfilade task protection~~ of NO.4 Pl. STET.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WAR DIARY.

FOR MONTH OF AUGUST, 1942 — UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCES to APPENDICES
In the Field	31 Aug 42	0133	Our arty commenced shelling the area fwd of our FDLs between B and C Coys.	
		0145	A Coy reported gun firing fwd of FDLs on ry line. Co calls for SOS tasks 3 and 4.	
		0150	C Coy Reported enemy MGs from derelict tk in salt pan on left front.	
		0151	B Coy reported Lieut HW POPE's patrol returned at 0145 hrs.Co spoke to patrol leader by L/T. Patrol had earlier observed 20 enemy moving towards our lines in extended order and later had seen 30 enemy moving towards the enemy lines.	F
		0200	C Coy reported their patrol in. This patrol had penetrated to enemy wire near 87373012 and had drawn fire from the enemy. On its return journey did not observe enemy movement.	F
		0215	C Coy reported No.4 Pl LMG fire falling on their left fwd pl area. B Coy reported mortar fire falling on No.11 Pl area. CO corrected No.4 Pl fire and then instructed mortars to drop their fire by 200 yds and to the right by 50 yds.	
		0225	SOS fire heard falling fwd of A Coy.	
		0230	C Coy reported a SPANDAU still firing from derelict tank. CO instructed patrol to be sent out.	
		0231	Bde Comd telephoned and informed the CO that PW had been taken along the entire CORPS front to the SOUTH from which identifications had been made, and that a PW was urgently required from this Bde front. PW captured by NZ tps in a raid earlier in the evening had stated that TRENTO DIV would attack the SOUTH AFRICANS at 0330 hrs.	
		0233	CO instructed No.4 Pl to send out search party to obtain identifications.	
		0239	Lieut FC APPLETON rang and informed CO that two dead GERMANS and one wounded had been found fwd of No.4 Pl from whom identity discs and documents (including a map) had been taken.	
		0240	CO informed Brigadier that these documents had been recovered and were being sent back. Bde Comd stated that a live PW was urgently required. Co immediately informed Lieut FC APPLETON.	
		0243	Lieut APPLETON reported that Pte KNIGHT had been killed and that 2 PW had been taken as well as a third prisoner badly wounded. Report from B Coy that Cpl BOREHAM wounded.	
		0315	Two prisoners brought into Command Post. Identified as from 11 COY, 111 BN, 125 I.R. They stated that 80 had participated in the attack in this gp.	
		0320	C Coy reports one man killed.	
		0325	A Coy reported that A Coy patrol had come in but that three ORs were missing. Patrol had been caught in own and enemy arty fire.	
		0340	One man from WO(11) RICE's party reported in and stated that the others were on their way.	
		0343	A Coy reported that remainder of their patrol had returned.	
		0410	WO(11) RICE reported in from Special Patrol to Derelict Carriers.	
		0415	Situation appears fairly quiet.	
		0425	SPANDAU fire heard and tracers seen on SOUTHERN side of TRIG 33. Arty and MG fire opened up in A Coy area.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1942 WAR DIARY UNIT: 2/13 AUST INF BN

PLACE	DATE	TIME	SUMMARY OF EVENT	REFERENCES to APPENDICES
In the Field	31 Aug 42	0430	~~0430~~ SOS signal observed fired from A Coy's area. Tracers were firing into the air as well as parallel tp the ground. A Coy out of L/T comn. CO called for SOS tasks A1,2,3 and 4.	
		~~0435~~		
		0440	Sounds of hy MG, Mortar and ~~LMG~~ fire and of hy shelling continued to come from A Coy area. CO asked Bde to repeat SOS fire.	
		0455	Sound of tks reported from left of rd on right of A Coy. SOS tasks 1 and 2 thickened up by addition of another bty.	
		0500	Our OP reported that fwd arty OP on TRIG 33 had been abandoned. One soldier reported that enemy had been within 50 yds of OP. CO communicated with B Coy who sent out a patrol to investigate this area.	
		0520	Fire still intense. Lieut WALLACE of 13 BTY reported to Command Post that OP on TRIG 33 had been abandoned because L/T comn could not be maintained owing to shell fire, 18 breaks having occurred at one time and 8 further breaks shortly afterwards.	
		0525	SPANDAU fire appears to have diminished. Lieut WALLACE, having contacted his bty, returned to TRIG 33. from A Coy	
		0530	CSM CRAIG CL. reported requesting more amn. All reserve amn had been delivered to Pls. Reported fire of A.1, 2 and 3 falling very close to FDLs.	
		0535	SOS A1,2 and 3 lifted 100 yds.	
		0545 hrs	Firing has died down completely.	
		0600	A Coy on the line again. No penetration by the enemy. Our casualties one wounded.	
		0730	A Coy reported one wounded enemy found on their minefield. Thru many ambulances seen loading in nomans land.	
		1000	Wounded PW from fwd of A Coy was brought in to Bn HQ. He proved to be from 2 COY, ERSATZ Bn. Close to the prisoner was found an electrical detecting apparatus which was also brought in.	
		1130	PW captured fwd of A Coy brought into Bn HQ ..	
		1200	CO attended a conference at Bde.	
		1630	Coy Comds Conference.	

During the day recce fwd of both 4 Pl area and A Coy area disclosed that large enemy infantry parties had crawled for distances up to 300 yds fwds our FDLs and in both cases there were marks of numerous wounded being dragged back.

D. W. Shaughan Lieut.
I.O. 2/13 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Lt-Col.
Comd. 2/13 Aust. Inf. Bn.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.
HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
21 Jul 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 14.

1. GENERAL.
The main concentrations of GERMAN inf appears to be in the northern sector, from the sea to 290 northing grid. Further south opposite 1 and 2 SA Bdes, roughly between 280 and 290 northing grids, is the bulk of ITALIAN inf. Further south still, opposite the RUWEISAT ridge is the GERMAN armour with the ITALIAN armour on its right.
(From 20 AUST INF BDE "I" Summary No 8)

2. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.
German:
9 AUST DIV I Summary No 240 of 13 Jun para 3 gives particulars and Appx "A" to the same Summary a sketch of the NEBELWERFER D or DO-GERAT. Infm has now been received that GERMANS have three smoke tps on the African front. Each tp is equipped with 6 rocket producing weapons. The surprise effect of this weapon might be very considerable and all tps, should, without fail, be warned about it. In the event of it being used all efforts should be made to destroy or neutralise it immediately including maximum arty concentration and call for air sp.
(From 9 AUST DIV "I" Summary No 249)

3. GROUND OPS.
19 Jul 42. Day was generally quiet. On the coastal sector enemy FDLS appeared to be one mile west of ours. South of the ry the general line of the enemy FDLs was as follows:
Pt 24 87472997 to high ground 87402985 then SE along telegraph line 87642967 then SW to 87592961. TELL EL EISA ry sta was still occupied by our tps who had never withdrawn from it.
At about 1200 hrs one of our FOOs on Trig 22 87672950 directed a regtl concentration on enemy on the ridge from the CAIRN 87542962 to 100 yds to the SE, but enemy numbering 200 near Trig 22 used mortars MM MGs and A Tk guns. 4 tks believed to be M 13s and 2 lorry loads of inf arrived in the area of Trig 22 and the party withdrew after the FOO had been killed. A patrol before dark to 87922927 reported occupied enemy posns astride track at 87722922 for 500 yds NW and SE. At 1900 hrs a large tk moving from the area of Trig 22 on which a heavy concentration from our guns was falling was seen to burn and explode at approx 87652932.
During night 19/20 Jul active patrolling was carried out on all sectors. Patrol to TELL EL EISA cutting and south saw no enemy movement and no fresh digging. 300 yds south of the Cutting many dead bodies mostly ITALIAN were found. Patrols in area SW of Cutting reported enemy posns approx one coy at 87432998. Patrol to area 876293 destroyed a tk at close range with an A Tk grenade. Type of tk was not established but three dead were found outside the tk.
(From 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO 249)

4. A sapper operating with a 24 Bde patrol successfully stalked and knocked out a tk with an A Tk grenade on night 19/20 Jul.
(From 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 8).

5. AIR OPS.
44 enemy planes were destroyed by the RAF on 19 Jul. Many of them were destroyed on the ground by one of our formations which followed enemy planes home to their airfield.
(From 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 8).

6. ENEMY METHODS.
ITALIAN. The following is an extract from a letter from Col di COSA CO, 86 Inf Regt (Now PW) to one of his BN Comds, who was just taking his BN into the front line for the first time:-

"Div has rung up this very moment to say that the units in front of you are AUSTRALIAN - notable patrollers; keep your eyes open; don't withdraw your patrols further in than 100 metres from the strong-point, or you'll find yourself left high and dry with only an alarm bell for protection." (From Main 30 Corps I Summary No 136.)
(From 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO 249).

D.J. Cunningham Lieut
IO 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

23 Jul 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 15.
(Containing infm received up to 2400 hrs 22/23 Jul).

GENERAL: Ops in the Central and Southern sectors, where the main armour is ebgaged, proceeded according to plan. Sitrep for this Bde front up to 1800 hrs is as follows:
"This bde front 2/32 BN after heavy fighting reached line approx 87632950 to 87572960 to 87612971 (.) 26 aust inf bde tps reached RING contour 873302 but were forced to withdraw 26 bde tps captured TELL EL EISA FEATURE and at last report still held it (.) 9 aust div tps opposed by GERMANS all sectors and some tks probably of battle gps (.) 2/32 bn captured 1 offr 64 ORs from 90 light div 4 coy 165 L.I.R and 8 MG BN(.) PW from area 874301 identified from 382 Lt I.R. (.) Central & Southern sectors (.) Own tps secured all early objectives on time except pt 64881279 which was captured and consolidated later(.) Enemy launched several counter attacks but only partially successful. Main enemy armour definately engaged southern sector."
The situation at 1800 hrs might be summarised by saying that the objectives had been gained except for the ground North and NE of Cairn 87552961 . 2/32 Bn held the ground immediately East and South of the Cairn. 2/28 Bn held the gnd on our right (NW) Flank and 2/43 Bn that on our left (SE). At 1900 hrs 2/28 Bn moved out and with 53 I tks carried out an attack on the high gnd und st and West of RUIN HILL (87532892). 2/43 BN moved across to take over the ground previously occupied by 2/28 BN. Apparently this last attack was successful. At 1720 hrs the tks had passed well fwd of our FDLs which the inf were just passing through. Enemy inf on RUIN RIDGE were observed to be running back over the skyline. Shortly afterwards a batch of 53 GERMAN PW (incl 1 offr) was marched back having been taken prisoner in the low ground north of RUIN HILL. Our inf were seen to be on RUIN HILL.
A small number of 2/28 BN personnel went astray in the latter stages of the operation and wandered into our lines.

OWN OPS. At 1900 hrs some suspected enemy were observed moving across our lines at a distance approx 1 mile. They were successfully engaged by our MGs, fire being observed and corrected by phone from OP fwd of A Coy.
Harassing enemy shelling was responsible for 11 casualties (1 A Coy 10 HQ Coy) In this unit area incl 1 Sgt.
At approx 1300 hrs Sgt SEDGER while indicating to elements of 9 AUST CAV the posn of two GERMAN Armd Cs, which had been active on A Coys front, was sniped at and shot dead.

PW. An offr PW at the PWCP near BN HQ stated that he was from 90 Lt Div. He had been in Africa one month and three days and on this sector for two days only. He stated that they had not believed the ITALIANS, whom they relieved, when they stated that AUSTRALIAN tps were opposite them, and enquired if we were genuine AUSTRALIANS. PW had previously been in RUSSIA for 12 months and said that we were better fighters than the RUSSIANS.
Offr PW taken near RUIN RIDGE belonged to a MG Coy which had been in AFRICA nine mths.
At 2330 hrs three PW were taken by 3 AUST A Tk Regt. PW had lost their Regt (155) and wandered into our lines.

ENEMY OPS. At 1035 hrs enemy planes were observed to bomb heavily their own arty South West of A Coy after which a veh with W/T aerial from which 2 men had been observing fwd of A Coy quickly made off.

J. Birmingham
.....Lieut
IO 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

24 Jul 42

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 16.
(For 24 hrs ending 1000 hrs 23 Jul 42).

1. GENERAL. During tk battles in the central sector on 22 Jul a total of 20 enemy tks was destroyed in the general area between MUNIR Depression 8727 and Pt 64 (ref map 1/250,000 EL DABA Sheet 987279). The enemy's morale inf is known to have suffered particularly hy losses and Pt 64 876279 was captured and held by our forces in spite of an enemy counter attack with tks. "Identifications (in the northern sector) make it clear that our forces in the area TELL EL EISA - ALAMEIN have opposite to them almost the whole of 90 Lt Div. The GERMANS are known to be supported by a considerable number of ITALIAN tps incl probably TRENTO Div and elements of TRIESTE and SABRATHA Divs. In face of this opposition our tps have captured the important ridges near TELL EL EISA and BIR EL MAHEIHAD and in spite of violent counter attacks have secured them against all comers."
(From 30 Corps I Summary No 139).

2. GROUND OPS. 22 Jul. In the early hours of the morning our tps attacked and by 0730 had captured the whole of TELL EL EISA feature incl Pt 24 873299. To the SW our tps were within 100 yds of CAIRN 875296 and re-entrant 876294 SW of Pt 22 87672950.
At 1230 hrs despite hy enemy counter attacks which caused substantial casualties we held from cn st to incl rd in posns occupied prior to the attack. We also held ry cutting 875300, the whole of the double Trig 24 feature 873299 - 874299, TELL EL EISA ry sta and a line from telegraph line at 87602970 - 87562963 - 87572958 - 87622953. Generally speaking all first objectives were captured and retained except the knoll in the NE corner of square 874301.
At 1920 hrs the enemy formed up on the SW slopes of double Trig 24 feature but were broken up by our arty fire and did not attack.
At 1900 hrs our tps supported by tks attacked RUIN ridge west of QATTARA rd 75289 and 874290. First wave of tks reached the ridge but was subjected to heavy arty and A Tk fire. Inf did not reach objective but during night 22/23 Jul leading tps reached a posn west of QATTARA track running NW from 8770292O.
23 Jul. By 0600 hrs our tps had been withdrawn from the western Trig 24 873299 but we still held eastern Trig 24 874299.
(From 9 AUST DIV Summary No 251).

3. OWN ACTIVITY. At approx 0800 hrs an ITALIAN 10 ton diesel truk with trailer was driven by two ITALIANS in civilian clothes into our lines where they inquired the way to HERSA HAMRUH. They were shown the way to the FWCP where the civilians were handed over. Permission has been obtained to retain this truck in the meantime in the unit.
Quantities of British and enemy weapons and eqpt are being salvaged in the area incl LMGs, A Tk and Lt AA guns and W/T eqpt, permission to retain some of which is being sought from higher formation.

4. ENEMY ACTIVITY.
Enemy appears to be withdrawing from contact with tps on our immediate front and flanks. A high level bombing attack was made on this HQ at 1900 hrs 23 Jul. Six bombs were dropped. One plane was recognised as ME 109. No damage, no casualties in this unit.
Our casualties during last 24 hrs were two: one OR killed by enemy C prep shelling during lb st night's attack south from this area, one OR dangerously wounded by arty fire on recce this morning.

5. METEOROLOGICAL.
Moon sets night 24/25 Jul 0330 hrs.
25/26 0430
Full moon night 27/28 Jul

R Lindsay Capt
.....Lieut
IO, 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

W.D

SECRET Copy No.....
28 Jul 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 17.

1. GENERAL.

The attack opened to schedule and by 0300 hrs had gained their objective. 2/28 Aust Inf Bn There was however only one gap in the minefield and the first veh to be moved up was an amn truck which was hit in the gap and burning fiercely, illuminated it. This enabled the enemy to cover the gap with MGs and A Tk guns from further WEST. All efforts to locate and knowk out these guns failed. When the BN was counter-attacked at about 1000 hrs it was impossible to break through to them. The last news from this BN was from an intercepted GERMAN message that after suffering heavy casualties the BN had been subdued with the exception of one sec post which was still holding out and that 100 PW had been taken.

2. ACTION DIARY - 27th Jul 42.

0030 hrs - Arty bombardment opened up.
0145 " About 6 PW (GERMAN) brought in.
0245 " Bde report 2/28 BN in area of their objective.
0300 " 2/28 BN have secured their objective.
0400 " About 60 prisoners taken back.
0600 " About 150 prisoners have been taken back.
0900 " SA Inf moved across front in mopping up ops.
1000 " Arty opened further bombardment and tks moved off.
1015 " Informed by Bde that 2/28 BN is being counter attacked.
1020 " Reported that 2/28 BN has probably been overrun. BN stands to.
1040 " CO orders re-wiring of sec and pl localities.
1045 " CO asked permission of Bde to relay minefields. Permission was not granted for the time being as tks were still in front.
1120 " Party of 5th Africans accompanied by Valentine tks came in to A Coy area. Comd of det spoke to BM through our L/T. Det then moved fwd again.
1222 " BE HQ area bombed by ME 109s. 4 bombs and one airburst. Capt FORWARD, 2/12 AUST FD REGT, reported a/p O and went out to C Coy area.
Bde informs that arrangements are to be made to link this Bns front with that of 2/48 BN.
1530 " Lt-Col MacARTHUR ONSLOW (2/2 AUST MG BN) and Lt-Col HERBERTSON (3 AUST A Tk Regt) called and informed CO that steps were being taken to establish 4 strong pts between 2/48 BN and this unit. Strong pts would contain 2 A Tk guns and 2 MGs each and whatever inf we might supply. CO decided to supply 2 secs of carriers and one inf pl with 4 LMGs from Res Coy (A), the whole force to be commanded by MG Coy Comd under comd Lt-Col TURNER.
1545 " CO reced area in which these strongpts were to be established and called in at 24 Bde Tac HQ.
1730 " IO sent to 24 AUST INF BDE to arrange def fire with 24 AUST INF BDE. No sp could be arranged as all arty had been allotted to tasks which Bde Comd considered to be of greater priority.
1800 " Lieut HAMILTON (2C AUST INF BDE LO) called.
1810 " Maj THOMAS (3 AUST A Tk Regt) called to inform CO that he had been ordered to establish 2 strongposts on our left flank with A Tk guns and carriers of 2/28 AUST INF BN. CO directed Lieut APPERTON (Comd 4 Pl) to liaise with [redacted]. strongpoints on right flank.
1830 " Capt MURN of 2/7 FD COY came to arrange with the CO the relaying of the minefield. Minefield is to be relaid further fwd to cover pls which have been pushed fwd. This could only be done provided that 2/13 AUST INF BN supply working parties, which the CO agreed to provide.
2015 " BN area shelled. No casualties.
2030 " Lieut KERR relieved Capt FORWARD as FOO with C Coy.
2050 " B Coy area shelled. One sigman slightly wounded.
2400 " SITREP.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

3. ENEMY METHODS.

(a) GERMAN units in the fighting so far have proved extremely quick at mounting a counter-attack. It is normal for him to register his own most prominent defended localities in case of enemy penetrations of the posn and his reaction to our attack is likely to be first by arty and mortar fire aimed at preventing consolidation, followed by a counter attack. Our greatest success hasbeen achieved by night attacks which reach the objective in time to permit consolidation before daylight.

(b) GERMAN tps will stand firm unless they are actually attacked and overrun; they will NOT withdraw merely because of a threat to their flanks, nor because they are being surrounded. They have been ordered to hold their posns "however serious the situation becomes".

(c) The GERMANS will attempt to localise our attack by arty, A Tk guns and MGs, but xxxxxxxx coordination will be difficult for them because GERMANS and ITALIANS are interspersed. What they fear most is:
(i) any adv by us west of QATTARA rd.
(ii) a panic by the ITALIANS.

(d) GERMANS do NOT recognise many rules of warfare, and all ranks should be warned to expect treachery. GERMAN PW will NOT file automatically to the rear without escort like the ITALIANS, and cases have already been reported of GERMAN MG crews, having surrendered to a leading coy and been directed to the rear, returning to their guns and shooting up the res coys. When surrendering, they will delay their captors as much as possible - e.g., emerge very slowly from trenches and dugouts so as to give sniping MGs further back an opportunity to shoot our tps.
(From 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 10).

4. ENEMY STRENGTH.

(a) Apart from supporting Army and Corps Arty, the present strength of the GERMAN forces in this area is estimated at:
3580 men; 19 Fd; 75 A Tk; 16 Armd Cs.
In sp there is thought to be a max of 24 med guns and 20-88 mm.

(b) The present strength of the ITALIAN forces in this area is estimated:
9100 men; 70 med or fd; 45 A Tk; 6 DP; 15 Armd Cs; 712 tks.
(From 20 Aust Inf Bde I Summary No.10)

D.W.B. Heaughan Lieut.
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(DWB HAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WD

SECRET.

30 Jul 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.17
LAST 24 HOURS ENDING 0600 HRS 30 JUL 42

1. GENERAL.

Generally it has been a very quiet day. No enemy bombing or shelling in the Div area. At 0045 hrs enemy aircraft passing overhead were engaged by AA.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

ITALIAN PARACHUTE BN. There are indications that there are parachutists now in LIBYA. The last identification of ITALIAN parachutists in LIBYA was in Nov last year when they did not figure prominently and were known to have returned to ITALY. Recent reports show the parachute div has been concentrating and trng in SOUTHERN ITALY and there have been rumours for some time of an impending move.

The theoretical strength of a parachute bn is 29 offrs, 34 NCOs, 263 ORs. Their armament will apparently incl semi automatic rifles, LMGs and Pistols, but it is thought that in future they will be more heavily armed. Using these figures as a basis the strength of the regt may be calculated at 1400 and that of the div at about 4,000. It must be emphasised that very little indeed is known about this formation.

(From 30 Corps Intelligence Summary No.142)

3. ENEMY METHODS

ITALIAN. The two civilian FW on "C.A.R." (Gruppo Autotrasporti Libia) captured NEAR of GAZALA break 29 Jul 42 state that the "TRASPORTI" has given contracts to several civilian firms in ITALY whereby the latter agree to provide the specified number of vehs for the type of men and materials from rear areas up to and incl regt HQ. Four of these gps were specially mentioned; "C.A.R.", "S.A.T.A", "TRASPORTI", and "CORSART". Each has at least 70 vehs, chiefly lorries with a trailer. The lorry and trailer can hold up to 50 or 60 men.

(Adapted from 30 Corps Int.Summary No.140)

GERMAN.

(i) During the last few months the GERMANS have shown a tendency to use small aggressive gps, usually in BRITISH vehs to attack our OPs and Patrols. These gps consist of about 6 vehs, incl Armd Cs, portees, A Tk Guns and sometimes a tk. Their tactics are either (a) to approach at high speed from their own lines and to attack our OPs or (b) to work round into dead ground from which they can ambush our patrols or OPs when they return.

It will be remembered that our patrols on the ALAM HALFA front in last May were frequently attacked by a small force known as "the Thugs", which usually consisted of two armd Cs, two Portees and sometimes a tk. They were always led by a Volkswagen.

(ii) Mine Methods. Recent PW have stated that their anti-personnel mines, booby traps and anti-lifting devices are no longer used in AFRICA. In lifting mines, sound indicators are sometimes used, but more frequently metal rods (GERMAN ARMY I.S.No.262). This statement should NOT be taken as evidence that any smaller proportion of these devices would be found in future.

(From 30 Corps Intelligence Summary No.141)

(iii) Dogs are reported to be used by the enemy in conjunction with listening posts.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

15 N° 17

4. PATROLS. A recce patrol from C Coy (Lieut IRWIN and 1 OR) went out at 2300 hrs through No.13 Pl to Gp CHINAMEN No.111 tk at 07792923, thence along minefield to 07812917 then to 07842916 return to No.13 Pl.

REMARK. The first leg to 07792923 (which has been fixed by daylight re section on location of No.111 CHINAMEN tk) was uneventful. During second leg, after patrol had proceeded along outside of minefield for 700 yds a flare, fired from an unknown direction fell within 20 yds of patrol and burnt on ground. Patrol paused for 10 min then proceeded to elbow in minefield at 07812917.

Patrol intended to follow minefield to path where sentry was observed on previous night but was interrupted by a spandau estimated to be about 500 yds to NW which fired on patrol with several bursts. Four flares were also fired which fell short of patrol. Patrol then swung away from minefield at a bearing of 110 degrees moving for approx 300 yds to observe three dersloot tks located on high ground. Nothing further to report. Patrol returned arriving in at 0200 hrs.

5. ARMY to 2000 HRS.

Arty report enemy apparently laying minefield from 07482905 to 07582899(.) 9 Div CAV at 0640 hrs captured at 07592915 eleven CHINAMEN from 3 Coy 220 Engr Bn and six IRAQUIS from 1 Bn 162 I.R., Later in day CAV captured one more CHINAMAN near area (.) Otherwise nil.

Lt Cunningham
I.O. 2/23 AUST INF BDE.

SECRET.

31 Jul 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.12
(for the period ending 0600 hrs 31 Jul 42)

1. GENERAL.

There has been no enemy activity in this area during the last 24 hours with the exception of one attempt to snipe a member of the Intelligence Section at 8774293?. Shot appeared to be from an A Tk Rifle and to come from direction SSW.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

Enemy in this area are believed to be as follows:-

33 Regts	-	Area 874291 to GATTARA track.
1 Bn,62 I.R. (TENNO DIV)	-	HQ at 8712290?
BRIDGE GP	-	Holding main ridge
11 Bn,61 I.R.(TENNO)	-	EAST of GATTARA track) in area
?1Bn,62 I.R. (TENNO)	-	WEST of GATTARA track) BRIDGE GP
1 Bn,115 Lorried Inf Regt	-	May be EAST of GATTARA track.

(From 9 Aust Div I Summary No.291 and 20 Aust Inf Bde I Summary No.11)

3. LATEST SITREP (to 1900 hrs 30 Jul).

S.A. DIV report 0815 hrs 87?2900 one Mk.111 Tk probably OP shelled by our arty and later found by another tk (.) 2/43 Bn reported one large tk at 0630 hrs moved to 8764290? remained there till 0815 hrs then moved behind ridge (.) 0730 hrs 10 men at 87402955 (.) At 0800 hrs moved NE into dead ground during morning 2 vehs brought up ? small guns believed A Tk into area 874293(.) Arty engaged and vehs retired leaving guns (.) Air photos 27 Jul showed hastily prepared inf and gun posns from 87352933 to 87662905 where smoke screen obscured line (.) From 87302925 to 87472923 these posns are dug in (.) All infernal

4. MOONRISE.

On 31 Jul 42 moon rises 2232 hrs.

Lieut.
I.O., 2/13 Aust. Inf. Bn.
(D.W.M. KINGSBURY)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W. 3008.
(Page 1).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/13 Aust I.O.B Coy (Unit.) For Week Ending 1 Aug 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (*i.e.*, deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels			
	Majors...			
	Captains			
	Lieutenants			
	2nd Lieutenants			
	Quartermasters			
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	7	1	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.

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).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Maj		C E Colvin	[illegible]	Yes		
2					Cp			
3		Capt		P. Deschamps		Yes		
4				R J Somerville		Yes		
5		Lieut		K C Wilson		Yes		
6		"		G L Clarke		Yes		
7		"		D S Webb		Yes		
8		"		C A C Cuttle		No		attending Administrators Course
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
32								
33								
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.

2/13 Aust LOB Coy
(Unit.)

2 Aug 42
(Date of Despatch.)

A D Colvin Maj
(Signature of Commander.)

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W.3009
(Page 1.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

2/13 Aust L O B Coy (Unit). 1 Aug 194- (Date)

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.			
W.Os Class II.	2		
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.			
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	2		1
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	9		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	44.		3
TOTALS.	57	*	* 4

* 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.
IX 8194	Salvation Army Rep		
Cpl. Laurens S.			

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

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

2/13 Aust LOB Cp ..... Unit.

Army Form W.3009
(page 2.)

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

2/13 Aust LOB Cp ..... Unit.

Date of Despatch 2 Aug 42

..... Signature of Commander.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W. 3008.
(Page 1).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/13 Aust LOB Coy (Unit.) For Week Ending 8 Aug 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (*i.e.*, deficits on establishment).
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	Lieut.-Colonels	.....	.....	.....
.....	Majors...	1	.....	.....
.....	Captains	2	.....	1
.....	Lieutenants	4	1	.....
.....	2nd Lieutenants	.....	.....	.....
.....	Quartermasters	.....	.....	.....
.....	District Officers	.....	.....	.....
	TOTALS	7	1	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.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

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).
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W.3009
(Page 1.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

.....(Unit). .....194..... (Date)

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.			
W.Os Class II.	2		
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.			
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	3		
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	9		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	41		6
TOTALS.	55	*	* 6

* 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.
VX8494	Salvation Army		
Cpl Laurens S	Rep.		

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

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

2/13 Aust LOB Gp ..... Unit.

Army Form W.3009
(page 2.)

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.										
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	REMARKS
Bricklayers																				
Butchers.																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks...																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																		3	3	
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers..																				
Fitters...																				
Machine Gunners ...																				
Masons..																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers... ...																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors.																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel .																		3	3	
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)																		6	6	

2/13 Aust LOB Gp ..... Unit.

9 Aug 42 ..... Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WD Diary

SECRET.

COPY NO. 16.

2 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN OPERATION ORDER NO. 29

REF MAP: EL ALAMEIN 1 : 50,000.

INFORMATION.

1. As per SITREPS and "I" Summaries to date.

INTENTION.

2. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn will partially relieve 2/48 Aust Inf Bn and will form 20 Aust Inf Bde Reserve in Coastal Sector on night 2/3 Aug 42.

METHOD.

3. MOVE. No move before 2200 hrs 2 Aug 42. Relief to be complete by 0300 hrs 3 Aug 42.

4. RECCE and ADV PARTIES.
(a) Recce Parties will carry out recce of coy areas on 1 and 2 Aug 42.
(b) Adv Party, D and HQ Coys will move to new areas on night 1-2 Aug 42.
(c) Adv Parties will consist of one rep per coy, pl and sec.

5. ORDER OF MARCH. See Appendix "A".

6. ROUTE.
(a) KATARA track to MAIN COASTAL rd then WEST to track junc at 88042973 thence causeway to unit track to rear of Bn Area.
(b) A, C and D Coys will recce route from above track junc to coy areas.

7. PATROLS. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will be responsible for patrols up to and incl night 2-3 Aug 42 until relieved.

8. FD WORKS.
(a) Coys will take with them all materials in present posn for Fd Wks, excl wire and mines.
(b) Defensive posns in new area will be strengthened

9. COY AREAS. Coys will relieve 2/48 Aust Inf Bn Coys as follows:-
(a) D Coy, 2/13 Aust Inf Bn to relieve D Coy 2/48 Bn
(b) A Coy, 2/13 Aust Inf Bn to relieve old B Coy 2/48 Bn
(c) C Coy 2/13 Aust Inf Bn to relieve C Coy 2/23 Bn.
(d) HQ Coy 2/13 Aust Inf Bn to relieve HQ Coy 2/48 Bn.

B Coy will assist C Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn and 10 Bty, 3 Aust A Tk Regt in forming Strong Posts at the following posns:-

i. 87822981
ii. 87842970
iii. 87962969
iv. 88022963
v. 88042954.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

METHOD (Cont)

10. CARRIER PL. Carrier Pl will move with HQ Coy and will be in reserve with HQ Coy.

11. MORTARS; will move with present coys.

12. A TK PL. will recce posns for guns with 2/48 Aust Inf Bn, A TK Offr on 2 Aug 42.

13. MMG. Pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn will revert to comd 2/2 Aust MG Bn at 2300 hrs 2 Aug 42.

14. B ECH. B Ech will be Brigaded. QM will arrange a recce party to report to Staff Capt, 20 Aust Inf Bde at 1800 hrs 2 Aug 42 at 88602948 NORTH of MAIN COASTAL rd. QM will arrange coy B Ech areas and reps will guide their coy B Ech into posn.

ADM.

15. AMN.
(a) All amn will be taken.
(b) Excess of G.1098 held by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will be taken over by coys.

16. RATIONS.
(a) One days hard ration on the man.
(b) Three days veh ration will remain intact on unit vehs.
(c) Veh rations at present loaded in 345 Gen Tpt Coy vehs will be unloaded and held in coy B Ech posn.

17. PACKS. Packs will be taken into posts with the man.

18. TPT CARRYING TPT. Coy tp carrying vehs (345 Gen Tpt Coy) will tpt 2/48 Aust Inf Bn personnel to new area.
Further instructions will be issued with regard to 345 Gen Tpt Coy's vehs at B Ech.
Vehs which take in C Coy will bring out C Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

19. FOREIGN WEAPONS. Foreign weapons will be taken over by coys relieving coys of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.

20. INVENTORY OF POST STORES.
(a) An inventory of post stores and supplies will be prepared by Adv Parties and will be fwded, receipted to this HQ by 1200 hrs 3 Aug 42.
(b) Receipts will be given for all stores taken over.

21. HYGIENE. Every effort will be made at new areas to ensure complete hygiene. Flyproof latrines will be supplied to coys as soon as possible.

22. TPT. The minimum amount of tpt will be kept fwd and the remainder returned to B Ech area. NO more vehs than at present with coys will be allowed fwd.

23. MEDICAL. Relief of RAP will be mutually arranged between RMOs.

24. SUPS, POL, WATER. Instns will be issued later.

25. AP. Will be notified later.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

INTERCOMN.

26. LOCATION OF BN HQ. Bn HQ will close in present posn at 2300 hrs 2 Aug 42 and will re-open at 87933001 at the same time.

27. CODE WORDS. Coys will telephone the following code word to this HQ:-

Relief completed - HQ Coy - "PULL"
- A Coy - "PUSH"
- C Coy - "LIFT"
- D Coy - "DROP"

ACK.

R Leach Capt,
Adjt. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
(S. R. LEACH)

TIME OF SIGNATURE hrs.

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION - DR.

DISTRIBUTION. Copy No

A Coy	1
B Coy	2
C Coy	3
D Coy	4
HQ Coy	5
Pl,345 Gen Tpt Coy	6
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	7
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	8
Pl,2/2 Aust MG Bn	9
Comd	10
2 i/c	11
Adjt	12
QM	13
TO	14
Sig Offr	15
War Diary	16-17
File	18

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

2/13 AUST INF BN - MOVEMENT TABLE

ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OO NO.

ROUTE: KATARA RD-MAIN COASTAL RD-TRACK JUNC 87922984-Bn Area.
S.P. KATARA RD and TELEPHONE JUNC.
START TIME: 2250 HRS.
V.T.M. Visibility distance.
M.I.H. Six
T.C.P. Will be established along route at main turnoffs
DISTANCE TO TURNOFF 87922984. 1 6/10 miles.

DATE	SERIAL NO.	COY	NO OF VEHS	TIME PAST SP.	REMARKS
2 AUG 42.	1	D	10	2250	1st and last veh to have man to call "FIRST" or "LAST VEHICLE D COY".
	2	A	13	2253	" " " ---A COY".
	3	HQ	27	2300	" " " --HQ COY".
	4	Bn HQ	10	2307	" " " --BN HQ".
	5	C	9	2310	" " " ---C COY". (Last of convoy)

XXX

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.

3rd copy

COPY NO. 17

2 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN OPERATION ORDER NO. 19.

REF MAP: EL ALAMEIN 1 : 50,000.

INFORMATION.

1. As per SITREPS and "I" Summaries to date.

INTENTION.

2. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn will partially relieve 2/48 Aust Inf Bn and will form 20 Aust Inf Bde Reserve in Coastal Sector on night 2/3 Aug 42.

METHOD.

3. MOVE. No move before 2200 hrs 2 Aug 42. Relief to be complete by 0300 hrs 3 Aug 42.

4. RECCE and ADV PARTIES.
(a) Recce Parties will carry out recce of coy areas on 1 and 2 Aug 42.
(b) Adv Party, D and HQ Coys will move to new areas on night 1-2 Aug 42.
(c) Adv Parties will consist of one rep per coy, pl and sec.

5. ORDER OF MARCH. See Appendix "A".

6. ROUTE.
(a) KATARA track to MAIN COASTAL rd then WEST to track junc at 88042973 thence causeway to unit track to rear of Bn Area.
(b) A, C and D Coys will recce route from above track junc to coy areas.

7. PATROLS. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn will be responsible for patrols up to and incl night 2-3 Aug 42 until relieved.

8. FD WORKS.
(a) Coys will take with them all materials in present posn for Fd Wks, excl wire and mines.
(b) Defensive posns in new area will be strengthened

9. COY AREAS. Coys will relieve 2/48 Aust Inf Bn Coys as follows:-
(a) D Coy, 2/13 Aust Inf Bn to relieve D Coy 2/48 Bn
(b) A Coy, 2/13 Aust Inf Bn to relieve old B Coy 2/48 Bn
(c) C Coy 2/13 Aust Inf Bn to relieve C Coy 2/23 Bn.
(d) HQ Coy 2/13 Aust Inf Bn to relieve HQ Coy 2/48 Bn.
B Coy will assist C Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn and 10 Bty, 3 Aust A Tk Regt in forming Strong Posts at the following posns:-
i. 87822981
ii. 87842970
iii. 87962969
iv. 88022963
v. 88042954.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

METHOD (Cont)

10. CARRIER PL. Carrier Pl will move with HQ Coy and will be in reserve with HQ Coy.

11. MORTARS; will move with present coys.

12. A TK PL, will recce posns for guns with 2/48 Aust Inf Bn, A TK Offr on 2 Aug 42.

13. MMG. Pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn will revert to comd 2/2 Aust MG Bn at 2300 hrs 2 Aug 42.

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ADM.

15. AMN.
(a) All amn will be taken.
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16. RATIONS.
(a) One days hard ration on the man.
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Further instructions will be issued with regard to 345 Gen Tpt Coy's vehs at B Ech.
Vehs which take in C Coy will bring out C Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

19. FOREIGN WEAPONS. Foreign weapons will be taken over by coys relieving coys of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.

20. INVENTORY OF POST STORES.
(a) An inventory of post stores and supplies will be prepared by Adv Parties and will be fwded, receipted to this HQ by 1200 hrs 3 Aug 42.
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23. MEDICAL. Relief of RAP will be mutually arranged between RMOs.

24. SUPS, POL, WATER. Instns will be issued later.

25. AP. Will be notified later.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

INTERCOMN.

26. LOCATION OF BN HQ. Bn HQ will close in present posn at 2300 hrs 2 Aug 42 and will re-open at 87933001 at the same time.

27. CODE WORDS. Coys will telephone the following code word to this HQ:-

Relief completed - HQ Coy - "PULL"
- A Coy - "PUSH"
- C Coy - "LIFT"
- D Coy - "DROP"

ACK.

J.R. Leach Capt,
Adjt. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
(S. R. LEACH)

TIME OF SIGNATURE hrs.

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION - DR.

DISTRIBUTION. Copy No

A Coy	1
B Coy	2
C Coy	3
D Coy	4
HQ Coy	5
Pl,345 Gen Tpt Coy	6
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	7
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	8
Pl,2/2 Aust MG Bn	9-
Comd	10
2 i/c	11
Adjt	12
QM	13
TO	14
Sig Offr	15
War Diary	16-17
File	18

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

2/13 AUST INF BN - MOVEMENT TABLE

ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OO NO.

ROUTE: KATARA RD-MAIN COASTAL RD-TRACK JUNC 87922984-Bn Area.
S.P. KATARA RD and TELEPHONE JUNC.
START TIME: 2250 HRS.
V.T.M. Visibility distance.
M.I.H. Six
T.C.P. Will be established along route at main turnoffs
DISTANCE TO TURNOFF 87922984. 1 6/10 miles.

DATE	SERIAL NO.	COY	NO OF VEHS	TIME PAST SP.	REMARKS
2 AUG 42.	1	D	10	2250	1st and last veh to have man to call "FIRST" or "LAST VEHICLE D COY".
	2	A	13	2253	" " " ---A COY".
	3	HQ	27	2300	" " " --HQ COY".
	4	Bn HQ	10	2307	" " " --BN HQ".
	5	C	9	2310	" " " ---C COY". (Last of convoy)

XXX

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

FILE 28
to be transferred to WD

~~SECRET~~
~~2 INF 42.~~
~~245 AUS INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 12~~
~~(FOR 48 HOURS ENDING 0600 HRS 2 JAN 42)~~

1. ~~GENERAL~~. It is believed that during the prevailing period of quiet the enemy is carrying out a minor re-grouping of his forces.

2. ~~ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. (Coastal Sector).~~
(a) ~~General.~~ Enemy forces in the coastal sector comprise A and 11I Bns, 385 IR from the coast to incl TELL EL MIRA (exc), supported by 8MM CP, the composition of which is given below. This regt arrived from CYRENE about a month ago, and consists of low category type of occupation, with a lower scale of equt than other GERMAN forces in AFRICA. 2 and 3 Coys of 220 Regt Bn, which also come from CYRENE, are stationed in the coastal sector, with HQ near SIDI BARRANI, and are employed mainly in lying mine-fields.
The coy supporting 382 IR is presumably from another formation, possibly ITALIAN.
ITALIAN voices have been heard by night patrols, but probably this does NOT indicate a relief, but merely that ITALIAN working parties are being used to improve the GERMAN defences.
The enemy is showing a general tendency to push fwd his MGs, OPs, and at night to occupy fwd posns and listening posts. Detailed enemy dispositions are given below.
(b) ~~Details of enemy dispositions.~~
i. ~~Bn.~~ The enemy line of MGs app are to run from the coast at 0750040 to 0740034, thence to 0745010, round centre 24 to approx 0729290 thence SE to 0730275.
There are strong Pts at 0720920, 0765015 and 0751004. Some of th se have single row concertina wire in "U" shaped round them.
Some mining or wiring seems to have been carried out in sq.074290 and digging and GERMAN voices have been heard at 0755040 approx. 0729060 enemy wired posn, wire running NORTH to 0755065.
ii. ~~Arty.~~
0744040 — 20 mm HEDA
071290, 071299 — HD have been active in these sqs.
0725025 — 20 mm HE DA
0743035 — 4 guns.
0729290 — Bty
0725O5 — Gun positions in NOTH area.
0751044 — 88 mm Guns.
0707O050 — HD, possibly 105 mm.
075507, 075504 — Between these pts 10 guns reported by The R.
Principle enemy targets at present are Trig 33 area and Cutting area with some CB fire on tpr of 2/8 AUST BN HQ.
iii. ~~Wire Fields.~~
0725040 - 0730029
0744302 - 0742O019 (And SOUTHWARD)
0743290 - 0743294
0742002 - 0747O010 (And possibly SE to sd approx 0742302
0751265 - 0749275
iv. ~~Obs.~~
0724300 (suspected)
0744O015
0725262 (Pt 23)
0751275 (Derelict tk) with trench beneath and elc wires running SOUTH).
v. ~~Portion.~~
0721504 - 0720O043 (Bty of 4 mortars)
0721O020 (Suspected)
0755015 (Suspected)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I.S. No. 19

A: COASTAL SECTOR:

3. ENEMY METHODS. The following enemy methods have been noticed in this sector:-

(a) Counter attack follows quickly after a pom in a bom lost being usually made by tks without inf, such a counter attack can be mounted quickly and may succeed unless A Tk defence on the objective is very rapidly organised.

(b) Subsequent move dull bursts counter attacks by tks and inf are preceded by concentrations of mortars and arty fire. These attacks have always taken place about 2 hrs before last light.

(c) The enemy's direct air sp is excellent, and the first bombing of our objectives has occurred within 2 hrs after our attack, calling for rapid dispersion of vehs and digging in on our part.

(d) In some cases, the enemy's policy appears to be not to hold prominent features (e.g. Pt 25 and [illegible] Pt 24) in strength, but to cover them from the flanks with MGs and mortars, and if we attack both to bring down by arty concentrations which have caused us by casualties.

(e) The enemy occupies when OPs (e.g. Pt 25) by day only and also some poms, notably the dominant tim at 6748/037 and a pom at 6725/024, which he appears to occupy only at night.

(From 20 Inf Bde I SUMMARY No 13)

B: GENERAL

Minefields. Attention is drawn to the following points from information recently supplied by a PW on enemy methods of laying minefields.

(a) The enemy lays two kinds of minefields: Scattered Mfs and Main Mfs. Scattered Mfs are unfenced and are laid up to 2000 yds infront of the Main Mf.

(b) The minefield is marked on the "enemy" (but to our side) by a single wire on short pickets which does not follow the field exactly but zigzags.

(c) The mine field is marked on the home side by a single wire on long pickets.

(d) GAPS are usually closed, but recognised by a wire which always remains in place. Either boards are placed over the mines or a narrow path for inf is left on either side of the wire.

BOOBY TRAPS. A booby trap encountered in the vicinity 6752/73 took the form of a type of grenade set by a string to a box of ammunition. The grenade was partially buried alongside the ammo and would have been set off by the pull of the string. No report has yet been received as to any method for de-louring this trap.

Recent PW have said that Anti-personnel mines, Booby Traps and Anti-Lifting Devices are no longer used in NORTH AFRICA but it is pointed out by GHQ MEF that this evidence should NOT be taken to mean that any smaller proportion of these devices will be found in future.

(From 9 ARMY INT SUMMARY 215)

Method of Attack on Minefields. One of the advance to the edge of the minefield and engage all the defending weapons they can see. Support then debouch from the tks and proceed to clear mines on foot covered by the fire of the tks. Tks that are hit are pulled out by other tks and then replaced, or the whole detachment withdraws and runs a fire activities at another pt. Offensive use of SA fire is the obvious answer.

AA AGAINST GROUND TARGETS. Offrs who have been in enemy hands and enemy prisoners report that gnl strafing aircraft are always engaged with intensive fire from every available SA fore incl rifles. No one who is armed goes to gnl on such occasions.

(From GHQ I SUMMARY NO.732)

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

A captured sketch of dispositions of 2 Bn 85 Rt SABRATA DIV at end of May 42 shows that the Bn had POLISH as well as ZBROJOWKA A Tk rifles. The bullet fired by the POLISH rifles incorporates a small capsule of C.A.P. (tear gas) in the base, the object presumably being to drive out the crews of AFVs and dugouts. Experience up to the present shows them to be largely ineffective. The weapon has a calibre of 7.9 mm and is believed to have a performance slightly inferior to that of the GERMAN A Tk rifle m/s.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I S N° 19

4. ENEMY ACTIVITY (Cont).

(continued) of enemy rifle range 200 yds, beside 30cm Howe Hard Armour. Range 200 yds estimated to hold 72cm similar plate.

(CPL. KEY I GUNNERY 740)

COMMENT. Some photographs which were captured and handed into this HQ of a GERMAN soldier with A Mk I rifle suspected of being the soldier who swiped Sgt GERGIN shown on unknown type of A Mk I rifle. They have been rushed by 9 ARMY INT to Higher Formation for identification but may quite possibly be photographs of the above-mentioned ZULUH rifle.

An A Mk rifle bullet which fell in No.7 Pl area yesterday (1 Aug) has been handed in to this HQ and will be rushed.

5. PATROLS.

(a) At 1500 hrs a man was seen moving backwards over ridge SOUTH of No.13 Pl area. A patrol (Cpl KEEN and 1 Or) was sent out with the object of apprehending him. Patrol moved out from No.13 Pl on a bearing of [illegible] 190 degrees.

RESULT. Object of patrol was to capture single soldier suspected as sniper seen at approx 8703916. At 8702915 patrol found flare of 4 parts cut DEFUSE tied on a BUSHLIN Mk IV mine-field. GERMAN held. From the most [illegible] Sk patrol leader moved 700 yds SW to old TRAINI diggings (unoccupied for 7 days). About 1000 yds SOUTH of patrol 3 distinct rounds rose above the level grd, in which 3 soldiers, presumed GERMAN, were seen vid, one of whom was cleaning his rifle. Patrol returned without seeing any sign of suspected sniper.

(b) At 0400 hrs area patrol moved out to locality of derelict tks and established on OP 100 yds E thereof.

RESULT. From OP a sketch was made by Patrol Leader from which the 6" sketch was plotted. At DAWN on a bearing of 202 degrees from OP (approx 8703700) 4 men were seen but were not observed. Observed Fire. At 0645 hrs for 10 minutes a spasmodic MG burst firing from N. Distance impossible to estimate.

6. ~~LATEST STATUS to 2000 HRS 1 AUG 42.~~

Quiet day (.) 1050 hrs 1 large MA [illegible] low in direction from area 830296 (.) Heavily engaged by AA (.) 1735 hrs ENEMY AIRCRAFT reached in flame area 8730272 (.) Pilot parachuted but exactly (.) 2/Lt [illegible] OC reports expected ID Posn 8740294S (.) Movement of men in or hummocks 8775290 - 8746209 to 875291 and 15 to 20 men at 8765295 (.) All informed. *

R. Leach Capt
I.O. 2/33 AUST INF BDE

War Diary File Aust

File

SECRET
Copy No 4

2 Aug 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 7.

Ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000 Sheet.

INFM

1. Enemy.

As contained in sitreps and Summaries already issued. Additional infm att as Appx 'A'.

2. Own Tps.

(a) 9 Aust Div is taking over the Northern portion of the ALAMEIN defences.

Bndy with 1 SA Div all excl 9 Aust Div pt 30 869292 - telegraph line 88152928 - 888289 - 426898 - 431896 - 440897 - 446897.

(b) 1 SA Div is holding the EL ALAMEIN defences South of telegraph line and present FDLs on general line of track 884286 - 446897.

(c) 20 Aust Inf Bde Gp and 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp are relieving each other on nights 1/2 and 2/3 Aug.

3. Additional Tps.

(a) 2/28 Bn comes under comd 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp on completion of relief by 20 Aust Inf Bde.

(b) 2/13 Bn moves from present area and reverts to 20 Aust Inf Bde Gp at 2100 hrs 2 Aug.

(c) As from 1 Aug 42.
PNR - 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn under comd.

(d) After withdrawal.
RA - Div arty in sp.
A Tk - 11 Aust A Tk Bty under comd.
MG - D Coy 2/2 MG bn under comd
RE - 2/7 Aust Fd Coy in sp.
2/3 Aust Fd Coy is temporarily in sp from 1 Aug.

INTENTION

4. 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp will vacate present posn and will take up defensive posn within the EL ALAMEIN BOX during nights 2/3, 3/4 and 4/5 Aug.

5. Tasks on Reaching New Posns.

(a) Limit penetration from the West.

(b) Limit penetration from the SW or east.

(c) Counter attack enemy.

METHOD

6. (a) Night 1/2 Aug

2/3 Pnr Bn have moved into area held by 2/15 Bn astride main rd in sqs 887294 - 887293 - 888293, and will take over posns during daylight on 2 Aug.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

(b) Night 2/3 Aug
2/13 Aust Inf Bn will vacate present posn and revert to comd 20 Aust Inf Bde Gp at 2100 hrs.

(c) Night 3/4 Aug
2/43 Aust Inf Bn Gp less one coy will take over EL ALAMEIN perimeter from coast to excl telegraph line at 88082933 from 3 SA Bde. Route, QATTARA Rd - junc of telegraph line and rd 87902948 - along telegraph line into area.
2/32 Aust Inf Bn Gp less one coy will occupy a posn now being recced astride main rd about 2000 yds EAST of 2/43 Bn. Route, present posn to QATTARA Rd not South of 295 Northing grid - ry crossing 880295 - Main Rd - along Main Rd to area.

(d) Timings
No movement MT in Bn areas till 2115 hrs 3 Aug. All tps clear by 0300 hrs (except covering party) 4 Aug.

(e) Covering Parties.
2/32 Bn and 2/43 Bn will leave one coy as a covering party in present posns until night 4/5 Aug, when they will rejoin their Bns.

(f) Deception
Bns will make every effort to conceal the fact that theBde is moving. Normal movement will be simulated and patrols maintained up to and during night 4/5 Aug. If necessary, special patrols will be left with covering party on night 3/4 Aug.

(g) Sp Arms.
The allotment of Sp Arms to Bns on arrival in new areas will be detailed later.
A Tk and MMG defence will be coordinated by Comds 11 Bty 3 Aust A Tk Regt and Comd D Coy 2/2 MG Bn.

7. Engrs.
2/7 and 2/3 Fd Coys are available to assist with technical advice, labour and tpt in collecting and removing fd stores. Arrangements will be made direct between Bn and Fd Coy Comds.

ADM.

8. (a) Amn & Sups
APs and Sup Ps remain unchanged.

(b) Tpt
B Ech will remain same location until further orders.

(c) Medical
ADS at present in fwd area will be established with MDS during daylight 3 Aug.

(d) Fd Stores
All fd stores incl mines, sandbags, dannert wire and corrugated iron sheets will be recovered and taken under Bn. arrangements to new areas.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

INTERCOMN.

9. Main Bde HQ will close present location 2130 hrs night 2/3 Aug and will reopen same time at 88612949.
Tac Bde HQ will close present location 2145 hrs night 3/4 Aug and will reopen at Main Bde at same time.
Report centre will remain at present location Tac HQ till 0500 hrs 4 Aug.

for A/B.M. 21 Aust Inf Bde. Capt.

Ack.

Time of signature 1245

Issued by LO & Sigs.

Distribution	Copy No.
2/28 Bn	1
2/32 Bn	2
2/43 Bn	3
2/13 Bn	4
2/12 Fd Regt	5
11 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	6
12 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	7
12 Bty 4 Lt AA Regt	8
2/3 Fd Coy	9
2/7 Fd Coy	10
K Sec Sigs	11
D Coy 2/2 MG Bn	12
11 Coy AASC	13
2/3 Fd Amb	14
76 LAD	15
3 Rec Sec	16
G Div Sec OFP	17
9 Aust Div	18-20
50 RTR	21
20 Aust Inf Bde	22
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Comd	24
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I.O.	26
T.O.	27
Sup O.	28
File	29-30
War Diary	31-32

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

Appx "A" to
9 Aust Inf Bde OO No. 11

ENEMY STR[illegible] ... TIONS AND PROBABLE INTENTIONS

1. Enemy Strengths.

The enemy's present fighting strength in the area SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN - NAQB ABU I/NEIS is estimated to be :-

GERMAN 22,000; 180 fd; 190 A Tk; 35 88mm; 12 SP; 80 Tks; 55 armd Cs.

ITALIAN 28,000; 180 fd; 180 A Tk; 15 88mm; 18 SP; 110 M13s; 65 armd Cs.

Apart from army and corps tps these totals are made up of (German) 15 and 21 Armd Divs, 90 Lt Div and elements 164 Inf Div, and (Italian) LITTORIO, ARIETE and TRIESTE Divs, TRENTO Div, the remains of PAVIA and BRESCIA Divs, and probably a new inf div (perhaps made up of parachutists).

By 15 Aug the enemy's strength may have increased by 20,000 men 35 fd guns, 100 A Tk guns, a few 88mm guns, 80 German tks, 40 M13s.

2. Enemy Organisation

The German forces are at pres[illegible]her disorganised. Much of their horsed inf is in the line, [illegible]e separated from their parent regts, new personnel have not be[illegible]rly absorbed, and A/Tk weapons are still considered to be insuffi[illegible]en[illegible] The enemy is likely to take the earliest opportunity of dr[illegible]e horsed inf of 15 and 21 armd Divs i[illegible] ... [illegible] ... go Lt Div out of the line as well.

3. Enemy Dispositions and [illegible]ons

Present dispositions, [illegible]s they are known, are given in detail in Intelligence summaries. [illegible]eneral, the German inf, with Italian units interspersed, is responsible from the Coast to incl QARET EL ABD The German armour is thought to be concentrated still in the triangle DEIR EL ABYAD-DEIR EL SHEIN-EL MIREIR. From excl QARET EL ABD to the QATTARA Depression the tps are almost entirely Italian.

As reinforcements arrive, the Germans will presumably build up a striking force as soon as possible. This force may be ready to operate during the second half of Aug, but a raid in strength during the first half of the month is NOT out of the question. The strip between the 270 and 280 northings is thought to be the most likely line for the main thrust if the enemy gains the initiative.

(From Appx "A" to 9 AUST DIV OO No. 11).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.
5 Aug 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 20.
(From information received up to 0600 hrs on 5 Aug. 1942).

1. GENERAL. Total PW captured by 9 Aust Div since 10 Jul 42 number approx 4,200 all ranks of whom about 500 are GERMAN.
(9 Aust Div I Summary)

The following review on the general situation in the fwd area is taken from GSO GHQ MEF Weekly IS No. 95:-

" The enemy has placed himself in a very strong posn for defence. He is in possession of the naturally strong features in the SOUTH running from BAB EL QATTARA to TAQA with minefields extending to the edge of the QATTARA depression. In the NORTH he has also girded himself with formidable minefields. He is using the various low features on the gnd as gun posns from which to cover the approaches. An important part of his defence is formed by the 35 or 40, 88 mm dual purpose guns now under cond of 135 Flak Regt and are scattered along the front. These weapons have been a dominating feature in WESTERN DESERT Warfare since the operations round HALFAYA in Jun of last year. They are supplemented by numerous 76.2 mm RUSSIAN guns mounted on half track and tk chassis and by 50 mm guns now liberally allotted to most of the inf coys.

At the moment the enemy's main problem remains one of reinforcement in personnel. The propensity of the ITALIANS to surrender when surrounded had become so marked that Gen.BASTICO has described it as having become "a tactical rule". Such inf have been a liability to the GERMANS; and to prevent a break through in sectors held by ITALIANS, ROMMEL has apparently withdrawn the main body of the ITALIAN inf to 2nd Line posns, or introduced GERMAN inf units as stiffening among them. Along the whole of the front line GERMAN units are to be found; and the steady arrival of elements of 164 DIV and AFRIKA personnel enables the posn to be made daily stronger. The defence is built up of minefields well covered by arty and A Tk guns of which most units seem recently to have received some reinforcements. Though personnel in the defence is still thin, fire power is considerable.

It is natural that the enemy will endeavour as soon as possible to equip the newly arrived inf of 164 DIV on the same scale as the tps already in AFRICA, 382 INF REGT having already suffered severe casualties through lack of A Tk weapons."
(From 9 Aust Div I Summary No257).

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. A patrol of 2/15 AUST INF BN on night 4/5 Aug captured a prisoner who, however, they could not bring in as he was hit by enemy fire. From identity disc and documents he was identified as 111 Bn, 125 IR. 125 IR is part of 164 DIV recently reported arrived from CRETE.

3. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.
(a) ARTY.
0815 hrs - Area shoot by 105 mm on 87573017.
1145 hrs - " Trig 33, registration shoot 75 mm.
1200 hrs - " Trig 33, by concentration.
During afternoon enemy carried out registration shoots by 75 mm and 105 mm guns on Trig 33 area and RIDGE between Pt 23 (87733008) and Pt 26 (87913001). Approx 25% "Duds" reported.
(b) MT MOVEMENT
87053054 - Considerable MT movement, mainly NW along main rd during afternoon.
87093045 - Arty OP observed four large vehs moving EAST along main rd followed later by 4 more pulling large trailers. All disappeared 87093045.
87?307 - 1342 hrs - 22 vehs moving.
869299 - 1525 hrs - 30 " observed
87203034 - 1600 hrs - large convoy led by DR moved to this pt.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

IS No 20

3. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY (Cont)
(c) MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL.
87103047 - 1600 hrs - 12 men dejussed from veh and lost to sight in salt marsh.
(From 20 Aust Inf BdeI Summary No 14)

4. ENEMY METHODS. Daylight recce revealed probable booby traps in the form of stick grenades att to a cane of spandau ammo at track junc 87545034. (A similar trap found area 87532978 was reported in 9 Aust Div I Summary 255).
87433019 - 1625 hrs - enemy party erected TWO blue pennants on tripod base about 30 yds apart. Enemy, probably a survey det, were fired on and withdrew. At 1725 hrs one of the pennants was taken down and later the other also disappeared.
(From 20 Aust Inf Bde I Summary No.14).

5. OWN AIR ACTIVITY.
Night 28/29 Jul. 91 WELLINGTONS and 4 Hy Bombers attacked TOBRUK harbour and shipping. A hit is claimed on a ship and fires were started. A number of night fighters were reported over the area and one rear gunner was killed.
16 BOSTONS and 2 BLENHEIMS raided KLEIN LGs and other targets between MATRUH and BABA.

Night 29/30 Jul. 57 WELLINGTONS again went out to raid TOBRUK. A fire was started on a ship in the centre of the harbour and many fires in the vicinity of the petrol storage tks. Night fighters were again active and one JU 88 which attacked one of our planes, was successfully driven off by accurate returned fire.
(Source 30 Corps I Summary 148)
1205 hrs - Bombers attacked 20/25 [redacted] MT area 871296.
1605 hrs - Bombers attacked 200 MT area 867273
(From 20 Aust Inf Bde I Summary No 14)

6. BROADER GROUND ACTIVITY.
Patrols. 3 Patrols, in addition to protective patrols, contact patrols and listening patrols operated last night and summary of the observations. The enemy was found to be very actively digging and wiring in all sectors. One patrol penetrated between enemy listening posts and protective dets and reached 87393036 where a large enemy working party was busy(See enemy dispositions). The patrol reported finding at 87393035 a dugout which had been used for a Hull-Down tk. Electrical crpt lay nearby and sig wires led in from SOUTH and WEST (i.e. from direction of quarry, already suspected enemy HQ and, RUIN area, known to contain enemy inf and guns). Patrols also report that the going WEST of 874 grid and SOUTH of Pt 9 (874304) appears to be firm enough for tks.
Another patrol which was fired on from 87433018 heard a whistle blast which may have been an alarm signal.
(From 20 Aust Inf Bde I Summary No 14)

7. BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT (up to last light 4 Aug 42).
(a) Observed enemy movement.
1. At 1540 hrs a party of men appearingto be working party at 273° from 87773007 estimated 4500 yds distant.
11. At 1655 hrs a single truck moving NORTH along track in vicinity RUINS 872433036.
111. At 1700 hrs 5 trucks moving SOUTH at an estimated distance 5000 yds WEST.
(b) Observed enemy dispositions. N I L.
(c) Air Activity.
1. Enemy. 0910 hrs one ME 109 seen heading WEST.
1000 hrs four fighters seen heading WEST.
11. Own. 1400 hrs 12 BOSTON bombers passed over area and dropped their bombs well behind enemy lines on bearing of 285° from 87773007.
(d) Enemy MG Activity.
0715 hrs on a bearing from 87773007 of 305 degrees MG fire was heard.
2045 hrs on bearing from same pt of 305 degrees MG fire heard.

8. SHELLING. No shelling was reported in this Bn Area during the last 24 hours.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I S No. 20

9 Aust Cav

7. S.S.M. PATROL NIGHT REPORT.
Patrol at 87612940, 87552962, 87382965, 87472978 report SILENCE.
Patrol which moved 87522956 encountered by A Pz fire and withdrew without observing poss of guns. Sqn withdrew at 2030 hrs.
Visibility poor.
At 2000 hrs a truck dropped six men at 87332987 and withdrew.
Thirty men at 87302955 changed by orty.
At 2025 hrs three more trucks at 87332983 and 12 men dismounted from one. Visibility was insufficient to observe what others continued.

10. ENEMY SNIPERS RIFLE. The rifle shown in photograph of soldier suspected of sniping Sqn SHOCK has been identified as a Pz B.39. The calibre of the bullet of a Pz B.39 is the same as that of an ordinary rifle.
(From 9 Aust Div I Summary No 256).

Lieut.,
I.O. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
(DOUG MACARTHUR)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

500
S/25/40

HQ., 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
In the Field
5 Aug 42.

HQ., 20 AUST INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE REPORT
(up to last light 4 Aug 42)

1. OBSERVED MOVEMENT - ENEMY
(a) At 1540 hrs a party of men, appearing to be working party at 273 degrees from 87773007, estimated 4500 yds distant.
(b) At 1655 hrs a single truck moving NORTH along track in vicinity RUINS 87243036.
(c) At 1700 hrs, five trucks moving SOUTH, at an estimated ~~xpxxx~~ distance 5000 yds WEST.

2. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSITIONS
NIL

3. AIR ACTIVITY
(a) ENEMY - 0910 hrs - One ME 109 seen heading WEST
1000 hrs - 4 fighters seen heading WEST

(b) OWN - 1400 hrs - 12 Boston bombers passed over area and dropped their bombs well behind enemy lines on bearing of 285 degrees from 87773007.

4. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY
At 0715 hrs on a bearing from 87773007 of 305 degrees MG fire was heard.
At 2045 hrs on a bearing from same point of 305 degree MG fire heard.

Lieut.
IO., 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WD

SECRET
6 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 21.

(From information received up to 0600 hrs 6 AUG 42)

1. SPECIAL NOTES.

(a) Evidence of enemy intentions is to be given first priority as an intelligence duty. In particular, indications of an enemy attack will be carefully looked for, and patrols, OPs and all fwd tps will be instructed to be alert and watchful for any evidence of the following enemy activities:-

i. Building up of fwd dumps.
ii. Recce by air, inf patrols and AFVs.
iii. Registration of targets.
iv. Deserters - enemy tps wandering near our lines may wish to desert and should NOT be fired on until given the opportunity of surrender.
v. Arty - Increase or decrease of number of guns on the front.
vi. Minefields - enemy making recce of our minefields, or attempting to clear gaps.
vii. Changes in dispositions - especially the release of 90 LF MTV from front line duties.

(b) Owing to recent reports of modifications and improvements in GERMAN Mk III Tks, further particulars are urgently required by higher formation of GERMAN tks which are approachable without undue risk as follows:-.

i. Type of gun, particularly if long slender barrel (50mm)
ii. Whether tk has extra armour in front. Tks are being built with extra short 20 mm armour bolted to front of hull at an angle to main armour with a space of approx 15 cms between, also space on front of gun mantle.
iii. Whether gun has muzzle brake on it or not.
iv. Try to get veh number from plate [redacted] tk beside asst or driver.

Coys will notify this Hq of any knocked out tks (GERMAN), approachable without undue risk in any area which they occupy.

2. GENERAL. Situation has been very quiet. At 1530 hrs the enemy shelled and mortared Trig 33 area.

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

(a) It is possible that I and III Bns, 382 IR were relieved in the coastal sector about 30 Jul 42 by 125 IR. There were indications of this relief about that time in an increase of MT movement and in a change in enemy habits, the new units being casual and careless in moving about their posns, shaking blankets etc, and more aggressive in the employment of their MGs.

(b) Supply Routes. The enemy appears to be using two supply routes:-

i. The track leading SW from SIDI RAHMAN.
ii. A track partly shown on map, which leaves main rd at 8716 3029 and appears to run SW thro 8709 2927 and HITEIMIYA ridge.

The former route is under long range observation from Trig 33 area, early morning and late evening. The latter is under observation except when hr at home or dust is bad. Enemy traffic is usually widely dispersed at about 500 yds and does NOT present a favourable shelling or bombing target.

(c) H.T. The R shows large concentration MT building up in area EL ADZAD 0620 having come down from SIDI RAHMAN. Another party is splitting off to HITEIMIYA area.

4. ENEMY MINING.

(a) Booby traps. BRITISH "Celotin" mines may have been set as booby traps.

(b) Alarm Sigs. Patrols report hearing whistle blasts which may be alarm sigs.

(c) Searchlight. 2145 and 2201 hrs SL shining on EAST Pt 24 on bearing of 286 degrees from TELL EL EISA stn.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WD

I 3 N 21

5. GROUND ACTIVITY: NIGHT 4/5 AUG 42.

Patrols. Numerous recce and fighting patrols were out, in addition to normal protective patrols and listening posts and brought back information ~~which is highly secret~~. A fighting patrol attacked the enemy at 07363037. The patrol was surrounded by GERMAN tps in dug-in posns, but after disposing LMGs on either flank, went in with TMGs and grenades. One PW was taken, and another enemy killed. One member of the patrol killed 3 men in a weapon pit with TMG. Enemy all round opened fire killing the PW and wounding patrol cond, who then collected paybook, documents and shoulder strap from PW and ordered the patrol to withdraw. Spr fire held down by arty and LMGs grently assisted the withdrawal of the patrol by preventing a flank attack and by confusing the enemy the opened LMG on Pt 25 within his own FDLs with his arty, while mortars and LMGs opened fire on JJ ridge.

PW was identified from 9 Coy IXX Bn 125 Bn - a new identification.

Other patrols report enemy very activly digging all along the front. Many compressors at work. Diggings in the marsh area, EAST of 074 grid are reported in many cases to contain water.

(All information above from 20 Bde I Summary No 16)

6. PATROLS. A patrol from A Coy, (Lieut BRENNAN and 6Pte) went out from Post 2, D Coy, on a bearing of 210 degrees to the area SOUTH of Trig 22, which they reported unoccupied by enemy.

PATROL. After proceeding from starting point on bearing of 210 degrees for 2800 yds, patrol leader halted patrol having failed to find Trig 22. Patrol leader then investigated the ground within 200 yds radius but observed no Trig. Patrol then moved on same bearing for a further 530 yds then turned WEST. After proceeding due WEST for 335 yds, diggings were observed covering approx a coy area, advanced to weapon pit stage. The nature of the diggings and the fact that a GERMAN leather holster was found, indicated them to be of GERMAN origin. 25 pr gun was found and a double telephone cable running NORTH to SOUTH. Diggings had signs of recent occupation; no mines or booby traps. Patrol listened for half an hour. NIL. Return by same route.

7. AIR ACTIVITY. 0030 hrs one ME 109 flying WEST near Bn HQ.
1130 hrs four GERMAN fighters flying WEST along the coast were engaged by our AA Pl. A hit was scored with captured 20 mm BREDA on one plane which subsequently crashed.
1400 hrs one GERMAN bomber flying SW.

8. GEN AIR ACTIVITY - 4 AUG 42.

0030 hrs Fighter bombers attacked MT 068205
0900 " Bombers attacked MT 851240
1330 " Fighter bombers bombed ry 050315 and scored hits.
1410 " Bombers attacked DABA ry etc.
1510 " Fighter attacked concentration 000/1000 MT 870203
1623 " Area 07402863 bombed - 4 fires started.
1826 " 11 BAUERHORSES bombed MT 867277.

(From 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 16)

Lieut.
I.O. 2/13 Aust Inf Bde
(D.A.D.I.)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

20 Bde FILE

SECRET
7 Aug 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.22

(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 7 AUG 42)

1 GENERAL. The situation remains quiet in all sectors.

2 ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. It is obvious that elements of 125 IR are now in the coastal sector and it seems likely that I and III Bns of 382 IR may be taken from the coastal area and sent to relieve elements of 90 Lt Div further SOUTH. There is as yet no real evidence of any such movement. Considerable enemy movement was however noticed by Tac R between 1200 and 1240 hrs 4 Aug 42. Tac R report as follows:-

"Area 865272 (SW of EL MIREIR) - more than 1000 tpt.
DEIR EL ABYAD - more than 1000 MT.
Area 867290 - 875287 - 873284 - 867286 (about 3 miles NORTH of DEIR EL ABYAD - 1000 MT.

On route 862311 - SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN - BIR GIBRIL RHAMIS - 869293: more than 200 MT and more than 10 armd Cs. After reaching 869293 some of this party was dispersing SW of MITEIRIYA Ridge, some was moving on SOUTH towards DEIR AL ABYAD, some was going SW to the MT dispersal area 863293.

Subsequent Tac R between 1745 and 1830 hrs was largly confirmatory. It was thought that these enemy movements probably indicated the arrival in the fwd area of the main body of 164 Inf Div from CRETE and in fact, a PW was captured night 4/5 Aug 42 at 87313035 and identified from 9 Coy 125 Inf Regt of 164 Div. It isthought likely that this Div is in process of relieving that part of the lorried inf which is in the line, and also 90 Lt Div."

(FROM 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO 259)

Confirmation of the relief of the 90 Lt Div from front line duty is urgently required ~~from~~ by higher formation as the normal role of the latter formation is to act as inf sp for the GERMAN armour.

3. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY - 5 AUG.

(a) Minelaying. 87052973 - six small dumps, probably mines observed 1856 hrs, with staff car, 6+trucks and 150/200 inf in vicinity probably engaged in minelaying. Area successfully engaged by our arty and one dump vanished.

(b) Arty. Enemy arty carried out area and registration shoots at 33 ridge and area 87603013 during the day with 75 mm, 88 mm and 105 mm. In the evening CUTTING area and EAST pt 25 were heavily bombarded with 75 mm, and mortar fire fell on 33 ridge.

(c) AFVs. 0800 hrs - 5 tks seen area 87002996.
2035 hrs - a heavy engine was heard and a large dark object was seen to approach WEST Pt 24. A tk hunting party armed with ST grenades went out from EAST Pt 24 but the tk had departed.

(d) MT Movement. Enemy MT movement has again been considerable along his sup route and there was a marked increase in movement round 22 feature on coast 872307 and RUIN area 872305.
1232 hrs - 50/60 MT observed moving NORTH to SIDI RAHMAN, and continuous movement NORTH along same track during afternoon.
2030 hrs- 15 MT area 87313023, apparently debussing tps.
87183029 rd junc near ry - general MT movement all day.

4. ENEMY METHODS. Enemy again used SL last night.
(From 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 17)

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT. This unit has already fwded specimen of hollow-charge amn to higher formation. Further specimens of hollow-charge amn are urgently required of calibres other than 75/27 and 100/17. This amn is recognised by its hemispherical nose-cap and white band 20 mm wide above the driving band.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I S No 21

9 Aust Cav

9. C SQN PATROL ROCK REPORT.
Patrol at 87612948, 87552962, 87382965, 85472978 report SITREP.
Patrol which moved 87522936 encountered by A Tk fire and withdrew without observing posn of guns. Sqn withdrew at 2030 hrs.
Visibility poor.
At 2000 hrs a truck dropped six men at 87332987 and withdrew.
Thirty men at 87302955 engaged by arty.
At 2025 hrs three more trucks at 87332983 and 12 men dismounted from one. Visibility was insufficient to observe what others contained.

10. ENEMY SNIPERS RIFLE. The rifle shown in photograph of soldier suspected of sniping Sgt SEEGER has been identified as a Pz B.39. The calibre of the bullet of a Pz B.39 is the same as that of an ordinary rifle.
(From 9 Aust Div I Summary No 256).

Dan Maughan Lieut.
I.O. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
(DAN MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

IS N°622

6. OWN AIR ACTIVITY - 5 AUG.
0835 hrs - MT bombed 872287 - 868279. Two direct hits observed on gun posns 869281.
0910 hrs - 300 MT bombed 869280-870283.
1047 hrs - 12 BOSTONS bombed MT 871283-868279. Several direct hits and one large explosion.
1130 hrs - Fighters attacked 300 MT 870295 and 300 MT 877285.

7. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY- 5 Aug and night 5/6 Aug.
(a) ARTY. Arty engaged inf posns 8720530105,8721029561 and target at 87052973 consisting of small dumps believed to be boxes of mines, 6 trucks, staff car and 150/200 inf. This target was engaged until last light and again at 0610 hrs, when enemy tps were seen running in all directions. At 0625 hrs there was an explosion and a cloud of dense black smoke. It is thought that a dump of mines was hit.
(b) PATROLS. 9 patrols operated in addition to normal protective patrols and listening posts. No conflict with enemy tps, but much infm was obtained. All patrols report intensive digging and laying of minefields. In the SW sector therehas been no evidence of the enemy's using patrols, though in all cases his working parties appear to be protected by a screen of small posts.
(From 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 17)

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY - 6 AUG. Enom this area the following enemy aircraft were observed.
1420 hrs - 4 enemy fighters heading NW.
1422 2 MEs 109 heading NW.
1830 4 GERMAN fighters heading SW

9. UNIT PATROLS. A patrol from C Coy (Lieut GREEN and 6 ORs) went out from Post 2 (B Coy) at 2200 hrs to CAIRN at 87542962 then 2000 yds SOUTH to 87542944. Returned direct to Post 2. NMS/H.

10. TRIG 22 AREA. At 1300 hrs one Sgt and six ORs went out to Trig 22 area and moved about in an ordinary manner. They returned at 1800 hrs. No enemy was observed.

Lieut.
for I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

525/52.

HQ., 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
In the Field
7 Aug 42

HQ., 20 AUST INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE REPORT
(until last light 6 Aug 42)

1. OBSERVED MOVEMENT

0645 Hrs From Pt 26 on bearing 228 degrees estimated to be in area 871294 tpg digging (about) a Coy strong)
0820 Hrs In same area, bearing 230 degrees, 5 trucks.
0945 Hrs From Pt 26, bearing 252 degrees, convoy of 9 trucks (? square 870297)
1100 Hrs) Same area as last observation, 7 vehs
1130 Hrs) moving NORTH to SOUTH.
1950 Hrs A number of stationery MT on RUIN RIDGE.

2. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS

NIL

3. AIR ACTIVITY

ENEMY

1420 Hrs 4 Enemy fighters seen heading NW
1422 Hrs 2 ME 109 seen heading NW
1830 Hrs 4 German fighters seen heading SW

4. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY

NIL

5. SPECIAL REPORT

1 Sgt and 6 ORs from A Coy went out to Trig 22 at 1330 hrs and moved about. Returned 1800 hrs. Report NMG.

Lieut.
IO., 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S25/28/3

SECRET.
HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
8 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT
(Up to last light 7 Aug 42)

1. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Time	Approx Map Ref	Observation
1700	86642960	7 Trucks moving NORTH
1700-1900	86652958-86742937	Continuous movement of vehs both ways along ridge.
1900	86982977	3 vehs moving SOUTH.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

No observations.

3. AIR ACTIVITY: (ENEMY)

Time	Type	Direction of flight.
0845	3 MEs 109	NW
1030	2 MEs 109	SE
1035	2 MEs 109	EAST
1430	3 MEs 110	NORTH
1500	8 MEs 109	WEST
1545	4 MEs 109	WEST

NOTE: The last mentioned planes bombed the flat below Bn HQ.

4. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY. N I L.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET. 8 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.23.

(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 8 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. No known change in situation.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. Enemy MT movement in the NW continues and it is thought that ITALIAN reinforcements may have arrived to sp 164 INF DIV in the NORTHERN sector, although this is still conjectural. (From 9 Aust Div I Summary No 260)

Numerous sources report continued enemy digging activity all along the front. In the ry area he is digging by night in posns fwd of his present FDLs. It is appreciated that the enemy's object is to build a strong defensive line which can be lightly held by low category tps, e.g. 164 INF DIV and some ITALIAN inf, to allow concentration of forces for offensive operations further SOUTH. Considerable MT movement SOUTH along the supply route from SIDI RAHMAN has been observed.
(FROM 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY No.18)

3. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

(a) Arty. Enemy shelling was much reduced, and what few shells came over included a large proportion (about 30%) of "duds". Enemy targets were unchanged:
CUTTING area lightly shelled 0715 hrs and 1915 hrs.
33 ridge lightly shelled by 75 mm and 105 mm, 1800-1900 hrs.

(b) MT Movement. ConsiderableMT movement both ways was observed on track leading SOUTH from SIDI RAHMAN. Vehs were observed every few mins with convoys at the following times:-

1107 hrs - 20 MT moving SOUTH
1205 " - 30 MT " SOUTH - 35 moving NORTH
1300 hrs - 35 MT " NORTH
1817 " - 25 MT " SOUTH.
(FROM 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 18)

4. OWN ACTIVITY - 6 AUG and night 6/7 AUG.

(a) Patrols. Eight recce patrols operated last night in addition to protective patrols and listening posts. No contact with enemy, but much valuable infm was collected. All patrols report that the enemy is still actively digging posns and in two areas is preparing posns a little fwd of his present FDLs.

(b) Arty. Our arty carried out a harassing shoot at approx 0400 hrs on areas 87152975 and 87243027. Targets were also engaged during the day.

87052973 - 0610 hrs small dumps and enemy inf. Fwd tps in EAST Pt 24 directed this shoot. One dump blew up. The target was engaged later in the day.
87172976 - 1030 hrs 20 men moving about - dispersed.
87252969 - (WEST Pt 23) shelled 1220 hrs. Enemy Ops seen to evacuate.
87173017 - 1955 hrs 40 men digging, dispersed by art.
(FROM 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 18)

5. UNIT PATROLS. Patrol from A Coy (Sgt SLAUGHTER and 6 ORs) went out at 0015 hrs from TWIN MOUNDS near Trig 22 on a bearing of 254 degrees for 1900 yds. At 1800 yds a whistled warning call was given from close at hand, whereupon flares were fired. Patrol continued on for further 100 yds, when more flares were fired. Subsequently illumination flares were fired from further back. Patrol reported in at 0225 hrs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I SN 923

6. AIR ACTIVITY. The flat below Bn HQ was bombed at 1545 hrs by 4 enemy 109 airfruct. Other air activity reported :-

Time	Type	Direction of flight
0845 hrs	3 MEs 109	Heading W.
1030 "	2 MEs 109	" SE
1035 "	2 MEs 109	" EAST
1430 "	3 MEs 110	" NORTH
1530 "	8 MEs 109	" WEST.

7. NOTE. It is notified that higher formation urgently requires as many specimens of hollow-charge arm as can be obtained of any calibre. The request made in Intelligence Summary No 22 for further specimens of this arm excepting certain calibres must be treated as accordingly enlarged.

D.W.B. Maughan Lieut.

I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET. 2 AUG 42.

8/AA AUST HQ DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 24.

(MAIN INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 2 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. The situation remains quiet over the whole front but has been marked by an increase in this sector of enemy aerial activity.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. Patrol reports indicate that enemy MTBs in the COASTAL sector run from 07523046 to 07393043 to 07353030 to 07343025.

The R has reported considerable isolated MT movement in the NORTHERN area and a slight increase in MT on MAKTILA MAGE. There are also several camps and MT between the coast and the main rd between sqs 8531 and 8631. There is no evidence to suggest that enemy intentions are other than defensive in the NORTHERN sector during the period of suspected reliefs and re-grouping. The situation in other sectors remains unchanged except that Pt 52 (07642736) was occupied by the enemy some five days ago.

(ADDED FROM 2 AUST DIV I SITUANT NO 261)

3. ENEMY EQUIPMENT. Hollow charge gun has a projectile closed at the front by two relatively thin closing discs. The inner disc is convex and the outer disc is concave, with respect to the bursting charge. An air space thus exists above the bursting charge. The "hollow" charge or "NEUMANN principle" as it is sometimes known is considered to have the effect of focusing or concentrating the detonation fwd from the projectile head.

It is claimed that the armour piercing performance of hollow charge gun is increased by the use of the principle and that fragmentation against personnel is 74% effective in comparison to normal HE shell of the same calibre.

(FROM 2 AUST DIV I SITUANT NO 261)

At 0617766 an apparatus resembling an enemy "butterfly" bomb, which was described in a recent Intelligence Summary was noticed by a patrol. No further details are yet available.

4. AIR ACTIVITY.

(a) ENEMY ACTIVITY(THIS AREA). The following enemy aircraft were observed over this area yesterday:-

0700 hrs. 4 mths 109 travelling NW at a height of 3000 ft returning from bombing raid EAST of this area.

0930 hrs. 2 JUs 88 travelling SW at a height of 2000 ft directly overhead accompanied by 7 mths 109.

1050 hrs. 2 JUs 88 travelling NORTH at a height of 10,000 ft escorted by 15 mths 109 widely dispersed.

1100 hrs. 1 JU 88 travelling WEST at a height of 11,000 ft and maintaining a level flight escorted by 8 (Number and type unknown).

1700 hrs. 1 mth 109 dropped 3 bombs in area 07902762.

1755 hrs. 2 JUs 88 travelling WEST at a height of 11,000 ft escorted by 8 mths 109.

1900 hrs. 2 mths travelling SW and maintaining a level flight at a height of 300 ft.

1910 hrs. 1 mth 109 travelling WEST at a height of 4000 ft.

(b) OWN ACTIVITY.

1. 4 Aug photo. reports damage caused by our bombers on BABA strip and a large concentration of MT moving up to the fwd area. 7 direct hits on vehs - 20 near misses.

11. Examination of photographs of LG 17 near BUNA taken on 25 J reveal a JU 86 amongst the aircraft there. JUs 86 have previous only been identified on COASTAL and are thought to be the aircra which have recently carried out recce over EGYPT at 40,000 ft. The normal JU 86 is an obsolete type of twin-engine bomber but these recce planes have been considerably modified to fly at very great heights. The wing span is reported to be 100-105 ft

(

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

 ISN° 24

4. AIR ACTIVITY.(OWN)

iii.A Neutral diplomatic official, who had the occasion to visit COLOGNE just before his departure from GERMANY states that from his personal observations he considered it would be fair to say that two-thirds of the town was totally destroyed and that the other third was a dead city, from the point of view of both industry and commerce. No public services were functioning properly and neither water, power nor gas were available.
(SOURCE 30 CORPS I SUMMARY NO 151)

A Lean Capt
Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DMB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.24

(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 10 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. Observation by patrols and OPs from Trig 22 area subsequent on its re-occupation has established that the enemy has not moved fwd from his former FDLs. Tac R reports yesterday indicated no apparent change and no general movement of the enemy.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. Enemy reinfs, both GERMAN and ITALIAN continue to arrive but it is still unknown to what extent (if any) the NORTHERN sector has been affected.

It is reported that 125 Inf Regt of 164 Inf Div fought in GREECE with some merit.

13 Coy LEAR REGT, BRANDENBURG ZBV 800 was recently identified from a captured ITALIAN document. Previously only 15 Coy of this Regt had been identified in AFRICA. The functions of this Regt are Espionage, Sabotage and kindred activity. (SOURCE 8TH ARMY SECURITY SUMMARY No.8)

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. Enemy air activity in this area was much reduced. At 1900 hrs 3 MEs 109 flew WEST at a height of 1000 ft with 6 MEs 109 flying in the same direction 1000 yds further SOUTH.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(D.N.B. MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S25/4/63

SECRET

HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN.
9 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

(Up to Last light 8 August 42)

(i) Nothing to report

(ii) Nothing to report

(iii) AIR ACTIVITY. The following enemy aircraft were observed over this area yesterday:-

0700 hrs. 4 MEs 109 travelling NW at a height of 3000 ft. Returning from bombing raid EAST of this area.

0930 hrs. 2 JUs 88 travelling SW at a height of 2000 ft, directly overhead, accompanied by 7 MEs 109.

1030 hrs. 2 JUs 88 travelling NORTH at a height of 10,000 ft, escorted by 13 Mes 109 widely dispersed.

1100 hrs. 1 JU 88 travelling WEST at height of 11,000 ft and maintaining a level flight, escorted by Fs (number and type unknown).

1700 hrs. 1 ME 109 dropped three bombs in area 87902962.

1755 hrs. 2 JUs 88 travelling WEST at a height of 11,000 ft escorted by 8 MEs 109.

1900 hrs. 2 MEs 109 travelling SW and maintaining a level flight at a height of 300 feet.

1910 hrs. 1 ME 109 travelling WEST at a height of 4000 ft.

(iv) N I L.

D.W.B. Maughan Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T

HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN.
10 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

(UP TO LAST LIGHT 9 AUG 42)

i. N I L.

ii. N I L.

iii.

Time	No.& Type	Height	Direction of Flight	Action
1900	3 MEs 109	1000 ft	WEST	Flying level
1900	6 MEs 109	1000 ft	WEST	Flying level

iv. N I L.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T

HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
11 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

i. NIL

ii. NIL

iii. AIR ACTIVITY. (Enemy)

Time	No & Type	Height	Remarks
0730	1 ME 109	4000 ft	Overhead flying level ESE.

iv. NIL.

D W B Maughan Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET 11 AUG 42

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 25.
(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 11 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. It has been remarked by patrols of the unit immediately on our right that enemy digging activity takes place early in the night. So far only one enemy patrol has been observed, and standing patrols do not even appear to be maintained to protect working parties.
Less movement than normal was observed yesterday from Pt 26.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. "In fifteen days time we shall be in HAMMAM or the BRITISH will be in MATRUH" -- (A GERMAN field offr on Aug 1, 14)
(SOURCE 30 CORPS I SUMMARY NO 152)
So far thereis little to indicate that the enemy indend an offensive in the NORTH inthe near future. Until last light 8 Aug there had been no fwd movement of the enemy observed in any sector, but on the contrary there were indications that the enemy had withdrawn to prepared posns both in our SW sector, and, more recently, in the coastal sector. At last light 8 Aug the enemy was observed to occupy Pt 23 (873296) and movement between this Pt 23 and the Pt 23 in sq 872296 was noticed about 0700 hrs this morning. This is the only known attempt of the enemy to try to get better observation in the NORTHERN sector in the last few days, apart from air recce, which has been considerable and was continued today.
There are on the other hand indications that the enemy may have been anticipating an attack by our tps. His digging, mining and to a lesser extent, wiring, have been carried out on every night. His dispositions have appeared defensive and he has lately been very alert at night and somewhat jumpy. Phoo/R of 6 Aug established that there were 26 tks at 872288 and a further 30 tks at 866288. It is thought that these tks might belong to 21 ARMD DIV brought up to counter any move by our own tks which have been bombed each day recently. These enemy tks would be rather necessary in view of the small number of A Tk guns (believed about 45) possessed by 164 INF DIV.
Re-grouping by the enemy, however, may now be nearing completion and it is possible for the situation to alter materially within a few hours at any time.
(FROM 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO 263)
The line of enemy FDLs in the coastal sector runs from the coast at 87513043 to SE corner of 9 feature (874304) thence to 87383029 to Pt 25 (87353024) to 87383020 to ry at 87383012.
There are strong pts at the following places:-
87513043 - 88 mmgun, 20 mm BREDA, several MGs.
SAND HILL 9(874304) - numerous MGs and mortars.
QUARRY (87353030) - 87383031 - QUARRY appears to be a HQ.
Area between main rd and ry is strongly held by at least one coy.
SOUTH of ry the line of FDLs is less clear, but almost certainly the general line runs from 87303019-87213010-87213000-87242988-87282978-87272970. In the NORTHERN part thisline does not appear to be protected by either wire or minefields but towards the SOUTH a minefield has been reported both by patrols and CAV from 87262986 - 87282978 - 87272970. It is possible that this line consists merely of battle outposts, since an air photo reveals a line of wire and minefields approx 1-2 kilos further WEST.
(FROM 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 20)
At Tac R report at 0850 hrs yesterday summed up the recce as follows:-
"General impression very little movement and main concentrations appear unchanged"

ENEMY L of C. Since 27 Jul, 94 ry waggons had been removed from DABA and 36 others were observed to have moved slightly from their previous posns. Subsequent activity was seen at DABA Sta and at MATRUH which the enemy has developed as an important dumping centre.

Our bombardment of MATRUH by air and sea appears to have its desired effect.

Since Jul 30, only two small vessels other than MTBs and "F" Boats have been observed in the harbour but activity has increased at BARDIA and SOLLUM. The enemy must therefore

/rely.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I 5 No. 25

2. (CONT)
rely largely on MT for bringing up supplies to the fwd tps. The coast rd from TOBRUK will still remain his chief sup line as far as SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN where thereis a very extensive and well dispersed dump. Another large dump has been observed at 859300.

Water is still be brought up to the fwd tps by rd and there is, as yet, no evidence that he is using the pipe line.

The key note to the enemy supply situation still seems to be improvisation and the rapid and immediate exploitation of existing facilities as opposed to a long term policy towards the establishment of a regular system of supply. He will probably concentrate first on the stretch of ry between MATRUH and the front and then work backwards.

In spite of his present difficulties the enemy is bringing into EGYPT more supplies than are required for the daily maintenance of his tps. It is not his usual practice to make large dumps well fwd (for instance, in Jun this year the echelon of 11 Bty, 25 AA Regt was drawing amn from MARTUBA when the unit was fighting at EL ADEM), but if he is to advance EASTWARDS he probably needs a fwd base not further WEST than MATRUH. This base is probably being built up now, but because of the comparitive shortage of MT and the obstacles to the use of MATRUH harbour by vessels larger than lighters, reserves cannot be accumulated very quickly. On a rough estimate, the enemy will be able to maintain his mobile forces in action EAST of the EL ALAMEIN posn and the remainder of his forces in a static role in their present locations at any time after Aug 15.

(SOURCE 30 CORPS I SUMMARY No.152)

3. ENEMY METHODS. One patrol reported seeing a RED flare being fired from one enemy post and answered by a GREEN from another. Later the procedure was reversed. Therehave been frequent reports of the enemy using single coloured flares.

COMMENT: This may be the method by which his strong pts keep in touch

(SOURCE 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 20)

4. OWN ACTIVITY.

(a) On 8 Aug at 1355 hrs our arty shelling, MT set alight to a tp carrier near OP on Pt 25 at 87343024.

(SOURCE 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 20)

(b) Patrols 8/9 Aug. Recce and fighting patrols were active. No contact was made with the enemy but much information was brought back. Two fighting patrols lay up to ambush enemy parties previously observed but were unsuccessful. Night 9/10 Aug. A patrol of the unit on our right encountered an enemy working party at approx 87233002. Patrol leader was challenged by an enemy sentry whereupon work ceased. Work was subsequently resumed. Patrol leader withdrew, and organised fire, which was brought down. One tracer only in reply. After the fireing there was complete silence from enemy area. Night 10/11 Aug. A patrol of the unit on the coast engaged an enemy working party inflicting hy casualties (estimated at 25) and taking one PW, identified as from 10 COY, 3 BN, 126 IR. Our casualties, 1 wounded, 1 missing. Enemy replied by hy MG fire from their FDLs, which was in turneffectively silenced by our arty fire.

5. UNIT PATROLS. A patrol consisting of Sgt BLOWES and 2 ORs from C Coy, 2 ORs from A Coy, 2 ORs from D Coy went out at 2145 hrs by MT via TELL EL EISA Sta to 87442980 and thence on foot. First Leg 1800 yds on a bearing of 242°, Second Legs 350° due NORTH, Third Leg 1650 yds on bearing 72° returning to 87442980.

REPORT. First Leg. After patrol had covered 1285 yds GERMAN voices and sounds of digging were heard due WEST. Patrol continued on for further 170 yds. At this pt sounds of continuous and rapid hammering of pickaxes were heard from the direction of 245° to 270°. Patrol continued on but completed First Leg with NIL.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I.S.No.25

5 (CONT).
Here sounds of hammering came from direction 245 degrees at an estimated distance away of 300 yds.

Second Leg. Hammering was still heard on the left and once what might have been the rattling of a box of minesbeing carried.

At the end of seconf leg our arty opened up and the danger of silhouette against gun flashes rendered further investigations impractical while the noise of shells exploding together with the sound of MG fire [redacted] made it impossible to tell whether the enemy continued working.

Third Leg. NM[redacted]S/H

6. AIR ACTIVITY. Yesterday air activity was on a reduced scale ~~and there~~ and there was no bombing in or near this area. At 1900 hrs a plane flying WEST at about 1000 ft and trailed by a fighter was fired on by enemy AA as it came over the enemy lines.

D W B Maughan Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INFBN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T 12 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 26.
(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 12 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. Increased activity on the part of our arty and energetic and aggressive patrolling by our inf have marked the last 24 hrs on this sector. In the air the enemy continues to reconnoitre our posns.

The following is reproduced from GHQ MEF WEEKLY I SUMMARY NO.96: -

"The enemy is no doubt preparing to resume the offensive at the earliest possible moment. ~~Nobbing~~ Many of his new tps will not, for some time, be acclimatised and many of his reinforcements will not be properly trained nor used to AFRICAN conditions; but, on past showing, these disadvantages are likely to be disregarded in the desire to seize the initiative once more and attempt to capture the DELTA by a rapid stroke. It is now six weeks since AXIS Propagandists announced that the victorious AXIS tps were pursuing the defeated BRITISH into ALEXANDRIA. The failure to make good this claim must rankle. It is probable that, with his recent accession to strength, Rommel will now consider that he is in a position to resume his offensive within the next week or so."

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. At 1730 hrs the enemy lightly shelled ridge 33. In the evening enemy MT was observed in the area of the strong pts at 87222974.

3. ENEMY METHODS. In the NORTHERN sector, in sq 871299, the enemy is employing listening posts fwd of his wire which his MGs are sited to enfilade. One post on being disturbed by a patrol retired hastily through the wire.

(SOURCE 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 22)

In the central sector it is reported that when an enemy patrol fired on another enemy patrol, the latter fired a RED verey light as a recognition signal whereupon the firing ceased.

(SOURCE 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO 264)

The SIDI RAHMAN track is used by the enemy as a main supply route - normal density of traffic is about 30 MT per hour.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. Four MEs 109 made a recce of B Coy posns at a low altitude at 0700 hrs yesterday. Otherwise activity was on a reduced scale, 3 fighters being reported at 0700 hrs and 2 at 1040 hrs; in both cases flying at about 2,000 ft along the coast.

5. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.
(a) ARTY. Our arty has been very active during the night with harassing fire on enemy strongpoints in front of the unit on our rt. During the day an aggressive policy was adopted and between 1300 and 1500 hrs our Fd and Med arty harassed enemy strongpoints at 87213019 and 87503044.
(b) PATROLS. Patrols were out on all fronts but there was no engagement with the enemy.

6. UNIT PATROLS. A patrol from C Coy (Lieut DH GREEN and 6 ORs) went out at 2130 hrs by MT via TELL EL EISA Sta to 87442980 and thence on a bearing of 245 degrees. Enemy posns were observed at 2100 yds on this bearing. Patrol then worked NORTHWARDS.
REPORT. At 87342975 sounds of digging and MT movement were heard some considerable distance to NORTH, and at this pt a wire running EAST-WEST was encountered. Wire was not ordinary sig wire but appeared to be a hy conductor and a specimen was therefore cut off and has been fwded to higher authority. Patrol continued for a further 700 yds (to 87272972) where a single dannert fence with short pickets running NW-SE and, 50 yds inside the wire, 2 sangars were observed. Sangars were occupied as a glow of light came from inside one of them but no work was being done here. Patrol then withdrew 200 yds to 87282973 and made another inroad towards ~~stig~~ only sound of digging to be heard, bearing 295 degrees. At 87252974 digging sounded very close and patrol leader and a pte crawled fwd of patrol to recce. MT were heard to start up. After crawling fwd 90 yds patrol leader found that 4 men were standing between him and his patrol, and on his attempting to rejoin patrol a challenge or warning by whistle was given, whereupon a flare was sent up from enemy lines.

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6 (CONTINUED)
Patrol leader managed by deviation to evade enemy party and withdrew. Patrol then moved back to 87282973, made another leg NORTH for 400 yds to 87282976 and then returned to 87442980, but for remainder of patrol NMS/H.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T
HQ 7/13 AUST INF BDE.
12 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.
(UP TO LAST LIGHT 11 AUG 42)

1. NIL.
11. NIL.
111. AIR ACTIVITY.ENEMY.

Time	No & Type	Height	Direction	Area	Remarks
0700	4 ME109	1000'	EAST to WEST	Along B Coys & TANAMBOGO MDLS.	Engaged by AA fire of 9 AUST CAV. Took no hostile action.
0700	3 ME109	2000'	SW	Along Coast	
1040	2 ME109	2000'	SW	"	Flying level.

1V. NIL.

David Shaughnessy Lieut.
I.O. 3/13 AUST INF BDE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET. 11 AUG 42.

[illegible]

1. General. Enemy activity appears to be at a minimum. Last night no
vortex patrol was found in the area which we patrolled. During the day
no enemy planes were reported in the region in force, though one enemy
fighter was reported by a Cpl. Gun site has been very active with its
to have been recognizing as enemy aircraft.

2. Own units. An estimated strength of 164 Kdo Unit is 10,000
men and 40 guns but the guns and 43 A Tk Guns.
(source ? AHQ Int I Summary 265)

3. Own movements. A minefield in an attempt consists of 2 rows of mines
left to right behind a single row of barbed wire.

4. The following info is extracted from "Notes on Interception of Enemy
Reconnaissance" Appendix "B" to ? AHQ Int Summary No.265:

To

Identification. The height at which aircraft are to be attacked from the ground is
laid down with a view to the safety of the pilot. In the case of fighter
aircraft it is just above the ground, presumably to avoid being seen by
the enemy pilot. The whole idea is to attack by surprise.
Method of interception. The method of interception depends on the nature of the
target. Fighter aircraft are to be attacked from the rear, the pilot
endeavouring to get within 200 yards. If engaged in dog fighting, the
fighter should keep a sharp look out for other enemy aircraft which may
be coming to the assistance of the enemy aircraft engaged. Bombers are
to be attacked from the front quarter, the fighter diving through the
formation and firing at the leading machine. Fighters are to be engaged
from the rear, the pilot endeavouring to get within 200 yards. Flying
boats are to be attacked from the rear, the fighter diving through the
formation and firing at the leading machine.
Tactics. The tactics to be employed by fighter aircraft depend on the
number of aircraft to be attacked. If engaged in dog fighting, the
fighter should keep a sharp look out for other enemy aircraft which may
be coming to the assistance of the enemy aircraft engaged. Bombers are
to be attacked from the front quarter, the fighter diving through the
formation and firing at the leading machine. Fighters are to be engaged
from the rear, the pilot endeavouring to get within 200 yards. Flying
boats are to be attacked from the rear, the fighter diving through the
formation and firing at the leading machine. If engaged in dog fighting,
the fighter should keep a sharp look out for other enemy aircraft which
may be coming to the assistance of the enemy aircraft engaged. Bombers
are to be attacked from the front quarter, the fighter diving through the
formation and firing at the leading machine. Fighters are to be engaged
from the rear, the pilot endeavouring to get within 200 yards. Flying
boats are to be attacked from the rear, the fighter diving through the
formation and firing at the leading machine.

5. Air Attacks.
(a) Attacks. No attacks were definitely identified as enemy over the Tk
Bn area yesterday, but 3 Cpl reported a Me 109 shot down by AA fire, crash
ing East to land at a height of 1000 ft.
(b) Gun Direction

Time	Gun Site	Type	Height	Location	Remarks
1300	2-QUEEN	Me 110	2000	20 miles SE of LUNAR	Flew low over enemy Mine
1800	2-QUEEN	Me 109	1500 "	" "	Flew NNW along coast appeared to circle enemy Mine.
1825	3-QUEEN	Me 109	500 "	Overhead	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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4. AIR ACTIVITY.(OHM)

111.A Neutral diplomatic official, who had the occasion to visit COLOGNE just before his departure from GERMANY states that from his personal observations he considered it would be fair to say that two-thirds of the town was totally destroyed and that the other third was a dead city, from the point of view of both industry and comforts. No public services were functioning properly and neither water, power nor gas were available.

(SOURCE SO COMBAT INTELLIGENCE NO 151)

J. Okeach Capt
Lieut.,

A.A.G. 2/13 AUST INF BDE.
(DUTY MAJOR)

S E C R E T

HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
13 AUG 42.

HQ 29 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

i. N I L.

ii. N I L.

iii. AIR ACTIVITY.

(a) ENEMY. No aircraft were definitely identified as enemy over the Pt 26 area yesterday, but B Coy reports one ME 109 seen at 0815 hrs, flying EAST to WEST at a height of 1000 ft.

(b) OWN.

Time	No. & Type	Direction of Flight	Height.	Location	Remarks
1350	1-CURTIS P40	EAST	500 ft.	2000x to NORTH.	Flew low over enemy lines.
1800	2- "	P40	WEST	1000 "	" " " Flew WEST along coast and appeared to strafe enemy lines.
1825	1 "	P40	EAST	500 "	Overhead

iv. ENEMY MT ACTIVITY. N I L.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DON MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

2nd copy

SECRET

Copy No 11

13 AUG 42

2/13 AUST INF BN OO No.21

REF MAP: EL ALAMEIN 1: 50,000

INFORMATION.

1. Recce patrols have reported TWO occupied SANGARS at 87272973 with one coil dannert wire running NE-SW. These SANGARS appear to be rather isolated and do not seem to be heavily manned.

INTENTION.

2. C Coy Fighting Patrol will engage enemy in sq 872297, inflict casualties and secure prisoners.

METHOD.

3. Strength.
(a) 1 Offr - Lieut DH.GREEN
1 Sgt
11 ORs.
(b) Covering Party for vehs - 2 ORs.
(c) Stretcher Bearer - 1 OR.

4. Weapons. 2 Bren LMGs, 3 TSMGs remainder of patrol rifles and bayonets.
2 Pistols Signalling.

5. Timings. Time out from 87452980 - 2100 hrs.
Time back to B Coy, 2/17 AUST INF BN, 0400 hrs or earlier as required.

6. Route. By MT to B Coy, 2/17 AUST INF BN, thence to 87452980.
By foot on bearing of 245 degrees to SANGARS at 87272973. If no contact made, NORTH along wire until contact is made with the enemy.

7. Limit of Exploitation, NORTH. 1000 yds from 87272973.

8. Local support. One Bren LMG on each flank to give supporting fire if required. These LMGs will give covering fire when patrol commences to withdraw until patrol has passed through.

9. Rear Guard. 2 men with TSMGs and Cover Patrol as they move back to RV.

10. Arty. Concentrations as follows on SOS:-
(a) Report coy area at 87282984.
(b) Pt 23 WEST 87242969.
Z to Z plus 5, rate INTENSE.
Z plus 5 to Z plus 10, rate RAPID.
(c) SOS will be fired by command of patrol leader in case of necessity when in contact with enemy
(d) SOS will be fired by command ofpatrol leader when withdrawing and is well clear of contact, if it has not previously been fired so that fire plan may be fired as a harassing shoot.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

ATT.

11. Rations. Hot meal in coy at 1900 hrs.

12. Vehs. One light veh from each C and HQ Coys.
HQ Coy veh will report to C Coy at 1930 hrs (driver will have been fed).

13. Amn. (a) 5 mags per Bren LMG
(b) TEMO - as considered necessary.
(c) Rifles loaded with 10 rds SAA.
(d) Quantity 69 and 36m grenades.
(e) 4 Cartridges Sig MMD.
(f) 20 rds MMG tracer.

14. Medical. One stretcher bearer with stretcher at veh.

ARRANGEMENTS.

15. MMG. 2 MMGs fired simultaneously.

16. Lighting. 1 MMG tracer fired vertically at 5 minute intervals (to be fired from posn 200 yds to left of veh).

17. Arty. OP on feature 26.
FOO with R/T with veh at 074529?0.
FOO will be reporting to C Coy lines prior to patrol moving out.

ACK.

K Leach Capt.,
A419 2/21 AUST INF BN
(A. H. LEACH)

TIME OF ACKNOWLEDGE: 1640 hrs.

METHOD OF DESPATCH: Sigs

DISTRIBUTION. # COPY No.

HQ Coy	1
A Coy	2
B Coy	3
C Coy	4
D Coy	5
2/15 AUST INF BN	6
2/17 AUST INF BN	7
58 BDE, 2/8 AUST FDSECT	8
20 AUST INF BDE	9
Cond	10
I.O.	11
War Diary	12-13
File	14.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET

Copy No 12

15 AUG 42

2/13 AUST INF BN OO No.21

REF MAP: EL ALAMEIN 1: 50,000

INFORMATION.

1. Recce patrols have reported TWO occupied SANGARS at 87272973 with one coil dannert wire running NE-SW. These SANGARS appear to be rather isolated and do not seem to be heavily manned.

INTENTION.

2. C Coy Fighting Patrol will engage enemy in sq 872297, inflict casualties and secure prisoners.

METHOD.

3. Strength.
(a) 1 Offr - Lieut MCLAREN
1 Sgt
11 ORs.
(b) Covering Party for vehs - 2 ORs.
(c) Stretcher Bearer - 1 OR.

4. Weapons. 2 Bren LMGs, 3 TSMGs remainder of patrol rifles and bayonets.
2 Pistols Signalling.

5. Timings. Time out from 87452980 - 2100 hrs.
Time back to B Coy, 2/17 AUST INF BN, 0400 hrs or earlier as required.

6. Route. By MT to B Coy, 2/17 AUST INF BN, thence to 87452980.
By foot on bearing of 245 degrees to SANGARS at 87272973. If no contact made, NORTH along wire until contact is made with the enemy.

7. Limit of Exploitation, NORTH. 1000 yds from 87272973.

8. Local support. One Bren LMG on each flank to give supporting fire if required. These LMGs will give covering fire when patrol commences to withdraw until patrol has passed through.

9. Rear Guard. 2 men with TSMGs and Cover Patrol as they move back to RV.

10. Artly. Concentrations as follows on SOS:-
(a) Report at coy area at 87282984.
(b) Pt 23 WEST 87242969.
Z to Z plus 5, rate INTENSE.
Z plus 5 to Z plus 10, rate RAPID.
(c) SOS will be fired by command of patrol leader in case of necessity when in contact with enemy
(d) SOS will be fired by command ofpatrol leader when withdrawing and is well clear of contact, if it has not previously been fired so that fire plan may be fired as a harassing shoot.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

ADMN.

11. Rations. Hot meal in coy at 1900 hrs.

12. Vehs. One light veh from each C and HQ Coys.
HQ Coy veh will report to C Coy at 1930 hrs (driver will have been fed).

13. Amn. (a) 5 mags per Bren LMG
(b) THMG - as considered necessary.
(c) Rifles loaded with 10 rds SAA.
(d) Quantity 69 and 36m grenades.
(e) 4 Cartridges Sig RED.
(f) 20 rds RED tracer.

14. Medical. One stretcher bearer with stretcher at veh.

INTERCOM.

15. SOS. 2 REDS fired simultaneously.

16. Guiding. 1 RED tracer fired vertically at 5 minute intervals (to be fired from posn 200 yds to left of veh).

17. Arty. OP on feature 26.
FOO with R/T with veh at 87452980.
FOO will be reporting to C Coy lines prior to patrol moving out.

ACK.

J.R. Leach Capt.
Adjt 2/13 AUST INF BN
(J. R. LEACH)

TIME OF SIGNATURE: 1640 hrs.

METHOD OF DESPATCH: Sigs

DISTRIBUTION # Copy No.

HQ Coy	1
A Coy	2
B Coy	3
C Coy	4
D Coy	5
2/15 AUST INF BN	6
2/17 AUST INF BN	7
58 BTY, 2/8 AUST FDREGT	8
20 AUST INF BDE	9
Cond	10
I.O.	11 ✓
War Diary	12-13
File	14.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET

Copy No. 13

15 AUG 42

2/13 AUST INF BN OO No.21

MAP: EL ALAMEIN 1: 50,000

INFORMATION.

1. Recce patrols have reported TWO occupied SANGARS at 07272973 with one coil dannert wire running NE-SW. These SANGARS appear to be rather isolated and do not seem to be heavily manned.

INTENTION.

2. C Coy Fighting Patrol will engage enemy in sq 072297, inflict casualties and secure prisoners.

METHOD.

3. Strength.
(a) 1 Offr - Lieut MCLAREN
1 Sgt
11 Ors.
(b) Covering Party for vehs - 2 Ors.
(c) Stretcher Bearer - 1 OR.

4. Weapons. 2 Bren LMGs, 3 TOMMY guns remainder of patrol rifles and bayonets.
2 Pistols Signalling.

5. Timings. Time out from 07452980 - 2100 hrs.
Time back to B Coy, 2/17 AUST INF BN, 0400 hrs or earlier as required.

6. Route. By MT to B Coy, 2/17 AUST INF BN, thence to 07452980.
By foot on bearing of 245 degrees to SANGARS at 07272973. If no contact made, NORTH along wire until contact is made with the enemy.

7. Limit of Exploitation. NORTH. 1000 yds from 07272973.

8. Local support. One Bren LMG on each flank to give supporting fire if required. These LMGs will give covering fire when patrol commences to withdraw until patrol has passed through.

9. Rear Guard. 2 men with TOMMY guns and Cover Patrol as they move back to RV.

10. ARTY. Concentrations as follows on SOS:-
(a) Report at coy area at 07282984.
(b) Pt 23 WEST 07242969.
Z to Z plus 5, rate DEFENCE.
Z plus 5 to Z plus 10, rate RAPID.
(c) SOS will be fired by command of patrol leader in case of necessity when in contact with enemy
(d) SOS will be fired by command of patrol leader when withdrawing and is well clear of contact, if it has not previously been fired so that fire plan may be fired as a harassing shoot.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

ANL.

11. Rations. Hot meal in coy at 1900 hrs.

12. Vehs. One light veh from each C and HQ Coys.
HQ Coy veh will report to C Coy at 1930 hrs (driver will have been fed).

13. Amn. (a) 5 mags per Bren LMG
(b) ZZZZ - as considered necessary.
(c) Rifles loaded with 10 rds SAA.
(d) Quantity 69 and 36m grenades.
(e) 4 Cartridges Sig RED.
(f) 20 rds RED tracer.

14. Medical. One stretcher bearer with stretcher at veh.

INTERCOMM.

15. SOS. 2 REDS fired simultaneously.

16. Guiding. 1 RED tracer fired vertically at 5 minute intervals (to be fired from point 200 yds to left of veh).

17. Arty. OP on feature 26.
FOO with R/T with veh at 87452980.
FOO will be reporting to C Coy lines prior to patrol moving out.

ACK.

R Leach Capt.,
A/OC 2/15 AUST INF BDE
(R. H. LEACH)

TIME OF SYCHRONIZE: 1640 hrs.

METHOD OF DESPATCH: Pigs

DISTRIBUTION # Copy No.

HQ Coy	1
A Coy	2
B Coy	3
C Coy	4
D Coy	5
2/15 AUST INF BDE	6
2/17 AUST INF BDE	7
58 BTY, 2/8 AUST FDLDGT	8
20 AUST INF BDE	9
Cond	10
I.O.	11
War Diary	12-13
File	14.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

ARMY FORM C.2128.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS	IN	0830 (119)	No. of Groups. GR.	OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT			

TO W/CO

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

FROM BDE	Originator's Number	Date 20	In Reply to Number

Bde. Comds desires that a proportion of
Capt officers q a proposal that
men be present at BDE
1045 hrs to Sprinkling meet an important
⊙ ⊙ Sprinkling of decorated men
⊙ time will be confirmed person required later
in the morning

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN** BY ANY MEANS.

SIGNED F.T. Bevan Lieut

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CIPHER.**

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN. 2325

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER.

(5/32) Wt. 39500/428. (50M pads. 3-38 E. & S. Ltd. 51/1434

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

ARMY FORM C2128. (Pads of 100).

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUC-TIONS

IN WD Another 0945 hrs (113)

OUT ~~Ltr returned to Armd~~ post

No. of Groups. GR. 52.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 2/13 2/15 Aust Inf Bde 2/17 Aust Inf Bde

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
20 Aust Inf Bde	O 81	19	

2/13 during Aug by recce verbal	Bn nights ⊙ first parties orders	will 20/21 relief light and ⊙	relieve Aug to 22nd relief all	2/15 and be Aug in informed	Bn 21/22 completed ⊙ accordance

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN** BY ANY MEANS *.....WIRELESS.

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CIPHER.**

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN 2000

SIGNED

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER
4TR2		W J Crocker									

T.H.I. 2001

T.O.R.

* Originator to insert "including" or "excent" according to whether the message may or may NOT be sent by wireless.

4/41. B. & S. Ltd. 51-15.

(5/882) Wt. 46923/1825. 400M Pads.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

ARMY FORM C.2128.

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS	IN WD	O:V	No. of Groups. GR.	Serial No. / OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT [illegible]	(132) 2110 hrs.	47.	

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 2/13 Aust Inf Bn 10 Aust A/T.K Bty 2/2 Aust MG Bn.

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
20 Aust Inf Bde	O 86	24	

All units of 9 Aust Div will be prepared to take offensive action (1) in battle from 2359 hrs tonight (1) acc informed (1) Rok

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN** BY ANY MEANS.

SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CIPHER.**

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY Most Immediate

TIME OF ORIGIN. 2015

T.H.I. 2025

T.O.R.

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER.
4/1	2100	J Seymour									

(5/32)? Wt. 39800/428. 50M pads. 8-38 B. & S. Ltd. 51/1434

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET 14 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 28.
(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 14 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. The situation has remained very quiet apart from our own arty harassing programme and patrolling. In the coastal sector SOUTH of the rd the enemy appears to have withdrawn his FDLs for 2 patrols from the unit on our right penetrated to a depth of 5,900 yds, one to a depth of 5500 yds WEST of Pt 24 (87432998) where enemy was contacted. One passed through an enemy strong pt and found it unoccupied. One of our patrols also found NO enemy where posns were unoccupied 2 nights ago. Air activity greatly increased yesterday. Over 20 enemy Fs were reported to have been over our area at different times yesterday and at least 27 of our own Bs with fighter escort.

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE.
(a) Enemy strength in Tanks is estimated to be:- 185 GERMANS, 110 ITALIAN.
(b) From the coast to incl RUWEISAT RIDGE, enemy is estimated to have 40 plus medium guns and 170 plus Fd Guns.

3. ENEMY METHODS (from Appx "A" 9 Aust Div I Summary No 265)
Note on new ITALIAN Organisation (AS42")
Several months the ITALIANS introduced anew organisation within their bns called the "AS 42". Each bn is organised into 3 coys (all the dame organisation)with 4 pls to each coy. The armament of each pl consisted of the following:-

1 Pl	- 6 LMGs	(Total of 18 in bn)
2 "	- 3 HMGs	(" " 8 ")
3 "	- 3 20mm MGs A Tk Guns	(" " 9 ")
4 "	- 3 47mm A Tk Guns	(" " 9 ")

When organising a strong pt several pls are split in order to have 3 evenly balanced posns, each consisting of 2 LMGs, 1 HMG and 1 Super MG and 1 47mm gun.
It is now believed that this organisation, already known to exist in some regts, has been extended to 12 BERS REGT and it is possible that it may be or may have been extended to others.
The normal establishment of a BERS REGT had been 3 bns, consisting of 2 BERS BNS and 1 A TK BN. Recently, however, a senior offr of a BERS REGT, who is PW, statedthat most of the BERS REGT have now dispensed with the A TK BN. Presumably because of the fire power provided by the AS 42 organisation. The strength of the A Tk Bn was 14 LMGs and 24 47/32 A Tk Guns.

4. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.
(a) ARTY. From 0810 hrs 12 Aug to 0140 hrs 13 Aug our arty put down 14 hy concentrations of harassing fire.
(b) (i) UNIT PATROLS. A fighting patrol from C Coy (Lieut DH GREEN and 12 ORs) went out by MT to the usual SP at 87452980 and thence by foot on a bearing of 245 degrees for 2,090 yds where dannert wire was contacted as on previous patrols. Signs of enemy occupation were observed here, but on this occasion, there being no sign of enemy, patrol investigated NORTHWARD. Later an enemy party was seen but warning was given by a sentry before our patrol could engage.

REPORT. Patrol contacted wire after moving out 2,090 yds on a bearing of 245 degrees, estimated map ref 87282972. Wire was searched for 50 yds to left and 150 yds to right. The patrol then withdrew xnxt 50 yds and moved NORTH for 200 yds. At this pt 2 scouts went fwd to contact wire again but reported no wire for 300 yds. Patrol then moved a further 200 yds NORTH to 87282976, then moved on a bearing of 300 degrees. After 250 yds patrol leader saw a party of enemy 100 yds to WEST at 87252977, and further on could hear sounds of digging. Patrol leader halted patrol and sent fwd to recall his scouts and began to organise for an assault when a rifle shot was fired on the left. The enemy party immediately withdrew and 2 flares were fired, one on eitherside of patrol. Two spandaus then opened up, one from the SOUTH and one on a bearing of approx 320 degrees and brought down fire at close range onto the patrol.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I S No. 28

4. (CONTINUED)
The patrol want to ground. Single rds were also fired. After this fire ceased occasional shots and bursts were heard from further away. As the patrol leader did not know where enemy were and could no longer surprise them he withdrew his patrol. Shortly afterwards a hy mortar opened up in the direction of the patrol but the rds fell further NORTH. Return direct to 87452980.

A patrol of 1 AUST COMMANDO GP (Lieut LOGAN 2 Shts - one form B Coy, 2/13 AUST INF BN - and 4 ORs) patrolled extensively in area 873296 and contacted a large enemy working party.

REPORT. From 87402968 patrol xxx set out for pt 23 (87372962) but missed it. Patrol continued in same direction for 900 yds approx to approx 87392960 when it was halted by our own arty fire estimated to be in sq 874295. Patrol then returned to SP and then proceeded on same bearing on extended order but again failed to find Pt 23. At 650 yds (approx 87392962) a sig wire was found and was followed to 87332963 where dannert wire was encountered. At the wire patrol leader thought he saw movement to the WEST and laid up, but nothing eventuated. The wire was followed on 264 degrees for 50 yds where it terminated. 90 yds further on, on same bearing, a drum was standing. This Pt will be resected today and will be the SP for future patrols. The wire was then followed for some distance in the opposite direction. The wire curves left in one place and is badly mutilated in several places. There are NO mines in or near the wire. Patrol then returned to 87402968 and followed sig wire for 320 yds to approx 87312962 where patrol laid up. Here a large working party was heard ahead, and noises of digging, driving in pickets with mall, dragging and talking were distinguishable; voices were guttural. Patrol leader observed 2 men skylined, crawling on his left. The men descended from skyline on near side and it was hoped to ambush them but themen became lost to sight. A man was then observed 30 yds away on the right. Shortly afterwards a rifle shot was fired on right followed by 2 flares from a verey pistol on patrol's left and a few minutes later another rifle shot. AnMG opened up (Not a spandau but possibly a Fiat) and the working party stopped. Patrol leader considering himself to be on enemy FDLs thought it inadvisable to penetrate further and returned along sig wire to 87362963 approx when 2 bright flares were fired on patrol's line of march (120-125°). Patrol then returned to its truck.

ii. OTHER PATROLS. One patrol from the unit on our right went out from Pt 24 (87432998) 3,300 yds in a WESTERLY direction before any sound of enemy was heard. At 4,090 yds MG fire was heard. At ~~4,300~~ 4,310 yds they crossed a trip wire and shortly afterwards 2 further trip wires. At 5478 yds they passed some wire on a long picket, and a few yds further at 86932955, they were challenged and fired upon by the enemy from dug posns in the ground. The patrol returned the fire. A sharp engagement followed afterwhich the patrol withdrew without casualties and returned to our own lines.

Another patrol from the same unit went out for 5,000 yds (at 87233023) they found a camouflaged A Tk Gun posn completely unoccupied: 4,000 yds out they found a wired strong pt (map ref 87188024) At 5,000 yds, at 87143025, another strong pt was found to be also unoccupied and in a state of great untidiness.

D W B Maughan Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET

HQ 2/13 AUST INF BDE
14 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

(0600 TO LAST LIGHT 13 AUG 42)

1. OBSERVED ACTIVITY. N I L

11. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. N I L

111. AIR ACTIVITY.

(a) ENEMY.

TIME	NO. & TYPE	HEIGHT	REMARKS
0715	1 ME 109	2000 ft	Flying SW on a level course from Pt 26.
0730	2 MEs109	2000 "	Flying SW near EL ALAMEIN Stn.
0900	3 MEs109	6000 "	DOWN from Pt 26
0940	3 MEs109	6---	WEST to EAST to vicinity of B Reh then on an even kiel parallel to coast to enemy lines.
1210	4 Ju	----	Dived from a great height on 22 of our IDs returning from bombing in direction of Pt 24 and damaged one BRITISH plane. Then circled this area and went out to sea.
1220	3 MEs109	3000 ft	Flying NE over Pt 26
1900	7 MEs109	3000 "	Heading WEST. Flying level and well dispersed.

(b) OWN.

0700	7 HURRICANES	2000 ft	Heading SOUTH near Pt 26.
1205	20 IDs	4000 "	IN from Trig 26

(c) UNIDENTIFIED.

1800	12 Hy Bs	4000 ft	Heading NORTH approx

iv. N I L.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BDE.
(R.S. HAUGHAN)

~~A.A.C.A.A.S~~
HQ 2/3 AUST INF BDE.
16 AUG 42.

HQ 30 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

(HRS TO LAST LIGHT 15 AUG 42)

1. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY. More MT movement than normal was reported from OP at Pt 26, particularly at 0820 to 0840, 1130-1140, 1700-1800 and at 1920 hrs.

2. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. Information is being collated of this Unit's patrol area by daylight observation with CAV patrols. Insufficient data are as yet available for accurate plotting. There appears to be strong posts at approximately 8719302 and 8716277, wire running through these two and on to ~~WESTERN~~ Pt 23, thus forming a "V". This is confirmed by th e experience of our patrol on night 14-15 Aug.
Further observations were made yesterday in this area but sketch is not yet to hand.

3. AIR ACTIVITY. Activity was less than normal.
Aircraft were heard at a great height overhead from time to time but could not be seen.
At 1730 hrs 2 unidentified aircraft were observed at 10000 ft over Pt 36 flying WEST. They were maintaining a level flight and appeared to be making a recce.

4. ENEMY MD ACTIVITY. N I L.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/3 AUST INF BDE.
(DES HAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET. 15 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 29.
(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 15 AUG 42)

GENERAL. A patrol of this unit which engaged the enemy last night and found itself surrounded killed at least one enemy but suffered casualties; one offr (Lieut IG ENDMUNDS)- missing, believed killed - one Cpl and two privates, missing. Full report is below.

1. Apart from an increase in MT movement both at day and night on the SIDI RAHMAN track the enemy in this sector has shown no signs of unusual activity.

His harassing arty fire has gradually decreased to nil and it is considered that he is conserving amn. There is some indication that the enemy may be withdrawing some of his fwd elements in the central sector as well as in the NORTHERN sector. In 9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 287 it is reported that in the CENTRAL sector a very strong patrol penetrat-ed deep into enemy lines and was supported by arty fire. The enemy, however, were not contacted at close quarters and showed signs of having hastily evacuated their normal positions. Hy arty and other fire was exchanged.

2. ENEMY METHODS. The patrol which passed through the unoccupied strong post at 87213019 on night 13/14 Aug reported that it had an unusual system of wiring. There were 3 separate single dannert fences on the NORTH and EAST, but it was apparently open to the SOUTH. No mines were seen but there were indications that the post had once been mined.

In the CENTRAL sector it is reported that TELLER mines had been found made up as booby traps.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY. No abnormal movement is reported. According to reports from the CAV the enemy neglects opportunity targets which he formerly would fire upon. The CAV can now get much further fwd than formerly, and the onl-y fire directed at them is from Mortars. The enemy did not fire on a recent carrier patrol until it was within 700 yds of his FDLs.
(SOURCE 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 25)

inf

4. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE. It is now believed that all enemy lorried/regts are to receive the title PANZER GRENADIER. It is believed that 4 trains which had arrived at PIRAEUS on 31 Jul contained GERMAN paratps.
(SOURCE GHQ MEF I SUMMARY NO.798)

A CAV patrol ran onto a minefield at 87292989 at 1825 hrs 14 Aug. one carrier was blown up. At 1850 the enemy opened up on the carriers from 87142986 with A Tk Guns which were brought up from SW for the par-ticular task and were taken back after shelling was completed under cover of last light. Our arty then laid down a smoke screen under the cover of which the entire party returned leaving the damaged carrier. Later the ~~arty~~ enemy shelled the area as well as fwd OPs of the CAV.

5. AIR ACTIVITY. At 0744 hrs one of our F planes crashed in B Coy lines. The pilot, who was a SOUTH AFRICAN and a Sqn Leader, was safe. About 25 minutes later the plane caught fire.

Enemy aircraft reported over this area numbered 12 Fs (ME s 109) and one Bomber (JU 88).

Twenty-four BOSTON bombers flew over at 0650 hrs leading towards the enemy lines. Shortly before two unidentfied planes were observed flying EAST.

6. PATROLS.

i. Patrol from D Coy - 1 Offr, 7 ORs.

REPORT. Of this patrol only 4 ORs have returned. Pte MYERS (TSMG), Pte ANDERSON (bayonet), Pte WILLITS (Bren) and Pte SUTCLIFFE (TSMG).

The following report is consolidated from their information, where the information is from any of these individually, that fact is indicated.

Lieut EDMUNDS - Patrol Leader. Truck was left at 87452980. From here patrol moved on a bearing of 261 degrees for 1500 yds where a large RED ca ble, ha lf an inch thick was found.

At approx 2800 yds (approx 87182977) a digging party was heard

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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in close proximity on a bearing of 200 degrees and the patrol laid up. Up to this point no wire had been seen, nor any mines. Lieut EDMUNDS moved fwd over a slight RIDGE for about 150 yds and returned after about three-quarters of an hour and informed the patrol that the diggings were in the form of a "V", the patrol being inside the "V". Patrol laid up for another half hour during which voices were heard on the left and in front and sounds of digging increased.

While the patrol leader was away shells had been falling 400-500 yds in front of the patrol, behind the enemy lines. During this time also and explosion was heard some hundreds of yards ahead followed by cries and calls. The opinion of all members who returned was that this was a mine exploding and that at least two men were injured. MT movement had been heard but it was not definite whether or not the explosion was caused by a veh ~~or not~~. Sounds of pouring water were alsoheard.

Patrol leader then decided to move up for 300 yds on the right hand side of the "V". The patrol moved in arrow-head formation. After 15 or 20 yds voices were heard and patrol went to ground. Patrol moved fwd again and after a further 15 or 20 yds was challenged twice by an enemy who stood up in a slit trench between 5 and 10 yds away on the left of the patrol. Lieut EDMUNDS then gave the order to charge and rushed on the enemy (who was in a slit trench) and attempted to bayonet him but the enemy fired upwards and apparently hit Lieut EDMUNDS who sank to the ground. Meanwhile the patrol had closed in and the sentry was despatched by TSMG. Survivors, MYERS and ANDERSON, were on each side of Lieut EDMUNDS at this time. MYERS held the enemy by one hand and fired his TSMG with the other. Fire then opened up on the patrol from all sides at very close range; and particularly from the right including many rifles and a number of MGs, which the patrol returned. Pte WILLITS, who was covering the patrol with a Bren LMG then heard Cpl HUMPHRIES (2 1/c) rally the patrol and then say "We can't do much herem let's get out". Cpl HUMPHRIES then led the patrol back but ran into another enemy post and the patrol was dispersed by more hy fire. Two members were seen heading back towards the enemy by Pte WILLITS. Pte WILLITS stated that he covered the withdrawal of the patrol with his Bren and being pinned down by the intense SA fire he remained in the area after the patrol had withdrawn. He was of the opinion that two of our men had been wounded. Afterwards the enemy came out of their trenches and one enemy went up to where a wounded member of the patrol was lying and groaning and attempted to make him stand up by kicking him. He then put a bullet through the man who ceased groaning. Later, however, he was heard to groan again. It is thought that this victim was probably was Lieut EDMUNDS.

Lieut EDMUNDS had pointed out to each member of the patrol a constellation in the form of a "W" near the end of the MILKY WAY on which he was to march in case he was separated from the patrol. It was by following this constellation that Pte MYERS and Pte ANDERSON made their way back to the truck. Pte WILLITS began to make his way home by following one end of the MILKY WAY, clouds having obscured this constellation. After travelling for 150 yds he ran into a single dannert fence running NORTH-SOUTH. The clouds had now cleared and he discovered that he was going straight towards the enemy. He returned to thetruck area by following the "W" constellation. On his return he passed a burnt truck and (about 50 yds from the dannert) some SANGARS behind a mound which appeared to defilade them from the front and three sleeping bags against the mound. Diggings were unoccupied but a beer bottle and four tins were found nearby. These diggings were 200 yds EAST of the posn where the fight occurred.

All 4 survivors agreed in an estimate from the quantity and direction of the fire brought on them that the patrol reached the centre of a COY Posn.

On the truck at 874529B0 a piquet had been left. The piquet heard movement NORTH of and close to the truck at 2400 hrs of what appeared to be a large patrol in the vicinity of the 'phone line, apparently enemy, as none of our patrols were in that area. Two ORs, MYERS and ANDERSON, returned to the truck at 0300 hrs approx (having returned together) and shortly afterwards MG fire opened up close to the truck at short range from the opposite side to where the patrol was heard (i.e. from the SOUTHERN side). The party suspecting an ambush, brought the truck in.

Later on WILLITS and SUTCLIFFE came in separately through 2/17

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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AUST INF BN lines, having arrived at the debussing point after the truck had withdrawn.

Known enemy ca sualties.	-	1 KILLED.
Our casua lties.		1 Offr (Lieut IG EDMUNDS), missing, wounded, believed killed.
		1 Cpl and 2 ORs, missing (Cpl HUMPHRIES, Pte SING, Pte ANLEZARK)
Eqpt lost includes:		
Bren LMG	-	1
TSMG	-	1
Compasses (Liquid)	-	2
Rifles	-	3

Lieut IG EDMUNDS was a reinforcement officer who joined the Unit in JANUARY last. This was the first occasion on which he had ever been on patrol. Every member of his patrol was informed by him of the bearings of each movement and the distances traversed, and before any movement was made they were informed of the direction and distance intended. Before leaving the debussing area, each man was told by h im the star to make for in the event of separation and all 4 survivors in fact found the debussing point. It was entirely due to this excellent leadership on Lieut EDMUNDS' part that such a clear account of the patrol's activities could be obtained from the survivors.

At first light a small party from B Coy 2/17 AUST INF BN searched the area on their front and NORTH of the 'phone line without result. 9 AUST DIV CAV patrol which operates by day in the general area have been inf ormed and are searching ~~mfxmmy~~ for any signs of further survivors.

ii. Other Patrols. A patrol from 1 AUST COMMANDO GP patrolled the area covered by the previous nights patrol in area 873296. They heard what appeared to be a linesman working where they had cut a sig wire twice on the previous night, but on the patrol moving fwd linesman could not be found and it was found that only one of the two breaks had been repa ired. Later, whenever patrol attempted to move, flares were fired and the patrol being convinced that it was under enemy observation returne d.

One patrol from the unit on our right shot up a party of enemy and inflicted casualties and another penetrated 6000 yds before any signs of occupation were observed.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET 16 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.30.
(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 16 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. Last night one man, previously reported missing from the patrol of the night 14/15 Aug, returned safely through the lines of the unit on our left.

The last 24 hrs have been marked by the usual inactivity on the part of the enemy, in marked contrast to our own aggressive tactics. Our arty continued its harassing programme, and the arty in sp of this unit, heavily bombarded the territory where our patrol of the previous night was engaged. From the unit on the coastal sector a large party carried out a raid on enemy territory with hy arty sp.

In the air, activity was on a greatly reduced scale throughout the day. Aircraft were heard from time to time overhead at a great height. only two planes were actually seen, apparently making a recce at a height of 10,000 feet, but they were not identified.

The enemy is digging very actively all along the front, and in the area WEST of TELL EL EISA by day also.

2. ENEMY METHODS. Booby Traps. Reports are being received from several parts of the front, and the raid last night made by the unit on the coastal sector was stopped short of its ultimate objective by encountering a booby-trapped minefield. The exact location has not yet been reported.

It is reported from the Formation on our left that in a minefield located a t 87392921 consisting of 2 rows of BRITISH Mk IV mines laid on top of the ground, four mines were examined and one had a booby trap attached. At 87372919 near a strong post there were booby traps in bushes together with spider and trip wires. All booby traps seen were of ITALIAN type. (SOURCE 24 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO.19)

Patrols which have been operating WEST and SW of WESTERN Pt 23 believe that the enemy in that area is attempting to set traps by allowing patrols to penetrate, unchallenged, and following their movements with flare Flares are fired more frequently in that area than NORTH of Pt 23.

A patrol from the unit on our right which recced close to a strong pt went unchallenged until it decided to withdraw, whereupon the post opened fire almost as soon as movement commenced.

3. ENEMY EQUIPMENT. Six "BUTTERFLY BOMBS" were recently located in the area of the Forma tion on our left. These bombs were previously described in an Intelligence Summary. They are cylindrical in shape, 8 cm long, painted GREY-GREEN, with a wire 15 cm long at the end of which are two twin "BUTTERELY" wings, which constitute the arming device, revolvinf during descent. All tps are again warned that the bomb must NOT be touched.

4. OWN AIR ACTIVITY - 14 AUG.
0630 hrs Bombers attacked rolling stock at FUKA Sta, scored a direct hit on a building, started a large fire SOUTH of the lines.
0700 hrs Bombers which attacked LG in same area claimed 3 direct hits and 1 near miss on aircraft, and started fires.
0717 hrs 21 Bombers attacked the same area and estimated 8 EA were destroyed on the ground and 3 fires were started.

5. PATROLS. A standing patrol under Lieut HEGLOP of pl strength laid up in the area 87372980 with the object of ambushing any enemy party coming near the area. An enemy patrol was observed in this area on the previous night. No enemy was seen or heard.

A combined K patrol of 1 AUST COMMANDO GP and this Unit recced the area 87312968, and located wire and enemy diggings and a Xrds. The cessation of noise and the firing of flares however led the patrol to believe that it was under observation, so patrol withdrew.

ARTY. Our arty bombarded the area where our patrol was engaged on night 14/15 Aug at 1300, 1515, 1805 and 1935 hrs respectively. Three rds gun fire from one bty on each occasion.

MOONSET. Night 16/17 Aug 42 - 2230 hrs.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

[illegible] 17 AUG 42.

[illegible]

([illegible] 17 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. There has been little evidence of enemy activity in the last 24 hours except that a truck in front of our A Coy was shelled, but without effect. On the other hand our medium arty heavily shelled the enemy posns.
During the morning enemy Ft were observed to circle above the Bn Area at a great height otherwise no enemy aircraft were seen but several HURRICANES were reported. These would have probably been part of the air cover which was provided yesterday for our medium arty.

2. ENEMY MINEFIELDS and BOOBYTRAPS. The number of BOOBYTRAPS on MITYINYA RIDGE near QUETTAH track has increased. (SEE [illegible] 4 AUST INF BDE I SITREP NO 39)
The booby trap minefield which the raiding party on night 15/16 Aug encountered is at 8746306.
The enemy did not reply to the hy arty concentrations and MG fire provided to cp this raid, except with a few MG bursts from area 8736307. This is in a noticeable change from the enemy's previous re-actions in this area. Two possible explanations are: (a) that he did not realise that he was being attacked, having become used to hy periodic harassing fire (b) that he has thinned out in the coastal sector, having left booby traps to delay our discovery of the fact.
He has not withdrawn completely as a flare was put up from SAND HILL 9 and voices were heard from the coastal feature about 8730347.
The second explanation is also supported by reduced signs of enemy inf movement in the area.
The enemy still has tps on 25 Contour 8734345 and between main rd and ry where working parties were heard two nights ago.
Cp reports considerable tp movement on 15 Aug on reverse slopes in sq 8723 and what appeared to be concrete pill-boxes and dugouts in the same area.
Last night a patrol from the unit on our right found the enemy in occupation of a strong post reported unoccupied 2 nights previously at 8730317. Fire was exchanged on both sides. Casualties are believed to have been inflicted on the enemy whilst we suffered 3 slightly wounded by a grenade.

3. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. 15 Aug. During an arty harassing shoot at 1600 hrs 75 and 81 mm mortars fired at the fwd slopes of WADIMAN Pt 24. Apparently the enemy believed we are holding this feature.
16 Aug. At 1030 hrs a truck in A Coy area was fired on by enemy arty (105 mm) while it was on the move. No damage.
The enemy was observed to register 2 DF tasks mm tasks yesterday, one at 8731934 on a NW-SE line and one at 8731965 on a NORTH-SOUTH line.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. At 1025 hrs, 16 ME's 109 circled overhead at a height of 15,000 ft for 10 mins without taking any hostile action.

5. ENEMY METHODS
Booby Traps. It is now reported that questioning of further members of the/ concerningnem the trap field at 8737919 does NOT confirm the presence of spider wire, but several non reported wire, probably dannert, on ~~northern~~ Southern side of booby trap field. Sappers reported one booby trap per 10 yds of front. There were many trip wires made of twine, 3 to 6 ins from the ground.
Comment. There has as yet been no confirmed report of spider wire in connection with booby traps in the present campaign.

6. ENEMY ARTY. It has been known for some considerable time that the GERMANS have been endeavouring to mount the 88 mm multi-purpose gun on an axial AP mounting. First experiments proved unsatisfactory. Recently, however, there have been further not persistent reports of an axial 88 mm sp't, most of these specifying the chassis of the Mk IV tk as the mobile platform used. Although no sp't of this type has actually been encountered, its appearance is kept overdue. Any info on an sp't of this type is urgently required. (THERE IS NO CONFO IN No. 1 Cy FROM 9 AUST DIV I SITREP NO 2 46)

7. ENEMY PATROLS.
1. A patrol from A Coy (Lieut BARNETT) moving from 8742302 for 1000 yds due west and then 600 yds due NORTH found in 3 different places a set of 5 shallow slit trench together. No contact was made.

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7. CONTD.
REPORT First Leg. At 87362983 WHITE flare, 240 degrees approx distance 1000 yds. Mortar and Spandau fire, firing from 320 degrees NOT in our direction. At 87342983 a set of five shallow slit trenches together. At 87302983 a further 5 shallow slit trenches. Here also two WHITE flares from 30 degrees left, faint sound of voices. At 87282983 another flare 30 degrees and the sound of a picket being tapped in. RED and BLUE flares being fired from bearing 180 degrees, evidently contact signals.
Second Leg. After moving 100 yds, an explosion, the flash not being seen, occurred on our left rear, followed by a shot and an exclamation from a man. Explosion like a grenade or light mortar. Shortly after SA fire etc., occurred SOUTH of us at approx 0150 hrs. At 87272987 single shallow digging in scrubby patch.
Third Leg. Patrol turned on 100 degrees for 1600 yds to telegraph line. At 87372987 another batch of 5 shallow trenches NOT recently occupied. No mines or wire contacted on fwd or return move. In isolated light scrub patches, some bushes appear to have been broken down to lie on recently.

ii. A composite patrol under Lieut HEDGER of 1 AUST COMMANDO GP (with 1 Sgt and 3 ORs from each of 1 AUST COMMANDO GP and C Coy 2/13 Aust Inf Bn) investigated the wire found by a previous patrol at 87352964 which they followed for 600 yds NORTHWARDS. They reported that there were no mines or booby traps in the area and that the enemy posts seemed to be well behind the wire.

8. MOONSET - Night 17/18 AUG 42. 2315 hrs.

9. NOTICE. Any personnel may obtain on application to the Intelligence Sec a conversion table for converting the Gradations on the GERMAN Military Compass into ENGLISH degrees.

D.W.B. Maughan Lieut.
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.
HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
17 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

(i) OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY. 1945 h rs at 200 degrees and 5000yds from Pt 26, 8 enemy shells landed.
Enemy DF tasks.
At 1020 hrs enemy DF task was registered 87312984 on a NW-SE line.
At 1820 hrs enemy DF task was registered at 87312980 on a NORTH-SOUTH line.

(ii) OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. N I L

(iii) AIR ACTIVITY.
Enemy. At 1025 hrs, 16 MEs 109 circled overhead at a height of 15,000 ft for 10 minutes. These planes flew in 3 gps, 2 of 6 planes and one of 4, and neither bombed nor strafed

Own. 0828 hrs, 7 Hurricanes to the SOUTH of Pt 26 flying WEST at 5000 ft.
0835 hrs, 7 Hurricanes, 1500 yds to NORTH of Pt 26 flying EAST at 5000 ft.
1835 hrs, 2 Hurricanes, 2,500 yds to NORTH of Pt 26 flying WEST at 6000 ft.

Unidentified.
1015 hrs, 2 unidentified aircraft to the SOUTH of Pt 26 flying NE.

(iv) ENEMY MG FIRE. N I L

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY ARO 1537.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2/13 AUST INF BDE
ROUTINE ORDERS
BY

Lt-Col R.N TURNER, Commanding, No 439 — IN THE FIELD 17 Aug 42.

Part I

1. AB 64 - SAFE CUSTODY AND PROPER MAINTENANCE.

Para 13 of 20 AUST INF BDE RO No 65 of 6 Aug 42 is rept for promulgation to all ranks.

(a) Several cases have occurred recently of men being charged with not being in possession of their AB 64 (Paybook) because units had withdrawn them for the purpose of extracting particulars etc.

(b) The attention of all units is drawn to General Order No 1161 of 1941 which states that where men are unavoidably deficient their ABs 64 (Paybooks) they must be provided with a certificate to this effect, explaining the reasons.

The attention of Coy Comds is directed to BRO 420, para 24, of 12 Jun 42 -"Paybooks - Safeguarding of."

2. COMFORTS.

Receipt is acknowledged of the following articles from the ACF on 12 Aug 42:

26 tins Golden Syrup
20 lb coffee
48 tins milk
60 lb sugar
10 lb tea
44 pkts biscuits
24 packs playing cards

also writing paper, envelopes and quantity of reading matter, magazines etc.

3. TRAFFIC CONTROL.

(a) It is intended to restrict the use of the Main Road to:

AMBULANCES — TANK TRANSPORTERS
NON-DESERTWORTHY VEHICLES — STAFF CARS

Strict orders will be issued that all other types of vehicles will only use the Main Road until they are able to divert on to one of the following tracks:

i. Fair weather track
ii. Old Matruh Road
iii. Track parallel to railway (small convoys)
iv. Route "C".

(b) Owing to excessive speeding above the speed limit of 15 mph imposed on the track BIR-THEMID - EL IMAYID, the surface is being seriously damaged. All concerned will ensure the observance of the above speed limit.

(c) All ranks will be made acquainted with orders laid down in ARO 55 Appx "A".

4. EFM CABLES - ADDITIONAL STANDARD TEXTS.

(a) The addendum to DROs 440-449 dated 28 Jul 42 on the subject of EFM cables is cancelled.

(b) Attention is drawn to DRO 455 para (a) dated 21 Jul 42. The same list containing additional standard texts will be introduced from 11 Aug 42

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

5. EMERGENCY RATIONS.
The emergency ration must be in possession of the individual at all times and must actually be carried on the man where there is any possibility of his being cut off from his normal source of food. Disciplinary action will be taken, where necessary, to ensure that it is not lost through carelessness or consumed without authority of an officer.
Coy Comds will arrange for an inspection to be made each Friday and return to be submitted to this HQ by 1000 hrs each Saturday

6. PROTECTIVE FENCES AROUND MINEFIELDS.
Instances have occurred of personnel removing and converting to other uses parts of protective fences around A Tk minefields, chiefly long pickets. This practice will cease forthwith.
This order will be promulgated to all ranks.

7. LOSS OF PAYBOOKS.
(a) In reply to a letter concerning the numerous cases of personnel arriving in drafts without paybooks, the APM, ALEXANDRIA advises:
"No direct evidence is held in this office that paybooks can be sold in this town, although it is well known that gangs of natives rob soldiers of their paybooks.
A large number of these pickpockets are arrested weekly in conjunction with the civil police and all evidence tends to prove that these paybooks are stolen because soldiers persist in using their paybooks as a wallet for carrying their money. Evidence also tends to show that the pickpockets do not interfere with soldiers unless they are slightly under the influence of drink."

(b) All ranks will be warned in accordance with the above.

8. EFM CABLES FROM MIDDLE EAST - SURPLUS FEES.
(a) Due to interruption in the cable service to Australia a number of EFM cables lodged for Christmas delivery were despatched by Airmail.

(b) An amount of £A 354/13/3, representing transmission fees not expended has now been distributed to units in the same manner as Canteen Profits.

.....
.....Capt
for Adjt 2/13 AUST INF BN

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY AMRO 1587.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2/13 AUST INF BN
ROUTINE ORDERS
BY

Lt-Col R/N TURNER, Commanding — IN THE FIELD
Part I — No 439 — 17 Aug 42.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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for Adjt 2/13 AUST INF BN

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T 18 AUG 42

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO32.
(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS ON 18 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. The period has been very quiet. There was no shelling in our area. Aircraft were heard at a great height, but not seen. Patrols from the units on our right were in contact with the enemylast night, and some casualties were suffered on both sides.

A patrol which went out on night 16/17 Aug to recce the booby trap field encountered at 87483045 found an enemy working party in the area and slight inf movement has also been observed.

Patrols report continued enemy wiring and digging throughout the NORTHERN sector.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS.

(a) ARTY. Air photographs of 12 Aug 42 show that hostile btys NORTH of ry and EAST of 870 EASTING line have moved, whilst new gun posns are reported WEST of the 870 line.

(b) INF POSNS NEAR PT 23. WESTERN Pt 23 is encircled by 3 rows of dannert fence. The 2 inner rows appear to be of double dannert. The outer row is of single dannert. It does not encircle the strongpost completely but links up with a line of wire running NW to a strongpost at 87202975, Wire is single dannert to 87252970 (approx) and is then only single strand fence on long pickets. Strongposts at 87202975, 87212976 and 87232980 are strongly wired. Details not descernible, they are linked by dannert wire which continues apparently due NORTH from 87232980 for about 500 yds and then recedes NW. A line of dannert runs from strongpost 87212976 in front of strongpost 87202975 behind Pt 23 to a strongpost at about 87232969. Occupied trenches at 87222970. Posns not yet fixed by resection.

3. ENEMY EQPT.

(a) Further to yesterday's Intelligence Summary it is believed that the 88mm flak gun has been mounted in an A Tk and fd role on a 12 ton half-tracked tractor chassis. Little is known of these eqpts as they have not appeared, but it is thought that the mounting may have proved somewhat unsuccessful. The performance of the 88mm Flak 18 is given as follows:-

Muzzle Velocity	-	2755 ft/sec
Estimated penetration	-	100 mm of armour at 400 yds at 30 degrees
	-	70 mmof armour at 3850 yds at normal.
Range	-	18,000 yds.

(SOURCE 30 CORPS I.S.No.156 FROM 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO.269)

Photographs of the soldier and rifle believed to have been of the sniper who shot Sgt. R.H. SEDGER, have now been fwded by GHQ ME to the War Office LONDON.

4. PATROLS. A patrol led by Lieut HEDGER (1 Offr, 1 Sgt, 6 ORs from 1 AUST COMMANDO GP) approached to within 100 yds of a working party near WESTERN Pt 23 but were unobserved. Start Pt 87562974.
REPORT. Patrol moved out 1300 yds and awaited moonset. Then moved a further 1400 yds to wire at 87322968. Wire contacted, moved to X rds a hundred yds distant. Nothing unusual to report on first leg, number of flares seen but not caused by patrol.

First party left X rds (87312967) and moved 500 yds without event. From here, 87272968, on grid bearing of 282 degrees a working party could be clearly heard and the sound of MT moving away from WEST Pt 23 at 100 yds. Blasting heard on Pt 23, bearing taken from X rds 290 degrees. Stones from blast fell round patrol. While patrol was out 2 flares went up, but nothing could be observed. Bearing of flares from X rds 320 degrees.

At 0045 hrs work ceased on WEST Pt 23 area and quiet prevailed. Other than old diggings numerous but small, nothing was seen SOUTH of Pt 23.

Second party left X rds on bearing of 238 degrees to search for amn dump reported by 2/43 Aust Inf Bn patrol. At [illegible] 87272965 patrol searched an area of 280 yds radius. No dump was located. While at end of leg, flares seen to go up at Pt 23 on bearing of 310 degrees. Sounds of digging and MT movement were heard in direction of Pt 23 WEST. Party moved back to wire on bearing of 80 degrees thence along wire to X rds.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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4.(CONTINUED)

No wire or mines were found on these patrols from X rds.
First party reports good covered approach to Pt 23 WEST because of depression which affords good cover from fire from this Pt. Because of this covered approach and the apparent lack of vigil-ence by working party patrol leader considers it favourable to attack.

5. MOONSET.18/19 AUG 42 - 2350 hrs.

D.W.B.Maughan Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.
HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
18 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

(UP TO LAST LIGHT 17 AUG 42)

(i) OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY. At 1600 hrs concentrated enemy shelling in the vicinity of Trig 22 was observed for approx two minutes.

(ii) OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS. WESTERN Pt 23 is encircled by three rows of dannert fence. The two inner rows appear to be of double dannert. The outer row is of single dannert. It does not encircle the strongpost completely but links up with a line of wire running NW to a strongpost at 87202975. Wire is single dannert to 87252970 (approx) and is then only single strand fence on long pickets. Strongposts at 87202975 87212976 and 87232980 are strngly wired. Details not discernible, they are linked by dannert wire which continues apparently due NORTH from 87232980 for about 500 yds and then recedes NW. Aline of dannert runs from strongpost 87212976 in front of strongpost 87202975 behind Pt 23 to a strongpost at about 87232969. Occupied trenches at 87222970.
Posns not yet fixed by re-section

(iii) AIR ACTIVITY. Aircraft were heard over this area today, 17 Aug 42, at the following times but could not be observed. 0830 hrs., 1100 hrs, 1730 hrs.

(iv) ENEMY MG ACTIVITY. N I L.

D?W?Maughan Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
)D?W?B?MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T

525/4/109 HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
19 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

(UP TO LAST LIGHT 18 AUG 42)

(i) N I L

(ii) N I L

(iii) AIR ACTIVITY.

Own Activity. 1025 hrs six HURRICANES, 2,500 yds NORTH of Pt 26, flew WEST to enemy lines at height of 2000 ft.
1035 hrs the same aircraft observed flying EAST, 1000 yds SOUTH of Pt 26.
Enemy Activity N o n e observed.

(iv) N I L

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET 19 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 33.
(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 19 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. The last 24 hours have been extremely quiet on this front. No enemy aircraft were observed over the Bn area. COMMANDO ~~[illegible]~~ forces have landed in FRANCE.

GERMAN prisoners captured in the central sectorstated that all inf of 15 ARMD DIV had been withdrawn from the line.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS.

Pt 23 a rea The defences in this area are difficult to plot by ground observation as they lie in a hollow. It has not been possible to fix any positions by resection except the posn of the strongpoint at Pt 23, the location of which was of course already known. However, one other strong point in this area has been effectively shelled by 58 Bty and the coordinates supplied for this pt by 58 Bty.(87211029759?) have been utilised. Other plottings are made by judging by eye the position of the other defences in relation to these two fixed pts.
The main strong post in this area is at approx 87212977. It is heavily wired, the wiring consisting of an outer line of triple dannert fence coming out to an apex at approx 87222977. At the end of each receding arm of this apex the wire joins with two lines of wire, one running out towards the next strong post, the other running due WEST protecting the flank of the post. Inside this wire is at least one complete ring of dannert wire encircling the post: in front of the post this wire is triple dannert. Whether it continues as triple dannert the entire way around could not be observed: nor could the observer say whether there is a third ring of wire. The location of this strong post may be picked out from two unused trucks, one of which is in the wire NE of the post, and one in the wire ~~[illegible]~~ 87222981 SOUTH of the post. The wire running NE to strong post at 87222981 is singe dannert, but the strong post itself is very strongly wired with triple dannert in front. Triple dannert runs away from this post approx NORTH, and behind this wire further posns have been reported by CAV sqns.
The post at 87212975 is not strongly wired. It appears to be encircled by single dannert only. There is a gap in the wire between this post and the main strong point, where a man was observed to walk ~~as indicated in the sketch.~~ From this post a line of pickets runs out towards pt 23, but it is not possible to say whether any wire is on the pickets. Such wire as there is, is either single strand or too low to observe. Behind this line of pickets , a line of dannert wire can be clearly seen running out to a pt WEST of pt 23.
Pt 23 is strongly wired. The main line of wire which appears to run in front of the posts is of single dannert at this pt and the post appears to be encircled by two lines of single dannert behind this line of wire. Behind pt 23 are several ridges, so that the ground from pt 23 Westwards is mainly dead. Considerable enemy movement has been observed in this area. Where the ground is under observation, single dannert can be seen on the ridges.
From approx 87162976 a line of long pickets can be seen extending SOUTH to approx 87192968 (where observation ceased). This may indicate the Western boundary of an enemy minefield. The latter view is confirmed by the fact that a truck was observed ~~(see sketch)~~ at approx 87132976 moving SW in the approx direction of the line of pickets to approx 87182972 where it turned sharp left and after a short distance proceeded Northwards and out of sight without stopping. The fact that such a circuitous route was taken suggests the existence of a minefield(real or "dummy") with a gap at 87182972, and of gaps in the wire at 87192977 and 87192978.

3. ENEMY METHODS.

Rep orts by patrols at the present time that working parties cease working early may indicate that when the moon is in the first quarter work ceases at moonset

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

-2- I SNo 33

4. ENEMY ~~MXXXXXX~~ EQUIPMENT.
Ref this HQ I Summary No 32 the following is an extract from 9 AUST DIV I Summary No 270:
" A letter has been received from GHQ, MEF, stating that the photograph captured and forwarded by the unit concerned was of the GERMAN Pz B 39 A Tk rifle. This photograph was of such value that iwas forwarded direct to the War Office London."

5. PATROLS.
A patrol from C Coy (Lieut SCF NORTH, 1 NCO and 6 ORs and 1 Offr learner) patrolled South of western pt 23. Enemy working parties were heard before moonset. After moonset the enemy was seen to use a flare with a reflector for searching the surrounding terrain.

Note. The reflector is probably what has previously been reported as a searchlight. It appeared to consist of a polished shield which must fit over the ground flare, as it reflected a well defined beam and excluded light from the edge of the beam outwards. The beam was observed to trav erse from left to right.
The flare is a ground flare which burns a WHITE light very steadily. When the flare lit up, a glow could first be seen in which the reflector could be observed, before the flare was burning sufficiently brightly to be concentrated into a bright beam.
It appeared to the patrol leader, from the number of flares being fired that the patrol was under observation, and this impression was confirmed by the fact that a s soon as the patrol withdrew the number of flares being fired immediately died down.

Report. Pa trol left SP and after going 2000 yds laid up to await moonset (2350 hrs) but favourable cloud conditions enabled the patrol to reach wire at 87232967 by moonset. Sounds of blasting were heard on approx 270 degrees estimated to come from beyond West pt 23. Voices, MT movement, metal clanging and an occasional sound of digging were heard on a line NORTH SOUTH through pt 23, Approx distance 800 to 1000 yds. In immediate locality NMS and H

Patrol also heard LMG and mortar fire from approx 1000 yds due SOUTH, the spent bullets falling amongst the patrol. Many flares sent up by enemy on immediate front. This activity ce ased at 0030 hrs. In immediate locality NMS or H. With some difficulty the guide loca ted the cross roads at 87322967 from which the patrol compl ted the second leg. While observing at 87272968 enemy used a reflector burning three WHITE flares in succession from a posn 100 yds ahea d. At the same time a similar reflector was used at the left rear 200 yds away and 75 yds from line of approa ch while the usual white flares were fired from the right of pt 23. Patrol withdrew at 0215 hrs.
Enemy continued to fire WHITE flares during the withdrawal.
Pa trol l ader states that sounds of working parties and voices ceased after moonset.

6. MOONSET.
Night 19/20 Aug 0034 hrs.

.....Lieut
IO, 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

HQ., 2/13 AUST INF BN.
20 AUG 42.

HQ., 20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT
(up to last light 19 Aug 42)

(i) ENEMY ACTIVITY - NIL

(ii) OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS - NIL

(iii) AIR ACTIVITY -
ENEMY -

0955 hrs 1 ME 109 1000 yds NORTH of Point ~~Trig~~ 26 at a height of 50 ft flying WEST. Engaged by AA fire and flew low over sea to avoid same.

1025 hrs 1 ME 109 500 yds SOUTH of Point ~~Trig~~ 26 at height of 2000 ft flying WEST in level flight.

(iv) ENEMY MG ACTIVITY - NIL

Lieut
IO., 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.
19 Aug 42.
Copy No 9.

2/15 AUST INF BN OPERATION ORDER NO 69.

INFORMATION.

As per I Summaries and SITREPS.

INTENTION.

1. 2/15 AUST INF BN will relieve 2/15 AUST INF BN in present posn.

METHOD.

2. Coys of 2/15 AUST INF BN will relieve Coys of 2/15 AUST INF BN as follows:

Coys 2/15 AUST INF BN	will relieve Coys 2/15 AUST INF BN.
A Coy	A Coy
C	D
B	B
D	C
HQ.	HQ

3. Recce parties: Recce parties of the following strength will report at HQ 2/15 AUST INF BN asunder:

Coy: Composition	Time of: reporting:	Date
A Coy HQ(1 Offr (CSM (1 OR Per Section 1 OR	2200 hrs	19 Aug
C ditto	2200	19
B ditto	2200	20
D ditto	2200	20
HQ 3 Pl: 1 det per 2 dets (4 Pl: Pl HQ- 1 Sgt) (Per Section- 1 OR)	2200	19
5 Pl A Tk: Lieut FLETCHER and 2 ORs	1000	20
Remaining Pls: 1 OR per Pl	2200	20

The following will accompany HQ 2 I/c on recce at 1000 hrs 20 Aug:-

OC, 1 Pl plus 1 Sig.
OC, 2 Pl
RSM
1 member "I" section.(to remain and take over maps etc.)
MMO.

4. Post stores: Full list of stores to be handed or taken over will be prepared by Coys and section reps. Signed receipts and handover certificates will be submitted to this HQ by 1200 hrs on day following completion of relief.

5. Relief will be completed by first light 22 Aug 42.

6. Movement:
(a) No move before last light.
(b) Movement of Coys will take place night following recce parties.
(c) Personnel will march to new areas. One veh per pl will be made available for packs etc.

7. Routes:
A Coy- Track (87303003) to Main Rd thence WEST to Coy area in vicinity of road block.
C Coy- Via coast track to pt 17. Coy area.
D Coy- Via centre track to pt 33 Coy area.
B Coy- Will be relieved during daylight 21 Aug. They will move by sections to present C Coy area.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

METHOD CONTD.

7. Routes Contd.
B Coy- On night 21/22 Aug move via track (8750503) to Main Rd then NEWF to Coy posn behind A Coy.
BN HQ - via centre track to newposn
&
HQ Coy

8. Attached personnel.
Personnel of 44 British Division will remain in present posns and will be taken over by 2/15 AUST INF BN.

9. Patrols.
2/15 AUST INF BN ar/to leave 1 Offr in each Pl area for the purpose of guiding on patrols etc. He will remain for three or four days.

10. Mortars.
OC, 3 Pl will arrange transfer of detachments to Coys as required for new posn by 1900 hrs 20 Aug.
Detailed instns will be issued later.

11. A Tk.
3 AUST A Tk Regt personnel and weapons will remain in present posns and be taken over by 2/15 AUST INF BN.
Unit A Tk guns will be relieved as arranged between A Tk offrs.

12. MMG.
As for A Tk.

13. Engineers.
Engineers attached B Coy will remain in present posn.

14. Weapons.
(a) One 20 mm Breda at present at B Echelon will be handed over to 2/15 AUST INF BN at its location. OC, 3 Pl will arrange to train a crew at 2/15 AUST INF BN B Echelon.
(b) Three Spandau MG will be handed over by 2/15 AUST INF BN in present posns.
(c) One 81 mm mortar (Italian) and ammn will be handed over by 2/15 AUST INF BN.

15. Transport.
TO will arrange one heavy vehicle per platoon to report to Coy at ~~1500~~ 2030 hrs on the day of Coy move.

16. B Echelon.
B Echelon will remain in present posn.

A.M.

17. Rations and water.
(a) 9th rations (three days) will remain at B Ech.
(b) B Coy will hand over all reserve rations and water to 2/15 AUST INF BN as post stores.
QM will ensure that 70 x 2 gal cans of water are delivered to B Coy by 0600 hrs 20 Aug. This will be handed over.
(c) Reserve rations and water will be taken over from 2/15 AUST INF BN as post stores. These will be found in all PDLs on the basis of two days rations and water.

18. Ammn:
(a) RSM will arrange equitable exchange of all 1st Line Ammn.
(b) "On the man" ammn only will be carried fwd by Coys. Remainder will be handed over as post stores.
(c) B Coy will hand over all reserve ammn.
(d) All ammn other than "On the man" will be taken over in 2/15 AUST INF BN area.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

Cont Contd.

19. Engineers stores.
All existing dug outs will be left as at present.
On no account must any dug out be dismantled.

20. Latrines.
All box latrines will be handed over as post stores.

21 Tools.
Tools will be carried on F1 vehs.

22. Medical.
Mutual arrangement by RMOs.

INTERCOMM.

23. Signals.
Lines and phones by mutual arrangements of sig offrs.
Existing laid cable to be handed over.

24. BH HQ will close at present posn at 2200 hrs 21 Aug and reopen at new location at the same time.

ACK.

R Leach
.....Capt
Adjt 2/15 AUST INF BN
(R LEACH)

TIME OF ORIGINATION 1230 hrs.

METHOD OF DESPATCH SDR

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No.
HQ Coy	1
A	2
B	3
C	4
D	5
2/15 AUST INF BN	6
Comd - to be shown to QM and TO by Adjt.	7
War Diary	8&9
File - To be shown by IO to RMO and RSM	10

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.
19 Aug 42.
Copy No 10.

2/13 AUST INF BN OPERATION ORDER NO 22.

INFORMATION. As per I Summaries and ATTACHED.

INTENTION. 1. 2/13 AUST INF BN will relieve 2/15 AUST INF BN in present posn.

METHOD. 2. Coys of 2/13 AUST INF BN will relieve Coys of 2/15 AUST INF BN as follows:

Coys 2/13 AUST INF BN	will relieve Coys 2/15 AUST INF BN.
A Coy	A Coy
C	D
B	B
D	C
HQ	HQ

3. Recce parties: Recce parties of the following strength will report at HQ 2/15 AUST INF BN asunder:

Coy: Composition	Time of: reportion:	Date
A Coy HQ(1 offr (Cmd (1 SR Per Section 1 GR	2200 hrs	19 Aug
C ditto	2200	19
B ditto	2200	20
D ditto	2200	20
HQ 3 Pl: 1 Sgt per 2 dets (4 Pl: Pl HQ- 1 Sgt)	2200	19
(Per Section- 1 GR) 5 Pl A Tk: Lieut FLETCHER and 2 GRs	2200 1000	19 20
Remaining Pls: 1 GR per Pl	2200	20

The following will accompany HQ 2 i/c on recce at 1000 hrs 20 Aug:-

OC, 1 Pl plus 1 Sig.
OC, 2 Pl
RSM
1 member "I" Section. (to remain and take over maps etc.)

RMO.

4. Post stores: Full list of stores to be handed or taken over will be prepared by Coys and section reps. Signed receipts and handover certificates will be submitted to this HQ by 1800 hrs on day following completion of relief.

5. Relief will be completed by first light 22 Aug 42.

6. Movement:
(a) No move before last light.
(b) Movement of Coys will take place night following recce parties.
(c) Personnel will march to new areas. One veh per pl will be made available for packs etc.

7. Routes:
A Coy- Track (07003003) to Hdn Rd thence WEST to Coy area in vicinity of road block.
C Coy- Via coast track to pt 17, Coy area.
D Coy- Via centre track to pt 33 Coy area.
B Coy- will be relieved during daylight 21 Aug. They will move by sections to present C Coy area.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

METHOD CONTD.

7. Routes Contd.
F Coy- On night 21/22 Aug move via track (078033003) to Main Rd then NNW to Coy posn behind A Coy.
MM MG - Via centre track to newposn
A
MM Coy

8. Attached personnel.
Personnel of 64 Brigade will remain in present posns and will be taken over by 2/15 AUST INF BN.

9. Patrols.
2/15 AUST INF BN are/to leave 1 Pl in each Pl area for the purpose of guiding on patrols etc. He will remain for three or four days.

10. Mortars.
OC, 3 Fd will arrange transfer of detachments to Coys as required for new posn by 1900 hrs 20 Aug.
Detailed instns will be issued later.

11. A Tk.
3 Fd Regt A Tk Regt personnel and weapons will remain in present posns and be taken over by 2/15 AUST INF BN.
Unit A Tk guns will be relieved as arranged between A Tk offrs.

12. MMG.
As for A Tk.

13. Engineers.
Engineers attached D Coy will remain in present posn.

14. Weapons.
(a) One 20 mm Breda at present at B Echelon will be handed over to 2/15 AUST INF BN at its location. OC, 2 Fd will arrange to train a crew at 2/15 AUST INF BN B Echelon.
(b) Three Spandau MG will be handed over by 2/15 AUST INF BN in present posns.
(c) One 81 mm mortar (Italian) and ammn will be handed over by 2/15 AUST INF BN.

15. Transport.
TO will arrange one heavy vehicle per platoon to report to Coy at ~~0800~~ 1030 hrs on the day of Coy move.

16. B Echelon.
B Echelon will remain in present posn.

A.M.

17. Rations and water.
(a) Nil rations (three days) will remain at B Ech.
(b) D Coy will hand over all reserve rations and water to 2/15 AUST INF BN as post stores.
QM will ensure that 70 x 2 gal cans of water are delivered to D Coy by 2000 hrs 20 Aug. This will be handed over.
(c) Reserve rations and water will be taken over from 2/15 AUST INF BN as post stores. These will be found in all PDLs on the basis of two days rations and water.

18. Ammn:
(a) RSM will arrange equitable exchange of all 1st Line Ammn.
(b) "On the man" ammn only will be carried fwd by Coys. Remainder will be handed over as post stores.
(c) D Coy will hand over all reserve ammn.
(d) All ammn other than "On the man" will be taken over in 2/15 AUST INF BN area.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

AIR Contd.

19. Engineers stores.
All existing dug outs will be left as at present.
On no account must any dug out be dismantled.

20. Latrines.
All boer latrines will be handed over as post stores.

21 Tools.
Tools will be carried on 3 vehs.

22. Medical.
Medical arrangement by MOOs.

INTERCOMM.

23. Signals.
Lines and phones by mutual arrangements of sig offrs.
Existing laid cable to be handed over.

24. HR HQ will close at present posn at 2200 hrs 21 Aug and reopen at new location at the same time.

ACK.

R Leach
.....Capt
Adjt 2/15 AUST INF BN
(RR LEACH)

TIME OF ORIGINATION 1230 hrs.

METHOD OF DESPATCH SDR.

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No.
HQ Coy	1
A	2
B	3
C	4
D	5
2/15 AUST INF BN	6
Comd - to be shown to QM and TO by Adjt.	7
War Diary	8&9
File - To be shown by IO to RMO and RSM	10

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.
HQ 2/13 AUST INF BDE
20 Aug 42.

2/13 AUST INF BDE "I" SUMMARY NO 34.

1. GENERAL. The last two days have been marked by increased enemy activity, both with inf and arty. The change in enemy activity has been most noticeable in the coastal sector where increased enemy and mortar activity and also counter-patrol activity are reported. It is inferred that the enemy unit previously in this sector may have been relieved.

2. ENEMY METHODS. The following commentary is taken from 20 AUST INF BDE IS NO 30 :
(a) The enemy's counter-measures to our almost nightly attacks on his working parties and strongpts has taken three forms:
(i) close protection of his strongpts by booby traps att to short pickets around the post, or actually placed in the dannert wire or the post itself.
(ii) close protection of his working parties by covering dets. The standard warning signal is a rifle shot, whereupon all work ceases, and flares are put up on either side of where the shot is fired. These covering dets are alert and heavily armed with MGs. In the last two nights more positive action has been noticed in two instances when an enemy party apparently tried to work round the rear of our patrol when it went to ground on being challenged and fired on.
(iii) long range patrols. These are not intended apparently to approach or recce our FDLs but to ambush or intercept our patrols moving out. Two such patrols were reported night 17/18 Aug.

3. ENEMY MINEFIELDS.
(a) Air photo interpretation 16 Aug 42:
A suspected minefield runs from MRs 87013031 to MR 86993024 and on to MR 87143014. There it makes a "T" junction with another suspected minefield which leaves the cover at MRs 87163019 and 87103011. There are marked gaps at MRs 87093015 and 87143014. Wire, and in places barrels and cairns, mark the suspected minefield which averages 120 yds in width. No actual mines are visible.

(b) A patrol which recently investigated the minefield running from a GERMAN Mk III tk with open turret at 87782923, which was followed by a patrol lead by Lieut NORTH (in Jul) to 87813917, reported a gap 30 yds wide at 87782921, at the entrance to which are the remains of a Crusader tk. From the gap the field runs in one direction at least 100 yds on a bearing of 355 degrees and in the other 100 yds on a bearing of 165 degrees, then on a bearing of 124 degrees. Mines for the gap were stacked ready with arming devices.
On several mines were found fine glass luminous tubes, which were plainly visible from a distance of three feet. Three of these tubes have examined. They are about 1mm in diameter. One is 3/10 of an inch long, ~~1/2~~ one 1/2 an inch and the remaining one 9/10 of an inch. The luminous substance is inside the tubes, which are closed at both ends. The shortest tube is closed with a black substance The tubes have been forwarded to higher formation for examination. (Source 24 AUST INF BDE I Summary No 24).

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. Observations of enemy posns between main rd and ry:
At 87423018 the most fwd post on SOUTH side of ridge consists of four sandbagged pits holding three men each. Weapons - probably 2 MGs. One man seen firing a LMG - possibly Breda. Seven men the most seen at any one time. No sleeping bays observed, but men disappeared for long periods in dug outs - probably opening off fire pits.
Post was surrounded on EAST by triple dannert; SOUTH side double apron; WEST & NORTH single dannert. Frontal wire, i.e. triple dannert, ran from 87403013 to top of ridge 87443019. On inside of wire was another fence - single or double wire - indicating a probable minefield or booby traps. Men were seen to pick their way carefully through this area.
From 87403013 a double apron fence ran parallel to ry line in NORTH WEST direction as far as observer could see.
At 87383014 there appears to be a mortar post occupied by two men.
Front pit

34

4. Contd.
Front pit was circular and sandbagged and another pit ran off it. No wire seen in its near vicinity.
At 87373017 is what appears to be the remains of an old cistern which has been dug and sandbagged and perhaps, in parts, roofed and covered with stone and refuse. Along the top of ridge at this pt is dannert running in all directions. From the OP it does not seem to follow any definite plan.
At 87283025 another strong post very extensive and the largest to be seen on the ridge - holds approx 15 to 20 men and may be a Coy HQ. Numerous men could be seen moving about WEST of 87423018 on the same ridge. The ridge is cut into sections by dannert on the higher slopes, double apron lower down and on the flat. These divisions are, for the main part 100 to 150 yds in front of each strong post running approx NORTH and SOUTH.
At 87143041 at least 12 to 14 vehs could be seen at 1150 hrs. Some were covered - possibly tp carriers. Arty shoot was directed at them but could not reach target without using supercharged ammn.
At 87193029 two trucks were seen stationary and at 87083039 two trucks drove off when arty fire was put over at 1150 hrs. Visibility on the SOUTH side of ry line was negligible.
(From Appx A to 20 AUST INF BDE I Summary No 30)

5. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. The enemy lightly shelled the BN area at 1900 hrs yesterday, 14 shells landing between ridge 26 and the sea.

6. AIR ACTIVITY. Air sp control advise that as aresult of a dogfight at 1000 hrs, 4 MEs 109 were destroyed, 3 probably destroyed and 4 damaged. Our loss was one aircraft damaged, a Hurricane which forced landed on rd SOUTH of 43499020.
At 0955 hrs yesterday our AA heavily engaged a ME 109 which was flying low along the coast and forced it out to sea.

7. PATROLS. Owing to other operations no deep patrols operated from this unit last night.

8. MOONSET. Night 20/21 Aug 0127 hrs.

.....Lieut
IO, 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.
HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
21 Aug 42.

35

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 35.

1. GENERAL.
The situation remains generally quiet in this sector. Yesterday our 5.5 Med Arty shelled from fwd posns under cover of a smoke screen a tented camp in the SIDI RAHMAN area.
PW taken recently have spoken of an intended break through in the South and it is noteworthy that there is no concentration of enemy force in the Northern Sector. Tac R reports state that there is no abnormal movement and report no abnormal change in the disposn of enemy forces.
30 Corps I Summary No 157 states that it appears that the programme for the relief of the enemy striking force is now almost complete, but there is as yet no indication of the time or place for an attack.
The enemy has been quiet in the SW sector of 9 AUST DIV front but in the coastal sector he has shown a more aggressive spirit. In the afternoon 17 Aug enemy mortars from area Km 110 873302 engaged pt 33 875301 and during night 17/18 Aug there was slight enemy shelling of area 878-301 and mortaring of our FDLs in the coastal sector. During the same night enemy patrols were further fwd than previously, one of them firing on one of our patrols at 87132998. Our patrols exchanged fire at short range with the enemy at 87533037 inflicting at least four casualties, and at 87113010, where an enemy strongpt was attacked and a grenade thrown into an MG pit.
18 Aug was a very quiet day. During night 18/19 Aug patrols south of ry reported extensive work at western pt 23 872296. No direct contact was made with the enemy in this sector. Great enemy activity continues at night, digging and wiring . A large working party was encountered in area 87183019. Hy arty harassing fire on enemy near Km 110 873302 and on the coast at 87513040 silenced enemy MGs and mortars. Recce patrols in SW sector came under fire while in areas 87452926 and 873294.
During morning 19 Aug a decided increase of MT movement on the track running SW from 870300 was reported by arty OPs.
(From 9 AUST DIV I S No 271)

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS.
(a) Air photographs of the 12, 13 and 14 Aug have shown a general movement of the enemy arty. A fd bty of 3 tps and 1 med tp and several gps of inf guns have moved out of the area north of the ry. This area now contains no arty except a newly arrived medium or CD tp at 873306 and some AA.
A fd bty at 868298 has moved out, but a 6 gun tp has moved into this area. A fd bty at 867294 has also moved out.
The sector around 871295 has thinned out considerably and only 2 fd or inf guns are thought to remain.
The above moves leave only 2 fd btys (868301 and 870303) and some odd tps in the northern sector. There are however about 5 tps of hy and two tps of medium behind them (30 Corps IS No 157)
(b) Below is extract from report from flanking formation dated 18 Aug: "Enemy posns between 290 and 292 grids".
(i) On 27 Jul a coln found this posn strongly held by what was estimated to be a strong coy with 3 - 6 MGs, 3 A Tk guns and several mortars with considerable arty sp on call. Since that date no contact by day has been made but night patrols have frequently reported working parties and recently OPs have reported blasting.
(ii) Recent night patrols have been able to penetrate the wire without opposition and have located prepared posns unoccupied immediately west of the wire. No enemy have been contacted until patrols have penetrated about 800 yds west of minefield.
(iii) The prepared posns in the vicinity of the minefield may be occupied by day or may be occupied in the event of a renewal of ops. On the other hand it is felt that the enemy have decided to prepare a line further west in the vicinity of the 8778 grid and may hold the fwd posns lightly as outposts. A cattle fence has been located along the 8778 grid between 2900 and 2904 and this may mark a new minefield.
The strength of the posn when occupied cannot be estimated at less than a strong coy. The enemy has been afforded considerable time for preparation and one can anticipate well dug defences. All evidence points to preparation in depth and CB reports that on 14 ~~Aug the enemy withdrew while enemy arty~~ —

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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Aug the enemy withdrew while enemy arty registered his FDLs in area 876290 877290 876291. There has also been ememy registration of approaches to the strongpt.
Daylight observation by a fwd inf OP in TELL EL EISA area shows that the enemy shows most movement in the hour after first light.
The main part of his tps appear to be on the reverse slopes of a ridge running generally north and south on 869 grid line. Line of strongpts well forward of ridge. Movement of men in these strongpts was cautions, and men were seen to be crawling to avoid observation.

3. ENEMY METHODS.
The enemy is relying increasingly on booby traps to hamper our patrols. Two methods have so far been reported.
i. short pickets with trip wires to booby traps buried in ground;
ii. booby traps in dannert surrounding strongpts.

~~The standard warning when our patrols attack is a rifle shot, whereupon all work ceases and flares are put up on either side of where the shot is fired. These covering dets are alert and heavily armed with MGs. In the last two nights in two instances an enemy party apparently tried to work around to the rear of our patrol when it went to ground on being challanged and fired on.~~

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.
Arty: The following classification and performance of enemy arty is included for infm:

GERMAN ARTY		
Classification	range	Wt of shell
FIELD		
75mm Inf gun	5,600	14 lb
105mm Gun How	11,640	33
150mm Inf gun	6,000	80
MEDIUM		
105mm gun	21,000	35
150mm How	16.400	95
HEAVY		
150mm gun (NEW)	27,000	99
210mm how	18,300	264
Anti-Aircraft.		
88mm DP	18,000	19.8

ITALIAN ARTY		
Classification	Range	Wt of shell
FIED		
75mm gun	11,200	14 lb
77mm gun	8,000	"
100mm How	10,150	29.
MEDIUM		
105mm gun	14,850	35
149mm How	9,000	90
152mm How	10,300	100
HEAVY		
149mm gun	16,000	92
152mm gun	23,800	119
210mm How	17,500	225

(From Counter Battery Intelligence Report No 27)

5. PATROLS.
A patrol lead by Sgt DONELEY of 1 A ST COMMANDO GP (1 Sgt, 6 ORs and 1 NCO Learner) investigated the area 1500 yds SOUTH of the X rds at 87322867 and plotted the line of wire from 87332967 in a southerly direction. No enemy were seen or heard with the exception of a working party near Western Pt 23.

6. MOONSET. Night 21/22 Aug 0224 hrs.

Lieut
IO, 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET.

HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
21 Aug 42.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.
(Up to last light 20 Aug 42.)

1. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY

NIL

2. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS

NIL

3. AIR ACTIVITY

Enemy:

0955 hrs 4 MEs 109 overhead at 15000 feet - all planes circled then flew NORTH.
1315 1 Med B escorted by 1 F overhead at very great height - Exhaust leaving white trail.
1850 2 MEs 109 overhead at 10000 feet - Flying WEST.
1900 1 ME 109 South of Pt 26 at 50 ft - " "
1940 6 MEs 109 overhead at 5000 ft - " "

Own:
0745 hrs 2 Hurricanes overhead at 200 feet - Flying NW.

4. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY

NIL

.....Lieut
IO, 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

5/12 84

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

HQ., 2/13 AUST INF BN.
22 AUG 42.

20 AUST INF B DE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

(UP TO LAST LIGHT ON 27 AUG 42)

i. OBSERVED ENEMY MOVEMENT N.T.R.

ii. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS N I L

iii. AIR ACTIVITY

Enemy

1855 hrs. 1 EA flying over our FDLs at a height of 20,000 ft in a SE to NW direction, dropped two white smoke signals followed by what appeared to be pamphlets.
No.9 Pl found two pamphlets, ~~wrapped round match es~~ (wrapped round matches of Egyptian origin from which it is inferred they have had no connection with the above mentioned plane) of ~~enemy origin~~ in A Coy area at 2030 hrs.

0830 hrs. 2 MEs 109 at 500 ft near Pt 26 flying SOUTH

1200 hrs. 4 MEs 109 at 10000 ft over old Bn HQ flying WEST.

1530 hrs 1 JU 88 & 4 MEs 109 at 10000 ft over old Bn HQ flying EAST.

Own.

1130 hrs 2 HURRICANES at 4000 ft over old Bn HQ flying WEST.

iv. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY. N I L.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET
HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
22 Aug 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 36.

1. GENERAL. The enemy during the last 24 hrs has resumed his earlier habit of shelling our FDLs in the coastal sector, thus breaking a long period of almost complete arty silence. This shelling yesterday unfortunately caused us two fatal casualties.
Whether this recrudescence of enemy activity is merely the normal reaction to our bringing our med arty fwd for a shoot, or whether it denotes a change in enemy policy in the Northern sector or possibly an alleviation of his supposed deficiency in amn supply, remains to be seen.
In other respects there has been no noticeable change in enemy habits.
An enemy plane yesterday dropped pamphlets in the BN area.
Our arty yesterday engaged enemy arty which was participating in the shelling of our FDLs from a posn near Western Pt 23. The enemy arty was silenced and forced to withdraw. Our med guns claim two enemy guns knocked out and our fwd arty claim to have inflicted damage on the other two guns when the enemy attempted to withdraw them.
Reports continue to be received of enemy patrols being encountered at night, but not close to our FDLs.
A PW from 382 IR was captured last night in the Western Pt 23 area.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.
From air photos.
Strongpts with A Tk guns: 87153019
87033015
87043008
87203019
87033002
Wire: (a) 87433019 - 87433018 - 87403014 thence NW parallel to ry line.
(b) 87132996 - 87122994 (single dannert)
MGs : 87152978 (4).
From observation with compass and rangefinder:
Movement of gps of men in the TELL EL EISA sector has been seen at the following places -
87092993, 87072999 , 87112987.
Observations in ry area
(a) All observations carried out between 0605 hrs and 0720 hrs 19 Aug. Map Refs of posns in I Summary No 3 0 checked on cross bearings and found correct. Further posns observed. Visibility excellent.
(b) An alternative posn was seen at 87425301 90 in the form of a circular sangar, very likely an OP; man seen leaning on the parapet in an observer's posn with glasses.
(c) At 87393014 and 87405301 45 are two posns - small sandbagged pits occupied possibly only at night. Men were seen to leave in early morning.
(d) Cistern posn at 87373017 verified by cross bearing and movement seen; also what appears to be dugouts - men seen climbing in and out. Posn 87283025 (supposed Coy HQ) verified by cross bearings. Movement same as during last observations.
(e) From 87205303 00 to 87243032 on spur running approx NE and SW - 50 to 60 men could be seen. In view of the nature of ground many more personnel were probably out of observation or underground. Excellent target for arty from 0630 to 0715 hrs. At 87083045 men seen moving about approx 8 to 10 men. Numerous vehs also in area 87103042.
(f) New mortar posns seen at 873 23019 - no occupation visible, but post quite extensive.
(g) At 86853030 a building and at 86853 000 another building. Men seen moving in the vicinity of both buildings.
(h) At 87173019 dug posns were observed; they consisted of 5 separate pits in a semi-circular form. The diggings are recent earth being newly turned.
(i) Posns 87423018, 87283025 and 87205303 00 to 87240303 20 would provide excellent arty harassing targets.
(From 20 AUST INF BDE I SUMMARY NO 32 Appx A)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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3. ENEMY METHODS.
The enemy booby trap fd area 87483045 is thought to be composed of ITALIAN B4 AP mines . The evidence to support this theory is:
(i) Pieces of booby trap recovered from wounded men were of brass.
(ii) The fd appears to have been laid with loose strings which is the accepted method of laying the B4 as it is very sensitive.
(From 20 Bde IS No 32)
This minefield is stated to be bordered on the "enemy"(i.e. our) side with a row of short pickets to which booby traps are att. There was one report that the booby trap consisted of a combination of pull-igniter and GERMAN stick grenade.

Use of tracer: The experience of patrols recently operating South from Trig 22 led to the opinion that the enemy might have directed his MGs onto our patrols by the following methods: MGs with tracer amn are placed at intervals along the front and these fire in the direction of sounds heard. If the tracers cross, other weapons NOT firing tracer open up at the pt of intersection.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.
At approx 1855 hrs 21 Aug an enemy aircraft was observed flying from SE to NW at a height of a pprox 20,000 ft. When over BN area two white smoke signals were dropped from plane, followed by what appeared to be
x pamphlets. 9 Pl found two pamphlets and matches (book type) in A Coy
area at 2030 hrs. These pamphlets have as a heading the 9 Div veh sign
x (platypus surmounting boomerang), underneath on one is the inscription

"DIGGERS !
you are defending
ALAMEIN BOX !
What about
PORT DARWIN ?"

and on the other:

"AUSSIES !
The Yankees are having a jolly good time in your country
AND YOU?"

x Similar pamphlets addressed to the NZs & Indians were dropped in their areas.

5. Patrols. Only normal protective patrols have been operating from this unit.
Last night a patrol from 1 AUST COMMANDO GP secured a prisoner near Wes tern Pt 23 from 12 Coy 382 IR, at 87172958
A patrol from the unit on our left encountered on night 20/21 Aug an unmarked scattered fd of British Mk IV mines at 87283009.

6. MOONSET. Night 21/22 Aug 0324 hrs.

.....Lieut
IO, 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET. 23 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 32.

(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 23 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. There has been little reported activity on either side during the last 24 hours. In daylight yesterday a party from the Unit on our left which went out to inspect the positions which had been dug the previous night found two enemy in one of the posns making sketches. The sketches will prove of greater use to us than to the enemy.

Last night patrols were hampered by the bright moonlight and no encountores have been reported, but on this Unit's front very valuable information was obtained.

In the air enemy Fs were observed singly or in small numbers over the Bn area. They took no hostile action and appeared to be engaged in recce.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS. 15 and 21 ARMD DIVS, ARIETE ARMD DIV and 90 LT MIV - regarded as enemy's striking force - are now thought to have been completely w ithdrawn from the line. Dispoms of 164 INF DIV are thought to be -

125 INF REGT (III Bn)	---	Between Coast and Ry,
383 INF REGT (III Bn)	---	Area 87172938
433 INF REGT (II Bn)	---	Area 877290

with, in the same area -

TRENTO DIV	---	Astride 290 grid
PAVIA DIV	---	Astride 303 grid

and, further SOUTH -

BOLOGNA DIV	---	276-278 grids.

3. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY.

SIDI RAHMAN TRACK. Normal movement of MT except between 1700 and 1800 hrs, when more than normal movement was observed.

0745 hrs 0900 hrs 1900 hrs	Men observed singly and in small gps in trig 13 area
2130 hrs	Enemy dumps observed burning as result of our aircraft action on bearings of 281 degrees and 310 degrees respectively, from 8753730170.

At 0845 hrs an enemy 4 gun bty (believed 25 pr) in sq 868295, which had been firing on EASTERN Pt 24, was engaged by our arty and after the first rds of gun fire, tractors came up and withdrew guns SW. At approx 2230 hrs a beam as from a search light was observed to the SOUTH of TRIG 33.

4. UNIT PATROLS. Three deep patrols went out.

1. A patrol from A Coy (Lieut BARRETT and 6 ORs) went out from A Coy on a bearing of 295 degrees for 1600 yds to 87403016 and then for 240 yds on a bearing of 135 degrees. It was anticipated that this patrol would strike wire at 87403016 but none was encountered. On its second leg patrol must have penetrated to a posn behind the enemy's strong point reported at 87413019.

REPORT. At 87474012, old enemy minefield was encountered alongside a a derelict carrier in the centre of the field. This field runs on a bearing of 335 degrees at this pt and consists of BRITISH Mk IV mines. At 87453014 patrol crossed a rd running on a bearing of 95 degrees. At this pt muffled sounds of pickets being driven in came from the direction 325 degrees. At approx 87443016, some 250 yds to the right, a large derelict trailer could be seen. At 87423015 a track running approx due NORTH was encountered. At this pt a dozen empty boxes, thought to have contained mines were seen and a small car was heard to start up on on a bearing of 355 degrees and within 600 yds of patrol and to proceed in a WESTERLY direction. At 87403016 a rd was again encountered. Patrol then moved on right hand side of track (grid bearing 334 degrees) for 240 yds to 87393018 approx, where patrol turned because time was getting late (0425 hrs). At the last pt a compressor could be heard distinctly directly ahead, possibly 1000 yds away. No enemy movement was seen during the patrol and no recently occupied diggings. Old diggings were encountered 87473012 and 8744 3014. No wire was encountered.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I S No. 37

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4. (Continued)

11. A patrol from D Coy (Sgt FW MORRIS and 6 ORs) moving out on a bearing of 321 degrees from 87503018 struck what appeared to be an enemy minefield after covering 1665 yds and laid up on the edge of it. REPORT. After 600 yds from 87503018 on a grid bearing of 320 degrees, patrol crossed at right angles a well made soil rd. At 87453024 voices and sounds of digging and hammering of pickets were heard on an approx bearing of 300 degrees. A further bearing was taken onto these sounds from 87433026; 250 degrees. A large square truck was in vicinity where last bearing was taken. Patrol continued through area marked by shell holes filled with water to 87413029. At this pt patrol encountered short angle iron pickets and approx 12 yds inside the short pickets was a single row of long angle iron pickets. The top half only of these pickets were skylin ed and only one strand of wire was seen strung along the long pickets. Patrol laid up on the home side of this field, intending to examine it after moonset. The field ran on a bearing of 345 degrees and therefore crossed the line of march of the patrol obliquely. A least three rows f short angle iron pickets were observed and the line of pickets continued in both directions out of sight. Detailed examination of this field was later rendered impracticable owing to the arriva l of enemy. While patrol was laying up sounds were heard as if someone was digging a hole and burying tins 50-70 yds from the patrol. Then ~~xxxxxxxx~~ at approx 0305 hrs a party of about 15 or 20 men moved along the inside of the fence from SOUTH to NORTH, and stopped opposite the patrol where the greater part of them seemed to vanish into the ground. All the men were either carrying tools or boxes. More voices and a noise of tools being collected were heard in the SOUTH, then approx 12 to 15 men in small groups moved past to the NORTH; whilst this was going on a voice was heard to call impatiently a word sounding like "Oh - DE-[illegible]". A party of 6 to 8men returned to the SOUTH and appeared to move into an area in the line of what was to be the patrol's next leg and to remain there in proximity. Throughout this time a man, who appeared to be a sentry strolled round the area inside the wire. At 0400 hrs patrol backed out and returned to SP on a bearing of 140 degrees (grid). At least one man in the area was seen to be wearing soft cloth cap.

111. A patrol from C Coy (Cpl. HD [illegible] and 4 ORs) moving out from 87513029 heard and saw signs of enemy activity due NORTH of 87530-3 0345.

REPORT. The object of this patrol was to find whether the posn at 87543038 was occupied by the enemy. From SP patrol moved in open formation in the salt marsh, 10 yds to the left of the rd, along the line of the rd until Krds were encountered 87543035. Patrol turned down left hand track for 110 yds, then turned again and moved on a bearing of 315 degrees for 100 yds (at 87533030345). Patrol went to ground and listened. Sounds of digging and hammering of pickets were heard and cigarettes were observed being lit on a bearing due NORTH. Patrol leader estimated that the strongpost was 300 yds from the Krds; owing to bright moonlight closer recce was impracticable. The patrol returned by route along sand hummocks NORTH of the rd looking for booby traps but none were found.

5. RETURN OF CAPTURED DOCUMENTS. The GOC has received a personal letter from Lieut Gen 30 CORPS congratulating units of 9 AUST DIV on the capturing and fwd back of documents, arm and eqpt. The letter continues as follows:-

"I wish it to be made known that the material sent back has been of great value. Sometimes the importance of a document is obvious and the information extracted from it can be passed fwd from this Hq at once but sometimes units send back material which they never hear of again. This material is not just thrown away. Often it fits into the enemy picture as a whole and become part of a comprehensive report. Often it helps people further back connected with secret sources. I can imagine in ma ny cases people would have liked to keep enemy documents or eqpt as souvenirs. By sending these things back they are doing real service. The efforts so far are first rate; may they contin ue".

MOONLIGHT - Night 23/24 Aug 42 --- 0430 hrs.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWJ MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

HQ., 2/13 AUST INF BN
23 AUG 42.

20 AUST INF BDE.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT
(up to 1a st light 22 Aug 42)

i. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY.

SIDI RAHMAN TRACK. Norma l movement of MT except between 1700 and 1800 hrs, when more than normal movement was observed.

TIMES. 0745 hrs -) Men observed singly and in smalll groups
0900 hrs -) in Trig 13 area
1900 hrs -)
2130 hrs - Enemy dumps observed burning as a result of our aircraft action on bearings of 281 degrees and 310 degrees respectively, from 8753530170.

ii. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS. - NTR.

iii. AIR ACTIVITY.

TIME hr s	NO. & TYPE	LOCATION OF PLANE	HEIGHT ft.	DIRECTION OF FLIGHT	REMARKS.
0640	1 Hurr- ica n	Ove rhead	5000	WEST	-
1130	2ME109	"	1000	NORTH	Flying straight and level when fired on did not turn.
1150	1 ME109	"	3000	NW	Manouvering over FDLs suggested possible/ PhR.
1510	1 ME109F	Over BHQ	200	NW	Plane turning frequently
1640	2 ME109	Overhead	1000	NORTH	-
1830	3 ME109	se e remarks	5000		Planes came from SW of directly over Trig 33 turned WEST after circling over BnHQ area, were engaged by light AA and flew over enemy lines.
2100	1 Bi- pla ne	Main Rd	200	WEST t o EAST	Plane straffed rd block 87633006.
2115	1"	" "	200	"	Plane first heard over enemy FDLs, heavy light AA barrage observed, plane straff ed enemy lines 2112 hrs s cored hit on bearing 290 de grees approx 1600 yds out, appeared to be small amn dump. Returne d firing pist ol re d tracer probably from cockpit.
2130	1 unid- entifi- ed	100yds NORTH of Main Rd	-	WEST to EAST	Dropped what appeared to be recognition signal, which did not flare, possibly because plane was low.
2130	1 "	"	-	"	This plane was engaged by enemy AA and rear gunner returne d fire, it dropped a flare near main rd, which our tps extinguished with sand.

iv. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY. NIL

Lieut.
IO., 2/13 AUST INF BN.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

War Diary

SECRET.
Copy No. 13
23 Aug 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN ADM ORDER NO.1.

REF MAP. EL HAMMAM 1 : 100,000.

1. GENERAL. In the defended area at present held by this unit, Reserve Rations and Water are to be made available. These reserves must be treated as such and severe disciplinary action will be taken against any person who uses or who allows reserves to be used unless under direct orders from Coy Comds who will act on orders received from this HQ.

2. RESERVES. Reserves will be held on the following scales:-

i. Rations. Five days to be distributed as follows:
Three days with the coys
Two days under Bn control.

ii. Water. Three days with the coys (in 44 gal.drums and 2 gal containers).
Two days in Bde Reserve.

For detailed instructions re distribution see Appx "A" to this Order.

iii. Amn. Reserve amn will be notified later.

iv. POL. Full tanks plus 100 miles for all vehs will be stored at B Ech and loaded onto vehs on code word being given.

3. (a) The five days reserve rations detailed in para 2 (i) above are in addition to the 2 days reserve now carried by fwd coys and will be kept separate at all times.

(b) Reserves of all natures will be kept dispersed in small dumps, each containing all items of reserves concerned, i.e. supply dumps will each contain balanced quantities of all commodities, and amn dumps all natures of amn.

Coys will ensure that all amn above E.2 (G.1098) Scale is put into such dumps.

(c) Unless orders to the contrary ALL reserves will be left for incoming unit even though relief has not been effected. Receipts for reserves will be given and/or demanded on any relief taking place.

(d) Every effort will be made to maintain reserves intact and in good condition and to ensure this, ALL reserves will be boxed. Coys will be responsible for providing boxes.

(e) Coys will ensure that weekly inspections of all reserves are made and a certificate will be rendered by 1800 hrs on each SATURDAY as follows:

"CERTIFIED that all reserve rations and water on charge to this coy are intact and in good condition.

The number of man-day rations held is ----------"

This certificate will be signed by the 2 i/c coy.

(f) Coys will record the location of all reserve dumps and will notify this HQ of each location

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

3. (Continued)
(g) Reserve water in 2 gallon containers will be turned over at frequent intervals. Reserve water in 44 gallon drums need not be turned over but frequent tests will be made of the water.

(h) All dumps will be dug in and covered over and will be well dispersed.

(i) Special care will be taken that these rations are kept intact and special lines, such as fruit, milk, tea and sugar are not abstratted and used.

4. ADM AREA.
(a) Adm Area is located SOUTH of rd ALEXANDRIA-MATRUH and NORTH of Grid 905 between grids 454 and 459.

(b) On code word being given all tpt, which is surplus to comd, intercomn and adm will be returned to adm area. TO has been given list of all vehs to be returned.

(c) LOB personnel, also drivers and other personnel as detailed to TO will move to Adm Area on code word being given.

(d) To ensure quick movement of personnel mentioned in sub-para (c) above, the following procedure will be adopted:-
i. On re-organisation of LOB Gp, nominal rolls will be typed by this HQ and issued to Coys.
ii. A Master Roll will be kept by this HQ.
iii. When a member of LOB Gp is evacuated for any reason the coy concerned will notify this HQ, at the same time nominating a substitute of the same rank or appointment.
iv. LOB Gp must NOT fall below establishment in numbers or ranks at any time.
v. TO will act in accordance with the above sub-paras.

5. CODE WORDS. The code word, on receipt of which tpt and personnel will move to Adm Area and POL reserve will be carried on vehs, will be ---- "DUSTY".

6. MEDICAL.
(a) 2/6 AUST FD AMB remains under comd ADMS.

(b) ADS is established at 86272981.

(c) A MDS is to be established at 89022942, when the MDS at 42609085 will close.

ACK.

Capt,
Adjt 2/13 AUST INF BN
(S.R.BEACH)

DISTRIBUTION	COPY NO.
A Coy	1
B Coy	2
C Coy	3
D Coy	4
HQ Coy	5
2 i/c	6
Adjt	7
Q.M.	8
T.O.	9
R.M.O.	10
R.S.M.	11
War Diary	12-13
File	14.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

APPENDIX "A".

ISSUED WITH 2/13 AUST INF BDE ADM ORDER NO. 1.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESERVE WATER IN 2-GAL. CONTAINERS AND 44 GAL. DRUMS.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
SUB UNIT	STRENGTH	2 GAL. CONTAINERS	44 GAL. DRUMS.	GALLONS, RESERVE WATER.
BN HQ	87	98	-	196
HQ COY	272	241	3	614
A COY	122	71	3	274
B COY	138	90	3	312
C COY	121	71	3	274
D COY	119	69	3	270
TOTALS	859	640	15	1,940.

NOTE: (i) Figures in coln 2 are ration strengths as at 23 Aug 42, including normal attached personnel

(ii) Mortar Pl are shown with HQ Coy.

(iii) Intelligence Section are shown with Bn HQ.

(iv) B Ech personnel are shown included in Coy strengths.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T 24 AUG 42.

2/11 INF. BDE. HQ. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.16.

(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 24 AUG 1942)

1. GENERAL. The situation remains quiet while the enemy is gathering his striking force in the south.

MT movement on the SIDI REZEGH track yesterday was in excess of the scale of movement reported as normal by the previous unit. A large coln was observed in the morning, incl three tks, moving SOUTH.

In the air, the enemy appeared to be reconnoitring this area. A 'plane, at 0735 hrs flying straight and level in a WESTERLY direction at 16,000 feet, was probably engaged in Fh R.

During the period under review this unit has put out two daylight patrols near the coast, and three deep patrols at night. A patrol from D Coy last night engaged an enemy patrol and inflicted casualties without receiving any. A patrol successfully evaded what is thought to have been an enemy ambush.

Enemy working parties were active last night in the central and southern parts of the Bn front, but there appears to have been no work in progress fwd of his FDLs near the coast.

2. ENEMY MOVEMENT. A PW, captured night 21-22 Aug 42 in area 871295, stated that his Coy was disposed in a triangle facing the front, with two pls fwd (each with 4 LMGs) and one back in the centre (with 2 to 3 HMGs and one or two My mortars. Each pse had to supply an OP for listening post duty, but the maximum of 12 posts were not always manned. The line was staggered and the average distance from the the posts to one and two pl posns was about 50 metres. The lateral interval was given as 30 to 35 metres. Each side of the triangle formed by the three pls was about 300 to 400 metres. Crawl trenches were arranged between the pl posns as far as the nature of the grd allowed. The alarm sig was a shot fired in the air by any of the listening posts, when all MGs were to open up on fixed lines. The men in the centre 4 posts would retired, two each left and right. PW did not know if the mortars would fire on fixed lines. By day all weapons would concentrate if the attack came from one point only.

3. ENEMY MORALE. The same PW stated that the ration lorry came up at varying times; on 21 Aug 42 it came up at 2000 hrs. The food was good with much tinned meat and sausages ex TOBRUK. Two water bottles full of rather salty coffee were allowed per day but no washing water was supplied. PW had not washed for six weeks - an undeniable fact. Post took 10 days out from base. Morale was not high but had not reached dow level.

4. DAYLIGHT OBSERVATIONS

Area 8756304. Signs of digging and a line of low pickets were seen at 0724 hrs.

1400-1530 hrs 23 Aug 42 a soldier moving about at 8754 3018.

24 Aug 42. Three wired posns on bearings of 320 degrees, 313 degrees and 316 degrees (thought to be on MOUNTAIN PT 9 - 872305) were observed, and one on the flat on a bearing of 318 degrees.

Other posns noted at 318degrees (wired) and 329 degrees (no wire seen).

A line of long pickets were seen, well apart, running from palm trees (8737 3031) right across flat in front of CLOVER LEAF, thus confirming report of Sgt MORRIS' patrol of 22-23 Aug 42.

5. PATROLS.

(a) Daylight Patrols. An OP at 8756 3034, manned by Cpl. [illegible] (C Coy) from 1300 hrs to 1500 hrs 23 Aug 42 and from 0430 hrs to 0700 hrs on 24 Aug 42, observations made are summarised above in para 4.

(b) Night patrols.

1. A patrol from A Coy (Sgt CLAUSTON and 5 ORs, 1 offr Lorimer) went out from 8751 3009 on a bearing of 295 degrees for 1100 yds, where a dirt rd was crossed with a small knoll beginning 30 yds to patrol's right, ground being very stony. Here patrol stopped on hearing sounds of digging, first a clanging sound as of light spade work, approx 200 yds to the right and then sounds of

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

4. Patrols (Cont'd)
1. Patrol (Contd).

was again heard and also an explosion, which seemed like a mine. Simultaneously three gun flash from enemy arty were seen on a bearing of 280 degrees. From this point patrol moved on another 100 yds and as no wire had been encountered patrol leader moved to right on second leg bearing due North. At 873493176 diggings were encountered consisting of approx 6 weapon pits on a 40 yds frontage. Near one pit was a box containing white bread, stale and about 1 week old, and BRITISH biscuits. Patrol again moved on for a further 100 yds and as the moon was obscured by clouds patrol leader decided to move on farther than originally intended in the hope of finding enemy wire. Due to the cloudy conditions, patrol had been able to move quickly and the hour was still early. Patrol then continued till the main (Mittmon) road was met at 873539325. On the road were two derelict tracks which were inspected by patrol leader. One was of BRITISH make, the other was too damaged for identification. Patrol leader decided to take third leg and return to SF. At approx 874370165 a single row of dannert wire was met, patrol went to ground whilst patrol leader moved fwd and around the wire to a point where triple dannert ran off at right angles to the single row. Immediately beyond patrol leader saw a gap leading to the right, through which he entered. AP mines were seen planted in a heap near the entrance on his right and on the left BRITISH Mk IV mines were laid on top of the ground. On opposite side of triple dannert wire mines were seen laid on top of ground. Patrol leader moved on for approx 60 yds and suddenly noticed a figure near some diggings about 50 yds to his left. Patrol leader immediately commenced to whistle and turning round slowly retraced his steps out through the gap and back to his men. He explained to the men that they might find trouble inside the wire and that the patrol was going to investigate further. Patrol leader then led his men back inside the wire to the point from where he had seen the figure. On reaching this point Patrol Leader found that instead of one man there were now 8 or 9 enemy standing in a group. Patrol leader was the only member of the patrol who saw the group so he signalled to his men to follow him out again through the gap in the wire. Patrol Leader led his patrol through the gap and then, approx 15 yds out from the wire, for same distance and then moved further out until patrol was approx 100 yds in front of post. Patrol went to ground and the leader told his men where their front was and to prepare to fire at the group of enemy he had located. Patrol Leader then gave the order to fire and patrol opened up with two rmds and three rifles. After only firing a burst each both rmds jammed. The riflemen (one being the patrol leader) fired 10 rds each into the enemy. Squeals and yells were heard from the enemy and one man was seen to fall down on the ground. Then a voice was heard giving an order. Voice was of GERMAN accent. Immediately after command was given spandau and rifle fire opened up on patrol. Patrol leader gave order to withdraw and patrol ran towards own lines going to ground three times until eventually SF was reached. Patrol returned safely. One man had a lucky escape when mortars opened up as patrol first turned for home, one bomb landing approx 25 yds away on his left. Patrol returned to SF. Patrol reported in through No. 9 Pl at 0015 hrs.

NOTE. The fire occasioned by this patrol was heard at 2350 hrs on a bearing of 305 degrees from A Coy HQ.
At 2357 hrs spandau fire landed in No 7 Pl and Coy Hq this fire was coming from a point which was actually one of our mortar tasks and our mortars engaged this area - 36 rds being fired.

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5. (Continued)
He suffered no casualties.
PATROL. After crossing a rd 600 yds from RP (at 8746)022) voices and the sounds of a picket being driven were heard by the patrol in the same direction as the sounds of digging were heard on the previous night - estimated map ref 8743)03.

At 8744)02 patrol went to ground and the area became suspiciously quiet. Sgt MORRIS therefore investigated the patrol's left flank whilst Lieut HUSLOP took up a post to retain contact with both Sgt MORRIS and the patrol. Sgt MORRIS moved out for 70 yds and Lieut HUSLOP about 20 yds. There was a ridge to left of patrol approx parallel at this point to the patrol's course. Sgt MORRIS' post gave him observation over this ridge. Sgt MORRIS saw two enemy moving about 150 yds away on a bearing of about 250 degrees, and three minutes later a patrol moved out from the same place and came towards our patrol. Sgt MORRIS counted 15 men but thought there may have been more

The patrol was moving in single file, the leading man carrying a spandau slung on his shoulder. It crossed Sgt MORRIS' front and swung left onto a ~~dry~~ pan in low ground and walked right into our patrol. Behind patrol's main body were two men, Pte ARNOLT and the dragman. Pte ARNOLT called out "Halt". But the leader of the enemy patrol replied "Aus War Dann". Whereupon our patrol opened fire. Four or five grenades were thrown by the main body of our patrol right into the enemy patrol and our patrol fired at least four mags from two TOMMYS. At the same time Sgt MORRIS emptied 5rds of tracer right into the patrol from the rear and threw one grenade. After the first grenades were thrown, the patrol (enemy) went to ground and groans were heard. Pte ARNOLT states that when the main body opened with TOMMY fire he could see the rds striking sparks from the bayonets and rifles of the enemy. He definitely states that he saw two men on the ground groaning.

The enemy replied with a spandau, firing tracer high and also with rifle fire and threw about 10 grenades. This was directed towards where the challenge was first made. Pte ARNOLT and Pte GILBERT - the drag man - then moved to the left to where there was a truck, and then further left into the salt pan where they were joined by the NCO leader. The enemy then brought his fire onto the truck and also threw 4 grenades. This fire was falling between the party in the salt pans and the main patrol. The former party were short of ammo and being separated from the main body decided to return to our lines in order to report what had occurred and act as guides ex if necessary. This was the first party to report in from the patrol. Meantime Sgt MORRIS, who was short of ammo, moved out round the rear of the patrol to the same point in the salt pan where he was later joined by Lieut HUSLOP. Firing had now ceased.

Lieut HUSLOP and Sgt MORRIS then searched for members of the patrol but found none. Then, at a point 200 yds back in the home direction, it was decided that Lieut HUSLOP would remain while Sgt MORRIS returned to his Pl to bring out another party should this be necessary to extricate the remainder of the patrol.

Two members of the patrol remained in the area (being short of ammo) until they had seen the enemy withdraw and then, being unable to contact the patrol leader returned to our lines.

Lieut HUSLOP remained until rejoined by Sgt MORRIS and his party. The patrol then a plit and fired bursts of automatic fire from either side onto the point where the enemy patrol had been. There was no reply. The area was then searched but neither enemy or members of our own patrol were seen. This party then returned home. On the way home a spandau had opened up onto a point SOUTH of where the patrol had been. The remaining member of the patrol, whose gun had jammed at the outset, had moved to a posn which he found to be close to the enemy lines. He was in the area when the second party returned but deemed it inadvisable to move or call out. He returned to our lines after noonday

6. ~~ENCLOSURE. Nil~~ 25 Aug 42 - 0733 hrs.

Lieut,
L.O. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn
(DAVID VAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE. SECRET 24 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

(FOR 24 HRS UP TO LAST LIGHT)
24 AUG 42

i. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY.
1500-1800 hrs increased movement on SIDI RAHMAN track as already reported to 20 AUST INF BDE.
1400-1530 hrs 87473068 soldier moving about. 87543038 signs of digging and a line of low pickets.

ii. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS. N.T.R.

iii. AIR ACTIVITY. Enemy

0925 hrs 2 MEs 109F at 87653017 flying WEST at 10000 ft. Appeared to recce.
0935 hrs 1 ME 109 at 87673017 flying WEST at 16,000 ft. Plane was flying very straight as if photographing.
1420 hrs 3 EA at 87673015 flying NORTH, then circling overhead then flew off WEST.

Own.

2000 hrs. 1 HURRICANE flew WEST along main rd, then returned and after circling over FDLs at 200 ft fired friendly aircraft recognition sigs.

~~0845 hrs xxx~~

Unidentified.

0845 hrs. 4 aircraft at 87673017 at 15000 ft flying WEST.

iv. MG ACTIVITY. N I L

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T
HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
25 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

(UP TO LAST LIGHT 24 AUG 42)

i. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY. MT movement on SIDI RAHMAN track observed from 87623015:
0945-1000 hrs-18 vehs moving NORTH, 7 vehs moving SOUTH
1000-1200 " -Approx 20 per hr moving SOUTH, 5 per hr, NORTH.
1200-1400 " - " " " " " "
Movement SOUTH is in convoys,movement NORTH is individual.
1400-1600 hrs-30 to 40 vehs in convoy moved SOUTH and at approx 263 degrees turned shap left.
1700-1800 " -55 vehs moved NORTH,38 SOUTH. NORTH traffic being chiefly slow and hy.
1840-1855 " -27 vehs moved NORTH and 2 SOUTH.

ii. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS-from 87563034.
Bearing
310 degrees,313 degrees, 316 degrees. 3 wired posns on high gnd.
318 degrees - wired posn on the flat.
322 degrees - wired posn.
329 degrees - dug posn but no wire seen.
NOTE. Resection of this OP as reported in Patrol Report of yesterday Serial No. 2 is inaccurate.Further resection places it at 87563034.

iii. AIR ACTIVITY. Enemy.
0845 hrs 18 Fs overhead at 15000 ft.Flew NORTH in gps of six and then SOUTH.
0915 " 4 MEs 109 over main rd at 10000 ft flying WEST.

iv. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY. N I L.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET. 25 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.39.

(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 25 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. By DIV policy there was no ground activity in this sector last night, apart from work on our defences.

At last light MGs in s p of this unit conducted a shoot.

The enemy has been showing considerable interest in the new posns of the unit on our left which he has recced considerably from the air. He has also shelled these posns, probably in reaction to the day light patrol of 23 Aug 42 which attempted to observe Pt 23 area 873296 but was unable, owing to fire from A Tk guns and MGs.

Since this unit came into this sector MT movement on SIDI RAHMAN track has been consistently more than was previously reported as normal. Considerable movement was observed yesterday both ways. At last light MT movement was hy in the whole of the NORTH zone and tps were reported to be debussing EAST of the RAHMAN rd from 8 MT at 868299 and 868300. Shortly before first light this morning hy MT movement was heard WEST of TRIG 33. From the sound it appeared that the MX vehs approached our front and, about 45 minutes later, retired. They did not appear to move across the front.

BRIEHL Gp, KIEHL Gp and 90 LT DIV, which with the ARMD DIVs constitute the enemy's striking force, are still however reported to be in the SOUTH, where the main threat seems to lie. The fact that all these forces have been relieved from their positional role, that 90 LT DIV - which is usually a pointer to enemy intentions - appears now to be concentrated, that considerable changes in GERMAN arty positions have been reported, that there has been a general increase in MT movement in the fwd area, a nd - most significant of all - that every effort is being made to deny us observation of his changing posns, indicates that preparations are in hand for something other than normal operations.

The following is from GHQ MEF WEEKLY INT SUMMARY of 20 Aug 42:-

"The GERMANS have solved to great extent the problems of tps and eqpt which worried them last month. The whole of the 164 DIV and from the evidence of a parachute prisoner captured in the Central Sector, about a regt of parachutists are now available to take over the front line from the mob formations of the AFRICA CORPS. The ITALIANS have been rested and have to some extent regained their equilibrium. Their posns, too, have been materially improved by the rapid bringing over of the ITALIAN parachute div and probably the PISTOIA DIV. Tk strength continues to increase. The GERMANS have now about 200 runners and the ITALIANS, according to the prisoners recently taken from LITTORIO DIV, rather over 150 plus 20 Lts. There are some indications that there may be a further increase, partly ITALIAN, in the next week or two. The problem of weapons, t oo, has been to a great extent solved, and prisoners from 164 DIV state that coys are now being MXMX issued, as were the PANSER GRENADIER REGTS, with 5 cm A Tk guns.

As regards maintenance and reinfs, all recce at sea and over enemy MX ports since the first week in Aug shows a definite acceleration in the enemy's programme. This programme has, however, been seriously interrupted by the ROYAL NAVY and the RAF, who report that during the last 3 days two out of three large freighters observed at sea on their wat to AFRICA have been sunk and set on fire respectively. The third was damaged but is likely to have reached port. In the past, whenever attacks on enemy shipping on the EASTERN and WESTERN routes have been really successful the enemy has always postponed sailings for several days. It is likely therefore, that these sinkings, as well as depriving the enemy of the cargo of at least two large ships, may set back his whole programme for anything from three days up to a week.

As regards supplies, we calculate from various sources that little shortage probably exists at TOBRUK and EASTWARDS of most essentials. An exception to this may be aircraft fuel, which appears short; but doubtless efforts are being made to bring over further supplies urgently.

There can be no doubt that the enemy is making strenuous efforts to resume the offensive at the earliest poss-ible moment. The situation, in more ways than one, bears a close resemblance to that in mid-May this year. During his campaign in AFRICA, the enemy has run very consistently to pattern. One might therefore reasonably expect that in making his pla n for the next offensive he will endeavour to utilise the full moon period

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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and he will not neglect to explore all possibilities of gaining success through an outflanking movement . He has already knocked his head hard enough against our posns in the NORTH to realise something of their strength: he will therefore be tempted to s ee if the SOUTHERN sector with its better going will not offer him the opportunity he seeks. In this connection, there have been signs during the last day or two that the GERMANS have been interested in the NORTH EASTERN part of the QATTARA Depression. They are reported to have been to the Salt Lake at MAGHRA and to be improving comns about ABU DWEIS. Also, 9 LT DIV, always in the past a strong pointer to the direction of the main thrust appears now to be concentrated in area QARET EL YIDMA, and on SOUTH of the 27 Northing grid.

If they remain true to form; one might expect the two GERMAN armd ~~divs~~ DIVs to remain approx where they are and to effect a last minute concentration, probably by nigh t, then moving to the SOUTH and EAST to carry out the main break through. There is no lack of ITALIAN inf, which could be stiffened by 164 DIV and GERMAN parachutists, to hold the NORTHERN and COASTAL sectors of the front. The ITALIAN mob Corps, whose familiar task would be to follow through, is already in the SOUTH, as it was at GAZALA last May. An indication that GERMAN parachute tps might participate in an air borne role is the fact that not all of them are believed to be in the line."

2. ENEMY SUPPLIES. The main tendency of enemy dumping and supply activity since the beginning of Aug is the marked increase in the use of the ry. Photo R shows increasing numbers of trucks in use at HAGGAG, FUKA and GALAL and GAZAL. Photo R of 12 Aug reports a sma ll dump of POL or amn at 86222634, and stores dispersed along the edge of the depression at 86652647. WEST of MATRUH there has been little change or activi ty at the various dumps previously reported.

Photo R of 27 Jul shows a sus pected tk wkshop at 810320, with 4 suspected tks and 11 MT.

(Source GHQ MEF I Summary No 808)

3. ENEMY METHODS. A patrol on night 23/24 Aug from the unit on our left moved to enemy wire at approx 87152997 which they crossed. About 10 yds inside they found an ITALIAN cotton reel booby trap, one cord att to wire and one to each side at 90 deg. angles - laterals anchored to bushes - cords about 10 yds long and about 5 yds between the anchors of the cords. The booby trap was wired to a short iron picket. A care-search inside the wire within a radius of 50 yds was made and several other booby traps of the same type were found.

(From 2/17 Aust Inf Bn ~~Summary~~ Patrol Report 24 Aug)

4. A list of ITALIAN Army Conventional Signs appearing as Appx "A" to 9 AUST DIV Intelligence Summa ry No.275 is taken from a captured enemy manual sent in by B Coy of this Bn.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET
HQ., 2/13 AUST INF BN.
26 AUG 42.

20 AUST INF BDE.

2/13 AUST INF BNI INTELLIGENCE REPORT
(up to last light on 25 Aug 42)

1. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY.
Visibility was very restricted between 1100 hrs and 1530 hrs.
MT move ment was normal on the skyline track until 1415 hrs.
1420/1430 hrs. - On a bearing of 258 degrees from 87623014 a convoy of 17 vehs was observed heading NORTH, whilst on 260-270 degrees a bombing attack was seen to be delivered, causing dense smoke and dust haze.
1500-1530 hrs. - On 278 degrees from 87623014 a convoy of 47 vehs approaching from BIR SULTAN OMAR dir ectio turned left and disappeared behind ridge of Trig 33.
1545-1620 hrs. - On 278 degrees 62 vehs moving NORTH.
1610 hrs. - One man observed on bearing 318 degrees from Pt 17 at 1500 yds.
1815 hrs. - From Pt 17. Four trucks moved singly from telephone line on 285 degrees due NORTH into de ad ground.

2. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS.
From low ground dannert wire can be observed in front of enemy posn at 87543038.

3. AIR ACT IVITY.
0735 hrs. 4 Hurricanes overhead at 5000ft, flying SOUTH.-WEST
1000 hrs. 2 MEs109 5000 yds NORTH at 200 ft flying WEST.
1315 hrs. 2 MEs109 2000 yds NORTH at 200 ft flying WEST.

4. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY.
Spandau MG sniping a t area 87613021 on bearing 336 degrees from 87613021 at estimated range of 1000 yds.

5. OWN ACTIVITY. - (up to last light)
0600 hrs. - MMGs carried out harrassing shoot in square 875303.
1300 hrs. - 3" Mortar r anged on derelict truck in salt pan.
1615 hrs. - 3" Mortars (2) fired on strongpoint 87543038.
8 rds in ta rget area, 5 of which were considered direct hits.

Lieut.
IO., 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(DWB MAUGHAN)

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Two copies received
One to Lieut BEVAN

21/76

FILE

SECRET

26 Aug 42.

REFERENCE 2/15 BN OPERATION ORDER No. 10.

The following decisions are promulgated as a result of the final conference referrod to in Para 49.

1. A/Tk Guns

After tks leave S.L., A Tk Tps with attacking force will move out to vicinity SANDY KNOLL and take up covering posn. Two guns will r emain peramently in this posn when the remainder are ordered fwd to FIRM BASE.
Sigs 15 Bn will run a line from VEHICLE PARK at PIMPLE to vicinity SANDY KNOLL and connect it to A/Tk phone prior to ZERO. The extension of this line alongf the axis of advance is identical with the line mentioned in Para 42.

2. Direction of Attack

Amend Paras 18(c) and 19 (f) to read 260 degrees instead of 264 degrees.

3. Tanks

After capture of objective, tks will rally in vicinity SANDY KNOLL. Tps in C Coy 2/17 Bn area should be advised.
Codeword from Tk Comd to C.O. 2/15 Bn asking permission to rally will be "BEACON".

4. Arty

(a) Additional Arty concentrations are to fall on area 87162983 to 87102987 during the whole period of Phase I except from Zero plus 20 to Zero plus 34, during which period this area will be subjected to fire from 81 mm mortars mentioned in Para 13.
(b) To indicate that arty concentration on a particular area is about to cease one smoke shell will be fired just prior to last round.
(c) During Phase III a box smoke screen will be laid down.
Codeword calling for smoke screen will be "TOBACCO".

5. Engrs

(a) Making gaps in minefields

Each fwd Coy will be preceded by two sappers and one TSM gunner, the latter supplied by the Coys. Duties are to locate minefields. Approx 20 yds behind, moving with the leading Inf, will be four sappers and two inf carrying numbers, the latter carrying tapes and markers. On arrival at minefield, the two leading sappers assisted by one additional sapper and one of the carrying numbers will immediately proceed to break the minefield. The TSMG will be joined by the remaining three sappers and one carrying number who will continue to advance ahead of the inf for breaking the next minefield.
Any further minefields met will be broken by sappers from the reserve moving with BN HQ.

/5(b)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

(b) Action after making Gaps

One sapper and one carrying number remain at gap. two sappers return along axis to BN HQ to report gap made. If the sappers pass a pack wireless set they should also report gap completed in order that BN HQ maybe notified by wireless.

(c) The third gap in the minefield will be made on the axis of advance by sapper personnel moving with BN HQ

(d) Both fwd Coys will have Bangalore torpedo party of 2 sappers and 4 inf carrying numbers, with 3 Bangalore torpedoes.

(e) B Coy will have Bangalore party of 4 Sappers carrying two Bangalore torpedoes.

(f) All sappers will report to HQ 2/15 Bn at present location on the night prior to the attack.

(g) One Sapper truck with Engr stores will be held as Reserve in VEHICLE PARK.

6. EXPLOITATION DET

(a) Codeword indicating that EXPL DET may pass trhough FIRM BASE on exploiting role is "JOHNNIE WALKER".

(b) Codeword indicating that Exploiting Det is returning to FIRM BASE is "MELBOURNE BITTER".

(c) Recognition signal, fired by Exploiting Det's leading carriers "RED" verey light. Response by fwd tps "GREEN" verey light.

(d) On receipt of code "MELBOURNE BITTERS" two 2/15 Bn carriers will hold themselves in readiness to emerge from FIRM BASE to meet EXPL DET and guide into BASE through HAWKINS minefield.

(e) Motor amb to accompany EXPL DET mentioned in Para 29 is now CANCELLED.

7. INF

(a) Vehs

Each Rifle Coy - 1/30 cwt store truck
1/15 cwt van.

Each to be loaded with proportion of the following stores:-

Picks, Shovels, Wire, Hawkins mines, Sandbags, Res SAA, Grenades ST, 73, 69 and 36. Lucas lamp, one coil sig wire, stretchers,

On adding fwd Coy trucks, the 30 cwts only will be sent, the 15 cwt remaining at VEHICLE PARK as a reserve.

(b) S.A.A. Res - 3/3 ton four wheel drive.
(c) Sigs - 1/30 cwt
(d) Mortars - 3 SPA's and 3/15 cwts
(e) Conveyance of Casualties etc - 2/15 cwt
(f) A/Tk - 1/15 cwt
(g) I.O. - 1/30 cwt
(h) Spares for replacement, prisoners etc - 2/30 cwt
(j) Pl with EXPL DET - 3/3 ton Four wheel drive and 1 SPA.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

All vehicles will remain at VEHICLE PARK until ordered fwd by signal. Two filled tins water to be maintained on all vehs.

8. MOVEMENT OF INF TO S.L.

Will be by Pl Tp Carrying Tpt from 101 Tpt Coy which will be met by Coy guides at rd junc 88003007. Vehs are being ordered by 20 Aust Inf Bde as soon as the codeword "BULIMBA" is issued. Time of reporting will be advised by 2/15 Bn. It is expected that it will be before 0200 hrs.

9. L.O.B's

Will remain present location and act as guards on stores and personal equipment. Coys will ensure that these stores are stacked under cover in the posts in as concentrated a manner as possible, bearing in mind that the posts are to be occupied by relieving tps.

10. COVERING PARTIES

2/17 Bn is providing one pl to cover the assembly at S.L. Times will be communicated to BN HQ 2/17 Bn.

Distance from SANDY KNOLL, approx 500 yds. WEST

11. WARNING OF RAID

Para 11 is now amended to read as follows:-

"WARNING (a) Warning for raid will now be received not later than 2115 hrs on the night before the attack.

(b) An L.O. from each of the units under comd will call at HQ 2/15 Bn at 2115 hrs 26 Aug and each night following".

12. AIR SP

(a) Recognition signals for air sp as mentioned in Para 48 should now be amended to read as follows:-

"Aircraft calling for posns on the ground will:-

fire a white cartridge followed by a greentwo star cartridge for HQ;

fire a white cartridge for fwd tps.

These sigs will be repeated until answered from the ground.

HQ will answer aircraft by:-

firing a white cartridge, or

burning a smoke generator and pubbing out a ground indicator.

Fwd tps will answer aircraft by:-

firing a white cartridge, or burning a smoke generator, and, displaying a 'T' ground sign with the cross piece nearest the enemy and parallel to the front.

HQ and fwd tps will repeat light sigs every minute for three minutes".

(G.)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

(b) It is expected that two Tac R aircraft will be flying over area on day of raid.

(c) A fighter aircraft screen will be flying over FIRM BASE area from 0300 hrs on day of raid.

ACK

Time of Signature 1330 hrs.

(M.HARLAND) Capt.
Adjt. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

As per Operation Order No. 10 and

Pl 101 Tpt Coy.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

War Diary

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY AMRO 1387.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2/13 AUST INF BN
ROUTINE ORDERS
BY

Lt-Col R.N TURNER, Commanding
Part I No 440

IN THE FIELD
26 Aug 42.

1. KITS OF PERSONNEL EVACUATED BEYOND MDS.
(a) All ranks will be warned that if they find themselves without kit in any non-Australian medical installation in which they are certain of remaining for not less than seven days they should write to AIF KIT STORE, Rue EL ABADI, ALEXANDRIA and request that kit be forwarded to them.
(b) All ranks will similarly be warned that if their kits have not reached them before they arrive at AUST STAGING CAMP, SIDI BISHR for return to unit they should arrange to have enquiries made at KIT STORE, ALEXANDRIA.
(c) Arrangements are being made for Australian medical installations and personnel depots to notify AIF KIT STORE, ALEXANDRIA of kits required by personnel in their charge.

2. CAMOUFLAGE NETS.
Div RO 487 is rptd.
RAA 9 AUST DIV endeavour to deceive the enemy by leaving camouflage nets covering temporarily vacated gun pits. Nets covering empty gun pits are NOT salvage and will not be removed therefrom, in any circumstances without prior reference to HQ, RAA, 9 AUST DIV.

3. PRIVATE TELEGRAMS WITHIN ME - RESTRICTIONS.
Private telegrams from persons within ME to Service personnel using the MEF address would have to have a town or country address in addition to the designation of unit to ensure delivery and as this would prejudice security, the despatch of such telegrams is forbidden.

4. USE OF VEHICLES - ALEXANDRIA.
(a) Parking. Further cases of vehicles being stolen in ALEXANDRIA necessitate drawing attention to the following parking arrangements:
(i) Vehs will NOT be left in ALEXANDRIA streets overnight.
(ii) Under no circumstances will vehs be left unattended in ALEXANDRIA other than in authorised Military Car Parks.
(b) Speeding. Attention of all drivers will be directed to speed limits laid down in "Road Traffic Regulations AIF(ME) Appxs 'A' & 'B'" These speed limits will at all times be strictly observed.

5. COMFORTS.
Receipt is acknowledged from ACF on 20/8/42 of the following comforts which have been distributed:

802 pkts tobacco
802 / razor blades
100 tooth brushes
2000 envelopes
802 pkts cigarette papers
802 pcs soap
100 writing pads
also quantity of reading matter, magazines etc.

6. ANIMALS - PROHIBITION OF ENTRY INTO AUSTRALIA.
AIF(ME) Order No 1219 is rptd.
(1) Attempts have been made by troops to smuggle dogs and other pets into AUSTRALIA which at present is free from rabies but once introduced it would be impossible to eradicate.
(2) Personnel will not take pets with them when returning to AUSTRALIA nor will they attempt to smuggle them into AUSTRALIA. Disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

.....Capt
for Adjt 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WD -

2nd copy

FOR [illegible] USE ONLY AMRO 1587.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2/13 AUST INF BN
ROUTINE ORDERS
BY

Lt-Col R.N TURNER, Commanding — IN THE FIELD
Part I — No 440 — 26 Aug 42.

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[signature]
.....Capt
for Adjt 2/13 AUST INF BN

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SECRET
Hq., 2/13 AUST INF BN.
27 AUG 42.

HQ., 20 AUST INF BDE.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT.
(up to last light 26 Aug 42)

(i) OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY.
Owing to haze visibility was very poor throughout the day, whic
may account to some extent for the diminished amount of MT
reported on the skyline track. Movement reported was
generally less than normal. Between 1000 hrs and 1300 hrs a pp
10 vehs per hr travelling SOUTH and 5 per hr NORTH. From 1300
hrs to 1400 hrs, 16 per hr SOUTH and 8 per hr NORTH.
From 1400 hrs to 1600 hrs only 2 vehs were seen moving SOUTH
a nd 1 NORTH, though others mus t have passed, being obscured
by haze.

(ii) OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS.
87093008 - 6 men moving round what appears to be defended
locality (0645 hrs).

(iii) AIR ACTIVITY.
ENEMY
Aug 26- 1415 hrs - 2 MSs109 at 87603010 at 1200 ft flying WEST-
bombed NORTH of Pt 26.

Night25/
26 Aug - 1 HA over BnHq at 150 ft. Plane flew low
over this area with motor cut out.
Unidentified- 0700 hrs - 2 planes overhead at H
10000 ft flying WEST possibly on rec

(iv) ENEMY MG ACTIVITY.
NIL

(v) ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.
1000-1400 hrs. One mortar fired 30 rds from rear of Trig 33
ranging in a rean of dead ground. No observed enemy reaction.

Lieut.
IO., 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(JNR HAUGHAM)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S E C R E T 28 AUG 42

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT.
(UP TO LAST LIGHT 27 AUG 42)

1. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Skyline Track. Normal MT activity as follows:-

	Vehs moving NORTH	Vehs moveing SOUTH
0700-0800 hrs	13	13
0800-0900 hrs	25	7
0900-1300 hrs	Normal movement.	
1300-1400 hrs	20	6

NOTE: at 6000 yds on 275 degrees from 87633014 a man could be observed between 0700 hrs and 0800 hrs controlling traffic.

ii. OBSERVED ENEMY DISPOSNS. N I L

iii. AIR ACTIVITY.

(a) Enemey N.T.R.

(b) Own.
1410 hrs 12 HURRICANES 3000 yds to sea at 10000 ft flying SW; appeared to bomb enemy lines.
1515 hrs 2 HURRICANES overhead at 500 ft flying EAST.

iv. ENEMY MG FIRE.
N I L except that reported in patrol report Serial 1.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET. 27 AUG 42

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.40.
(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 27 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. Tac R yesterday was impeded by bad visibility and low-cloud but intense AA was put up from area 859262 to 859256. On 25 Aug Tac R reported little change in the main concentrations and no movement thoughout the SOUTHERN area, but two tanks were reported in the area 865246. There may be more tanks in this area.

Yesterday enemy shelling showed a marked increase, both on this Brigade front and the front of the formation on our left. In the Bn area 55 shells fell causing no damage but one fatal casualty. None of this shelling was on the coast. Some of this shelling may well have been registration of new guns under the guise of harassing fire.

Enemy air activity in this area was on a diminished scale.

On night 25/26 Aug out arty was active and hy harassing fire was laid down. This unit's 3" mortars fired approx 20 rds into enemy posns at the same time, and our sp MGs harassed the enemy posns at 87543038; provoking a spandau to reply. Our mortars fired again at 1530 hrs engaging with 16 rds an area 1700 yds in front of Pt. 17. On the same night a successful raid to the SOUTH of ROMMEL'S RIDGE produced by casualties on the enemy and 32 prisoners. The enemy was taken completely by surprise and our casualties were light. Prisoners were from 7 111 Bn, 39 INF REGT (BOLOGNA DIV). A prisoner from this REGT recently stated that there were many in his REGT who would surrender if they could do so without being shot.

Last night patrols went out on each fwd coy front. Enemy working parties were heard and observed near the ry line and in the area 874302. A patrol which searched the sandhills near the sea shore WEST of the rd junc at 87543035 found signs of recent occupation but no enemy.

2. ENEMY STRENGTH.

(a) The enemy strength from excl ry to approx 294 NORTHING grid is believed to be 4 Bns; disposed as follows:-

Excl ry to approx 300 NORTHING grid - 11/125 IR
Approx 300 NORTHING grid to approx 298 NORTHING - 1/125 IR or 1/62 IR TRENTO.
Approx 298 NORTHING to approx 2955 NORTHING - 111/382 IR.
Approx 2955 NORTHING to approx 294 NORTHING - 111/62 IR TRENTO.

(b) WEST PT 23 Area is probably held by 10 and 11 COYS, 382 IR.

RESERVES.(a) The GERMAN has, in the past been very quick in mounting a counter attack. The strength and location of the reserve available for this purpose is not known but it seems likely that 1/125 IR may be in area TRIG 29, where defensive digging is reported. A reserve for counter attack would normally be kept within the Bn, but according to PW from 111/382 IR all three coys are fwd.

(b) It seems unlikely that many tks would be available for a counter attack, though part of the KIEL GP, which had 10 tks, may be still in the area. Five tks dug in have been reported by Tac R, vicinity WEST PT 23.

3. ENEMY METHODS.

(a) Normal layout. In almost all cases the GERMANS stick to the "TRIANGULAR" layout. There are listening posts about 35 yds apart just behind the minefield, and the fwd pls are about 50 yds in rear. The three pls normally form a triangle of which each side is three to four hundred yds long with the hy pl in rear.

(b) Tactics. Tps have been told, if attacked by tks, to lie low and let the tks go and engage the following inf. This points to A Tk defence in depth. In sectors to the NORTH and SOUTH of WEST PT 23 Area, interior minefield have been found and they may possibly exist here.

(c) Minefields. There is, in the WESTERN PT 23 Area, a frontal minefield with single dannert on our side. In some parts of the front the monefield is behind a second row of single dannert, and in other parts the mines are distributed on both sides of the rear dannert. The existence of interior minefields behind the main frontal field is possible.

4. ENEMY MORALE. PW state that morale is not high, but has not yet reached a low level. WEST PT 23 area has been a frequent target for arty harassing fire.

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4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.
(a) Army. Air and GS reports place general enemy arty disposns as at 22 Aug 42 as under:-
Between DEIR EL SHEIN depression and QATTARA Track
34 Fd and 12 Med Guns.
Between MONTHUNGS 285 and 293 - 55 Fd, 12 Med and 12 or 16 DP Guns.
Between MONTHUNG 295 and the coast about 60 Fd, 22 Med and 9 DP Guns.
My Guns are fairly even distributed between 290 MONTHUNG and the coast and some 21 Guns have been definitely located.
These guns incl the 30 increase reported in yesterday's Bde Summary.

The total shows a slight increase on the number of guns normally held by the GERMAN and ITALIAN formations believed to be holding this area (125 RR, 382 RR, 433 RR and TRENTO). This could be accounted for by an allotment of army arty or the use of captured eqpt as 25 prs are known to be in use against us.
(b) Movements Containing A Tk Guns.
0715019
0703015
0704006
0720019
0704002
} From air photographs.

6. ENEMY SHIPPING. The amount of shipping in TOBRUK harbour has decreased during the period under review. Whereas on Aug 11 there were 8 MVs with an approx tonnage 15,500 tons, on Aug 18 there were 5 with a tonnage of approx 7,500 tons. Such a decrease may be due either to the enemy's effort to relieve the former congestion in the harbour or to his customary hesitation after the sinking of ships, two of which have recently been sunk in the EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. He is still sending "F" boats along the coast to BARDIA. Now that he is using the ry from BENGHAZI he may send fewer supplies along the more hazardous sea route to BARDIA.
Since Aug 11 new dumps have been reported at TOBRUK and BARDIA and also on the SOUTHERN sector of the front. This increase is significant in view of the previous concentration of all fwd dumps in the NORTHERN sector.
Although the enemy appears to be still in process of laying the foundations of a supply system in which road, rail and sea are each to be used to the best advantage, it would be unwise to assume that he is not ready to attack now.
(SOURCE 30 CORPS I SUMMARY NO 163)

7. ENEMY INTENTIONS. Almost all the evidence now points to an enemy attack during the next two or three days with the main thrust in the SOUTH.
As for the place and direction of attack, 90 LT DIV, 20 CORPS, 3 and 33 RECCE UNITS are all in the SOUTH and neither the GERMANS nor the ITALIANS NORTH of RUWEISAT RIDGE have enough MT to make themselves mobile. The enemy probably calculates that his true superiority is in his armour; his main thrust therefore is likely to be made clear of our fixed defences with A Tk screen to the NORTH to discourage mobile columns attempting to move SOUTH. To do this he must start SOUTH of QARET EL ABD. The possibility of an attack along the RUWEISAT RIDGE or just NORTH of it by one ARMD DIV cannot be ruled out; this would presumably be combined with an attack directed via DEIR EL HIMA from SOUTH of QARET EL ABD. Such a plan would lead the enemy after his first phase into restricted country and failure of the NORTHERN arm of the pincer would prejudice the whole offensive. Since the breaking of the ALAMEIN posn will represent only the first enemy objective, he may consider it important to concentrate his whole mobile force SOUTH of QARET EL ABD in order that whatever opposition he meets he will always have enough left to outflank it. Indications increase that part of the enemy's force is to move via WADI ABU DWEIS; our minds have been removed and the PASS has been widened and more clearly marked. There is no reason why this force should not incl

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7. (Continued)
armour, but tactical considerations apart, the 'going' is believed to rule out this route as the scene of the main thrust.

The principal forces available for the main attack appears to be D.A.K. with just over 200 tks and 90 LT DIV and ITALIAN 20 CORPS, with a similar number of Medium Tks, probably organised in four Bns. There remains the possibility that a Bn of GERMAN tks may be left in the NORTH at any rate during the first few days of the offensive just as a Bn was left WEST of our posns at GAZALA at the end of May this year. 1ac R yesterday reported 50 tks dug in at 872296. The aircraft was flying 300-400 ft at the time and it has not been possible to repeat this feat today. In view of the comparitively small total of GERMAN tks available the enemy will probably do all he can to avoid leaving 50 tks in the NORTHERN sector.(SOURCE 30 CORPS I SUMMARY No. 162)

8. GUN GROUND ACTIVITY. Between 2300 hrs and 0300 hrs night 25/26 Aug 42 100 rds were fired on targets in this unit's sector by ep arty.

9. PATROLS.
1. A patrol from A Coy (Lieut FS EISSAMEN and 5 ORs and 1 offr and 1 NCO learner) went out for 1700 yds on a bearing of 204 degrees. At 87423012 distinct bird whistle was heard. Patrol went to ground here and waited for a few minutes for further noises. Again patrol moved. At 87413012 patrol halted, whilst two members moved out 200 yds to right where a ridge could be seen. These men topped the ridge and observed beyond for movement but could see nothing. Both heard sounds of steady digging, probably some 400 yds away. On rejoining patrol a spade was heard to right rear of patrol, which sounded as if it was being hit against a stone. This sound ceased after approx a minute and was not heard again. It was difficult to judge the distance tothe sound. Again patrol moved and at 87403012 a telephone cable was found which ran through a slit trench approx 5 ft wide and continued on, this line ran NORTH to SOUTH. At 87393012 patrol encountered a well used road (white sand) running NORTH and SOUTH. At this point the ridge on patrol's right had fallen away to level ground and the ridge beyond the former ridge could now be seen approx 400 yds away. At 87393013, three slit trenches 5 ft wide were seen and these appeared to be newly dug. At 87373013 patrol stopped and went to ground on bearing sounds of movement ahead. After a few minutes wait a sound similar to a dog whining was heard to the immediate front by all members of the patrol. This was heard for only half a minute, it sounded to patrol leader as if not made by a dog but by some person imitating a dog. After a few minutes wait sounds of continuous digging were heard on right of patrol, these at least 400 yds away. After approx 20 minutes patrol moved on new bearing of 90 degrees on fresh leg. At 87393015 a telephone cable, already cut, was found. After going for 500 yds (87403016) patrol turned right on fresh bearing of 120 degrees. At 87413016 fresh enemy diggings were seen, being a series of slit trenches, approx 10 in all and covering a 50 yd frontage. These did not appear to be in use but were freshly dug and all spoil had been removed and ground perfectly levelled all around each digging. At 150 yds patrol passed through a peculiar shaped feature, elongated twin pimples and in centre a slit trench was found, apparently a listening post. At about 470 yds, eqpt (AUSTRALIAN) was seen and packs with contents spilt in all directions. These articles were not touched as it was though they may be booby traps. After going on for approx 1000 yds patrol came to RP.

11. A Patrol from D Coy (Lieut RW HUGHLOP and 6 ORs - one offr learner) patrolled on a bearing of 329 degrees.
REPORT. At 87453025 the patrol laid up to make observations and two enemy were seen to move in a WESTERLY direction on the left flank of the patrol. These 2 men joined a working party of approx 10 men on a bearing of 260 degrees and approx distance of 400 yds (approx 87413020). A further party of approx 10 were observed

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9.(continued)
ii. REPORT (Contd)
on a bearing of 345 degrees at a distance of approx 400 yds, (8742302?). There were occasional sounds of pickets being driven and of picking, otherwise the parties were very quiet for their size although there was considerable activity.

From this point also could be heard several pickets being driven in the direction of the PALMS and also from the general direction of CLOVER LEAF feature.

The patrol then moved on to 87443030 and laid up again. Here it was seen that the working parties previously mentioned and who had been visible since the 1200 yd Pt had disappeared, and there was complete silence from this area. One man was seen to move from the working party area and go in the direction of the PALM TREES. The ground where the working parties had been was not hidden by any ground formation.

Here the bearing of the patrol was changed to 310 degrees. At 87423031 the patrol laid up. Visibility was good. In the direction of the PALM TREES and in the area immediately NORTH of PALMS NMS or N. But working parties were clearly heard, sounds of hammering of pickets, voices and laughter in the direction of CLOVER LEAF feature. The PALMS could be seen SW of patrol and CLOVER LEAF to the right of the patrol. The patrol could see into the area immediately in front of the patrol which seemed to be devoid of sound or movement. The whole area was now suspiciously quiet. The patrol's time had almost expired so the patrol returned. On return NMS or N.

iii. Lieut SCF NORTH and 1 OR (from C Coy) and 1 NCO Learner examined the area on the coast from which No 4 Pl area was sniped yesterday and which has been the centre of attention of our MGs, Mortars and Arty. They found signs of recent occupation but no enemy.

REPORT. From SP to 87533034 patrol moved 100 yds off the road on the SOUTH side - NMS or N.
From 87533034 to 87503037, old diggings - NMS or N.
From 87503037 to rd at 87510303?5 - NMS or N. Here patrol crossed the rd and the patrol leader crawled over the sandhills to the beach. Width of sandhills about 80 yds. Patrol leader returned to patrol.

The patrol then moved parallel to the rd and about 20 yds SOUTH of it for about 600 yds through the sandhills, until the rd junc at 87543035 was reached. The patrol crawled through the entire distance and at 5 different places crossed to the beach. As the patrol progressed the sandhills became flatter and the distance between rd and beach narrowed to about 50 yds at a point close to the rd junc where it broadened out aga in.

Throughout the whole length of the sandhills, diggings both old and new were found and the area was littered with equt of every kind, both GERMAN and BRITISH. There was no single isolated strongposts but the system appeared to be a line of pits along the whole length of the sandy ridge, continuous for 500yds, and sited to command the salt pans. They are sited in places in tiers at different heights along the ridge. The pits were of slit trench type built so that they could be fired from. Some were camouflaged with bushes, some with sandbags, some had head cover and some were recessed. In some the soil wa s freshly trodden as if recently occupied and alongside, untarnished cartridges. Fresh truck tyre marks were seen on the road which appeared of recent origin. Empty 20 mm BREDA cartridge cases were also observed and there were shell holes among the posns. Sig wires we re running everywhere, mainly parallel to the road. No wire or pickets were found. A few diggings were found which covered the beach.

Numerous unburied GERMAN (but no BRITISH) dead were seen. Eqpt did not appear to be of great salvage value.

The patrol leader reports that the posn is excellently sited for use as an ambush by either side. No sign or sound of enemy throughout the whole patrol.

This report seems to indicate that the previously occupied posn has now been abandoned by reason of our heavy MG,

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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9. (Continued)

111. Report (Contd)

Mortar and Arty fire.

10. Mortars. 27 AUG 42 - 2015 hrs.

NOTE. Sound of flash bearings, when reported should be accompanied by the observation "far" or "near", as ray often pass through two known batteries.

All unidentified "dud" shells or fragments of shells bearing markings or driving bands should be reported and sent back for fwding to CB office. Valuable information as to the calibre of hostile batteries can often be obtained from this information.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN
(D.W.E. HAUGHTON)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET. 28 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 41

(FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 0600 HRS 28 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. The situation on this front remains unchanged. Yesterday the enemy shelled our FDLs, about 40 shells falling on A and D Coys causing two slight casualties. In reply our medium arty bombarded his gun posns.

Last night working parties were heard by our patrols at a distance, but upon one of our patrols engaging some enemy in the SOUTH of our area, all work appears to have been discontinued. The last mentioned patrol inflicted at least one casualty on the enemy inside one of his own posts, and after the patrol had withdrawn (without injury to its members) our mortars fired 46 rds onto the post.

No enemy planes were reported over the area yesterday.

Tac R yesterday reported that there was no large scale movement on the whole front but that in the SOUTHERN area there was a large increase of MT and many new tracks WEST of the metalled rd.

towards The CAV reports that the enemy is becoming more aggressive CAV patrols and more intent on denying them observation.

On 25 Aug 42 five unidentified submarines were sighted moving EAST a quarter to half mile off shore.
(SOURCE 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO.278)

At 1725 hrs 25 Aug 42 and on morning 26 Aug 42 the enemy laid down a smoke screen on the WESTERN edge of DEIR EL SHEIN depression.
(SOURCE 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO.278)

2. ENEMY METHODS. The anti-personnel mines already reported as having been found at 87152997 were of ITALIAN B.4 type. One cord was attached to dannert with additional cords, one to each side, about 10 yds long anchored to bushes.

All anti-personnel mines so far reported have been of ITALIAN manufacture.
(SOURCE 9 AUST DIV I SUMMARY NO278)

3. ENEMY INTENTIONS.(From 30 CORPS I SUMMARY NO.164). The possibility cannot be excluded that part or even the whole of 90 LT DIV, whose concentration area is believed to be just WEST of the QATTARA track about 5 miles NORTH of NAQB ABU DUEISS will be sent across the depression. This would be a difficult and risky move but the enemy may calculate that if it was successful he would cut across the L of C of our forces in the SOUTH, Threaten the rear of the army as a whole by a move NE, and, most important to him at present, force our aircraft off the LGs which they are now using.

4. PATROLS. ~~There will be NO deep patrols in this sector tonight~~
1. A patrol from A Coy, Sgt MN.McVICAR (Patrol Leader) last night patrolled behind the enemy FDLs at a depth of 1900 yds between the main rd and the ry line. On its way home the patrol came across an enemy wired post and on investigation found it to be occupied. The patrol opened fire on the enemy and sqeals and yells were heard. Although the enemy replied with spandau and mortar fire our patrol returned unscathed.

REPORT. Patrol moved out from SP on a bearing of 292 degrees. At 87437301 25 a cable was found running SOUTH to NORTH. Whilst examining the wire a bird call was heard from the direction of ry line. Patrol moved on and at 87377301 48 one full case of amn was found intact. Patrol leader opened case a nd found it contained GERMAN mortar bombs. One bomb was taken out and kept by patrol leader. Voices and the sound of digging were heard at this point on a bearing of 280 degrees and approx 200-300 yds away from patrol. Patrol continued on to 87358301 54 when digging

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4. PATROLS (Contd)
i. REPORT (Contd).
was again heard and also an explosion, which sounded like a mine. Simultaneously three gun flash from enemy arty were seen on a bearing of 280 degrees. From this point patrol moved on another 100 yds and as no wire had been encountered patrol leader moved to right on second leg bearing due NORTH. At 8734930176 diggings were encountered consisting of approx 6 weapon pits on a 40 yds frontage. Near one pit was a box containing white bread, stale and about 1 week old, and BRITISH biscuits. Patrol again moved on for a further 100 yds and as the moon was obscured by clouds patrol leader decided to move on further than originally intended in the hope of finding enemy wire. Due to the cloudy conditions, patrol had been able to move quickly and the hour was still early. Patrol then continued till the main (Bitumen) road was met at 87353025. On the road were two derelict trucks which were inspected by patrol leader. One was of BRITISH make, the other was too damaged for identification. Patrol leader decided to take third leg and return to SP. At approx 8743730165 a single row of dannert wire was met, patrol went to ground whilst patrol leader moved fwd and around the wire to a point where triple dannert ran off at right angles to the single row. Immediately beyond patrol leader saw a gap leading to the right, through which he entered. EP mines were seen stacked in a heap near the entrance on his right and on the left BRITISH Mk 1V mines were laid on top of the ground. On opposite side of triple dannert wire mines were seen laid on top of ground. Patrol leader moved on for approx 60 yds and suddenly noticed a figure near some diggings about 50 yds to his left. Patrol leader immediately commenced to whistle and turning round slowly retraced his steps out through the gap and back to his men. He explained to the men that they might find trouble inside the wire and that the patrol was going to investigate further. Patrol leader then led his men back inside the wire to the point from where he had seen the figure. On reaching this point Patrol Leader found that instead of one man there were now 8 or 9 enemy standing in a group. Patrol leader was the only member of the patrol who saw the group so he signalled to his men to follow him out again through the gap in the wire. Patrol Leader led his patrol through the gap and then, approx 15 yds out from the wire, for some distance and then moved further out until patrol was approx 100 yds in front of post. Patrol went to ground and the leader told his men where their front was and to prepare to fire at the group of enemy he had located. Patrol Leader then gave the order to fire and patrol opened up with two TSMGs and three rifles. After only firing a burst each both TSMGs jammed. The riflemen (one being the patrol leader) fired 10 rds each into the enemy. Squeals and yells were heard from the enemy and one man was seen to fall down on the ground. Then a voice was heard giving an order. Voice was of GERMAN accent. Immediately after command was given spandau and rifle fire opened up on patrol. Patrol leader gave order to withdraw and patrol ran towards own lines going to ground three times until eventually SP was reached. Patrol returned safely. One man had a lucky escape when mortars opened up as patrol first turned for home, one bomb landing approx 25 yds away on his left. Patrol returned to SP. Patrol reported in through No. 9 Pl at 0015 hrs.

NOTE. The fire occasioned by this patrol was heard at 2350 hrs on a bearing of 305 degrees from A Coy HQ.
At 2355 hrs spandau fire landed in No 7 Pl and Coy HQ this fire was coming from a point which was actually one of our mortar tasks and our mortars engaged this area - 36 rds being fired.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

4. PATROLS (Contd)

ii. A patrol from D Coy (Lieut FN WEST, Patrol leader,) which was out to shoot up enemy working parties in sq 874302 found that all worked ceased upon the noise ~~of~~ being heard of the engagment of the A Coy patrol with the enemy.

REPORT. After moving from SP on 334 degrees for 600 yds the patrol heard faint clanging of tools straight ahead. The patrol moved on to 87473027 where it laid up. Sounds similar to a pick being used were heard SW. The patrol had been listening for approx 5 minutes when automatic and rifle fire were heard and tracer bullets seen over the ridge in a SW direction. Immediately all noises of working in the area ceased.

The patrol moved forward to 87453030 where it laid up. NMS or H.

From this point Sgt MORRIS FW moved out by himself in a SW direction for 350 yds, where he laid up in a posn giving him observation over the area where working parties had been previously heard and were expected to be found. NMS or H.

As there was apparently no enemy activity in the patrol's area the patrol returned at 0130 hrs.

iii. A joint patrol from B and C Coys (Sgt MEARS JF and 1 OR from C Coy, Recce Party and Lieut AR ROBERTS, Covering Party) reported that the enemy did not attempt to occupy posn previously occupied at 87543038.

5. MOON RISE - 28 Aug 42 - 2115 hrs.

6. SPECIAL NOTE. - CAPTURED ENEMY EQUIPMENT

PRIORITIES.

i. The following is a list of eqpt in order of priority about which information is urgently required at present:-

(a) CW Eqpt, especially samples of GAS.
(b) Smoke producing eqpt and smoke amn, if not known to be standard.
(c) AFVs with extra armour or guns, if not standard.
(d) SP guns.
(e) Parachutists eqpt.
(f) Hollow Charge Amn.
(g) Optical Eqpt.
(h) Samples of food.

ii. Enemy Codes, ciphers, operation orders and marked maps will always be sent back by the quickest available means. "SECRET" enemy documents are marked "GEHIEM" or "G.KDOS" if GERMAN and "SEGRETO" if ITALIAN.

A.F.Vs.

iii. To ensure accuracy and uniformity in reporting enemy tk casualties the following usages will be adopted:-

(a) Destroyed - meaning
  i. Burnt out or
  ii. Blown up by demolition charges or
  iii. Captured.
    i.e. irrecoverable.
(b) Damaged - meaning
  i. On fire or
  ii. Stopped or
  iii. Hit.
    i.e. recoverable.

iv. The type and nationality of the casualty should also be given where possible together with all a vailable detail. Later infm may show that a tk originally reported "DAMAGED" is in fact "DESTROYED" - this will always be reported.

(FROM 9 AUST DIV GS INSTN NO 65)

Liuet,
I.O. 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

(WD

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY AMO 1587.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2/13 AUST INF BN
ROUTINE ORDERS
BY

Lt-Col RWN TURNER, Commanding — IN THE FIELD
Part 1 — No 441 — 28 Aug 42.

1. AIRCRAFT - DAMAGE TO CRASHED AND THEFT OF INSTRUMENTS ETC.

(a) Numerous cases of unauthorised interference with crashed British aircraft, and of the removal of instruments and eqpt still occur. This has a most serious effect on the repair of damaged aircraft.

(b) Coy Comds will give this matter their personal attention and it will be brought to the notice of ALL ranks forthwith. Any RAF instruments, weapons or eqpt which may be in the possession of Coys etc., will be returned immediately to the Salvage Offr.

(c) Guards will be mounted immediately over crashed British aircraft by the nearest Coy until authority of this HQ or of the RAF is given to dismount them. In all cases the report required under para (L) of ARO 313 of 42 will be rendered to this HQ. This para is rptd below in substance:

ARO 313 of 42.
(b) Report to this HQ by signal:
(1) Aircraft number and letters, if any.
(2) Type of aircraft.
(3) Location.
(4) Extent of damage, whether landed with wheels down or up.
(5) Any information regarding crew.
(6) Whether enemy dispositions makes salvage:
(a) Possible without escort.
(b) Possible with escort.
(c) Impossible.

2. DISCIPLINE.
The undermentioned sentences by Courts Martial are published for infm:

(i) A private soldier convicted of making away with public property, to wit, rations, entrusted to his care for military purposes (AA Sec 24 (1)), and improperly handing rations, public property, to a civilian with instructions that they be sold on his (accused's) behalf (AA Sec 40) was sentenced to be fined the sum of £A 15.

(ii) A private soldier convicted of making away with by selling one pair of trousers, part of his clothing, (AA Sec 24 (1)), was sentenced to be fined the sum of £A 15.

(iii) A private soldier convicted of two charges of AWL (AA Sec 15 (1)) and one charge of escaping (AA Sec 22) was sentenced to undergo detention for one year.

(iv) An acting corporal, convicted of stealing one drum of petrol, public property, (AA Sec 18 (4)) was sentenced to undergo detention for one year.

(v) A private soldier convicted of improperly offering for sale to a civilian one drum of petrol, public property (AA Sec 40) was sentenced to undergo detention for nine months.

(vi) Two private soldiers convicted of attempting to dispose of six batteries, six motor car springs and two motor cycle tyres, public property (AA Sec 40) were each sentenced to undergo detention for eighteen months.

(vii) A lance-corporal, convicted of stealing one pair of binoculars (AA Sec 41) was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for nine months.

3. AMENITIES.
The following comforts have been received from 2/13 AUST INF BN LADIES AUXILIARY in 5 parcels and are held for distribution when required:

1 flannel shirt
5 pullovers
20 caps
7 prs gloves and mittens
157 prs underparts.
7 undershirts
8 scarves
39 prs socks
1 pr sock tops

Nelmckinson.
.....Capt
for Adjt 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WD 2nd copy

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY AMO 1587.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2/13 AUST INF BN
ROUTINE ORDERS
BY

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7 undershirts
8 scarves
39 prs socks
1 pr sock tops

K.L. Wilson.
.....Capt
for Adjt 2/13 AUST INF BN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET

Copy No------8--

29 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN - OPERATION ORDER NO. 23.

REF MAP: EL ALAMEIN 1 : 50,000

INFORMATION

As per daily Intelligence Summaries.

INTENTION

1. B Coy will relieve D Coy in Pt 33 Area on night 30/31 Aug 42.

2. D Coy will relieve C Coy in Beach Area on date to be advised.

METHOD

3. Coys relieved will occupy posns at present held by coys relieving.

4. Recce Parties. Coy Recce Parties of the following strength will move as under:-

B Coy	1 Offr, CSM, 1 Sig, 1 rep per pl	---night 29/30 Aug 42.
D Coy	1 rep per sec	
C Coy	As above	---Date to be advised.
D Coy		

5. Guides. The personnel mentioned in para 4 will act as guides on the night of the relief to bring coy HQ, pl HQ and secs into posn.

6. Movement.
(a) Coy vehs plus one 1t veh per coy will be available.
(b) HQ Coy veh to D Coy, 2030 hrs, 30 Aug 42.
A Coy veh to B Coy, 2030 hrs, 30 Aug 42.
HQ Coy veh to C Coy, for second move on date to be advised.
A Coy veh to D Coy, for second move on date to be advised.
(c) Personnel will march to new posns.
(d) Vehs mentioned in sub-para (a) and (b) will be used for packs, weapons etc

7. Patrols.
(a) Outgoing coys will be responsible for patrolling on night of relief, but mutual arrangements will be made for taking out personnel of incoming coy for instruction in topography.
(b) One selected OR per pl will remain in posn and will accompany patrols by incoming coy.
They will remain for three days.

8. Weapons. All foreign weapons will be left as post stores.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

AMN.

9. **Ammn.** "on the mmn" amn only will be taken to new posns. All other amn will be left as Post Stores.

10. **Rations.** All reserve rations and water will be left as Post Stores in posns.
Five day reserve rations and water will be handed over separately from two-day battle rations

11. **Certificates** of hand-over will reach this Hq by 1200 hrs on day following relief.

12. **Sugr Stores.** All Sugr Stores will be left as Post Stores. On NO account will dugouts be disturbed.

INTERCOMM.

13. (a) All phones will be left as Post Stores.
(b) COMS WORNS will be phoned to this Hq as follows:-

On completion of relief -

1. First relief D Coy - STRIPS
D Coy - REST

11. Second relief C Coy - DIRTY
B Coy - CLEAN

ACK.

R Leach Capt.,
Adjt 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
(R. H. LEACH)

TIME OF SIGNATURE 2005 hrs.

METHOD OF DESPATCH [illegible]

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

DISTRIBUTION	COPY NO.
A Coy	1
B Coy	2
C Coy	3
D Coy	4
HQ Coy	5
C.O.	6
2 i/c	7
Regt Diary	8-9
File	10.

A.B.C.A.A.I. 29 AUG 42

2/13 AUST INF BN - PROJECTED PATROLS.

NIGHT 29/30 AUG 42.

AERIAL NO. 1.

SUB UNIT - B Coy
CODE - Sgt B.C. MAIR.
STRENGTH - 1 Sgt, 4 Cfms (and 2 Offr Learners)
Learners. 2 LAC.
3 TSMGs
3 Rifles
Grenades for every man.

TIME OUT - Last Light
TIME IN - 0300 hrs.

ROUTE and AREA to be PATROLLED. Out from 87623029 to 87513040 (at 700 yds from rd junc) thence on a bearing of 305 degrees for 150 yds to 87430304 25 and then to penetrate or manoeuvre as required to attain the object of the patrol. In to 87623029.

OBJECT. 1. To locate and inflict casualties on enemy working parties.

2. To investigate the enemy FDLs SW of strongpt at 87513044.

3. To investigate the enemy minefields in sq 87430 4 and discover whether they are booby-trapped.
A full report is required giving inter alia -
(a) Type
(b) Spacing and system on which laid
(c) Probable age of field.

NOTES FOR PATROL COMD.

1. There will be harassing fire throughout the night on the remainder of the Bn front but NO fire will be laid down in the sector between CLOVER LEAF and the coast before 0300 hrs.

2. MG Pl will have gun sec laid on enemy strongpts at 87513044 and 87403043 and will open fire on hearing or observing fire in the area of the patrol.

RECEIVED. Night 29 Aug 42 - 2150 hrs

D. Worthington Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
(D.W.D.WORTHINGTON)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

Wt., 2/13 AUST INF BDE.
29 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.42.
(ms to 1800 hrs 29 AUG 42)

1. GENERAL. Enemy ground activity in this sector for the last 24 hrs see ms to have been confined to working on defences at night, and even this does not appear to have been on an extended scale. A patrol which observed enemy working fwd of the PALM TREES poss reported that only a few of the enemy observed appeared to be engaged on the work. There was no hostile shelling in the Bn area. In the a ir two Me 109 F appeared to make a recce over the area at 1245 hrs, but only one other plane was reported over the area during daylight. However enemy aircraft were heard frequently overhead during the night.
The general situation does not at the moment present any signs of an imminent enemy atta ck, apart from the fact that his striking force remains concentrated.
Tac R this morning reports no general movement in the Northern area as far SOUTH as 286 Northing. Last night, however, sounds of ver y hy MT movement, prebably tks, in the area of the Skyline Track continued for an hour after last light.
Latest Situn. : to 1930 hrs 28 Aug. our arty and air forces active. hy MF tasks fired on enemy strongpt. 1030 hrs. 3 Hs fire silenced 6 anc my guns a nd forced their rapid withdrawal. 1750 hrs 27 fighter bombers attack enemy FDLs. enemy shelling on reduced scale.
to 0730 hrs 29 Aug. quiet night no contact made. enemy working parties active and patrol seen square 873797 strength 20 men. 2 enemy shot plane down in flames vicinity 872364.

2. ENEMY MINEFIELDS.
Patrol reports finding of ammo boxes in a defended area with red Italian hand grenades att to the lids of the boxes.
The following is an extract from a letter picked up by a patrol on the Div front. It is from a German soldier's sister who has moved to LYSSA in POLAND:-
"LYSSA has about 26,000 inhabitants, and of these only 10,000 are Germans and the remainder Poles. As a German one has to wear a distinguishing badge otherwise is taken for a Pole and treated accordingly. Gets nothing in the shops and has to wait always until all the Germans have been served first."
(From 9 Aust Div IS No.279)
From a patrol report of the Unit on our left:-
Patrol moved to 8727301O. Working parties and driving of pickets could be heard to NE- estimated distance 1000 yds. Patrolled up at 8727301O and observed for 1 hr. The area was unusually quiet. An animal call which was heard at one stage and thought to be some sort of enemy warning was identified as coming from a Jackal - the beast bei being seen.
3. AIR ACTIVITY. At 2320 hrs a plane which flew WEST over this area was seen to crash in flames over the enemy lines at approx 8736304.
4. PATROLS.
Three deep patrols were out last night but made no contact.
A patrol from B Coy s aw a large party of approx 50 enemy apparently within the enemy FDLs a t approx 8746304.
A patrol from A Coy heard sounds of enemy activity, and one from D Coy sa w enemy working and also located an apparent minefield.
Reports.
A Coy : L/Sgt Shearn R, 6 ORs and 2 officers, (Learners) :
Patrol moved out on bearing of 292 degrees. At 8746011 a track was met leading on a bearing of 295 degrees. At 8743013 patrol came upon a mound on the rt of the rd. This feature was examined and diggings were found cut into it from enemy's side. Diggings consisted of three slit trenches and appeared to be suitable cover for anyone using the mound as an OP. On left of rd, approx 30 yds further on, more diggings, and slit trenches were found, these were clean and appeared to have been occupied for some time. Patrol continued on and at 8737301S came to a very stony ridge. Patrol went to ground owing to good visibility and the fact of being skylined on the ridge. Patrol Leader went fwd to observe, but no enemy movement was seen fwd of the ridge. My MT movement could be heard some considerable distance away on bearing of 240-250 degrees. The movement sounded as of tks, being

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

A 2

4. PATROLS.

Remarks: A Coy (continued)
a continuous rumbling sound, and continued for an hour. At this stage cloud obscured moon and patrol moved on for approx another 270 yds to 873573175. During this advance sounds of enemy digging could be clearly heard ahead of patrol on bearing of 292 degrees, approx 300 yd s away. At this point another ridge was confronted and this feature was almost white, the moon now being clear of cloud. Patrol leader decided to turn on second leg, as the moon, being behind the patrol, the whiteness of the ridge would have hampered further advance across it. On fresh bearing of 360 degrees patrol crossed track after 70 yds, where many diggings, recently dug, consisting of 6 to 10 slit trenches were inspected on Northern side. Here a thin wire was found and cut, and a place was brought back by the patrol. While patrol was examining the diggings series of whistles (human) were heard approx 300 yds to left. Sounds of digging had now ceased and all was quiet for some 5 to 10 mins, so patrol continued on for approx 80 yds where more old diggings were seen. During remainder of second leg WAS or N. Patrol turned to third leg on bearing of 123 degrees. At 8737300 large numbers of petrol drums and boxes were seen approx 80 yds to left. Another 50 yds on a track was met running on a bearing of 130 degrees. This was well worn, but not recently used, 300 yds further on it passed to the left a stony ridge running due NORTH and SOUTH. Patrol inspected this area but found nothing. A further 300 yds on a derelict trailer was passed on left of patrol approx 20 yds away. The area was inspected, a large number of old diggings were found. During remainder of leg WAS or N. Patrol returned to Coy at 0135 hrs.

Note: During first leg AA fire was seen to [illegible] of patrol and a was soon recognised as the plane in flames. Plane was seen to crash approx 1500 yds away behind main ridge and in ground dead to patrol's vision.

B Coy : Lieut A A Roberts & nn 6 ors and 2 officers (learners) :
Patrol moved to pass occupied on previous night and searched the area. A few sangars were found and diggings in the sand dunes in the rd. Patrol laid up here for a few minutes and then keeping to the sand dune, moved fwd towards suspected enemy OP at 8751030405. At 8751030 patrol examined area and found no signs of recent enemy occupation apart from a box of unopened spandau ammo which the patrol brought in. Moon was just rising so the patrol moved fwd on the low salt pan on the left and parallel to the rd to 8751030. Here patrol laid up while patrol leader and NCO went fwd 72 yds further on and examined a dug in British Bedford water truck. Patrol also found, 15 yds further on, what appeared to be a tool limber, having the appearance of an arty limber but of much greater size. Patrol leader and NCO moved fwd a further 20 yds into the sand dunes and took up a post of observation (2140 hrs). At 2145 hrs patrol leader heard sounds of an implement striking a picket 5 or 6 times, the sound coming from along the coast. Patrol leader and NCO rejoined the patrol and the patrol moved fwd to 100 yds fwd of the limber, observed for awhile, and then moved fwd again to 8750530405 where a rd was seen 50 yds ahead, coming from the SW to join the track along the coast. Cpl Smith moved fwd to rd junc and found diggings all round it - diggings appeared to be made for purposes of containing stores and vehs rather than fighting pits. Further mounds of white earth were seen towards enemy posns. On the top of the sand dune just past the rd junc were two isolated sangars overlooking the rd. No signs of occupation. NCO returned.

While Cpl Smith was absent Lieut Roberts observed him through binoculars. Whilst doing so he observed another man skylined about 400 yds to the left of Cpl Smith. Shortly afterwards he was approached by another man who moved towards the patrol to what seemed to be a black object and disappeared. Cpl Smith returned and patrol leader handed him the binoculars. Three other men appeared and then Cpl Smith observed to the left of these a large party of approx 50 men moving about in dust appeared to be a jeep, but making no sound. Distance from our patrol, 400-500 yds on bearing 310 degrees. At this time a plane was observed to be shot down on a bearing of 275 degrees. Patrol withdrew under cover of a dark thin cloud, carefully pacing the distance home. On the way back at approx 8754030 a n enemy water bottle (filled) was picked up and some documents were found in a German truck nearby.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

42

4. PATROLS.
Patrols. :
D Coy : Lieut R G Heslop, 4 ORs and 2 officers (Learners)
First Leg : The leg was completed without event but sm towards the end sounds of working parties were heard from direction in which party was reported by patrol of 26/27 Aug.
Second Leg : Movement during this leg was slow owing to the bright moonlight. A working party was seen at about 874330. When patrol had completed the first 200 yds of second leg an enemy party of approx 8 men left the area in the vicinity of the working party and moved in single file in the direction of the PALMS. On completion of the second leg, the patrol in 120 yds to the edge of the salt pan towards the enemy party which now was digging in one or two areas. Only a very few men were engaged on the work while others were moving freely to and from nearby mounds, which appeared to be defensive posns. Ten men moved from the mounds along the edge of the salt pan in the direction from which the patrol had come, to an old track, where one member of the patrol reports that they were challenged. The patrol moved closer and came upon two rows of long pickets running towards the hills on a bearing of 130 degrees approx. It was estimated that the pickets and rows were approx 5 paces apart and the pickets seemed to come from dead ground on the EAST of the posn and extended in the WEST to the PALM trees area, but the bright moonlight rendered any closer investigation impracticable.

5. ~~ARTILLERY.~~
Night 29/30 Aug 42 - 2150 hrs.
Mortars : 3" mortars - time 1130 hrs to 1300 hrs.
One 3" British mortar, firing from a posn 100 yds to the left of Pt33 engaged an area of dead ground on D Coy front with the object of silencing an enemy spandau MG which was firing from a bearing of 272 degrees, approx range being 1400 yds. After 15 rds had been fired on this posn the spandau ceased firing. From the same posn, an area on a bearing of 305 degrees range 2000 yds was engaged with 6 rds. This area is believed to be an enemy strongpt. The same mortar engaged an area of dead ground ~~[illegible]~~ on a bearing of 285 degrees range ~~[illegible]~~ being 1400 yds. Eight rds of harassing fire were brought to bear in this area.
Another area of dead ground was engaged by the same mortar on a bearing of 282 degrees, range 1200 yds. There was no retaliation on the part of the enemy. 8 rds were fired in this area.

D.O'Shaughnessy Lieut.
IC. 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(OFFICIATING)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET

Ref.: 2/13 AUST INF BN.
27 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.43
(from info received up to 1000 hrs 28 Aug 42)

1. GENERAL. Situation remains normal. Yesterday the ene ny again failed to shell our area. This inactivity seems to be attributable in part to the effectiveness of our own CB work. Reports are received almost daily of the knocking out of German guns within a few days of their opening up.
No aircraft over this area yesterday were definitely identified as enemy.
Last night one deep patrol went out along the coast; but owing to the programme for art y harassing fire there were no deep patrols on the other two Coy fronts. Our mortars fired from behind Pt 33 on targets in the enemy area during the night. No direct counter action was taken by the enemy, but one of his mortars opened up in the coastal sector on the area in front of our FDLs just after our patrol in that area had reported in.
A patrol went out along the coast before first light this morning to rd June at 0754:35 and observed for three hrs reporting in at 0800 hrs.

2. ENEMY MORALE. An Italian deserter of 2 Coy 2 Bn 155 Rgt in the ca gave himself up in area 075267 night 25/26 Aug brought his Breda LMG with him.
(source 9 Aust Div IS No 279)
A patrol night 26/27 Aug from the formation on our left encountered at 0744:2949 two enemy parties, one 25 strong and the other 30 strong. Italia n voices were hea rd. Enemy were engaged by our patrol at close range, but it is not known whether any casualties were inflicted. Enemy fired a few rifle shots, then fled. Our patrol suffered no casualties. No tools were left behind by enemy, and the parties are therefore thought to have been patrols. This is the first time that enemy have been encountered further fwd than a few hundred yds fr on their FDLs.

3. CB GROUND ACTIVITY. - ARTY.
(a) From CB Intelligence report 27 Aug 42 : Over 100 hostile shelling reports having been received today, the C.R.A was able to carry out bombards on 9 H.Bs.. 'HA' and 'HB' were carefully watched, and neutralised by a med bty as soon as it fired. ('HB' was seen moving out ten minutes later). 'HI' was also neutralised immediately, the Flash Spotters observing the rds to fall in the target area.
(b) HF was continued on 28 Aug on an increased scale. The targets were defended areas:-
1200-1325hrs- 0733:32
0733:28
0732:277
0721:274
1320-1325hrs- 0750:44
0742:43
0720:34
During HF at 0730 hrs 28 Aug an enemy dump was hit approx 0734:22 which was still burning at 1030 hrs.
As the result of a CB shoot at 1030 hrs on a tp of 6 enemy 14 guns at 0667:35 the enemy was quickly silenced and tractors removed the guns.
MINING.
(c) At 1915 hrs at 0769:02 our OP on 33 ridge observed a 6 gun enemy bty firing on YIL AL BIRA cutting area. Our arty opened up and after two ranging shots put down a concentration right on the target. The enemy guns immediately ceased firing.
MORTARS.
ENEMY 81MM GERMAN STORM MORTARS.

Date	:	26 Aug 42
No. of rds fired	:	9
Weight of bomb	:	9 lbs approx
Maximum ranges	:	(a) on full charge - 2200 yds (b) on full charge and 1 extra secondary - 2600 yds.

(distances by rangefinder)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

A 3

4. PATROLS.

i. A patrol from D Coy led by Sgt MAIR DC (1 Sgt, 4 ORs and one Offr Learner) went out at last light to investigate the area from CLOVER LEAF to the coast. This patrol, intending to measure its distance from rd junc at 87543035, missed the junc and proceeded on past the next rd junc and for a further 100 yds, when it was suddenly halted by enemy wire.

REPORT. The patrol moved out, with a point scout approx 20 yds ahead of the main body, to rd junc at 87515304 20 and continued along the coastal track for a further 100 yds when the point scout veered off the rd to the left, having been deflected by a coil of single dannert which lay across the rd and camw to an end on the road's SOUTHERN edge. As the scout went round the end of the dannert he struck a trip wire, which later inspection proved to run obliquely to the dannertand in front of it and to continue in a SOUTHERLY direction for another 100 yds. The point scout went to ground, followed by the whole patrol. The patrol comd went fwd and listened for 10 minutes. A noise as of a man kicking a drum came from about 500 yds SW and at the same time sounds were heard of movement within 200-300 yds of the patrol on the sand dunes near the shore. Believing the wire to have been freshly placed (an opinion with was borne out by the freshly chipped appearance of pegs holding the wire) the patrol Comd investigated fwd for mines on the left hand side of the track to a depth of 50 yds, and then turned left at right angles and investigated for about the same distance until the trip wire was again contacted. As the moon was about to rise the patrol comd returned to the patrol and moved it back for 50 yds into less exposed ground. The patrol listened for movement for three-quarters of an hour. The moon had now risen. Sgt MAIR and 1 OR then moved fwd and investigated the trip wire. It was at this stage that the discovery was first made that the trip wire traversed the rd obliquely in front of the dannert. The trip wire was investigated for its entire length: it ran from a pt on the edge on the sand dunes, 5 yds off the rd, across to its point of junc of the other side of the rd, and then into the salt pans for 100 yds. Numerous diggings were observed and at least 5 dugouts were closely investigated. None was freshly dug or showd signs of recent occupation. Trip wire was a sig wire held in place by wooden pegs from 6" to a foot above the ground: between each peg tins were strung along the wire. The wire was strung very taut which also gave the impression that it had been freshly laid. Further investigation was next made of the ground within a radius of 50 yds of the end of the trip wire, after which Sgt MAIR returned to the main body of the patrol. Next, patrol leader and 1 ORy investigated the dannert from the edge of the rd NORTHWARDS to about 5 yds off the r d where it (the trip wire) came to an end in the sand dunes. They then investigated EASTWARDS between the rd and the coast back to the patrol. Apart from old diggings and a dead AUSTRALIAN soldier NTR. A position of observation was then taken up on a high pt in the sand dunes. NMS or H. As patrol comd believed that previous nights patrol had taken up a posn in this are a, now for the first time found to be wired, he suspected an ambush, and so withdrew his patrol, reporting at 0115 hrs. No sooner had the patrol reported in than enemy mortar opened up, the rounds falling between where the patrol had been and our FDLs.

ii. DAYLIGHT PATROL. This patrol consisting of Lieut DH GREEN and Pte MAKIM (C Coy) occupied OP at 87563034 before first light and a waited daylight. From that position no trace of the wire reported by Sgt MAIR could be seen. From patrol's observations it has been possible to ascertain the area in which Sgt MAIR found the wire. A visual search for wire between CLOVER LEAF and coast was made without effect.

MOONRISE. Night 30/31 Aug 42 - 2228 hrs.

Lieut,
I.O. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
(D.W.B.MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET

HQ., 2/13 AU T INF BN.
30 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE REPORT
(up to last light 29 Aug 42)

1. OBSERVED ENEMY ACTIVITY.
MOVEMENT ON SIDI RAHMAN TRACK. : Movement less than normal up to 1630 hrs. From 1630 to 1730 hrs, 73 vehs moved NORTH and 27 SOUTH.
1550 hrs. At 260 degrees from 8763030135 a veh moving SOUTH turned EAST, appeared to travel in a circle then disappeared at 264 degrees moving WEST (bearings magnetic).
0215 hrs. At 87493025 enemy ammn dump observed blazing, believed to be set alight by his own mortar fire.

11. OBSERVED ENEMY PLEPONS.
NIL

111. AIR ACTIVITY.
OWN.
0735 hrs 1 Spitfire overhead at 800 ft flying NW.
1935 hrs 13 Hurricanes flying WEST to EAST at 5000 ft, bombed enemy.
UNIDENTIFIED.
0755 hrs 2 planes 2000 yds out to sea at 4500 ft heading WEST.
0835 hrs 6 planes 2000 yds out to sea at 5000 ft heading EAST.

iv. ENEMY MG ACTIVITY.
NIL

v. SPECIAL REPORT.
SHOOT WITH GERMAN 80 MM MORTARS.

Date	:	26 Aug 42
No. of rd s fired	:	9
Weight of bomb	:	9 lbs approx.
Maximum ranges	:	(a) On full charge - 2200 yds.
		(b) on full charge and 1 extra secondary - 2600 yds.

Distances by rangefinder.

Lieut.
IO., 2/13 AUST INF BN
(D&B MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

SECRET
HQ., 2/13 AUST INF BN.
31 AUG 42.

2/13 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.44
(from infm received up to 0600 hrs)

1. GENERAL. The activity on this front last night was the prelude to the opening of ROMMEL'S general offensive in the SOUTH. The enemy has been employing 200 tks of which 25 have already been knocked out. Raids similar to thato on this Unit's front were carried out along the whole front. In all cases reported the enemy was repulsed and lost PW, and no case has been reported of his taking a prisoner.

On the New Guinea front, AUSTRALIAN tps have inflicted a severe defeat on the JAPANESE in MILNE BAY, isolating such of their force as was not destroyed and capturing all their supplies. Some JAPANESE were evacuated by enemy transports.

On the RUSSIAN front, the GERMAN advance near STALINGRAD has been held up, and the enemy has yielded some ground to the RUSSIAN counter attacks.

2. OWN ACTIVITY. Four patrols were out on our front last night behind the enemy when the attack was launched. All returned safely.

5 PW were taken by this Unit. One was from 2 Coy Ersatz Pioneer Bn (apparently engaged in mine detecting), one from 4 Coy 125 IR, three from 11 Coy 125 IR. This indicates no change in enemy disposns on this front.

3. Herewith Unit daily Intelligence Report for 31 Aug 42.

Lieut.
IO., 2/13 AUST INF BN
(DWB MAUGHAN)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

War Diary

Army Form W. 3008.
(Page 1).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

.....(Unit.) For Week Ending 1 Aug 42.

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (*i.e.*, deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels			
	Majors...	1		
	Captains	2		1
	Lieutenants	9		1
	2nd Lieutenants	26	7	
	Quartermasters			
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	38	7	2

* 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 MW Potts	2/15 Bn	26.7.42	Reinft

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
	Chaplain AJ Robinson	RAOC D	26.7.42	Invalid to 2/3 ADS "Dysentery"

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).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1								
2		Lt-Col		RWB TURNER	2/13 Bn	Yes		Cond
3		Maj		OE COLVIN	"	No		Asst Hqs Gp
4		Maj		CW AUSTIN	"	Yes		A/2 i/c
5		Capt		HG CRICH	"	"		OC HQ Coy
6		Capt		HR COOPER	"	"		OC D Coy
7		Capt		HG BARBOUR	"	"		OC A Coy
8		Capt		OE WALSH	"	"		OC C Coy
9		Capt		GO EVANS	"	"		OC B Coy
10								
11		Capt		BR LEACH	"	Yes		Adjt
12		Capt		AE SOMERVILLE	"	No		Asst Hqs Gp
13		Lieut		EO WILSON	"	"		" "
14		Lieut		RJ RUSSELL	"	Yes		QM
15		Lieut		HD VINCENT	"	"		2 i/c C Coy
16		Lieut		PS NEWBAKE	"	"		2 i/c B Coy
17		Lieut		CC CLARK	"	No		Asst Hqs Gp
18		Lieut		EWB MAUGHAN	"	Yes		IO
19		Lieut		MT KATHAIRN	"	"		Pl Cond
20		Lieut		PD MARTIN	"	No		Det 20 Bde
21		Lieut		EH PINKNEY	"	Yes		IO
22		Lieut		RJ BARRATT	"	"		Pl Cond
23		Lieut		JR WOOD	"	"		"
24		Lieut		AR ROBERTS	"	"		"
25		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		"
26		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		2 i/c No 4 Pl
27		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		Pl Cond
28		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		"
29		Lieut		DS WEBB	"	No		Asst Hqs Gp
30		Lieut		[illegible]	"	Yes		Pl Cond
31		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		"
32		Lieut		SGT NORTH	"	Yes		Pl Cond
33				PH WEST	"	"		"
34				[illegible]				

(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		PGR GOODE	AAMC	27.3.41	RMO
Lieut		AG FLETCHER	A Tk Regt	21.7.42	A Tk Pl Cond

2/13 AUST INF BN (*Unit.*)

1 Aug 42 (*Date of Despatch.*)

Lt-Col. (*Signature of Commander.*)
Comd. 2/13 AUST INF BN.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK. War Diary Army Form W. 3300. (Page 1).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/13 AUST INF BN (Unit.) For Week Ending 8 Aug 42.

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (*i.e.*, deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels	1 1		
	Majors...	2 2		1 1
	Captains	9 9		1 1
	Lieutenants	27 26	8 7	
	2nd Lieutenants			
	Quartermasters			
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	39 38	8 7	2 2

* 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.
Chaplain	THOMAS G	AA Cl D	3.8.42	March in. Taken on strength from AIF(ME) Staging Camp.
Lieut	SIMMONS NW	2/13 BN	7.8.42	Reinft - taken on strength.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	C A O'Connor	2/13 Bn	2nd 7 42	Attend No 2 Sect. Unit Commanders Course.
"	G. G. Edmunds	-	1st 7 42	Missing Wounded believed Killed.

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).
Major	G E Colvin	14/8/42	Repair Unit from detach duty 2/13 Aust Reserve Sp Coy
Capt	K C Wilson	"	"
Lieut	A J Somerville	"	"
"	S C Clark	"	"
"	D S Webb	"	"
Capt	P. Deschamps	15-8-42	"
Lieut	C.A. O'Connor,	"	Repair Unit from detach duty

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1								
2		Lt-Col		RWH TURNER	2/13 Bn	Yes		Cond
3		Maj		G [illegible] COLVIN	"	No Yes		Aust Res Op 2 i/c
4		Maj		CH [illegible]	"	Yes "		A/2 i/c OC Coy
5		Capt		[illegible] CRIBB	"	"		OC H4 COY
6		Capt		HH COOPER	"	"		OC D COY
7		Capt		RG SANDERSON	"	"		OC A COY
8		Capt		OM WALSON	"	"		OC C COY
9		Capt		DP FAULKNER	"	"		OC B COY
10		Capt		[illegible] BEACHERS	"	No Yes		Aust Res Op 2 i/c B
11		Capt		GD EVANS	"	No		BK JNR STAFF COURSE
12		Capt		SR LEACH	"	Yes		Adjt
13		Capt		RJ SOMERVILLE	"	No yes		Aust Res Op Pl Cond HQ
14		Lieut		EC WILSON	"	No Yes		Aust Res Op Pl Cond
15		Lieut		JR BURNELL	"	Yes		QM
16		Lieut		MD VINCENT	"	"		2 i/c C Coy
17		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		2 i/c B Coy
18		Lieut		FS [illegible]	"	No		Aust Res Op Pl Comd
19		Lieut		GC CLARK	"	Yes		IO
20		Lieut		DWB MAUGHAN	"	"		Pl Comd
21		Lieut		[illegible] FAIRBAIRN	"	No		Det 20 Bde
22		Lieut		[illegible]	"	Yes		IO
23		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		Pl Comd
24		Lieut		RJ BARRETT	"	"		"
25		Lieut		JE MADDEN	"	"		"
26		Lieut		TH [illegible]	"	"		"
27		Lieut		AR ROBERTS	"	"		"
28		Lieut	out	IG [illegible]	"	"		A 1/c No 4 Pl
29		Lieut		FC APPLETON	"	"		Pl Cond
30		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		"
31		Lieut		[illegible]	"	"		"
32		Lieut		[illegible]	"	No Yes		Aust Res Op Pl Cond
33		Lieut		[illegible]	"	Yes		Pl Cond
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		PCR GOODE	AAMC	27.3.41	RMO
Lieut		AC FLETCHER	3 A Tk Regt	21.7.42	A Tk Pl Cond
Chaplain		C THOMAS	AA Cl D	3.8.42	Padre

2/13 AUST INF BN (*Unit.*)

8 Aug 42 (*Date of Despatch.*)

(*Signature of Commander.*) Lt-Col
Cond 2/13 AUST INF BN

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W. 3000
(Page 1).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/13 AUST INF BN (Unit.) For Week Ending 15 Aug 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (*i.e.*, deficits on establishment).
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	Lieut.-Colonels	1	.....	.....
.....	Majors...	2	.....	1
.....	Captains	~~12~~ 11	1	~~1~~
.....	Lieutenants	~~26~~ 24	~~2~~ 3	.....
.....	2nd Lieutenants	.....	.....	.....
.....	Quartermasters	.....	.....	.....
.....	District Officers	.....	.....	.....
	TOTALS	~~40~~ 38	~~4~~ 3	~~2~~ 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.
Maj	GR COLVIN	2/13 BN	14.8.42	Rejoined unit from detached duty 2/13 AUST INF BN LAB
Capt	RJ SOMERVILLE	"	"	
~~Lieut~~ Capt	RG WILSON	"	"	
Lieut	GC CLARK	"	"	
Lieut	DS WEBB	"	"	
Capt	P DESCHAMPS	"	14.8.42	Rejoined unit from detached duty.
Lieut	CA O'CONNOR	"	14.8.42	

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	CA O'CONNOR	2/13 BN	14.8.42	Attend 15 Sub-Unit Cmds Course 24/9/42
Lieut	IG EDMUNDS	"	15.8.42	Missing - wounded believed killed.

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).
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-Col		RAH TURNER	2/13 Bn	Yes		COND
2		Maj		BE GOLVER	"	"		2I/c
3		Maj		CH DAINTREE	"	"		OC Coy
4		Capt		HO CRIMP	"	"		OC HQ COY
5		Capt		RH COOPER	"	"		OC D COY
6		Capt		RG SANDERSON	"	"		OC A COY
7		Capt		OR WALSOR	"	"		OC C COY
8		Capt		BF PROUDFOOT	"	"		OC B COY
9		Capt		P DESCHAMPS	"	"		2 I/c B Coy
10		Capt		GO EVANS	"	No	MC	JUNIOR STAFF COURSE
11		Capt		ST LEACH	"	Yes		Adjt
12		~~Lieut~~ Capt		RJ SOMERVILLE	"	"		Pl Comd
13		~~Lieut~~ Capt		XC ILSEN	"	"		Asst Adjt
14		Lieut		JR BURKILL	"	"		QM
15		Lieut		HD VINCENT	"	"		2 I/c C Coy
16		Lieut		PS TRENEER	"	"		Pl Comd
17		Lieut		GC CLARK	"	"		Pl Comd
18		Lieut		EWD MAUGHAN	"	"		IO
19		Lieut		MT FAIRBAIRN	"	"		Pl Comd
20		Lieut		PB MARTIN	"	No		Det 8 Bde
21		Lieut		ER PINKNEY	"	Yes		IO
22		Lieut		RJ BARRETT	"	"		Pl Comd
23		Lieut		JE MAGUIRE	"	"		"
24		Lieut		TM HIGGINS	"	"		"
25		Lieut		DH ORGAN	"	"		"
26		Lieut		JK WOOD	"	"		"
27		Lieut		AR ROBERTS	"	"		"
28		Lieut		PG APPLETON	"	"		2I/c No 4 Pl
29		Lieut		KJ EKYN	"	"		Pl Comd
30		Lieut		FA BISSAKER	"	"		"
31		Lieut		DS WEBB	"	"		"
32		Lieut		RA TEALOP	"	"		"
33		Lieut		EJ JURY	"	"		"
34		Lieut		GA O'C MOON	"	No		Nos 2 Pl Comds Course
		Lieut		SCP NORTH	"	Yes		Pl Comd
		Lieut		FH WEST	"	"		"
		Lieut		RN POPE	"	"		"
		Lieut		RW SIMMONS	"	"		"

(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		PCR GOODE	AAMC	27.3.41	RMO
Lieut		AC FLETCHER	3 A Tk Regt	21.7.42	A Tk Pl Comd
Chaplain		P TROY	A Cl D	5.8.42	Padre

2/13 AUST INF BN (*Unit.*)

15 Aug 42 (*Date of Despatch.*)

(*Signature of Commander.*)

Comd 2/13 AUST INF BN

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W. 3008.
(Page 1).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

.....(Unit.) For Week Ending.....

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

2/13 AUST INF BN 23 Aug 42

War Establishment.	1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	..... *	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Lieut.-Colonels	1	.....	.....
.....	Majors...	2	.....	1
.....	Captains	10	.....	1
.....	Lieutenants	25	4	.....
.....	2nd Lieutenants	.....	.....	.....
.....	Quartermasters	.....	.....	.....
.....	District Officers	.....	.....	.....
	TOTALS	38	4	2

* 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.
Capt	JR BONNELL	2/13 Bn	18.8.42	Rvtd to 2/8 Aust. Gen Hospital. R. ars
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lieut	RL JOHY	"	19.8.42	Attend 2 Aust Div MIO School. 19 Aug/2 Sept 42
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

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).
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

Army Form W. 3008.
(Page 2.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-Col	~~Lt-Col~~	RHN TURNER	2/13 Bn	Yes		COMD
2		Maj		GR COLVIN	"	"		2 I/C
3		Maj		CM [illegible]	"	"		OC HQ COY
4		Capt		DS CRIBB	"	"		OC HQ COY
5		Capt		RH [illegible]	"	"		OC D COY
6		Capt		WG HANCOCK	"	"		OC A COY
7		Capt		GM WALSH	"	"		OC C COY
8		Capt		DF FAULKNER	"	"		OC B COY
9		Capt		F DESCHAMPS	"	"		OC A/Tk PL
10		Capt		GJ EVANS	"	No		DET 9 AUST DI
11		Capt		GR LEACH	"	Yes		ADJT
12		Capt		RJ SOMERVILLE	"	"		PL COMD
13		Capt		KG WILSON	"	"		A/QM
14		Lieut		MD [illegible]	"	"		C 1/C C COY
15		Lieut		PS [illegible]	"	"		PL COMD
16		Lieut		GC [illegible]	"	"		"
17		Lieut		DMD [illegible]	"	"		IO
18		Lieut		MT [illegible]	"	"		PL COMD
19		Lieut		PB [illegible]	"	NO		DET 20 BDE
20		Lieut		TSH [illegible]	"	YES		IO
21		Lieut		EJ [illegible]	"	"		PL COMD
22		Lieut		JB [illegible]	"	"		"
23		Lieut		TM [illegible]	"	"		"
24		Lieut		DH [illegible]	"	"		"
25		Lieut		JA [illegible]	"	"		"
26		Lieut		AR [illegible]	"	"		"
27		Lieut		EG [illegible]	"	"		2 I/C No4 PL
28				EP [illegible]	"	"		PL COMD
29		Lieut		FJ [illegible]	"	"		"
30		Lieut		DS [illegible]	"	"		"
31		Lieut		RF [illegible]	"	"		"
32		Lieut		WJ [illegible]	"	"		"
33		Lieut		CA O'CONNOR	"	NO		NO 2 SUB-UNIT COMD COURSE
34								
		Lieut		SCF [illegible]	"	YES		PL COMD
		Lieut		FH [illegible]	"	"		"
		Lieut		RM [illegible]	"	"		"
		Lieut		WH [illegible]	"	"		"
		Lieut		AG [illegible]	"	"		"

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Subetantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		RCR COOKE	AAMC	27.3.41	RMO
Lieut Chaplain	C	THOMAS	AA Ch D	3.8.42	Padre

2/13 AUST INF BN
(Unit.)

22 Aug 42
(Date of Despatch.)

[signature] Lt-Col
(Signature of Commander.)

Comd 2/13 AUST INF BN
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W 3008.
(Page 1).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/13 AUST INF BN — 29 Aug 42

(Unit.) For Week Ending

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength against authorised establishment (excluding ...)	3	4 Reinforcements required (*i.e.*, deficits on establishment).
.....	*	.....	.....	.....
.....	*	.....	.....	.....
.....	*	.....	.....	.....
.....	*	1	.....	.....
.....	Lieut.-Colonels	2	.....	1
.....	Majors...	10	.....	1
.....	Captains	24	3	.....
.....	Lieutenants	.....	.....	.....
.....	2nd Lieutenants	.....	.....	.....
.....	Quartermasters	.....	.....	.....
.....	District Officers	.....	.....	.....
	TOTALS	37	3	2

* Insert detail of higher ranks a... , Major-Gen...

FIELD RETURNS 1 Copy WD (Lab...

AUG ON A FASTE... OPEN

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICE... OR QU... G WEEK.

Offi... D during...

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Chaplain	AJ ROBJOHNS	AA Ch D	26.8.42	Rejoined unit from X List

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Chaplain	G THOMAS	AA Ch D	26.8.42	Transferred to 2/28 BN
Lieut	PB MARTIN	2/13 BN	28.8.42	Seconded to 20 AUST INF BDE

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).
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

Army Form W. 3008.
(Page 2.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1								
2		Lt-Col		WM TURNER	2/13 BN	Yes		Camp
3		Maj		WA CROWE	"	"		2 i/c
4		Capt		GE DAVIES	"	"		OC Coy
5		Capt		WJ GRIEW	"	"		OC HQ Coy
6		Capt		EH COOPER	"	"		OC B Coy
7		Capt		RG SANDERSON	"	"		OC A Coy
8		Capt		CH GALVIN	"	"		OC C Coy
9		Capt		EF FULLERTON	"	"		OC D Coy
10		Capt		P DRUMMOND	"	"		OC A Tk Pl
11		Capt		GD EVANS	"	No		Det 9 Aust Div
12		Capt		ER LEACH	"	Yes		Adjt
13		Capt		RODERICK	"	"		2 i/c
14		Capt		RG SCHNEIDER	"	"		A/QM
15		Capt		WG ATKINSON	"	"		2 i/c C Coy
16		Lieut		WD VICENT	"	"		PL COMD
17		Lieut		AG FLETCHER	"	"		"
18		Lieut		PS TRAVERS	"	"		"
19		Lieut		CC CLARK	"	"		IO
20		Lieut		DWD MAWSON	"	"		PL COMD
21		Lieut		WE FAIRBAIRN	"	"		IO
22		Lieut		EM PURNEY	"	"		PL COMD
23		Lieut		RJ BARRY	"	"		"
24		Lieut		JE MADDEN	"	"		"
25		Lieut		PM GREEN	"	"		"
26		Lieut		JS WOOD	"	"		"
27		Lieut		AH ROBERTS	"	"		"
28		Lieut		PC APPERTON	"	"		2 i/c No 4 Pl
29		Lieut		EF EVANS	"	"		PL COMD
30		Lieut		PA BYRNE	"	"		"
31		Lieut		RA WEBB	"	"		"
32		Lieut		RW BISLOP	"	"		"
33		Lieut		RL JORY	"	No		9 Div Inf School
34		Lieut		GR O'CONNOR	"	"		Mtr Sp Wpns Course
		Lieut		ACF HOWIE	"	Yes		PL COMD
		Lieut		PH WEST	"	"		"
		Lieut		EW FOX	"	"		"
		Lieut		RW SIMMONS	"	"		"

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Subetantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		PCR COOKE	AAMC	27.3.41	RMO
Chaplain		AJ ROBJOHNS	AA Ch D	19.11.41	Padre

2/13 AUST INF BN — (*Unit.*)

(*Signature of Commander.*)

(*Date of Despatch.*)

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W 3009
(Page 1.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

2/13 AUST INF BN (Unit). 1 Aug 42. 194 (Date)

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.	1		
W.Os Class II.	6	2	
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	6	1	
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	30	2	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	58		1
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	647		6
TOTALS.	748	* 5	* 7

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
SX 7183 Sgt BELL JE	AAMC	NX 36646 L/Sgt BRASIER AJ	AAOC
VX 17358 Cpl WEST GT	"	NX 60042 Cpl LARKIN D	"
NX 16635 L/Cpl STOKES LWJ	"	NX 16660 Pte EVANS J	"
NX 21151 Pte FRASER H	"	NX 16051 Cpl DOWNDS RE	AA Post C
NX 59592 " WOODS AC	AAOC	NX 32866 Sgt COX DK	AAPC
NX 4303 " RAYWOOD RT	RO Bde		

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

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

..... Unit.

2/13 AUST INF BN

Army Form W.3003
(page 2.)

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 1.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S, C.Q.M.S, or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	T O T A L.	
Bricklayers																				
Butchers.																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks...																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers..																				
Fitters...																				
Machine Gunners ...																				
Masons..																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers &Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors.																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel .																				
	2		1		2				5							1	6	7		
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)	2		1		2				5							1	6	7		

..... Unit.

2/13 AUST INF BN

Date of Despatch ..... 1 Aug 42

..... Lt-Col.

Comd. 2/13 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Signature of Commander.

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

20 AUST I F BDE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W.3009
(Page 1.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

2/13 AUST INF BN (Unit). 8 Aug 1942 (Date)

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.	1		
W.Os Class II.	5	1	
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	6	1	
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	31	3	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	58		1
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	667	14	
TOTALS.	768	* 19	* 1

* 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.
SX 7183 Sgt BELL JE	AAMC	NX 36646 L/Sgt BRASIER AJ	AAOC
VX 17358 Cpl WEST GT	"	NX 60042 Cpl LARKIN D	"
NX 21151 Pte FRASER R	"	NX 16669 Pte EVANS J.	"
NX 39592 " WOODS AC	AAOC	NX 16001 Cpl BOWDS RE	AA Post C
WX 4303 " HAYWOOD EV	20 Bde	NX 32266 Sgt COX DK.	

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

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

War Diary

2/13 AUST INF BN ..... Unit.

Army Form W.3009
(page 2.)

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT										REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.										REMARKS
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers,&c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S, C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers,&c.	T O T A L.	
Bricklayers																				
Butchers.																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks...																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers..																				
Fitters...																				
Machine Gunners ...																				
Masons..																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers &Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors.																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel .		1		1		3			14	19							1		1	
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)		1		1		3			14	19							1		1	

2/13 AUST INF BN ..... Unit.

Date of Despatch 8 Aug 42

A.W. Spencer Lt-Col
..... Signature of Commander.

Comd 2/13 AUST INF BN

2/9 AUST INF BDE
..... Bde, Divn, Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

War Diary

Army Form W.3009
(Page 1.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

~~15/15 AUST INF B~~ 15 Aug 42

.....(Unit). .....194..... (Date)

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.	1		
W.Os Class II.	7	1	
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	6	1	-
Staff Sergeants.	34	3	
Sergeants.			
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	67	X	2
Corporals.	108	8	
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.			
TOTALS.	~~823~~	13	2
		*	*

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
SX 7183 Sgt BELL JE	AAOC	NX 36646 L/Sgt BRASIER AJ	AAOC
VX 17358 Cpl WEST GT	"	NX 60042 Cpl LARKIN D	"
NX 21151 Pte FRASER R	"	NX 16669 Pte EVANS J	"
NX 59592 Pte WOODS AC	AAOC	NX 16001 Cpl BOWNDS RE	AA Post C
WX 4303 Pte HAYWOOD EV	20 Bde	NX 32266 Sgt COX DK	AAPC

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

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

2/13 AUST INF BR ..... Unit.

Army Form W.3009
(page 2.)

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.										
	W.Os. Class 1.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	T O T A L.	REMARKS
Bricklayers																				
Butchers.																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks...																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers..																				
Fitters...																				
Machine Gunners ...																				
Masons..																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors.																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel .		1		1		3			8	13							2		2	
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)		1		1		3			8	13							2		2	

2/13 AUST INF BR ..... Unit.

Date of Despatch 15 AUG 42

K D Lumsden ..... Signature of Commander.

Comd 2/13 AUST INF BR

2 AUST INF BDE ..... Bde, Divn, Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W.3009
(Page 1.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

2/13 AUST INF BN (Unit). 22 Aug 42 194 (Date)

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.	1		
W.Os Class II.			
W.Os Class III.	7		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	6	1	
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.			
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	34		3
Corporals.			
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	70		1
	707	7	
TOTALS.	825	*	* 4

* 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.
SX 7183 Sgt BELL JE	AAMC	NX 32266 Sgt COX DK	AAPC
NX 17358 Cpl WEST GT	"	NX 16001 Cpl BOWNDS RE	AA Post C
NX 21151 Pte FRASER R	"	WX 4303 Pte HAYWOOD EV	20 BDE
NX 36646 L/Sgt BRASIER AJ	AAOC		
NX 60042 Cpl LARKIN J	"		
NX 59592 Pte WOODS AC	"		
NX 16669 Pte EVANS J	"		
NX 57535 Pte SMITH S	"		

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

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

2/13 AUST INF BN ..... Unit.

Army Form W.3009
(page 2.)

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 1.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S, C.Q.M.S, or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	
Bricklayers																				
Butchers.																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks...																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers..																				
Fitters...																				
Machine Gunners ...																				
Masons..																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers &Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors.																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel .							1		7	8						3	1	4		
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)							1		7	8						3	1	4		

2/13 AUST INF BN ..... Unit.

Date of Despatch ..... 22 Aug 42

..... Signature of Commander.

Comd 2/13 AUST INF BN

20 Aust Inf Bde, Div Troops, Etc., with which unit is serving.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

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

Army Form W.3009
(Page 1.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

2/13 AUST INF BN (Unit). 29 Aug 42. 194 (Date)

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os Class I.	1		
W.Os Class II.	7		
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.	6	1	
Staff Sergeants.			
Sergeants.	35		2
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	70		1
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	706	1	8
TOTALS.	825	* 21	* 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.
~~SX 7183 Sgt BELL JE~~ AAMC		NX 32266 Sgt COX DK	AAPC
NX 17358 Cpl WEST GT "		NX 16001 Cpl BOWNDS RE	AA Post C
~~NX 21151 Pte FRASER R~~ "		WX 4303 Pte HAYWOOD EV	20 Bde.
NX 36646 L/Sgt BRASIER AJ AAOC			
~~NX 60042~~ Cpl LARKIN D "			
NX 59592 Pte WOODS AC "			
~~NX 16669~~ Pte EVANS J "			
NX 57535 Pte SMITH S "			

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

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

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2/13 AUST INF BN ..... Unit.

War Diary

Army Form W.3009
(page 2.)

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.										
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S, C.Q.M.S, or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	REMARKS
Bricklayers																				
Butchers.																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks...																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders. ...																				
Drivers I.C, (Tracked)..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics ...																				
Driver-Operators. ...																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers..																				
Fitters...																				
Machine Gunners ...																				
Masons..																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers &Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors.																				
Wheelers																				

1 See

RECEIVED
17 AUG 1942
REFERENCE

---(PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM)----LT list of C2128

TO: List 'B'

FROM: REAR HQ 9 AUST DIV A 416 16

Following signal received from Main 30 Corps (.) Begins (.) Following from C in G (.) To all ranks EIGHTH ARMY (.) It has been a great honour to have held direct command of the EIGHTH ARMY for nearly two months and it is with great personal regret that I now leave you on arrival of your new Army Comd (.) During these weeks you have stopped the enemy and in spite of your heavy losses and inevitable disorganisation consequent on rapid withdrawal from frontier have forced him on defensive taken ten thousand prisoners from him and destroyed or captured many of his guns vehicles and other equipment (.) You will I know join me in acknowledging the great and glorious part our Air Force have played in helping us to achieve these results ( ) Without their aid the story would have been very different (.) I thank you with all my heart for the magnificent way in which you have responded to heavy calls I have made on you and for your unfailing cheerfulness and tenacity in worst circumstances (.) I know you will continue in same fine spirit and determination to win under your new Comd (.) I wish you luck and speedy and complete victory (.) Ends

E.L.S.

Time of origin 10.5

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

WD 510/145 48

'X' 'A' 20 ARMY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 45.

PWs were captured with 3 others at 375296 night of 28/29 Jul 42.

They had been laying mines and had lost their way. An Unteroffizier who was with them escaped.

All PWs had only been in AFRICA since the beginning of July having come from CRETE. Since arrival they had been engaged in laying mines mostly English, in the area between the sea and the pt where captured. One PW an Austrian anti German was extremely forthcoming and was interrogated in conjunction with Lt CAMPBELL IO to CRE. The following information is based mostly on his statements.

Strength of Coy 100 - 120.

OC Coy Lieut ENDL[illegible] (now in hospital sick)

A/OC Coy 2nd Lieut [illegible]ELINGER.

As far as PWs were aware 1 and 2 coys have not yet arrived in AFRICA, one referred to in Hq as in AFRICA. OC 2 coy Lieut LAUB[illegible]. Several PWs had been recently transferred from 2 to 3 coy. Coy coon was given as between main rd and ry not far from ruined village and mosque on slightly raised ground. PWs had had trg but no previous experience in mine laying. They were instructed in the use of English mines shortly after arrival in AFRICA by a 2nd Lieut SCHUH[illegible]. Since about 6 Jul approx 2,000 German T-mines and 6,000 English Egyptian mines (T.K 4 T.K 5 and EP) have been laid. These mines had not been lifted elsewhere but came packed in boxes probably from TOBRUK. On the night of capture the party had laid some 50 - 60 mines in irregular formation.

Mines are now being laid in two ways:-

(a) In regular formation (for details of method of laying see Technical Report by Lieut CAMPBELL). These minefields are laid laterally and are marked by wire. They normally contain 500 - 600 mines.

(b) In irregular formation (streueinsatz). These minefields are laid irregularly along compass bearings taken from gaps in the regular minefields and contain about 100 mines. They are not marked by wire but are laid so that anyone in possession of the plan can negotiate them successfully by means of compass bearings.

These irregular minefields may be as far as 2,000 metres in front of the regular marked minefields. They are generally laid in staggered gps.

The quality of all PWs intellectually was very low and morale about equally low. Nearly all made no attempt to maintain security but in most cases knew very little. A number of them had previously been in Labour Coy.

There is stated to be a bty of 12 Italian guns about 4 kilos to the north of the Coy posn. It is rumoured that the 433 Inf Regt has arrived in AFRICA but none of the PWs had seen any men from it.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

(2)

INTERROGATION REPORT

PREAMBLE - L/Cpl (Gefr) Ludwig JUNG; of 1 Sec, 1 Pl, [illegible] Coy, 1 Bn, 125 Inf Regt - G.P. No. 26163 - 21 years old, has served with same Regt since 1940. Insecure, friendly, but very slow thinking and involved in statements. Arrived in Africa in July but was sick with mild dysentry for a fortnight this month and returned from DABA three days ago.

CAPTURE. PW was with a part of 25 men (drawn from Land 2 Pls) under Cpl HARBACH - acting 1 Pl Comd - which set off at about 0200 hrs on 31 Aug 42 to raid our lines and obtain PW for identification. Three gaps from 200 Jng Jn were provided to make a lane through our wire. The party passed through the gap at about 0300 hrs and came under fire, which caused the party to scatter. PW found a slit trench, in which he remained in the hope of being able to get aback to our lines the following night. His discomfort and the obvious vigilance on our side made him decide to surrender at about 1.00 hrs in area 75301.

UNIT. It is confirmed that the hy armament of 4 coy has been so divided as to make all four coys of 1 Bn equal in armament. At the same time, pls were exchanged between coys and PW was actually in 1 Coy as a machine-gunner until the change over took place. His old PW No was 26183 P and is now 26183 L.

PERSONALITIES. Lieut H.A.TH. 3 was O.C. Coy, when the Regt came out. When he was taken sick, 2/Lt LUDWIG, 1/c 1 Pl, took over the Coy temporarily. When PW returned from DABA, he found that 2/Lt HARBACH was posted and a new Lieut was OC Coy. Another new Lieut was to take over 1 Pl in place of Cpl HARBACH. The remaining Pls were comd by Sgts, names not identified.

DISPOSITIONS. PW states that the posns occupied by his coy are the same both night and day; there are no PWLs which are occupied by night. Listening posts are put out ahead at night and some patrolling is carried out. On the night of his return from DABA, PW was called on to go out on patrol with twelve men; their objective was to observe enemy movements and posts only and they returned without being interrupted. He thinks that this patrol provided the necessary info for the raid of the night 30/31 Aug 42 but feels that the recce was not thorough enough.

He believes that there are only two coys between the main rd and the ry, one on his left flank in the rear which has so far not been in action. He has seen men moving in the day time and estimates a coy strength. He has heard the fire of another posn fwd on his left flank behind a rise and believes it to be a coy of 111 Bn on the other side of the main rd.

All ops must remain under cover all day and he has not been over either the main rd to the left or the ry to the right.

WATER. No drinking water is issued and the issue of salty washing water (on the theoretical scale of 20 litre Jerrican per 16 men every second day) suffices only for cleaning mess tins and for dental care.

MORALE. PW is of the very slow thinking kind and it is difficult to assess his morale. There seems, however, an element of doubt as to the impossibility of his escape during the action and under cover of darkness the following night, and he may have been quite willing to be taken by us.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

INTERROGATION REPORT.

(10)

PRISONERS. L/Cpl Otmar BRUECKNER and PTE ANSTADT, of 12 Coy, 11th Bn, 125 Inf Regt (ex 50 Inf Regt). Both 21 years old and had about 2 years active service. BRUECKNER was with 50 Inf Regt in Russia until recently. He expected to go to Africa. He is recovering from a leg wound received there. Both are intelligent, friendly, and insecure.

DISPOSITIONS. 6 Coy to the coast with a liaison coy on its right flank, and 11 and 10 coys carry on the line NW to the road. The boys are in echelon, with 9 and 11 Coys further forward than the 6 and 10 Coys. 12 Coy has been divided up between the other three coys with a corresponding increase in strength and armament.

11 Coy has its three Pls laid out in triangular formation, with 1 Pl on the right, 2 Pl on the left, and 3 Pl with all by weapons in the centre at the rear.

FDLs. FDLs have been constructed and 30-40 men are sent forward nightly to man them. These men serve as listening posts at the same time, and DW maintain that there are no men posted out further forward.

PATROLS. Patrolling by night was commenced about a fortnight ago with patrols of about 6 men strong. ANSTADT had been up to our wire on two occasions previously. About 4 days ago, his patrol had an encounter with one of our patrols, which ambushed the German patrol from some wrecked vehicles. The Germans withdrew without loss.

STRENGTH. 11 Coy strength is estimated at 100.

PERSONALITIES. Coy CAPTAIN is now OC 11 Bn. Lieut WERNER is OC 12 Coy but is away ill at present. 2 Commanders are: 1 Pl, Lieut KUEBLER, 2 Lt and Adj (ofw) BENSH, and 3 Pl, S/Lt. FRISCHMANN.

CAPTURE. A patrol of 30 strong was sent forward to obtain P/W for identification and information. 4 men from 220 Engr Bn (this Bn had not previously taken part in patrols) were forward to clear a gap in our wire and lift any mines. They were followed by 1 section each from 1 and 3 Pls, and in the rear a light morter section, a heavy morter section and a MG section from 3 Pl. A W/T detachment with a pack wireless set was also with the patrol.

(10)

Cross-fire from MGs was encountered and the patrol was forced to withdraw. Cpl JOVY was killed; he was FCO 1/c 3 Pl HQ (Zugtruppführer) and was acting NCO 1/c 3 Section in place of a C-I wounded in ambush about 8 days ago.

A friend of the two PW was wounded and, whilst dragging him away on a ground sheet, all three men were captured - in area 874302 at approx. 0250 hrs night 30/31 Aug 42.

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

MORALE. Morale is good but not high. Our arty fire has lost most of its terror but the troops feel annoyed that they should have to lie quiet all day and have no movement at all when their opposite numbers walk about freely.

TANKS. No tanks have been seen in the road-to-coast sector. PW have not been south of the road but understand that both 1 and 11 Bn of 125 Inf Regt hold the line there without any tank support.

TRANSPORT. 125 Inf Regt still has no transport available.

INTENTIONS. The rumour still goes round that Rommel has a plan for breaking through in the South, breaking our resistance, and advancing rapidly to Alexandria.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

INTERROGATION REPORT

PREAMBLE. PW is Pte Waldemar LEY, of 2 Bde, 2 Pl, 5 Coy, I Bn, 342 Inf Regt. F.P. No. 08070 D. 20 years old. Although born in STRY in Poland, has been forced to assume German Nationality, serve with the Compulsor Labour Service (Dec 41 to Feb 42), and join the German Army (Apr 42). Speaks German imperfectly, claims fluent Polish and Ukreinian, with working knowledge of Russian. Good type, rather shaken by experiences. Must be regarded as a deserter. Expresses willingness to join free Polish forces and says that all remain ("Ubrigd OSTLAND") escaped after fall of Poland and is thought to be already serving.

MILITARY HISTORY. Trained with "3. Sch. Kra. Kpe 1/321" at NICHOLSBURG, transferred to "Westlandkompanie 1" at BRUNSSEON in Greece for further training, and moved later to PARAKINEI near ATHENS to guard a big army petrol dump. Volunteers were called for, but only two Offs and PW were selected for service in AFRICA. Came over by air on 1 Aug 42, has only seen it Africa 14 days.

UNIT. PW is rather vague about his Coy in some respects, partly on account of his short stay in Africa and partly through lack of interest and knowledge of German. The only personality he can mention is S/Lt MARTIN, who (he states) is OC 5 Coy.

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

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

MT was provided for about 13 km of the distance and the remaining 8-9 km were covered on foot. The party came under fire and went to ground. PW, who had intended to desert, stayed dead beside a dead comrade and was left behind when the party withdrew. He remained quiet for an hour and had a difficult time when the Germans came forward again. He surrendered soon after dawn. The raid was commenced at about 2000 hrs and PW thinks the first attack took place about 2200 hrs. Approximate area of capture [illegible] 378296.

DISPOSITIONS. Although PW is liable to be rather inaccurate at times, he gives the following picture of the sector in which he was placed. The Germans, realising that the Italians are considered easy meat, put out a screen of Italians in the FDLs as bait. These Italians are to retreat left and right if attacked in force. Behind the forward Italian lines are minefields one km square and in the gaps separating them are strongpoints, manned alternately by Germans and Italians. The 5 Coy itself is laid out with three Pls (1, 2, 3 reading from R to L) in slightly staggered formation and the fourth (Heavy) Pl in the rear. Behind the Coy lines are dug-in tks, AA guns, and field btys. The number of tanks is considered to be fairly light, but only about 5 at a time have been seen moving about. PW puts them as Mark II and Mark III but cannot be sure, as they were some distance away.

This type of defence is considered to be the best for weakening the enemy in case of attack and also allows of an easy advance with ck sp if required.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

PW has no idea of the front covered by his Coy but is certain that it is far too long, as his Section covers nearly 100 meters and was well spaced out from the next.

FATIGUES, WORKING. Since his arrival he has not been out on patrol and has only been to the communication trenches occasionally at night.

CAMOUFLAGE / FLAMMING UNIT. No knowledge.

It would appear that the main German forces in this Sector are now well behind the forward wire.

1725 hrs (120)

File

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM.

TO: 2/13, 2/15 & 2/17 AUST INF BNS; 9 AUST A.TK BTY; 10 AUST A.TK BTY; "B" COY 2/2 A UST MG BN; 2 REC SEC 2/1 AAFW; "J" DIV SEC OFP; 58 LAD; HQ GD PL.

FROM: 20 AUST INF BDE No. I.315. 21. -----

following area reserved for CE 30 Corps and is out of bounds to all not specially authorised (.) boundaries (.) 450 to 452 easting grid and 901 to 903 northing grid. (.) all informed

Except W/T for Capt D.R.L.S. T.O.O. 1400

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

War Diary

SECRET

HQ 2/13 AUST INF BDE
20 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST INF BDE

REPORT ON ENEMY DEFENCES RETURN

23B AND 23Y GRID LINES

The defences in this area are difficult to plot by ground observation as they lie in a hollow. It has not been possible to fix any posn by resection except the posn of the strong point at Pt 23, the location of which was of course already known. However, one other strong point in this area has been effectively shelled by 25 FTY under direction of an FOO on indication by the "I" Agt of this Bn and the co-ordinates supplied for this point by 25 FTY(87211087977) have been utilised. Other plottings are made by judging by eye the posn of the other defences in relation to these two fixed points.

The main strong post in this area is at approx. 87212977. It is heavily wired, the wiring consisting of an outer line of triple dannert fence coming out to an apex at approx 87222977. At the end of each receding arm of this apex the wire joins with two lines of wire, one running out towards the next strong post, the other running due WEST, protecting the flank of the post. Inside this wire is at least one complete ring of dannert wire encircling the post: in front of the post this wire is triple dannert. Whether it continues as triple dannert the entire way round could not be observed: nor could the observer say whether there is a third ring of wire. The location of this strong post may be picked out from two unused trucks, one of which is in the wire NE of the post and one in the wire SWW of the post. Its location also mentioned above has been verified by patrols and from their investigations it is certain that there are unwired posts in front of the main position.

The wire running NW to strong post at 87222981 is single dannert, but the strong post itself is very strongly wired with triple dannert in front. Triple dannert runs away from this post approx NWWNW, and behind this wire, further posns have been reported by Civ Sigs.

The post at 87212977 is not strongly wired. It appears to be encircled by single dannert only. There is a gap in the wire between this post and the main strong point where a man was observed to walk as indicated in the sketch. From this post a line of pickets runs out towards Pt 23, but it is not possible to say whether any is on the pickets. Such wire as there is, is either single strand or too low to observe. Behind this line of pickets a line of dannert wire can be clearly seen running out to a point WSW of Pt 23.

Pt 23 is strongly wired. The main line of wire which appears in front of the posts is of single dannert at this point, and the post appears to be encircled by two lines of single dannert behind this line of wire.

Behind Pt 23 are several ridges, so that the ground from Pt 23 WESTWARDS is mainly dead. Considerable enemy movement has been observed in this area. Where the ground is un observation, single dannert can be seen on the ridges. Ground patrols have observed extensive works, necessitating the use of a compressor, being carried out, outside the present wired posts and to the SE of it.

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NOTE ON OVERPRINT OF 10 AUG 42.

It will be observed that this commentary places the line of strong points NORTH from Pt 23 further to the EAST than shown in the overprint. This is due entirely to the fact that the ary co-ordinates mentioned above were taken as the basis. None of our observations must be taken as contradicting the overprint may. Another factor to be borne in mind is the undoubted fact established by patrols that there are strong posts in front of the wire and minefield shown on the overprint.

Dvt Thranghan
sent for Lt-Col,
Comd 2/13 AUST INF BDE.
(R.W.N. TURNER)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

War Diary

SECRET

HQ 2/13 AUST INF BN
29 AUG 42.

HQ 20 AUST. INF. BDE

REPORT ON ENEMY DEFENCES BETWEEN
298 AND 297 GRID LINES

The defences in this area are difficult to plot by ground observation as they lie in a hollow. It has not been possible to fix any posn by resection except the posn of the strong point at Pt 23, the loca tion of which was of course already known. However, one other strong point in this area has been effectively shelled by 58 BTY under direction of an FOO on indication by the "I" Sgt of this Bn and the co-ordinates supplied for this point by 58 BTY(87211029797) have been utilised. Other plottings are made by judging by eye the posn of the other defences in relation to these two fixed points.

The main strong post in this area is at approx. 87212977. It is heavily wired, the wiring consisting of an outer line of triple dannert fence coming out to an apex at approx 87222977. At the end of each receding arm of this apex the wire joins with two lines of wire, one running out towards the next strong post, the other running due WEST, protecting the flank of the post. Inside this wire is at least one complete ring of dannert wire encircling the post: in front of the post this wire is triple dannert. Whether it continues as triple dannert the entire way round could not be observed: nor could the observer say whether there is a third ring of wire. The location of this strong post may be picked out from two unused trucks, one of which is in the wire NE of the post and one in the wire SOUTH of the post. Its location as above has been verified by patrols and from their investigations it is certain that there are unwired posts in front of the main position.

The wire running NE to strong post at 87222981 is single dannert, but the strong post itself is very strongly wired with triple dannert in front. Triple dannert runs away from this post approx NORTH, and behind this wire, further posns have been reported by our Sqns.

The post at 87212975 is not strongly wired. It appears to be encircled by single dannert only. There is a gap in the wire between this post and the main strong point where a man was observed to walk as indicated in the sketch. From this post a line of pickets runs out towards Pt 23, but it is not possible to say whether any is on the pickets. Such wire as there is, is either single strand or too low to observe. Behind this line of pickets a line of dannert wire can be clearly seen running out to a point WEST of Pt 23.

Pt 23 is strongly wired. The main line of wire which appears in front of the posts is of single dannert at this point, and the post appears to be encircled by two lines of single dannert behind this line of wire.

Behind Pt 23 are several ridges, so that the ground from Pt 23 WESTWARDS is mainly dead. Considerable enemy movement has been observed in this area. Where the ground is in observation, single dannert can be seen on the ridges. Ground patrols have observed extensive works, necessitating the use of a compressor, being carried out, outside the present wired posts and to the SE of it.

From approx 87162976 a line of long pickets can be seen extending SOUTH to approx 87192968 (where observation ceased). This may indicate the WESTERN boundary of an enemy minefield. The latter view is confirmed by the fact that a track was observed (see sketch) at approx 87132976 moving SW in the approx direction of the line of pickets to approx 87182972 where it turned sharp left and after a short distance proceeded NORTHWARDS and out of sight without stopping. The fact that such a circuitous route was taken suggests the existence of a minefield (real or "dummy") with a gap at 87182972 and of gaps in the wire at 87192977 and 87192973.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

NOTE ON OVERPRINT OF 10 AUG 42.

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Lt-Col,
Comd 2/13 AUST INF BN.
(R.W.N. TURNER)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

W.D

Q162/1/599.a

HQ., 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
25 Aug 42.

All Coys
IO
QM

LOB PERSONNEL.

To a ss ist in reorganisation of LOB gp Coys will submit nominations for personnel to be LOB in accordance with the following scale, not later than 1800 hrs 26 Aug 42.

Coy	WO (11)	Sgts	Cpls	Ptes	Remarks
HQ	1	-	3	27	includes 3 Sigs 6 MT drs 2 drs carriers 2 mortar personnel
Bn HQ		1			
A	-	1	2	2	
B	-	-	-	10	
C	1		2	3	
D	-	1	2	5	

Coys will keep nominal rolls up to da te in accordance with Adm Order No.1 pa ra 4 (c)(iii)

Capt
Adj 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

I. Section.
~~A.D.M.S.~~
~~9 AUST DIV~~.

HQ 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
6 Sep 42.

MEDICAL REPORT, 1-31 AUG 42.

On.1 Aug 42 the Bn moved to the coastal sector, remaining for three weeks in region of Pt. 26 (879300), and then moved to region of TRIG 33 (875301).

Since the positions were static there was a considerable increase in the attendance at the R.A.P. on the figures of the previous month.

1. SICKNESS. The total attendance at R.A.P. was 735, more than double the July attendance; this did not signify an undue increase in sickness, but result from the static conditions and increased facilities for treatment.

The total evacuations were 57, as compared with 88 for july - a truer indication of the general health of the Bn.

(a) Dysentery:- There were 8 cases of clinical dysentery, one less than previous month, and 36 cases of enteritis.

(b) Lice Infestation:- An inspection was made of every man in the Bn, and also attached troops, and 11 cases of pedic.pubis found.

(c) P.U.O.:- There were 12 cases of P.U.O., a considerable decline on the 45 cases of the previous month.

(d) V.D.:- There were 4 cases of V.D., three of which presented penile ulcers.

(e) Desert Sores:- A considerable increase in the incidence of "desert sores" was noted. 114 new cases being treated as compared with only 48 for July. None of these was serious, and only three warranted evacuation.

2. BATTLE CASUALTIES. There were 2 K.I.A and 1 D.O.W.; in addition 6 wounded, and 3 missing.

3. SANITATION AND HYGIENE. A high standard of sanitation was achieved and the number of flies in the area considerably reduced. Twelve latrines were supplied by 2/4 AUST FD HYG SEC and an additional 40 were constructed by Pnr Pl, providing one latrine for every 10 men.

Anti-fly measures included:-

(a) The provision of approx 50 wire gauze flytraps made by Pnr Pl.
(b) Careful burying of all refuse and food scraps.
(c) Spraying with FLYSOL.
(d) Use of fly swats.
(e) Use of sodium arsenite soln. in special containers.
(f) Capture and training of a number of chameleons, one of which accounted for 60 flies in half an hour.

4. EQUIPMENT and SUPPLIES. Six more scissors, stretcher-beare -r, were received providing one for every stretcher bearer and medical orderly.

No difficulty was experienced in obtaining medical supplies

5. COMFORTS. The R.A.P. was visited weekly by Red Cross Rep, who left supplies enabling patients to be provided with biscuits and hot tea,coffee or cocoa every ~~evening~~ morning.

A wireless set was purchased from Regtl Funds to provide amusement and mental relaxation for men attending R.A.P.for treatment.

6. STRETCHER BEARERS, are up to full strength and without exception doing excellent work.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

MEDICAL STATISTICS FOR AUGUST, 1942.

Total Attendance	Average Daily Attend.	Total Evacns	Enter-itis new cases	Pedic-uloses new cases	V.D.	PUO new cases	Sores New Cases	BATTLE CASUALTIES K.I.A.	BATTLE CASUALTIES WOUNDED	Dysen-tery
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
735	24	57	36	11	4	12	114	2 3 Missing 1 D.O.W.	6	8

R.C.R.Goode. Capt, AAMC.
R.M.O. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
(P.C.R.GOODE)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S22/39 File

HQ,20 Aust Inf Bde.
31 Jul 42.

STANDING ORDERS FOR PATROLS.

1. General.
Whenever the Bde is in contact with the enemy,a policy of vigorous and extensive patrolling will be followed,the object of which is to obtain information about the enemy and keep it up-to-date,to maintain control right up to the opposing FDLs,to harass the enemy and inflict damage & casualties on him by all possible means.
Normally,patrolling and small-scale raids will be carried out by fwd bns,to give them the benefit of their knowledge of the ground and of their observation by day. The res bn may occasionally be called upon for larger raids.

2. Notification.
(a) Units intending to send out patrols will fwd the following information to Bde HQ by 1200 hrs on the day of the patrol:-
(i) Type.
(ii) Composition.
(iii)Time out.
(iv) Route.
(v) Probable time in.
(vi) Any light sigs arranged.
(vii)Any other matters considered relevant.

(b) This procedure is NOT intended to prevent units sending out opportunity patrols,where there is no time to follow the normal procedure above,but arty OPs and all tps in FDLs MUST in all cases be warned,and Bde HQ notified as soon as practicable.

(c) Bde HQ is responsible for notifying flanking units,arty HQ,MG HQ, Fd Amb etc.As an additional precaution units will give full particulars to arty OPs,ATk and MG dets in their area,and where necessary,to sub-units on their immediate flank,in addition to their own sub-units.

3. Passwords will normally be the password of the day as issued by Bde HQ.

4. Information Required.
Inf patrols are a prolific source of valuable information about the enemy. The following are some of the headings:-

(a) Enemy Order of Battle-best obtained by identification of PW,but units can also be easily identified by the paybook,in the case of GERMANS, and by shoulder-strap and gorget patch on the collar,in the case of ITALIANS. Patrols should bring in these means of identification whenever possible.

(b) Enemy Eqpt-especially new types.

(c) Enemy Methods- Patrolling.
Occupation of additional or alternative posns by day or night.
Alarm System (bird calls,shots,flares etc).

(d) Enemy Disposns-Wire,minefields,strongpts,gun,MG and ATk posns.

5. Fighting Patrols.
(a)The object of fighting patrols is to secure PW,to inflict casualties on the enemy and destroy enemy eqpt. Such patrols should ordinarily be undertaken after a thorough previous recce. If enemy eqpt is likely to be captured,a det of engrs should be incl in the patrol to destroy enemy eqpt which cannot be brought in.

(b) If arty or MG sp is required to assist the patrol by fire while it is out,or for its extrication,such sp will be arranged through Bde HQ,and adequate notice will be given to allow the details to be settled.

(c) If a unit intends to use its mortars for sp,that fact will be

/2.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

notified to Bde HQ with the other information in para 1 (a).

6. Recce Patrols.
Recce patrols should endeavour to get information without the fact of the recce becoming known to the enemy. But recce patrols will be adequately armed and prepared to act offensively, should opportunity offer.

7. All patrols will bear in mind that the advantages of surprise and the sudden opening of fire by automatics from concealed posns at night often far outweigh inequality of numbers.

8. Patrol Reports.
The Duty offr at Bde HQ will be informed by telephone of the return of the patrol; any important features or results of the patrol will be rung through to Bde HQ before 0630 hrs and full patrol reports will reach Bde HQ by 0800 hrs. Whenever possible, these will be picked up by LOs who will arrive at Bn HQ during stand-to each morning. Patrol reports will be made on a pro-forma as under:-

UNIT-- PATROL REPORT. S E C R E T

(Date)-------

Coy.	Strength.	Time out.	Time in.	Route.	Report.

SECRET.

2/13 AUST INF BN

STANDING ORDERS FOR GENERAL ALARM.

1. In order that the Bn may be enabled to prepare itself in the shortest possible time to meet any sudden emergency, the following orders for adm preparations and for action on the general alarm being given will come into force forthwith.

2. SIGNAL FOR GENERAL ALARM. Signal for general alarm will be given by phone to all Coys. Code word will be "BLUNDERBUSS". To supplement phone service and to provide against failure, a light signal of two RED Vereys will be fired from Bn Hq. All Coy prowlers and other personnel on duty will be warned to watch for this signal and if same is seen, to report it at once to their Coy HQ.

3. AUTHORITY FOR SIGNAL. Duty Offr on receipt of any information indicating likelihood of enemy action, or on receiving report of firing of any light signal from any VP or Security point will immediately call the Adjutant and the CO or the Senior Officer in camp at the time. The signal will only be given on the authority of the Adjt, CO or other senior offr.

4. ACTION ON GENERAL ALARM.
   (a) On signal for general alarm being given all personnel will immediately parade in battle order on present Coy pde gds.
   (b) Duty Offr will be responsible for informing Bde immediately the signal for general alarm is given.
   (c) Coys will each immediately send two runners to report to Bn HQ for duty.
   (d) Unless otherwise ordered, Bren guns, TSMGs together with magazines for each will be carried by Coy personnel.
   (e) A/Tk rifles, 2" mortars and reserve rations will be prepared by CQMSs for instant loading on 30 cwt truck. On arrival of truck these will be loaded and lorry stand by for orders.
   (f) TO on receipt of signal will at once send COs car utility to Bn HQs. 1 x 30 cwt truck to each Rifle Coy, 2 x 15 cwt to A/A Pl, 3 x 15 cwt to Mortar Pl, 2 MC DR to Bn HQ and 1 MC DR to Carrier Pl and will man remainder of vehs and await orders.
   (g) Carrier Pl will assemble with carriers armed ready to move out along the present "out" road and stand by for orders. COs carrier will report to Bn HQ.
   (h) A/A Pl will mount two posts in present Bn area and will also mount 2 x 15 cwt trucks to stand by for orders.
   (i) Coy Comds will ensure that prowler guards on present areas are maintained in accordance with present orders for camp security.
   (j) Bn Gd will detail two men to guard any prisoners in custody and remainder of guard will fall in Bn Gd Pde gd
   (k) OC No 1 Pl will detail a visual terminal to report to each Coy HQ and will establish V/T near present Bn HQ with maximum visibility over near coastal areas.

5. AMMUNITION.
   (a) All coys will ensure that full first line amn stocks are maintained easily and quickly accessible in their coy stores. 50% of the Bren and TSMG magazines on issue to each Coy will be maintained filled but the magazines will be emptied and the second 50% filled each afternoon at 1630 hrs so that no magazine remains filled for more than 24 hrs continuously.
   (b) On receipt of the signal for general alarm CSMs will be responsible for issue of amn to personnel of the Coy on following scale.

Per Man	- 50 rds SAA Bandolier.
	- 36 Grenades- 1 per man or full no on issue.
Per Bren LMG	- 1000 rds SAA.
Per TSMG	- 500 rds per gun.

CQMSs will be responsible for issue of weapons and loading of tpt.

Over.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

6. RATIONS.

Two days reserve rations will be prepared in Pl lots, cased in convenient size for rapid handling and labelled and held ready in Coy stores. Coys will ensure that the water bottles of all ranks are filled at 1630 hrs daily.

H.G. Wilson Lieut
Capt.
Adjt 2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
(S R Leach)

DISTRIBUTION

All Offrs.
20 Aust Inf Bde.
War Diary (2)
File.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

G15/7/470.

SECRET.
COPY NO. 1.
18 AUG 42.

20 AUST INF BDE- OPERATION ORDER NO 18.

Ref Maps: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.
EL HAMMAM 1/100,000.

NO CHANGE FROM VERBAL ORDERS.

INFORMATION.

1. 9 Aust Div is to defend present FDLs at all costs.

2. 23 Armd Div, less 40 RTR Gp, has moved to area EL AGURI TOMB 428885 to be prepared to counter-attack in that area. 40 RTR Gp remains under comd 9 Aust Div.

3. 26 Aust Inf Bde is to be made mob. Tasks:-
   (a) to hold defended area "A", and
   (b) to be prepared to counter-attack to restore the situation in 20 or 24 Aust Inf Bde areas.

4. RAA and RAE are to submit traces to show bty areas and mined areas.

5. The area of responsibility of 20 Aust Inf Bde for defence against paratp landings is-
   area enclosed by FDLs and incl western minefd of EL ALAMEIN defended locality north of 88102952.

INTENTION.

6. 20 Aust Inf Bde will defend present FDLs.

METHOD.

7. The above intention will be impressed on all ranks immediately.

8. Defence schemes will be reviewed, especially to arrange where necessary for :-
   (a) minefds to be of irregular pattern, concealed and to be covered by fire.
   (b) range marks to be erected.
   (c) any re-allotment of weapons.
   (d) provision of a res for counter-attack in each locality down to and incl coy localities.

9. After review, defence schemes will be submitted to this HQ in the form of brief notes accompanied by a trace to show-
   Pl areas.
   ATk layout.
   MMG layout.
   Where traces have already been submitted and no change is to be made, a new trace will NOT be necessary.

10. Patrols. The object of patrols will be :-
   (a) to locate and find the limits of enemy minefds.
   (b) to obtain identifications.
   (c) to obtain PW for interrogation.

11. Anti-Paratp Defence.
   (a) Each unit is responsible for anti-paratp defence within its own area.
   (b) In addition, 2/13 Aust Inf Bn is responsible for the Bde area as far east as the ALAMEIN defences, and will maintain two secs Carrier Pl and one pl inf on immediate notice for this role.

12. Trg. Trg will incl:-
   (a) Trg for counter-attacks in present defences.
   (b) Study of maintenance of momemtum in the offensive.
   (c) G (R) personnel will resume trg for offensive.

ADM

13. Separate adm orders will be issued.

ACKNOWLEDGE. Time of signature 1830 hrs.

Maj.
BM, 20 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

DISTRIBUTION;

	Copy No.		
2/13 Aust Inf Bn.	1.	2/8 Aust Fd Regt.	9.
2/15 Aust Inf Bn.	2.	2/13 Aust Fd Coy.	10.
2/17 Aust Inf Bn.	3.	Comd.	11.
9 Aust ATk Bty.	4.	SC.	12.
10 Aust ATk Bty.	5.	Bde T.O.	13.
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn.	6.	Sup.O.	14.
B Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn.	7.	File.	15- 16.
2/7 Aust Fd Regt.	8.	War Diary.	17- 18.

Issued through Sigs and LOs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S 21/86

G15/7/458. SECRET.

COPY NO. 1.

7 AUG 42.

20 AUST INF BDE-OPERATION INSTN NO 18.

1. Operational Role.
The operational policy of 9 Aust Div remains the same viz:-

(a) Harassing the enemy by all possible means.
(b) The capture of prisoners on every possible occasion.

This policy will be vigorously implemented by all units of the Bde.

2. Anti-Para-tps.
It is reported that a GERMAN Paratps Regt with a strong ATk element has landed in AFRICA. This may be for use as inf on account of the present shortage, or on normal paratps employment to:-

(a) Capture a strongpt or bottleneck in conjunction with a limited offensive.
(b) Capture an aerodrome as a preliminary to the landing of airborne tps.

So that para-tps can be dealt with when they are at the greatest disadvantage, i.e. immediately after landing, units will organize a small mob force with some carriers, readily available which may be called upon should this form of attack eventuate.
The bn battle gps of res bdes may also be employed on tasks of this nature. Units and sub units must be prepared to protect themselves from this form of attack.

3. Concealment of posns.
Whilst posns may be well concealed from ground observation, many are readily observed from the air due to lack of proper camouflage and the leaving of stores and eqpt round occupied posns.
In future all stores, eqpt and tins will be concealed below ground level and every effort made to camouflage occupied posns.

4. Lessons from recent Ops.
In the past fortnight in various sectors on EIGHTH Army front there have been three cases where inf after achieving initial success has been overrun by enemy tks. In each case our tks failed to achieve their object owing to the presence of minefds or gaps which were not cleared or were not located. The following facts which stand out clearly should be closely examined with a view to future ops:-

(a) The tk killer is the ATk gun which must be well up with the leading inf. If ATk guns cannot be got fwd and ATk localities are not available, inf must be halted in areas where ATk guns can reach them.
(b) When inf is co-operating with tks in attack or in night advs, every precaution will be taken to ensure that direction is kept so that tks find the gaps and are available to sp the inf on the objective from first light.
(c) During night advs enemy defences in the line of the adv and covering minefds in the same area must be completely overcome and mopped up to prevent them coming to life at first light.
(d) Comms have broken down with the following results:-
(i) The higher comd has not been kept informed of the situation and has not been in a posn to give sp which was available.
(ii) Arty sp which was available could not be given.
Comms are of such vital importance that every step must be taken to make certain that some of the means available operate.
(e) Minefds have been largely responsible for the major difficulties. An accurate knowledge of the enemy's posns and minefds must be gained from air recce, ground observation and patrolling. Given this knowledge an op has every prospect of success.

Maj;
EM, 20 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

DISTRIBUTION:	Copy No.
2/13 Aust Inf Bn.	1.
2/15 Aust Inf Bn.	2.
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9 Aust ATk Bty.	4.
10 Aust ATk Bty.	5.
104 ATk Bty.	6.
B Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn.	7.
C Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn.	8.
2 Rec Sec 2/1 AAFW.	9.
Cond.	10.
SC.	11.
IO.	12.
TO.	13.
LOs. 14- 15-	16.
War Diary 17-	18.
File. 19-	20.
40 RTR.	21. (for infm=)
2/8 Aust Fd Regt.	22. " "
10 Bty 4 Lt AA Regt.	23. " "
2/13 Aust. Fd. Coy.	24. " "

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S21/37 I See File
Circled 1/8/42 2010 hrs
Attach copy

G15/8/452. SECRET.

COPY NO. 1.
1 Aug 42.

20 AUST INF BDE- OO No 17.

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy.
A special summary of enemy information concerning the sector to be taken over will be issued 1 Aug 42.

2. Own Tps.
As per Sitreps and daily Int Summaries.

3. Additional Tps.
Details of supporting arms are being issued separately.

INTENTION.

4. 20 Aust Inf Bde will relieve 26 Aust Inf Bde during nights 1/2 Aug and 2/3 Aug.

METHOD.

5. General.
The relief will be carried out during the hrs of darkness and will be completed by 0300 hrs 3 Aug.

6. Adv Parties.
Adv parties, consisting of reps down to one per sec, will report to unit to be relieved on the night prior to the relief.

7. Boundaries and Cov Areas.
As shown on Trace "A" (att).

8. Allotment of Units.
(a) 2/15 Bn will relieve 2/24 Bn and B Coy 2/23 Bn on night 1/2 Aug.

(b) 2/17 Bn will relieve three fwd coys 2/48 Bn and A and C Coys 2/23 Bn on night 2/3 Aug.

(c) (i) 2/13 Bn will relieve one rifle coy and HQ Coy 2/48 Bn on night 2/3 Aug and constitute Bde res.

(ii) Those sub-units at present manning strongposts 1-4 will remain in posn until further orders are issued.

(iii) Assist in manning of further strongposts to be sited connecting left flank of 2/17 Bn and ALAMEIN Defences on the general line of ry.

9. MGs.
(a) MG will be in sp of Bns, tasks being co-ordinated by OC, "B" Coy 2/2 MG Bn.

(b) Pls now with Bns will move with Bns to new posns.

10. Routes.
(a) 2/15 & 2/13 Bns- main Coast Rd-track junc 88042973-thence causeway to beach track to rear of new posns.

(b) 2/17 Bn- Main Coast rd to debussing area to be recced by 2/17 Bn.

/2.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

11. Timings.
(a) Main Coastal rd is reserved for 2/17 Bn till 2200 hrs at which time tail of coln will be clear of rd junc 88042973.

(b) No movement of 2/13 Bn before 2200 hrs 2 Aug.

12. Patrols.
(a) Units of 26 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for patrolling up till and incl the night of their relief, personnel of incoming units accompanying patrols.

(b) A policy of aggressive patrolling will be implemented by units in accordance with "Standing Orders for Patrolling" to be issued 1 Aug.

13. Fd Wks.
(a) Units will strengthen existing def posns.

(b) No further minefields will be laid without ref to this HQ; recommendations as to the re-laying of existing fds will be submitted as soon as possible after relief of 26 Aust Inf Bde is completed.

14. "B" Ech Area.
(a) will be recced by Bde and areas allotted to units.

(b) Guides will report to Rear Bde HQ by 1800 hrs 2 Aug.

15. RAF.
(a) Close sp aircraft are available for bombing of suitable targets and units will submit calls for bombing in accordance with pro-forma to be issued.

(b) Bomb lines will be notified to units by this HQ.

ADM.

16. Amn.
(a) Full G1098 scale will be carried by all units.

(b) Any excess of G1098 scale at present held by 26 Bde will be taken over by units of 20 Bde on relief.

17. Veh Rations.
(a) 3 days veh rations will remain intact in unit vehs.

(b) Veh rations at present loaded in 345 Gen Tpt Coy will be unloaded and held in unit "B" Ech area.

18. Tp Carrying Tpt.
Three pls 345 Gen Tpt Coy will be available for tpt of personnel of 2/13, 2/15 and 2/17 Bns and on return journey will carry personnel of 26 Aust Inf Bde.

19. Foreign Weapons. /from
Foreign weapons will be taken over units of 26 Bde in accordance with 9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 87.

20. Inventory-Post Stores.
(a) An inventory of post stores and surplus amn will be prepared by adv parties and fwded to this HQ as soon as possible.

(b) Receipts will be given for all stores taken over.

/3.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

21. Engr Stores.
(a) Mines held with Bns will be unloaded and held in "B" Ech areas. Tpt thus released will be returned to 10 Coy AASC immediately.

(b) All sandbags, picks and shovels will be taken fwd.

22. Hygiene.
Units will make suitable sanitary arrangements on arrival in new areas. In all cases fly-proof latrines will be constructed.

23. Anti-gas Eqpt.
Personal anti-gas eqpt will be carried on the man.

24. Surplus Baggage.
All surplus baggage will be left with "B" Ech and this HQ notified when arrangements will be made for return to Kit Store.

25. Traffic.
(a) Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy will be responsible for general traffic direction on the move.

(b) TPs will be est as follows:-
83319015- on main rd.
88602948- " " "
88042973- main rd and track junc.

26. Tpt.
The minimum amount of Bn tpt will be kept fwd and the remainder returned to "B" Ech area-88602948.

27. Medical.
Will be advised.

28. Sups, POL, Water.
Instns will be signalled later.

29. AP.
Will be notified by signal.

INTERCOMN.

30. Location of HQ.
(a) Main HQ- present location HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde (88023007).
Rear HQ- 88602948.

(b) HQ closes present location 1800 hrs 2 Aug re-opening same time new location.

(c) Rear HQ will be connected by L/T through Main 9 Aust Div.

31. Calls for Def Fire.
Existing arrangements with 2/8 Aust Fd Regt will be used by all units.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Signed at 1730 hrs.
Issued through LOs and Sigs.

Brimson Maj.
BM, 20 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:	OO. Copy No.	Trace Copy No.
2/13 Aust Inf Bn.	1.	1.
2/15 Aust Inf Bn.	2.	2.
2/17 Aust Inf Bn.	3.	3.
"J" Sec Sigs, 9 Aust Div.	4.	
1 Pl A Coy HQ Gd Bn.	5.	
58 Aust LAD.	6.	
B Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn.	7.	
2 Rec Sec 2/1 AAFW.	8.	
J Div Sec 1 AOFP.	9.	
345 Gen Tpt Coy.	10.	

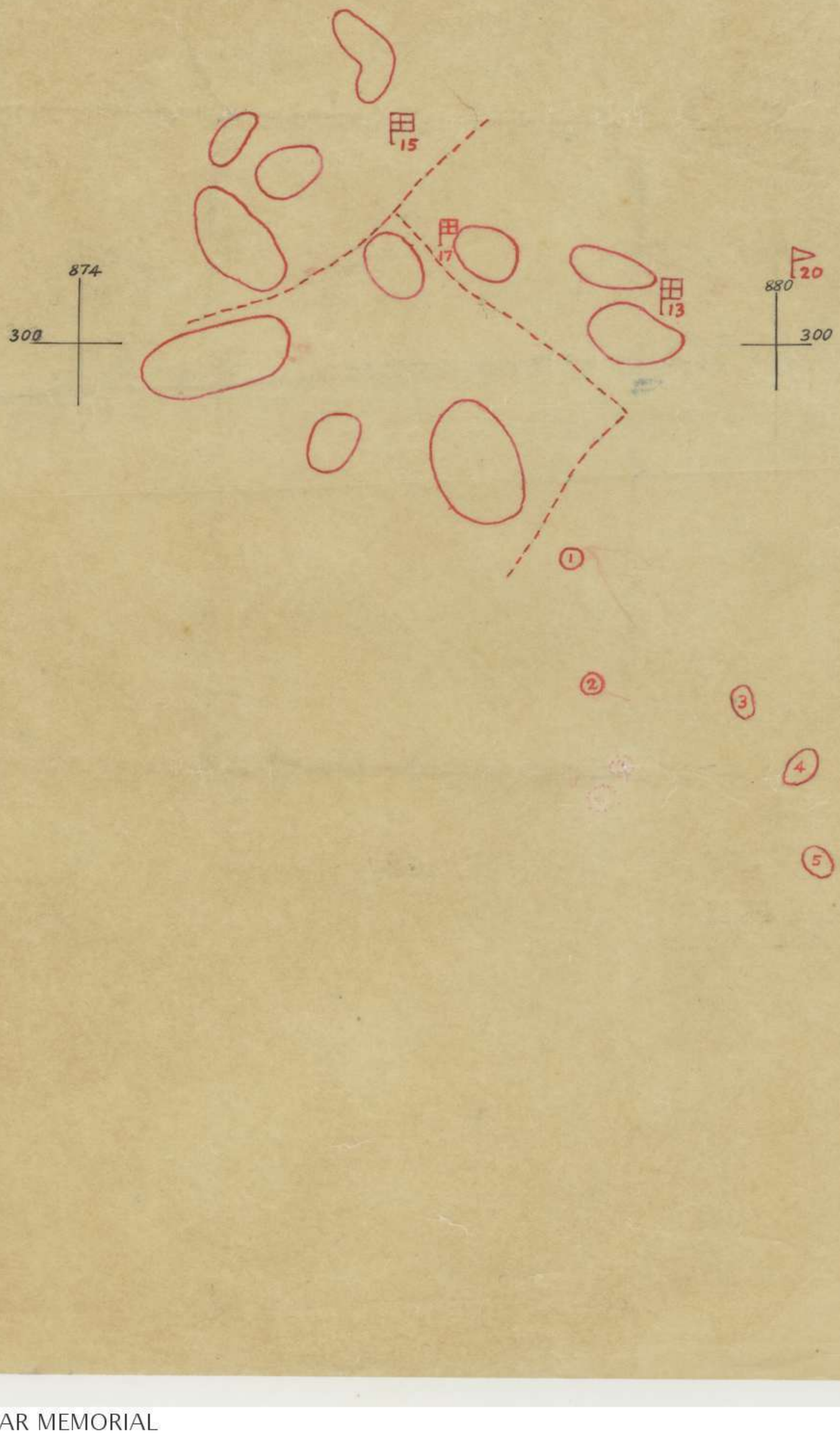
	OO. Copy No.	Trace Copy No.
2/8 Aust Fd Regt.	11.	
9 Aust Div.	12.	4.
26 Aust Inf Bde.	13.	
Comd.	14.	
SC.	15.	
Bde TO.	16.	
Sup O.	17.	
Spare.	18-19.	
File.	20.	
War Diary.	21-22.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

Trace 'A' to
20 Aust Inf Bde OO No 17

Superimpose on EL ALAMEIN
1 : 50.000

SECRET
COPY No 1



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

S 21/11 Copy 4 2/13 Bn

SECRET
Copy No 4

26 Jul 42.

24 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 3.

ref map: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000
EL DABA 1/100,000

INFORMATION

1. Enemy. The following enemy forces are now thought to be in our area of operations :-

1 & 111 Bns 382 Inf Regt	- Coast to incl TEL EL EISA
KIEL Gp and 33 Recce	- area TEL EL EISA
361 Regt Battle Gp incl 1 Bn 361 Inf Regt, 1 Bn 155 Inf Regt	- area excl TEL EL EISA to SANYET EL MITEIRIYA.
BRIEHL Battle Gp	- do
200 Inf Regt Gp	- SANYET EL MITEIRIYA Southwards to approx 284 northing.
TRIESTE	- in sp WEST & SW TEL EL EISA.
TRENTO	- in sp area 200 Inf Regt Gp

2. Own Tps

(a) Op of our tps is to follow that given in 24 Aust Inf Bde Notes on Future Ops No. 1 of 25 Jul, with the following modification -

para 11(a) now reads - "24 Aust Inf Bde Gp will be prepared to attack with arty sp westwards at first light to secure the continuation of the ridge to the WEST of the objective in the area 872290 - 873290 and will in any case engage by long range MG fire enemy MGs and A Tk guns to SW of this area.
1 Army Tk Bde will be kept fwd but will be used in this attack only if the attack cannot secure its objective without tk assistance."

1 SA Div is to mop up in area NORTH of SANYET EL MITEIRIYA ridge EAST of QATTARA RD.

(b) Changes in allotment -
12 Bty 4 Lt AA Regt reverted from comd 24 Jul and remains in sp.

one tp(6 pr) 10 Bty 3 A Tk Regt - under comd from 1200 hrs 26 Jul.

INTENTION

3. 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp will capture line of ridge SANYET EL MITEIRIYA 87372906 to 87532897 by 0100 hrs 27 Jul, and on success of 69 Inf Bde Op, capture extension of ridge to SW NW 87252912 to 87552906.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

METHOD

4. Covered by arty concentrations on objective during their approach, 2/28 Bn will capture high ground from 87372906 to 87532897 shortly after 0100 hrs 27 Jul.
The Bn will then consolidate covered by arty concentrations to their SOUTH and flanks.

5. 69 Inf Bde is to capture line of QATTARA RD between K13 and K16 by 0330 hrs and at first light exploit to secure an area 500 yds to the WEST.
This later phase will be supported by fire by 2/28 Bn Gp on enemy MG,gns&A Tk guns on their front.
A liaison patrol from 2/28 Bn accompanying 69 Inf Bde will make contact with 2/28 Bn and a similar patrol from 69 Inf Bde with 2/28 Bn will contact its own unit.
Strong point will be placed by 2/28 Bn between its left and 69 Inf Bde right flank to cover gap.

6. On advice of success of ops 2/28 Bn and 69 Inf Bde, 2/43 Bn, covered by arty concentrations on its objective and observed fire on its right flank, will be ordered to capture line of ridge 87258912 to 87352906 and consolidate, covered by arty fire by observation and sp fire 2/28 Bn.
1 Army Tk Bde is to be fwd and available to sp 2/43 Bn attack only if 2/43 Bn is unable to secure its objective without such assistance.

7. 1 Army Tk Bde if not committed with 2/43 Bn is to attack westwards to secure the area Trig 30 (870292) - pt 27 (868291).

8. On success of 2/28 Bn and 69 Inf Bde ops, 1 Armd Div attack commences.

9. Grouping

2/28 Bn with in sp -
12 A Tk Bty (less one tp)
one sec 2/7 Fd Coy
D Coy 2/2 MG Bn(less two pls)

2/43 Bn with in sp -
11 A Tk Bty(less one tp)
one sub-sec 2/7 Fd Coy
one pl D Coy 2/2 MG Bn

2/32 Bn with under comd -
one tp 11 A Tk Bty
one tp 12 A Tk Bty
one pl D Coy 2/2 MG Bn

10. Action of 2/32 Bn and 2/13 Bn

(a) 2/32 Bn will remain in present posn in defence, maintaining observation as far NW to SW as possible, to give warning of enemy movement.

(b) 2/13 Bn will remain in defence and maintain observation particularly to SOUTH and SE.

11. Start line

(a) S.L. will be laid and taped under arrangements 2/28 Bn from 87602926 to 87722920.

(b) Same area will be retaped by 2/43 Bn for its attack.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025072

12. Adv 2/28 Bn

Axis - 215° mag(600 yds NW from and parallel to QATTARA RD)

Rate - 100 yds in 2 mins.

13. Contact Pty

Pty of 1 Offr, 1 Sgt and rifle sec 2/28 Bn has reported 69 Inf Bde to accompany their attack, and then rejoin 2/28 Bn.

14. Strong Point from 2/28 Bn.

On capture of own objective, 2/28 Bn will form a strong point in area pt 30 (87542896).
This will move out NOT before ~~0120~~ 0130 hrs.

15. Arty

(a) Arty ZERO - 0030 hrs 27 Jul.

(b) Arty plan coord by CRA is to provide -

(i) Hy concentration on 2/28 Bn objective 0030/0100 hrs, lifting at 0100 hrs to give covering fire on front and both flanks to ~~0120~~ 0130 hrs.

(ii) Hy concentration on 2/43 Bn objective for 30 mins.

(iii) From first light, fire by observation.

16. AA

12 Bty 4 Lt AA Regt in support is to provide -

(a) one sec to move to 2/28 Bn area at 1st light;

(b) one sec to follow in attack 2/43 Bn and remain in their area;

(c) two secs protection 2/13 Fd Regt.

17. MG

D Coy 2/2 MG Bn (less one pl) will when on objective, engage to SW enemy MG, gun and A Tk gun posns by long range fire.

18. A Tk

One tp 10 A Tk Bty will be in res in area Bde Tac HQ from 2030 hrs.

19. Tks

1 Army Tk Bde, in sp, is to assemble fwd and be prepared -

(a) to sp 2/43 Bn in counter attack to 2/28 Bn objective;

(b) to sp 2/43 Bn if that Bn is unable to gain its objective otherwise;

(c) on success 24 Aust Inf Bde attacks, to exploit westwards to secure area Trig 30(870292) - pt 27(868291).

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20. Engrs

2/7 Fd Coy will -

(a) assist in taping of S.L., axes of adv, lift mines and assist in consolidation 2/28 Bn, 2/43 Bn.

(b) one sec, lift mines in present areas 2/28 Bn and 2/13 Bn and along QATTARA RD by 2359 hrs 26 Jul.

21. RAF

F cover from 0600 hrs to 0800 hrs - and later if required.

ADM

22. No change A.P., P.P., Sup P., W.Ps.

23. Engr Stores.

Each man 2/28 Bn, 2/43 Bn will carry fwd 4 sandbags.

24. Medical.

(a) 2 amb cars att 2/28 Bn
2 " " " 2/43 Bn
1 " " " 2/32 Bn

(b) ADS 2/3 F Amb at 87942955
MDS 2/3 Fd Amb at 89122929

25. PWCP at junc main COAST Rd and QATTARA Rd 881296.

INTERCOMN

26. Bde HQ Tac HQ 87952956 from 2045 hrs 26 Jul.

Main HQ present location.

27. Air Sp Sigs. Tentacle set with Bde Tac HQ.

28. AFV Recognition, 27 Jul.

Pennants - one top, one centre

Reply challenge - blue flag vertical.

29. Codes. New map ref and appointments code in force from 0001 0301 hrs 27 Jul.

OR Jackson Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

ACK

Time of signature 1719 hrs

Issued at conference 1430 hrs 26 Jul.

Arrange Take over PW at 9 tank present FDLs.

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Distribution	Copy No.
2/28 Bn	1
2/32 Bn	2
2/43 Bn	3
2/13 Bn	4
2/12 Fd Regt	5
11 Bty 3 ATk Regt	6
12 Bty 3 A Tk Regt	7
2/7 Fd Coy	8
K Sec Sigs	9
D Coy 2/2 MG Bn	10
11 Coy A.SC	11
2/3 Fd Amb	12
76 LAD	13
3 Rec Sec	14
G Div Sec1OFP	15
9 Aust Div	16-18
1 Army Tk Bde	19
20 Aust Inf Bde	20
26 Aust Inf Bde	21
69 Inf Bde	22
Comd	23
S.C.	24
I.O.	25
T.O.	26
Sup O.	27
File	28-29
War Diary	30-31

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