

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

Item number: 8/2/16

16 Infantry Brigade
November - December 1941

N. Q. 16 Aust Inf Bde

WAR DIARY

QATANA

DEC 30 1941

1 Nov 41

Strength of Aust Inf Bde is as follows :-

Headquarters	11 Offrs	60 ORs
2/1 Aust Inf Bn	33 Offrs	712 ORs
2/2 Aust Inf Bn	33 Offrs	747 ORs
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	29 Offrs	587 ORs
"K" Sec Sigs	2 Offrs	36 ORs
7 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn	1 Offr	38 ORs
Total Strength	109 Offrs	2180 ORs

A CLOTH MODEL DEMONSTRATION was given by 10 Corps at BHAMDOUN and was attended by Brig. A.J.Boase, Major H.H.Hammer, Lieut Colquhoun Brigade I.O. and Lieut Pepper Brigade L.O., together with Commanding Officers, 2 i/c and Coy Commanders of 2/1, 2/2, 2/7 Aust Inf Bns. Lectures were given on the general scheme of artillery, anti-tank defences and on the construction of section posts ; also a description of what would be required in the way of stores, reserve supplies and engineering details in the Fortress Area .

QATANA.

2 Nov 41.

French Renault Tank. A report was received at this Headquarters of a French tank, apparently abandoned during the recent Syrian campaign, approximately four miles SOUTH of QATANA.

Lieut Colquhoun, Brigade I.O., left immediately to inspect the tank in order to ascertain as to whether it would be suitable for a demonstration of the penetrative ability of British anti-tank ammunition.

WAR DIARY

3 Nov 41

QATANA.

T.E.W.T. Brigadier A.J.Boase, Major H.H.Hammer, Captain Darcey S.C., Lieut Colquhoun Bde I.O., Lt-Col Eather C.O. 2/1 Aust Inf Bn Major Cullen Admin. C.O. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn and Lt-Col Guin C.O. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and Coy Comds of 2/1, 2/2, 2/7 Aust Inf Bns together with representatives from the anti-tank regt also Major Bell 2/2 Aust Fd Coy, and Major Bolton 2/1 Aust M.G. Bn, attended a T.E.W.T., the directing staff of which was composed of the BGS, CRE and Major Lewis-Harris of 10 Corps and Brigadier A.J.Boase .

The exercise was for the purpose of illustrating the general principles of defence in the QATANA area .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

4 Nov 41

Lt-Col F.O.Chilton, DSO, 2/2 Aust Inf Bn left this morning for
1 Aust Corps to take up the appointment of G 2 Operations ; Major
P.A.Cullen will administer command temporarily .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

5 Nov 41

Lt-Col H.G. Guin C.O. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn, Major P.A. Cullen, Lieut L.B. Ferguson 2/2 Aust Inf Bn and Lieut C.T. Colquhoun Brigade I.O. made a recce of portion of QATANA Fortress position that had been sited by the 2/7 Aust Inf Bn prior to the 2/2 Aust Inf Bn taking over the area. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn are to take over the Bn. area reced by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

Joseph Faris arrived this morning from 6 Aust Div to take up the duties of interpreter to this Headquarters.

Adv party 2/3 Aust Inf Bn moved to their new location in the QATANA area today.

WAR DIARY.

QATANA.

6 Nov 41.

Main body 2/7 Aust inf bn moved by M.T. to ADSAYA; a rear party consisting of 50 all ranks remained behind to guard tents and to hand over to 2/3 Aust inf bn

A mobile cinema visited QATANA today and was enthusiastically attended by all personnel fortunate enough to be off duty.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

7 Nov 41

2/3 Aust Inf Bn reverted to Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde on arrival of their main body at BIR EL RHAMIY at 1730 hrs today, 2/7 Aust Inf Bn (less rear party) having reverted to Comd of 17 Aust Inf Bde on arrival at ADSAYA .

PARACHUTISTS. At 1735 hrs today a telephone message was received at this Headquarters from 85 L of C DAMASCUS, stating that a Lieut Lacelles of a French Tank Coy reports that three parachutists dropped from a great height at 1130 hrs today N.W. of QATANA village .

Units of this Brigade were warned and 2/2 Aust Inf Bn sent out three patrols to the area .

French troops searched villages in the vicinity, but no sign of the parachutists could be found by any of the parties .

VEREY LIGHTS. A report was received at this Headquarters from 2/11 Aust Fd Regt that a white verrey light had been seen in the BOURKOCH area .

2/3 Aust Inf Bn reported that a verrey light was seen on a bearing of 75 degrees from their HQ Coy, distance indefinite .

A demonstration in assault method of crossing wire obstacles took place at BAALBEK commencing at 0950 hrs today .

Brigadier Boase, Major Hammer, Capt Darcey S.C. Lieut Colquhoun L.O., and Lieuts Bosgard and Papper L.O.s together with C.O.s 2/1, 2/2 and 2/7 Aust Inf Bns attended .

Each unit sent parties composed of officers, NCOs and men . The instructions re the attendance of this demonstration will be found in the appendices .

At the conclusion of the exercise Major Edgar 19 Aust Inf Bde conducted Bde Comd and COs over the Bde area of the JDEIDE defences .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

8 Nov 41

A recce was carried out by Brig. A.J. Boase, major H.H. Hammer, Lieut C.T. Colquhoun Bde I.O., Major P.A. Cullen and Lieut I.B. Ferguson 2/2 Aust Inf Bn, of the Gap Area of the QATANA defences.

VEREY LIGHTS. Between the hours of 1945 and 2235 no less than eight reports on observed flares were received at this Headquarters from units of this Bde. Patrols were sent out to investigate but were unsuccessful in their search.

ENGINEERING DEMONSTRATION. A demonstration of the use of jumping bars and blasting explosives was given by 2/2 Aust Fd Coy which commenced at 0900 hrs this morning.

WAR DIARY

GAFANA

9 Nov 41

PARACHUTIST. While carrying out a recce of the JEBEL BOURKOCH Capt. E. Walker 2/3 Aust Inf Bn observed a large low winged monoplane flying at a considerable height in a south westerly direction and he observed what he thought to be a parachutist dropping from plane .

The plane was first seen at 1535 hrs and the occurrence was reported to this Headquarters .

Patrols were immediately sent out to the area but were unable to find any trace of the parachutist .

Pistol practise was carried out by officers of this Headquarters this morning .

Despite the lack of recent training a surprisingly high average of efficiency was shown .

WAR DIARY.

QATANA.

10 Nov 41.

Brigadier A.J. Boase, Major H.H. Hammer, Lieut Colquhoun
Brigade I.O., Major P.A. Cullen and Lieut I.B. Ferguson
2/2 Aust inf bn made a recce of the GAP area for the
purpose of fixing section positions.

Signal lights. 2/11 Aust fd regt report that at 1930 hrs
what appeared to be signal lights were observed coming from
a point on the front of the spur on the northern side of the
GAP, square 175173, ref map QATANA 1/50,000.
The Brigade I.O. visited 2/11 Aust fd regt and was given a
full report on the occurrence.

WAR DIARY.

QATANA.

11 Nov 41.

Reinforcements. The following reinforcements arrived at DAMASCUS at 1915 hrs today and were conveyed direct to their respective units :-

Headquarters		2 ors
2/1 Aust inf bn	1 offr	34 ors
2/2 Aust inf bn	3 offr	28 ors

Flares. In view of the number of signal lights and flares seen in the vicinity of BAB EL QALAA during the last few days, Lieut C.T. Colquhoun, Brigade I.O., carried out a search of the area from BAB EL QALAA to RAS EL AIN but was unable to find anything of a suspicious nature.

See also ...

WAR DIARY.

QATANA.

12 Nov 41.

Brigadier A.J. Boase and Major H.H. Hammer visited the 16 Aust Inf Bde Carrier School in order to see a driving test carried out by the students in the vicinity of KHAN ECH CHIH.

Pte Abbott D.C.M. 2/2 Aust Inf Bde reported to this Headquarters this morning having just returned from GREECE and was interviewed by Brigadier A.J. Boase.

Brigadier Frewin CCRA 10 Corps visited this Headquarters today in order to discuss with Brigadier Boase anti-tank positions in the GAP area in the QATANA defences.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

13 Nov 41

Brigadier A.J. Boase, Brigadier Frewin CCRA 10 Corps, Major H.H. Hammer and Lieut C.T. Colquhoun Bde I.O. left this morning to visit the Gap Area of the QATANA defences for the purpose of selecting anti-tank gun positions .

QATANA.

14 Nov 41.

Training in air co-operation. The afore mentioned exercise took place today in the area between MBAYAA and AISSEM FAOUQA, 2/3 Aust inf bn as ground troops and the R.A.F., represented by five HURRICANES co-operated in the air. A full report of the exercise is attached in the appendices.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

15 Nov 41

Brigadier A.J.Boase, Major H.H.Hammer, Lieut C.T.Colquhoun Bde I.O., together with Brigadier Frewin CCRA 10 Corps and Lt-Col Stillman C.O. 2/11 Aust Fd Regt, left this morning for the QATANA Fortress area in order to look over the areas selected as artillery troop positions .

Adv party "J" section, 6 Aust Div Sigs arrived today to commence the taking over of signals in the QATANA area from "K" section which is to move to ED SAYA under the command of 17 Aust Inf Bde .

"J" section was the original Sig Sec attached to 16 Aust Inf Bde in the Libyan and Greek campaign, The section was allotted to 17 Aust Inf Bde during the Syrian campaign and has now returned to this Bde .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

16 Nov 41

"K" Section, (Lieut Logan, & Lieut Kearney) 6 Aust Div Sigs completed their move to ED SAYA today and will be under command of 17 Aust Inf Bde. .

"J" Section, (Capt Parsons & Lieut McLean) 6 Aust Div Sigs moved into the area this morning and will take over the control, from "K" Section, of Signals in the QATANA area .

WAR DIARY.

QATANA

17 Nov 41.

Brigadier A.J. Boase, Major H.H. Hammer, Lieut C.T. Colquhoun together with Lt-Col Stevenson C.O. and Captain Walker Adjt 2/3 Aust inf bn made a recce of the BOURKOCH FORTRESS area for the purpose of fixing coy areas.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

18 Nov 41

Lieut. C, T. Colquhoun Bde I.O. carried out a recce of the QATANA Fortress area for the purpose of finding area within the fortress not under observation from outside. It is surprising how little of the fortress area is out of observation from enemy territory.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

19 Nov 41

Brigadier A.J. Boase, Major H.H. Hammer visited this morning the QATANA Fortress and inspected positions selected by Bde I.O. yesterday and while there selected provisionally a Bde H.Q. at 1862 1695 .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

20 Nov 41

The G.O.C. Major General E.F. Herring, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D. accompanied by Brigadier A.J. Boase and Major H.H. Hammer carried out an inspection of the 2/3 Aust Inf Bn. today .

A copy of the message sent by the G.O.C. to the 2/3 Aust Inf Bn. will be found in the appendices .

Very inclement weather prevailed and with the heavy wind and the amount of dust being carried by the wind, the G.O.C. found it an impossible task to speak to the men of 2/3 Aust Inf Bn and consequently he forwarded the attached message to be promulgated to the Bn .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

21 Nov 41

A discussion took place at this Headquarters this morning between Brigadier de Fonblanque, BGS and Brigadier Perrott CE 10 Corps, the CE Ninth Army, Brigadier Steele, CE 1 Aust Corps, the Commander and Brigade Major 16 Aust Inf Bde .

A further conference was held at this Headquarters this afternoon in which Brigadier A.J. Boase passed on to unit commanders the subject of this mornings conference, matters discussed were as contained in appendices " Notes on the discussion at HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde" which is attached .

WAR DIARY.

QATANA.

22 Nov 41.

Brigadier A.J. Boase, Lt-Col Stevenson, Capt Walker, Lieut Hunter 2/3 Aust Inf Bn and Lieut Colquhoun Bde I.O. carried out a recce of the HARDEBI, BIR EL RHAMIY, BAB EL QALAA sectors of the BURKOCH FORTRESS for the purpose of fixing coy areas.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

23 Nov 41

CHANGE OF COMMAND. As from 0001 hrs 23 Nov 41, all tps under Comd. 6 Aust Div located within 10 Corps Operational boundary (i.e. South of line excl. NEBEK(2423) - RAYAK(1721) and East of Grid line 16) are placed under Comd 10 Corps for all matters connected with :-

- (a) Preparation of Defences
- (b) Camp Accomodation
- (c) Reception and holding of reserves of all natures.
- (d) Clearing of RH(so far as it is at present the responsibility of 1 Aust Corps.)
- (e) Engr services.

All other matters, incl tng, discipline, medical arrangements, pay, ord and daily maintenance are reserved to present channels of comd .

(Authority :- Col.R.B.Sutherland
GS 6 Aust Div)

WAR DIARY.

QATANA.

24 Nov 41.

Brigadier A.J. Boase, Major H.H. Hammer, Major Bolton
2/1 Aust M.G. Bn, Major Cullen Admin 2/2 Aust Inf Bn
and Lieut Colquhoun Bde I.O. left this morning for the
Q 3 area of the QATANA defences in order to look over
section posts and machine gun positions.

2/3 Aust Inf Bn commenced work on the road through
BAB EL QALAA to the BURKOCH BASIN.

Sgt Freeman of 28 FSS 10 Corps has been attached to this HQ
for an indefinite period and will commence his duties
as from today.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

25 Nov 41

The GOC Major General E.F. Herring, CBE., DSO., MC., ED., Colonel Sutherland GSO 1 6 Aust Div together with Brigadier A.J. Boase, Major H.H. Hammer and Lieut Colquhoun this morning visited the QATANA Fortress, the QATANA Gap position and finally the road which is being constructed by 2/3 Aust Inf Bn, through BAB EL QALAA to the BOURKOCH Basin .

Lt-Col W.J.V. Windyer 2/48 Aust Inf Bn arrived this morning at this Headquarters for the purpose of delivering lectures to the officers of this Brigade on the TOBRUCK defences .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

26 Nov 41

The BGS, Brigadier de Fonblanque and CE, Brigadier Perrot, 10 Corps together with Brigadier A.J.Boase, Major H.H.Hammer, Lieut Colquhoun Bde I.O., Lt-Col Eather 2/1 Aust Inf Bn, and Major Cullen Admin Comd 2/2 Aust Inf Bn this morning visited the QATANA Fortress area and inspected section positions and general layout .

Brigadier de Fonblanque and Brigadier Perrot visited this Headquarters this afternoon for a conference with Brigadier A.J.Boase re the QATANA GAP defences .

In general Brigadier de Fonblanque agreed with dispositions as pointed out by Bde Comd on the ground, and remarked that in view of the nature of the ground, he did not see how it was possible to avoid siting posts on the forward slopes in the localities where this had been done . Brigadier de Fonblanque remarked that dispositions rather lacked depth but, when asked by Bde Comd where the additional tps to occupy further positions in depth were to be obtained, was unable to give a definite answer . Bde Comd agreed to construct additional positions in areas shown on original marked map issued by 10 Corps with Op Instn No 4, in the hope that, when the time came, the necessary tps would be available to occupy them .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

27 Nov 41

A demonstration was given today by the 16 Aust Inf Bde Carrier School in the vicinity of KHAN EL CHIH the full instructions for which are attached in the appendices .

Lt-Col W.J.V. Windeyer 2/48 Aust Inf Bn gave a lecture on the TOBRUCK defences to all officers of this Brigade .

Word was received at this Headquarters of the death of Major P.J. Woodhill LSO 6 Aust Div late of the 2/2 Aust Inf Bn .

Major C.R.V. Edgar arrived today from JDEIDE to take over command of the 2/2 Aust Inf Bn .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

28 Nov 41

Major P.J. Woodhill late LSO 6 Aust Div was buried this morning at BEYROUT . Capt. Raftery attended, representing 16 Aust Inf Bde - placed wreath on behalf of the Bde .

Major General J. Northcott, Colonel W.M. Anderson of the Aust Armoured Division and Captain Duffey H.Q. A.I.F.(ME) arrived at this Headquarters today on a visit and stayed the night .

Much information was given by Major General J. Northcott and Col. W.M. Anderson on the position in Australia today . They stated that Australia had made remarkable strides in the production of 3" Mortars, Bren Guns, 2 pdr A/Tk Guns, .303 Amn. 25 pdr Fd Guns. In fact the 3" Mortars production had stopped owing to over production . These statements were most surprising as the greatest difficulty has been experienced by the Bde to get sufficient weapons to train with in the last 7 months .

Major General J. Northcott when he left Australia was under the impression, as were most people in Australia, that the forces in the ME were adequately provided for .

He also told us of elaborate camps, messes and quarters in Australia, a comfortable comparison to the hard living life of the units in the ME .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

29 Nov 41

Major General J. Northcott and party left this Headquarters this morning to visit 17 Aust Inf Bde .

2/1 Aust Inf Bn. carried out a tactical exercise in the vicinity of DIER QANOUN and was visited by Brigadier A.J. Boase and Major H.H. Hammer .

A report by Sgt Freeman 28 FSS 10 Corps who acted as an enemy agent in the guise of an Australia Lieut, is attached in the appendices .

Brigadier R.A.M. Basset DAQMG and Brigadier Perrott CE 10 Corps together with representatives from Supply and Ordnance also Captain Darcey Bde S.C., visited the QATANA Fortress area for the purpose of selecting dump areas and positions suitable for ADS and MDS .

Major Lewin-Harris 10 Corps, Major Edgar C.O. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn and Major Bolton 2/1 Aust M.G. Bn visited the Gap Area of the QATANA defences for the purpose of fixing M.G. positions and section posts .

Captain Fulton Senior Liaison Officer to this Headquarters, returned this morning from EGYPT where he had been attending the M.E.T.S. School at HELWAN. (Motor Contact Wing).

WAR DIARY

QATANA

30 Nov 41

Brigadier Frewin CRA 10 Corps, Lt-Col Stillman 2/11 Aust A Fd Regt, Major H.H.Hammer and Captain Darcey S.C. attended a conference at this headquarters, at which administrative and artillery troop positions in the QATANA Fortress area were discussed .

"D" Coy and one pl "A" Coy 2/3 Aust Inf Bn took over Security Guard duty in DAMASCUS from 1 RF in the 85 Base Sub Area .

Brigadier A.J.Boase left for PALESTINE this morning, leaving Lt-Col Eather to Admin Comd of the 16 Aust Inf Bde in his absence .

Capt. C.R.Parsons "J" Sec. Sigs. has been seconded to the 1 Aust Corps Ski School and marched out today .

WAR DIARY.

QATANA.

APPENDICES.

1 - 30 Nov 41.

- "A" 16 Aust Inf Bde "Routine Orders".
- "B" Report on unusual occurrences in the QATANA area
- "C" Training in air co-operation. - 14 Nov 41.
- "D" Notes on discussion at HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde.- 21 Nov 41.
- "E" Message from GOC to 2/3 Aust Inf Bn. - 22 Nov 41.
- "F" Instruction re 16 Aust Inf Bde Carrier School
Demonstration. - 27 Nov 41.
- "G" Instructions re the Crossing Wire Obstacles
demonstration. - 7 Nov 41.
- "H" Proposal for anti-tank school. - 28 Nov 41.
- "I" Summary of requirements for 1st line pack tpt
- "J" List of 16 Aust Inf Bde Schools for the month
of November.
- "K" Report by Sgt Freeman 28 FSS on "Security at
2/1 Aust Inf Bn Exercise. - 30 Nov 41.
- 40*

15 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDINGNOT TO BE PUBLISHEDNo. 245Part 126 November 411. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders, No 33, by Major-General E.F. HERRING, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.F., issued herewith, will be read and have the same effect and force as if repeated in these Orders.

2. DISCIPLINE - LEAVE:

It is noted, with concern, the increasing numbers of charges being preferred on personnel of this Bde Gp by Provost personnel.

The Bde Comd has directed that if the misbehaviour of troops continues, leave will be stopped indefinitely.

All personnel are to be informed by Commanding Officers of this intention and the consequences to the remaining members of the unit brought to their notice.

Leave parties are in each instance to be addressed, prior to their departure, by a Senior Officer.

3. DENTAL PARADES:

Personnel who attend Dental Parades at 2/1 Aust Fd Amb for treatment at Dental Centre, will carry midday meal. Tea will be provided.

4. PAY:

Acquittance of fortnightly pay will, in future, be made by arrangement with Bde Paying Officer not later than 2100 hrs on the Sunday following pay day.

5. A.C.F.

Units are reminded that they must furnish to Brigade Amenities Officer a copy of the Routine Order in which Comforts are acknowledged.

These advices for recent issues of furniture and tobacco etc. are still outstanding and should be forwarded at once.

6. AMENITIES:

An issue of chairs for Recreations Tents or Huts will be made within a few days from funds made available through Director of Amenities Services.

If units find they require more chairs than are allotted to them, arrangements for purchase at unit expense can be made through Bde Amenities Officer. Present issue has cost 50 Syr piastres per chair.

It is suggested that by refraining from approaching the market individually units may assist in having their wants supplied at best prices and check the tendency that has appeared of very substantial increases.

DISTRIBUTION - As for BRO No 244 dated 21 Nov 41.

[Signature]
Major

16 Aust Inf Bde

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No. 244

Part 1

21 November 41

1. SPEED OF VEHICLES ON NEW ROAD - QATANA - DEIAS:

(a) Sections of the new road QATANA - DEIAS are being gradually opened for traffic. This road has been designed and laid out as a Class 24 highway; the type of road surface being applied is one which will only take light traffic. When shipping space permits the importation of sufficient bitumen, the road will be treated with bitumen and it will then be capable of carrying heavy traffic at normal speeds.

(b) The co-operation of all units and drivers is asked to preserve the road in a good condition, and with that in view, the following are put forward as speed limits:-

Cars and light F.U.s	30 m.p.h.
All trucks & other vehicles	20 m.p.h.

(c) Failure to observe these speed limits is a definite sabotage of the war effort, and it would be greatly appreciated if units would take such steps as they consider necessary to enforce the speed limit.

2. COURTS OF INQUIRY - LOSS OF STORES:

Further to B.R.C. 243 para 9 of 15 Nov 41, representations will be made to P.A.P.C.S., 6 Aust Div, and if the value of the articles is unobtainable in a reasonable time the Court should finalize proceedings showing that prices are unobtainable.

3. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS:

Instances have occurred recently of M.T. Drivers being involved in a traffic accident and failing to stop after the accident.

All M.T. Drivers are to be instructed that no matter how slight a collision or accident has been, they will immediately stop, obtain the No., Rank, Name and Unit of the other driver and any witnesses and inform the other driver of these particulars with regard to themselves.

4. CHURCH SERVICES - Sunday 23 Nov 41:

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

Mass will be celebrated at 0930 hrs in Syrian Catholic Church, QATANA.

Units are requested to provide tpt to enable Roman Catholic personnel to attend the above Service.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 0800 hrs in YMCA Tent, 2/1 Aust Inf Bn Lines. (For personnel of 2/1 Aust Inf Bn, 6 Aust Div Sup Col, 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn, 2/2 Aust Fd Coy (4 sec), 19 Mobile Bath Unit.)

COMBINED CHURCH SERVICE.

A Combined Church Service will be held at 0930 hrs in Syrian Orthodox Church, QATANA (alongside Bde H.Q.).

F.T.C.

A Combined English-Syrian Evening Service will be held at 1800 hrs
in the Syrian Orthodox Church, QATANA. (alongside Bde HQ).

..... Major

B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ Aust Div
2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt
2/2 Aust Fd Coy
"A" Coy 2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/2 Aust Pnr Bn
6 Aust Div Sup Col
19 Tob Bath Unit
"J" Sec, 6 Aust Div Sigs
45 L.A.D.
7 Pl, Aust HQ Gd Bn
23 F.P.O.
War Diary
File

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - CO. MAIDI G.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No. 242

Part I, 15 November 41

1. INVENTIONS:

Officers and COs are to be ENCOURAGED to put forward suggestions and ideas which could improve existing or future equipment, or overcome difficulties now being met. Two immediate needs are:-

(a) A method of getting AFVs over an A/Tk minefield laid in depth and covered by fire.

(b) An apparatus to produce realistic air targets for use when training riflemen and L gunners in AA action.

Any suggestions which might help, no matter how novel, should be forwarded through the usual channels. (Div R.O. para 470)

2. SECURITY - CAPTURED DOCUMENTS:

The absolute necessity of taking all captured documents from Ps.C... for use by the Int Branch must be brought to the notice of all ranks.

The following extract from a GSI (IE) Int Summary is an excellent example of this, having occurred recently in the WESTERN DESERT:-

Four accurate identifications of German Units were obtained from two pieces of paper which, although torn in pieces, had been saved from complete destruction by the action of a quick-witted soldier.

This is a good instance of most valuable information being obtained for the use of the Army as a whole, through the initiative of a member of our forces. (Div R.O. para 471)

3. METHODS OF TEACHING:

The C-in-C has drawn attention to methods of teaching at the Middle East Staff School, MAIFA, which he considers to be extremely practical and up to date, particularly in respect of staff duties in the field, and the graphic representation of subjects to be taught.

These facts should be brought to the notice of all Comds down to Bn and equivalent and all Staff Officers! While it is appreciated that it is difficult for Officers to spare the necessary time, it is hoped that as many of those Officers mentioned will visit the Staff School whenever possible. The Comdt requests that a reasonable warning of intended visits should be given.

To be repeated in Unit Routine Orders. (Div R.O. para 472)

4. RIFLES AND EQUIPMENT - SICK AND WOUNDED:

There is a grave discrepancy between the number of men being evacuated to base hospitals and the quantity of rifles and equipment which, in consequence, should be returning to Ordnance Depots for re-issue to reinforcements.

COs will ensure that all personnel evacuated to TS or direct to CCS take with them their arms and all web equipment.

P.T.C.

COs of Fd Ambs and CCSs will ensure that all arms and equipment (except packs) of personnel evacuated to Base Hospitals is returned once weekly to the DADOS of their formation.

COs will be held responsible that no reserve whatever of rifles or web equipment is retained by their units.

Action will be taken forthwith to implement this order. (Div R.O. para 476)

5. TAILORS CUTTER:

A vacancy exists in the A'OC for a fully qualified military cutter for employment in an AIF Officers' Shop. The accepted applicant will be eligible for promotion to the rank of W.O. (I) if fully satisfactory.

Names of applicants, with particulars of qualifications should be submitted through the usual channels to 1 Aust Corps.

To be repeated in Unit Routine Orders. (Div R.O. para 477)

6. FIELD PUNISHMENT:

Numerous incidents have occurred recently of soldiers being sent to Field Punishment Centre without a prior debit entry for Fd Pun being made in Paybooks.

In future, before committing a soldier to Field Punishment, an entry will be made in RED INK in the Paybook showing the total forfeiture of pay, which is to be calculated at the active rate and NOT at the soldier's drawing rate. (Div R.O. para 479)

7. CRIMES AGAINST CIVILIANS:

Crimes against civilians have become far too prevalent and the GOC AIF (MEF) directs that drastic action will be taken by all concerned to deal adequately with all offenders. Attention is directed to AMR & C 558 (3), the provisions of which will be complied with by all units.

All cases of offences against civilians will be dealt with under sections 6 (3)(d) or 41 of the Army Act, i.e., by Court Martial. (Div R.O. para 480).

8. MEDAL RIBBONS:

Medal Ribbons (in the form of a brooch) will be worn by all troops in MEF when in short sleeves (including bush shirts). In future immediate awards will be presented personally by Army, Corps or Divisional Commanders and on such occasions an initial free issue of Medal Ribbon mounted on a brooch will be made. These will be held by A.Ds.O.S. of Formations. (Div R.O. para 482).

9. COURTS OF INQUIRY - LOSS OF STORES:

All Courts of Inquiry convened to inquire into any loss of Stores or equipment must state in their report an opinion as to whether the CO should be relieved of his personal responsibility for any loss of equipment, clothing or stores. (AMR & C 693). This is very rarely done and most proceedings of Courts of Inquiry have to be referred back to the Court for that reason.

The Court of Inquiry must also report the value of the stores lost, and such value may be ascertained from DADOS 6 Aust Div if the information is not within the knowledge of the Court and cannot be obtained from a copy of Vocabulary of Ordnance prices.

All authorities convening Courts of Inquiry will, in the order convening the Court, draw the attention of the members of the Court

COs of Fd Ambs and CCSs will ensure that all arms and equipment (except packs) of personnel evacuated to Base Hospitals is returned once weekly to the DADOS of their formation.

COs will be held responsible that no reserve whatever of rifles or web equipment is retained by their units.

Action will be taken forthwith to implement this order. (Div R.O. para 476)

5. TAILORS CUTTER:

A vacancy exists in the A'OC for a fully qualified military cutter for employment in an AIF Officers' Shop. The accepted applicant will be eligible for promotion to the rank of J.C. (I) if fully satisfactory.

Names of applicants, with particulars of qualifications should be submitted through the usual channels to 1 Aust Corps.

To be repeated in Unit Routine Orders. (Div R.O. para 477)

6. FIELD PUNISHMENT:

Numerous incidents have occurred recently of soldiers being sent to Field Punishment Centre without a prior debit entry for Fd Pun being made in Paybooks.

In future, before committing a soldier to Field Punishment, an entry will be made in RED INK in the Paybook showing the total forfeiture of pay, which is to be calculated at the active rate and NCT at the soldier's drawing rate. (Div R.O. para 479)

7. CRIMES AGAINST CIVILIANS:

Crimes against civilians have become far too prevalent and the GOC AIF (ME) directs that drastic action will be taken by all concerned to deal adequately with all offenders. Attention is directed to ATR & C 558 (3); the provisions of which will be complied with by all units.

All cases of offences against civilians will be dealt with under sections 6 (3)(d) or 41 of the Army Act, i.e., by Court Martial. (Div R.O. para 481).

8. MEDAL RIBBONS:

Medal Ribbons (in the form of a brooch) will be worn by all troops in MEF when in short sleeves (including bush shirts). In future immediate awards will be presented personally by Army, Corps or Divisional Commanders and on such occasions an initial free issue of Medal Ribbon mounted on a brooch will be made. These will be held by A.Ds.O.S. of Formations. (Div R.O. para 482).

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The Court of Inquiry must also report the value of the stores lost, and such value may be ascertained from DADOS 6 Aust Div if the information is not within the knowledge of the Court and cannot be obtained from a copy of Vocabulary of Ordnance prices.

All authorities convening Courts of Inquiry will, in the order convening the Court, draw the attention of the members of the Court to ATR & C 690 - 696 inclusive. (Div R.O. para 483)

10. DISCIPLINE - CATANA:

Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde is appointed Area Comd of the town of CATANA for all purposes of discipline and internal security. (Div R.O. para 486)

11. MALARIA:

Several cases of malaria have occurred recently in CATANA Area. The CATANA - DI'AS - BARADA Gorge Area will be regarded as malarious and strict anti-malarial measures will be taken. These will include:-

- (a) Spraying of tents, huts or houses will Flysol twice daily.
 - (b) Use of mosquito nets by ALL ranks.
 - (c) Use of Dovers Cream by personnel on duty at night.
 - (d) Wearing of slacks and long sleeves when not in bed between sunset and sunrise. (Div R.O. para 487)
-

12. HONOURS AND AWARDS:

The Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Force, has approved of the following Immediate Awards for gallantry in action:-

MILITARY CROSS

VX 16136 Capt Clive Henry Tracfe Mason, 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

NX 4784 M.O. (II) Francis Joseph Hoddinott, 2/3 Aust Inf Bn
NX 4314 Pte Clarence Atkinson, 2/3 Aust Inf Bn
NX 40814 Pte Maurice Victor Charles Melvaine, 2/3 Aust Inf Bn

MILITARY MEDAL

VX 16232 Sgt Charles Howard Warburton, 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn
VX 42260 Cpl Thomas Alwyn Shannon, 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn

(Div R.O. para 488)

13. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders, No 32, by Major-General E.F. HERRING, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., issued herewith, will be read and have the same effect and force as if repeated in these orders.

14. ROAD DISCIPLINE:

Many cases have occurred recently of disobedience of traffic regulations. Vehicles will NOT travel in the centre of the road but will, at all times, keep on their right side.

When attempting to pass another vehicle going the same way, the horn will be sounded. Drivers on hearing this will immediately pull over as far as possible to their right.

Right of way will be given, at all times, to Staff cars.

Failure of this will be the subject of disciplinary action.

[Signature]
.....Major
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

P.T.O.

--4--

NOTICES

LOST: Army Book 64 N. of No TC/180162 Dvr MOHD YACUB, RIASC, in the Area of BIR HASSANE on 15/10/41.

Will finder please forward it to HQ 84 L of C Sub-Area

LOST: Rifle No H 5550, the property of 1599819 Gnr BERESFORD, 1 Bty., 14 W.C.U.

Any information to HQ 84 L of C Sub-Area.

VEHICLES TO TRACE:

Will the unit having Car No 766 on charge report the fact to HQ 84 L of C Sub-Area.

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ 6 Aust Div
2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt
2/2 Aust Fd Coy
"A" Coy 2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/2 Aust Fnr Bn
6 Aust Div Sup Col
19 Mob Bath Unit
"K" Sec, 6 Aust Div Sigs
45 L.A.D.
7 Pl, Aust HQ Gd Bn
23 F.F.O.
War Diary
File

16 AUSTRALIA INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDER

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOANE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No. 242

Part 1

13 November 41

1. FIRES:

Any further outbreaks of fire in units are to be regarded as suspicious and F.S.S. notified IMMEDIATELY by phone.

To assist investigation, a guard will be posted around the scene of the fire until the arrival of F.S.S. personnel.

2. NOMINAL ROLLS OF LEAVE PARTIES:

Nominal rolls of Leave Parties should show name of unit, date, nature of leave and should be signed. Senior member of each party should be cognisant of Leave Instructions.

3. CATAIA TOWN PICQUET:

The following is the order of units in mounting the above Picquet :-

13	Nov	41	-	2/1	Aust	Inf	Bn
14	"	41	-	2/3	"	"	"
15	"	41	-	2/2	"	"	"
16	"	41	-	2/1	"	"	"
17	"	41	-	2/3	"	"	"
18	"	41	-	2/2	"	"	"
19	"	41	-	2/1	"	"	"
20	"	41	-	2/3	"	"	"
21	"	41	-	2/2	"	"	"

4. CHURCH SERVICES - Sunday 16 Nov 41:

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

Mass will be celebrated at 0930 hrs in Syrian Catholic Church, CATAIA.

Units are requested to provide tot to enable Roman Catholic personnel to attend the above Service.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Holy Communion will be celebrated in Canteen Tent, 6 Aust Div Sup Col Lines, at 0745 hrs.

COMBINED CHURCH SERVICE.

A Combined Church Service will be held at 0930 hrs in the Syrian Orthodox Church, CATAIA (alongside Bde HQ).

A. J. Boane (signed)
.....Major
HOD.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION: As for BRO No 241 dated 10 Nov 41

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

War Diary

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No. 241

Part 1

10 November 41

1. SALE OF GOODS TO CIVILIANS:

It is prohibited for any Mess or Canteen to sell to any Cafe or to any civilian any purchases whatsoever made from AACI or NAAFI. This includes locally brewed beer.

Severe disciplinary action will be taken against any unit or any individual offending in this respect. (Div R.O. para 456)

2. A.A.O.C. - ATTACHED PERSONNEL:

All units will submit to this HQ on or before 14 Nov 41, a nominal roll of A.A.O.C. attached personnel, including Armourers, Fitters, and Drivers MT. (Div R.O. para 459)

3. DEFICIENCY LISTS:

Units will submit deficiency lists to this HQ by 13 Nov 41 in respect of the following items. Lists will show Australian E.2 or G. 1098 scale, holding and deficiencies:-

Anti-Gas clothing and equipment,
Cabinets, Filing, Steel,
Boxes, Stationery, Field, Large and Small. (Div R.O. para 460)

4. ARMS AND AMMUNITION:

Cases have occurred recently of evacuated casualties bringing ammunition into hospitals, in some instances as souvenirs, with them.

Steps will be taken to prevent this in future. In all cases the Ammunition, etc., will be confiscated and at once delivered to the appropriate quarter and will in no circumstances be kept in Hospital. (Div R.O. para 461)

5. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THEFTS FROM VEHICLES:

Reports have been received at this HQ indicating that thieving is being carried out by natives jumping on to the back of vehicles when these vehicles are slowed up at detours and dangerous by-passes. To avoid these losses, units will ensure that on all vehicles, tarpaulins are lashed over the top and at the rear. Under no circumstances are arms to be carried in the bodies of trucks unless personnel are awake near the arms. (Div R.O. para 463)

6. EGYPTIAN TEN PIASTRE NOTES:

The present issue of the above notes is being withdrawn and replaced by notes of a similar design and colour. The distinguishing features between the two notes are that the new note bears a watermark, and the reverse of the new note has a background of brown wavy lines. The old type notes will be valueless after 31 Jan 42. The old note does not bear a watermark of any pattern and the background of the reverse side of the note is plain.

Old notes will no longer be issued and will cease to be accepted by AIF Pay Personnel after 31 Dec 41.

AIF personnel holding any such notes are advised to convert them to other denominations of Egyptian currency or where personnel are

P.T.O.

located in other countries, they should be converted into the currency of that country.

All ranks are warned against accepting old 10 Piastre notes described in Para 1 from any source, either military or civilian.

This Order is to be repeated through all Unit Routine Orders. (Div R.O. para 467)

7. SUPPLEMENTARY RATION ALLOWANCES:

The allowance of 1½ pence per day for each member of the AIF on ration strength was approved to supplement the ration scale.

Responsibility devolves on Commanding Officers of units to expend this allowance on foodstuffs designed to supplement the ration and to provide variations in the soldiers' diet when conditions make it necessary or desirable.

Undrawn entitlements will not remain at the unit's credit as the accumulation of such entitlements defeats the object for which the allowance is granted.

Undrawn entitlements as at 30 Jun 41 will therefore lapse as from the date of promulgation of this order. Similarly, undrawn entitlements accruing at 31 Dec 41 will automatically lapse and thereafter at every quarterly period.

Purchases against the allowance must come within the scope of supplementary rations and be in the nature of foodstuffs obtained from the AACS or NAAFI. Purchases from civil contractors may be authorised at the discretion of formation Comds in areas where Canteens are not operating or are otherwise unable to meet the requirements of units.

Commanding Officers in exercising their discretions as to the expenditure of the allowance will bear in mind the necessity for economy in expenditure and the avoidance of waste. (Div R.O. para 468)

8. PUGGAREES - KHAKI, COTTON:

Approval is given for the issue of Puggarees, Khaki, Cotton, seven fold, to members of the AIF in lieu of Bands, Hat, Khaki. Scale of issue one per all ranks. Units will indent on DADOS 6 Aust Div for Puggarees in the same range of sizes as for Hats, Khaki, Fur. (Div R.O. para 469.)

9. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders No 31, by Major-General E.F. HERRING, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., already issued to units, will be read and have the same effect and force as if repeated in these Orders.

.....Major
B.N. 16 Aust Inf Bde

NOTICES

OFFICERS' CLUBS - JERUSALEM:

Two Clubs for Officers have been opened in JERUSALEM for the benefit of all British Officers. One is at GOLDSCHMIDT HOUSE, King George Avenue, JERUSALEM, Tel No 5291, and the other is the CARMELITE Monastery, Upper Bakaa, JERUSALEM, Tel No 4211, Ext 227.

There are 25 rooms available at the Monastery, and 15 at Goldschmidt House. Rates are as follows:-

/.....3

600 mils per day. (baths and early morning tea included).
No service charge.

Breakfast	80 mils
Lunch	120 "
Tea	50 "
Dinner	200 "

At each place there is a Bar and a Lounge.

MEETING OF SPORTS OFFICERS:

A meeting of Sports Officers will be held at this HQ on
Tuesday 11 Nov 41 at 1630 hours.

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ 6 Aust Div
2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt
2/2 Aust Fd Coy
"A" Coy 2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/2 Aust Fnr Bn
6 Aust Div Sup Col
19 Mob Bath Unit
"K" Sec, 6 Aust Div Sigs
45 L.A.D.
7 Pl, Aust HQ Gd Bn
23 F.P.C.
Jag Diary
File

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No. 240

Part 1

4 November 41

1. HOTELS IN BOUNDS - BAALBECK:

Palmyra Hotel, BAALBECK, is now in bounds to Sgts and above. Hotel Villa Knoum is in bounds to Officers only.

In both Hotels, orders have been issued that jackets must be worn in the dining room by all military personnel. (Div R.O. para 446)

2. SERVICING OF MT VEHICLES:

In accordance with AIF (ME) Order No. 700 of 18 Oct 41, a MT Service Station has been established by 2/2 Aust A Fd Mkshop at ABLAH Barracks.

Vehicles for service such as mentioned in Appendix "A" of the above order will not report to the R and I Office of the Mkshop, but direct to the Service Station. (Div R.O. para 447)

3. PAY - DAMASCUS:

Units are again advised that no pay is available to tps on leave at DAMASCUS. Several reports have been received of units causing a disturbance at British Fd Cashier, DAMASCUS, demanding pay. This matter is viewed gravely by the Area Comd, DAMASCUS, and must be discontinued. A continuance will result in DAMASCUS being placed out of bounds. (Div R.O. para 448)

4. PAYBOOKS - FALSIFICATION OF:

The audit of soldier's pay accounts now provides for the early detection of paybook frauds.

The falsification of paybooks constitutes an offence which will be tried by Court Martial. (Div R.O. para 450)

5. RETURN OF "X" LIST PERSONNEL TO UNITS:

Attention is drawn to the procedure laid down in AIF (ME) Order No. 51, of 12 Oct 40, para 5, in regard to return of "X" list personnel to units. The relevant procedure, amended where necessary, is repeated hereunder, and will be strictly adhered to :-

"On discharge from a medical unit, detention barracks, etc., personnel will be sent to the AIF (ME) Reinforcement Depot, where they will be retained pending absorption. Such personnel will retain their unit identity and will be drafted back to their parent unit on the authority of the DAG AIF (ME). (Div R.O. para 451).

6. LOSSES OF PETROL:

Loss of petrol during transit is becoming considerable and is much greater when transported by road than by rail or sea.

Much loss is sustained by damaged containers, caused through careless stacking, rough handling and general irresponsibility.

Formations and units will give this important matter particular attention and endeavour to lower such losses to an irreducible minimum. (Div R.O. para 453)

7. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders No 30 by Major-General E.F. HERLING, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., already issued to units, will be read and have the same effect and force as if repeated in these Orders.

8. CIVILIAN GUIDES - DAMASCUS:

Several further rumors connected with military matters have been reported as emanating from civilian guides conducting soldiers around DAMASCUS.

The importance of not disclosing or revealing any military information while in the company of guides or other civilians will be impressed IMMEDIATELY on all ranks.

9. BUILDINGS:

Under no circumstances will any materials be removed from buildings, whether deserted or otherwise, without prior authority from this HQ.

10. PETROL:

The following timetable will be observed by units in drawing petrol from Petrol Depot at 6 Aust Div Sup Col Lines, commencing 5 Nov 41:-

2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt	0930 hrs
2/2 Aust Pnr Bn	1000 "
2/2 Aust Fd Coy	1030 "
HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde & attached units	1100 "
2/1 Aust Inf Bn	1130 "
2/2 Aust Inf Bn	1330 "
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	1400 "
2/1 Survey Coy	1430 "

11. MOBILE CANTEEN:

Units are advised that a Mobile Canteen will be functioning in a few days in QATANA.

This service will operate with it's HQ at Canteen Bulk Store, QATANA and will call on all units in the QATANA area.

12. A.C.F. DISTRIBUTIONS:

Normal fortnightly distributions will be made as hitherto through these HQ - units sending transport punctually when advised of issue.

Additional amenities required such as sporting gear, games etc., will be applied for through Bde Amenities Officer and when available will be collected at Bde HQ.

Units will forward to 16 Aust Inf Bde Amenities Officer a copy of the Routine Order acknowledging receipt of the issue.

13. PAY:

More care in the preparation of Cash Requisitions is essential. It is to be noted that COs signature is required in three (3) places on each form, and that the authority for unit officer to collect from Bde Paying Officer must be completed on reverse.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Major
B.N. 16 Aust Inf Bde
11071

NOTICES

LOST:

ONE 3 VOLT DC SECONDARY CELL, MK I VOLT METER IN LEATHER CASE

The above item was lost between 2/7 and 2/1 Aust Inf Bns on 31 Oct 41 at approx 1430 hrs.

Name on case - Sig McALVOY.

Finder please return to "K" Sec Sigs, HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde.

FOUND:

The following articles have been found by the 19 Mobile Bath Unit and may be obtained on application to 19 Mobile Bath Unit :-

Identity Discs - NX 46415 HAMILTON C.L.
" " NX 68710 HILL E. (with key attached)
Yale Junior Key, No 2
1 A.I.F. Hat with Badge - no name.

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ 6 Aust Div
2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt
2/2 Aust Fd Coy
"A" Coy 2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/2 Aust Pnr Bn
6 Aust Div Sup Col
19 Mob Bath Unit
1 Cypriot Pack Tpt Coy
"K" Sec, 6 Aust Div Sigs
45 L.A.D.
7 Pl, Aust HQ Gd Bn
23 F.P.O.
War Diary
File

REPORT ON UNUSUAL OCCURENCES, QATANA AREA.

Ref Map Qatana 1:50,000.

APPENDIX *War Diary* B

1. At 1745 hrs on 7 Nov 41, Capt A.S. Wilson, Staff Capt Learner of HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde, received a telephone message from Capt McQueen, BM of 85 L of C DAMASCUS, stating :-
" Lieut Lascelles of French Tank Coy reports three parachutists dropped from a great height at 1130 hrs 7 Nov 41 north west of QATANA village."
2. Units of this bde were informed and 2/2 Aust Inf Bn sent out three patrols to the area. French troops also searched the villages in the area.
3. Between 2200 and 2300 hrs 7 Nov 41 a report was received from 2/3 Aust Inf Bn that a Verey light had been seen on a bearing of 75 degrees from their H Q Coy, distance indefinite.
2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt reported that a sentry saw a white Verey light in the vicinity of 17651730. French soldiers also report having seen a light at a bout the same hour.
4. Enquiries were made on 8 Nov and the following information was gained.
5. Lieut Curtis of 2/2 Aust Inf Bn reported having seen a yellow plane flying from west towards the east between 1130 hrs and 1200 hrs 7 Nov 41.
6. Major Donald, 2/1 Aust Fd Amb, and Lieut Logan, "K" Sec, 6 Aust Div Sigs, were together and report having seen a plane flying high at 1145 hrs 7 Nov 41 and from it came two white objects which drifted over the mountains north west of QATANA village.
7. On 8 Nov 41, Lieut L. L. Stone, 2/3 Aust Inf Bn, carried out a patrol in area 1788-1731, 1762-1729, and submitted the following report.
" I carried out a patrol on the afternoon 8 Nov 41. On reaching the village KAFER QUOQ I divided my Pl into three patrols with orders to search the hills in the vicinity. The patrol consisted of 1 Offr and 21 O.R's. All native population encountered were questioned but no suspicious elements were found.
On a ploughed field in area approx 1774-1725 (this reference was impossible to check) an empty box was found which appeared to have contained verey light cartridges. This point was pointed out to me by the 2/11 Aust Fd Regt as the place where a light was fired on the 7/8 Nov 41.
The type of country here makes it very difficult to search thoroughly. - L. L. Stone, Lieut."
The box mentioned in this report was of German origin and had contained 25 x 12 gauge sporting cartridges.
8. During the night 8/9 Nov 41, the following occurences were reported.
 - 1945 - Green Verey light observed by 2/11 A A Fd Regt at a bearing of 285 deg from 18011719. Bde were informed at 2030 hrs.
2/3 Aust Inf Bn were ordered to investigate.
 - 2020 - 2/2 Aust Inf Bn reported having observed a Verey light approx 1000 yds west MYABA - square 177167 on a bearing 240 deg from Bn HQ.
2/3 Aust Inf Bn were ordered to investigate this occurence also.
 - 2224 - 2/11 A A Fd Regt observed a white Verey light at 20 deg from HQ.
 - 2245 - 2/11 A A Fd Regt observed a green Verey light about RODOUNE (200 deg) and also, at about the same time, a white light about north east. This appeared to be a star shell, leaving a trail of smoke.

- 2245 - A green Verrey light was observed by Lieut Nathan, 2/1 Aust Inf Bn, almost overhead from 2/1 Aust Inf Bn HQ, slightly to S. S. E. The light appeared at a great height. The occurrence was reported to Bde at 2305 hrs.
- 2250 - 2/1 Aust Inf Bn reported a noise like an Air Raid siren from direction 2/11 Aust A. Fd Regt. The noise occurred between 2245 and 2248 hrs.
- On being informed, Bde contacted the Fd Regt who reported that they had no knowledge of the sound.
- 2235 - A flare was observed by 2/3 Aust Inf Bn, S.S.E. of Bn H Q.
- 0230 - 2/3 Aust Inf Bn observed a flare east of Bn H Q.

9. The following report was submitted by the Patrol Comd of 2/3 Aust Inf Bn who investigated the above occurrences :-

" Patrol of 1 and 34 moved out of Bn lines at 2100 hrs. Patrol moved to position indicated by Bde I.O. with Bde I.O. as guide. Took up position covering gap in mountain range and arrived at 2230 hrs.

Patrol was instructed to remain there until 0500 hrs and be back in lines at daybreak. - To stop all persons entering or leaving pass and detain them until questioned by Bde I.O. next morning.

At approx 2245 hrs while in position a white signal flare was seen in bearing of 180 deg from position.

Flare was some distance from position and owing to precipitous nature of country at sides of the pass, decided not to send recce patrol as it would mean detour of some miles.

No persons entered pass between 2230 and 0500 hrs.

- Signed R. F. Michel, Lieut."

10. All Units under comd were instructed as follows, on 9 Nov 41.

" Units will inform this H Q immediately by phone of any unusual occurrences in this area. Detailed reports will be submitted by 0800 hrs each morning of patrol activities and unusual occurrences."

11. On 9 Nov 41 the following report was received from 2/3 Aust Inf Bn :-

" C.O. and Adjt were carrying out recce on JEBEL BOURKOCH. At 1535 hrs Adjt observed through glasses a large low-winged monoplane flying south west at considerable height, approx over or SOUTH of Rd. - DAMASCUS - KUNEITRA (about 10 miles from the feature.) At a point 163 deg from highest point of JEBEL BOURKOCH a parachute was dropped from the plane (time 1535 hrs). Parachute opened immediately and floated S.W., swinging violently. After about two minutes, it was lost to sight, but had lost very little height."

Reported by phone to HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde at 1640 hrs.

12. Immediately on receipt of this advice, Lieut Bosgard, Bde Security Offr, with Sgt Mason of FSS and the Security Pl of 2/1 Aust Inf Bn were sent to the area and made a search, visiting the village of BEIT SABER. The villagers here brought in shepherds from the hills for questioning and also despatched a runner to a neighbouring village for information.

13. Further report was received from 2/3 Aust Inf Bn, stating :-

" 2010 hrs 9 Nov 41, "C" Coy reported white flare observed burning for twenty seconds, at 1950 hrs. Bearing 240 deg from point 17641696. Flare (possibly a Verrey light) dropped west of JEBEL BOURKOCH. Not known whether fired from ground or dropped from plane.

14. Report from Comd 2/3 Aust Inf Bn standing patrol at BABEL QALAA gap, submitted at 0630 hrs 10 Nov 41 for night 9/10 Nov 41, stated that the patrol; strength 1 Pl took up position in their area at 2030 hrs and withdrew at 0615 hrs without incident.

15. The following report was received from 2/11 Aust A Fd Regt.:-

" Lights were seen flashing at 1930 hrs 10 Nov at a bearing 276 deg from this HQ. The lights were apparently coming from the front of the spur on the northern side of the gap square 175173. "

The matter was reported to Bde and was followed by a visit from the Bde I. O.

16. On the morning 11 Nov 41 the Bde I.O. made a recce of the area from BAB EL QALAA gap to RASEL AIN without result.

17. During the night of 11 Nov the Bde I.O. with Lieut Logan, "K" Sec 6 Aust Div Sigs, took up a position to watch at BIR ED DHAAB but no incident occurred.

18. At 2314 hrs 12 Nov 41, Major Cullen, Admin Comd 2/2 Aust Inf Bn saw a blue Verrey light at roughly 10,000 feet on a bearing 31 degrees from Bn HQ immediately north of RODOUANE.

P. Ralgham
Lieut.
I.O. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

Ref File T/1/161*War Diary*Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.


14 Nov 41.

Headquarters,
6 Aust Div.
-----TNG IN AIR CO-OPERATION
QATANA - 14 NOV 41.

Reference 1 Aust Corps' memo G 1559 undated (received this HQ 10 Nov.).

1. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn bivouacked at MBAYA on night 13/14 Nov being disposed in a protective square formation with the four rifle Coys in the open on the high ground adjacent to the wooded area in which Bn HQ and HQ Coy were concealed with the bulk of the vehicles. The remaining vehicles were in the shadow in wadis in one Coy area.
2. The co-operating planes (5 Hurricanes) arrived 20 minutes behind schedule and were unable to locate 2/3 Bn even when, at the conclusion of the first phase, Coys endeavoured to attract attention by firing red Verey lights at 2 min. intervals. The planes appeared to devote more attention to troops outside the specified area, than to finding those in the area prescribed, and gave the height demonstrations apparently to troops not taking part in the exercise.
3. At 1030 hrs planes returned to MEZZE Aerodrome to refuel and 2/3 Bn moved off by road towards AISSEM FAOUQA to get into position for final phase of the demonstration which was timed to commence at 1245 hrs. In order to ensure that the column would be located, Major Sadler proceeded to the aerodrome to notify the pilots of the route followed by 2/3 Bn.
4. On arrival at the MEZZE Aerodrome it was found that no arrangements had been made for refuelling the planes, and that no proper facilities existed for doing so. Major Sadler reported later that it was not until approximately one hour after landing that the pilots could get petrol and then only in 4 gallon tins. Consequently, it was decided to postpone the balance of the demonstration until 1345 hrs.
5. 2/3 Bn resumed its march at 1345 hrs, but the planes were again late - possibly due to their refuelling difficulties. As a result the tail of the Bn tpt was the only part of the column which could be subjected to lowflying attacks, the proximity of the mountains making attack on the remainder of the column unsafe.
6. From the foregoing it will be seen that much of the value of the exercise, in so far as the troops were concerned, was lost owing to :-
 - (a) the apparent inexperience of the pilots co-operating, or unsuitability of machines for the tasks.
 - (b) the unpunctuality of the aircraft in arriving over the area in both phases.
 - (c) lack of information regarding refuelling facilities at MEZZE Aerodrome or careless staff work on the part of the RAF in not ensuring that proper provision for refuelling was made in advance.
7. Apart from the points mentioned in para 6, there is another more serious aspect, viz:- the loss of prestige by the RAF in the

eyes of the troops, as a result of the bungling of the demonstration, which is particularly regrettable at a time when so much trouble is being taken to explain the real difficulties of the RAF in the Middle East in providing adequate support for the other Services.


.....Brigadier,
Commanding 16 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Ref File T/1/161

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

14 Nov 41.

Headquarters,
6 Aust Div.

TNG IN AIR CO-OPERATION
QATANA - 14 NOV 41.

Reference 1 Aust Corps' memo G 1559 undated (received this HQ 10 Nov.).

1. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn bivouacked at MBAYA on night 13/14 Nov being disposed in a protective square formation with the four rifle Coys in the open on the high ground adjacent to the wooded area in which Bn HQ and HQ Coy were concealed with the bulk of the vehicles. The remaining vehicles were in the shadow in wadis in one Coy area.
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.....Brigadier,
Commanding 16 Aust Inf Bde.

SECRETNOTES ON DISCUSSIONAT HQ 16 AUST INF BDE, QATANA21 NOV 41

Present - BGS & CE 10 Corps.
CE Ninth Army & CE 1 Aust Corps.
Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde.

1. Tactical and technical aspects of layout of Sec Post as shown in blue print issued in conjunction with Appx "A" of 10 Corps Op Instn No 4 dated 26 Oct 41 and certain other matters in relation to the preparations for defence of QATANA and BOURKOCH Fortress and QATANA GAP were discussed.
2. In the course of the discussions the BGS 10 Corps gave the following rulings :-
 - (a) Sec Post shown in blue print is to be taken as the standard type to be constructed where ground is suitable. In other cases, plan may be modified as necessary to fit ground.
 - (b) Ref para 2 (v) Appx "A" 10 Corps Op Instn No 4, Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde is to decide whether priority is to be given to excavating fully a fire position for the complete Sec in one "leg" or whether a fire position in each "leg" for portion of the Sec will be fully excavated and subsequently extended to accommodate the complete Sec.
 - (c) The number of dummy posts to be constructed is approximately equal to the number of real posts. (CE, Ninth Army, drew attention for ensuring that dummy posts are not left isolated but are made to appear an integral part of the completed system in defended localities).
 - (d) The 100,000 mines mentioned in 10 Corps Op Instn No 4, refer to the GAP alone and do not include the requirements of the QATANA and BOURKOCH Fortresses which are being dealt with separately.
3. BGS 10 Corps also stated that :-
 - (a) The original layout for BOURKOCH Fortress (as shown on the marked map issued with 10 Corps Op Instn No 4) is to be adhered to. No alteration in Bn areas is permissible, but the Coy areas may be altered within Bn areas to suit the ground.
 - (b) If it is not practicable with the troops available to site Coy etc localities so that neighbouring localities can give one another effective mutual support by Small Arms fire, Comd 10 Corps is prepared to accept the risk involved, providing that the essential tactical features as indicated on the marked map are prepared for all-round defence. This applies to both fortresses.
 - (c) Defences should be sited on reverse slopes although it is agreed that fire positions on the forward slopes to protect the high ground cannot be avoided in many localities. The siting of posts to protect the obstacles between defended localities, though desirable, is not essential. A certain degree of enemy penetration between defended localities is expected and must be accepted.
 - (d) Provision is to be made to accommodate one Tp of Tanks in each fortress.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

HQ 1 Aust Corps,
28 Oct 41.
G.1433

CROSSING WIRE OBSTACLES

1. Demonstrations of inf crushing and crossing various wire obstacles will be given as under:- RVs for visitors are shown.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>RV</u>
Thurs 6 Nov	1030 hrs	TRIPOLI AT 16792809	1000 HRS AT 16722808
Fri 7 "	1030 "	BAALBEK 400 ^x south of WAVELL BARRACKS.	1000 hrs rd and track junc SW corner of barracks.

2. (a) 3 Ind Motor Bde reps are attending at TRIPOLI.

(b) Units in 84 and 85 L of C Sub-Areas are attending at BAALBEK.

(c) Reps from HQ 1 Aust Corps, E Coy Aust HQ Gd Bn, and tps under Corps may attend either demo. Those attending will notify Camp so that economy of tpt may be achieved.

3. The demo team of 2 offr 35 ORs is arriving at HQ 7 Aust Div on the afternoon of 5 Nov. The div, in whose area they are, is responsible for their movement and accommodation whilst in their area, also for traffic control and car parking.

4. 6 and 7 Aust Divs will arrange for the following fences, each 50 yds long, to be erected:-

It is reported reliably that "the fences provided in EGYPT were too easy. Where necessary additional stiffening will be constructed."

- (i) DA, screw or light wood pickets.
- (ii) DA, angle iron or heavy wood pickets.
- (iii) Unstaked triple dannert.
- (iv) Unstaked two rows triple dannert.
- (v) Staked triple dannert.
- (vi) Combined DA and staked dannerts as in sketch att.

5. The team will probably be able to give instn to a volunteer team as set out in para 3 of this HQ memo G.1328 of 16 Oct to 6 and 7 Aust Divs.

6. Whilst no such request has been made, nor the need suggested, this HQ would appreciate a doctor being present to deal with any accident to tps practising.

Committee for Brig
GS 1 Aust Corps.

DISTRIBUTION.

6 Aust Div	50	GOC - BGS	1	CE	1
7 Aust Div	50	G	2	DDST	8
CCRA	2	I	1	ADOS	3
CRE C Tps	7	A	1	APM	2
CSO	2	Q	1	File	4

C O P Y

S E C R E T

LENGTH OF OBSTACLE - 2 COILS OF DANNERT (about 40 yards)

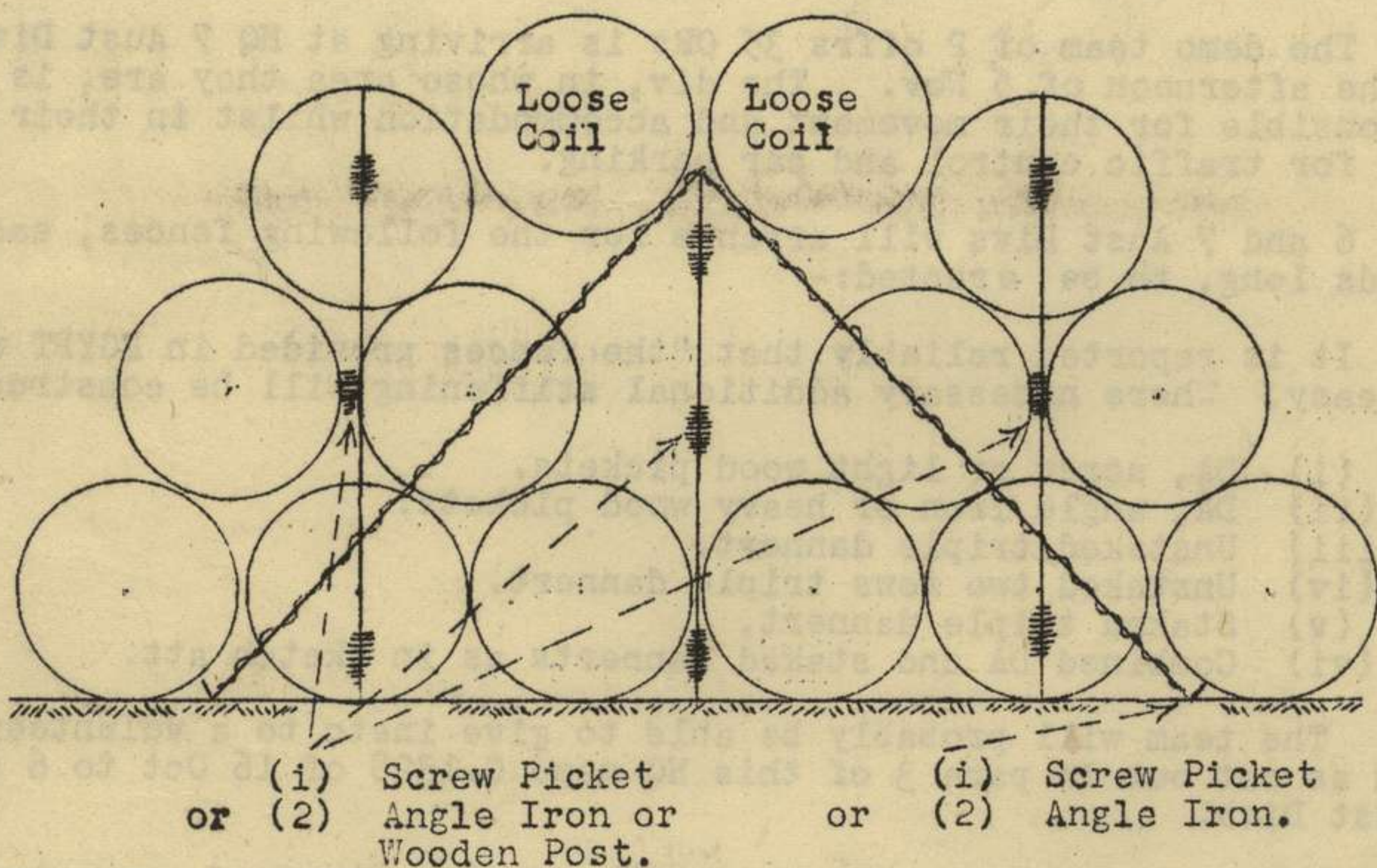
This will enable one half of obstacle (1 Coil in length) to be assaulted first, and the other half (1 Coil in length) afterwards.

For first half screw pickets to be used throughout.

For second half angle-irons to be used throughout, or wooden posts with angle-iron hold-fasts.

TWO TOP CENTRE DANNERT COILS TO BE LAID IN LOOSE.

TOP STRANDS BETWEEN PICKETS LENGTHWISE, OR STRANDING LACING COILS TOGETHER MAY BE INSERTED OR NOT AS DESIRED.



CWV

The War Diary

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

APPENDIX "F"

Ref File T/1/172

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde

26 Nov 41

16 AUST INF BDE CARRIER SCHOOL

CARRIER DEMONSTRATION - 27 Nov 41

Ref T.P. 39 Part 2

It is requested that Officers attending the Demonstration be present at KHAI EL CHIH, ref map CATANA 1/50,000 18421583, by 1330 hrs 27 Nov 41.

The Demonstration will take the following form :-

1. SCHOOL PARADE. 1345 hrs STANT 1

Carriers Drawn up in "Coy Line".

2. CARRIER DRILL. FORMATIONS & SIGNALS. 1400 hrs STANT 2

Carriers will move out in "Platoon Line" in the order 2/1, 2/2, 2/3 and 2/7 Aust Inf Bns.

Formations will move from "Column of File" into "File".

Coy will change into "Coy Line of Pl File" and will then, each Pl moving in succession, form into "Coy Arrowhead" with each Sec in "Arrowhead".

Coy will then form into "Pl File of Secs in Arrowhead" and will return to the Parade Ground in "Coy Line".

The following points will be brought out :-

- (a) Pl and Sec Control.
- (b) Carrier Signals.
- (c) Driving.

3. DISMOUNTED ACTION. 1430 hrs STANT 2

The following points are to be noted :-

- (a) Correct Dismounted Drill.
- (b) Co-operation between Drivers and Gun Crew.
- (c) Fire Orders.

4. CARRIER TEST COURSE (DRIVING). 1500 hrs KHAN EL CHIH

Officers present at the Demonstration will be taken over the Test Course which will demonstrate manoeuvrability and cross-country performance of the Carriers.

5. TACTICAL EXERCISE (ATTACK). 1530 hrs. STANT 3 Concluding at STANT 4.

The Exercise will be carried out by :-

- 2/1 Aust Inf Bn Carrier Pl in support of Own Inf.
- 2/2 & 2/7 Aust Inf Bns Carrier Pls Own Infantry
- 2/3 Aust Inf Bn Carrier Pl in position

The Exercise appears in the attached Appendix "A".

MSB

P.T.C.

STANDS

1. Opp KHAN EL CHIH on high ground.
2. 300 x S.W. of KHAN EL CHIH on the right of the road.
3. 1,200 x S.W. of KHAN EL CHIH 18231578
4. As Stand 1.

14/4/54
 Major
 B.M. to Aust Inf Bde

Appendix "A"

TACTICAL EXERCISE

WITH TROOPS

Reference QATANA 1/50,000 KHAN ECH CHIH (18421584)

EXERCISE

- Phase (i) Carrier Pl in attack - close support of Rifle Coy (unassisted by tanks).
- Phase (ii) Consolidation - covering Rifle Coy after successful attack.
-

PHASE 1.

Lessons to be Taught:

- (1) Use of ground and concealment.
- (2) Flanking fire.
- (3) Fire Control.

Opening Situation:

The Bn is advancing NE from BENT JABER with A Coy assisted by Carrier Pl as Advance Guard. When the Coy is 800x off KHAN ECH CHIH, fire is opened from enemy outpost estimated at 1 Coy entrenched on the heights to the left of the road at that point. A Coy Comd decides to take the position and asks for support by Carriers on his right flank.

Carrier Pl moves to depression on left of road 800x south of KHAN ECH CHIH. Pl Comd signals up his Sec Comds and issues orders:-

Ground KHAN - TRENCHES LEFT - TRENCHES RIGHT - ROAD (where dips out of sight) - STREAM (Carrier obstacle for exercise).

Information. Enemy estimated 1 Coy is dug in on heights at left of road.
 A Coy will commence attack from its present position at

Intention. Carriers will provide supporting fire as required along A Coy's right flank and assist consolidation.

Method. 1 and 2 Secs will line this ridge "hull down" and open ING fire, distributed, on my signal.
 1 Sec on right - arc of fire road to.....
 2 Sec on left - " " " from road to left edge of trenches.
 3 Sec will move across the road at the "dip" and make use of broken ground between stream and road to get into position at TRENCHES RT. It will fire by observation until A Coy reaches KHAN.

On Coy's success signal I will bring 1 and 2 Secs directly forward of KHAN to assist consolidation. 3 Sec will then move into reserve position at rear of KHAN.

Administration Weapons and ammunition normal.
Pl truck remain with Pl HQ - follow up on signal.
Wounded remain on Carriers.

Intercommunication Pl HQ with 1 Sec till KHAN is reached. Then with 3 Sec.
Flag and hand.
Coy success signal Red Green Red

Time Now is

Coy attack commences

Umpires

Lieut Burrell with 3 Sec
Pl Comd " 1 and 2 Secs.
C.I. from KHAN

Observe

- (1) Use of covered approaches and parks.
- (2) Sec Comds' orders, anticipatory and on ground.
- (3) Siting of weapons and fire control.

Enemy

Personnel as available - to wave red flags and point at Carriers or gunners when visible.

PHASE II

Lessons to be Taught

- (1) Speedy selection of positions.
- (2) Duties of Fire controllers.

1 and 2 Secs advance in line of trident with Pl Comd in centre, skirting left edge of KHAN. Pl Comd indicates by signals approx areas for Secs to occupy "hull down". He visits each Sec in turn, allotting tasks and indicating method of withdrawal or advance which ever eventuates. He confers with Coy Comd.

3 Sec moves into reserve at rear of KHAN.

Enemy

Nil

Umpires

As per phase 1.

Observe

- (i) Field of fire and mutual protection from positions selected.
- (ii) Observation - likely FUPs etc.
- (iii) Measures taken by fire controllers - ranges, reference points, etc.

COPY

APPENDIX "E"

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Headquarters
6 Aust Div
22 Nov 41

MESSAGE FROM GOC TO 2/3 AUST INF BN

What the wind prevented me from saying to you all on the day of my inspection was a word of very real welcome back to the fold of 6 Aust Div. We have watched with great interest the part played by the Bn in the Syrian campaign and we have had glowing reports of what you ~~have~~ achieved. I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Bn on behalf of the rest of the Div.

While you were away the rest of the Div was hard at work training. Our aim has been to get really full effect from all the weapons under our control. There are your Bn weapons, rifles, Brens, Tommy Guns, Mortars, and besides we have MMGs, A/Tk guns and field guns. A truly massive amount of fire power if they are all properly used and their respective tasks co-ordinated. To achieve what we want, two things are necessary first we must each and all of us become expert in the use of our weapons, and this I want you to see to during the coming months and then next we must have all Units capable of and accustomed to working together. Training for this latter purpose will be carried out as soon as our operational role allows.

I would like to congratulate you all on your bearing on parade, and in the march past in very trying circumstances. You have shown that you can bear yourselves as soldiers. You have a Bn, a Div, and a country of which each of you have every reason to be proud. Wherever you go, on leave or on duty, you have the reputation of all three in your keeping. I would like to ask you wherever you go to bear yourselves as soldiers as you have shown you can, so that your Bn, your Div, and your country can in their turn feel proud of you.

(Sgd) E.F. HERRING, Major-General
Comd 6 Aust Div

4. Regarding the QATANA GAP :-

- (a) HQ 10 Corps undertakes to work out the detailed plan to implement the Corps Comd's policy for the defence of the GAP and will forward a copy of the plan to 16 Aust Inf Bde which will be responsible only for the execution of the work in this sector.
- (b) QATANA Fortress will be required to undertake the protection of the eastern gateway through the QATANA GAP although this may involve the use of one of the only two reserve rifle Coys in the present plan for the defence of QATANA Fortress.

5. CE, Ninth Army, recommended that the maximum amount of civilian labour, which could be efficiently supervised, should be employed on the construction of the defences after the work had been marked out and partially constructed by the troops. He was informed that only 10,000 yds double apron fence was at present available in the area, but was of the opinion that it could be sent forward in quantities adequate to keep pace with the progress in construction of obstacles.

CE, 10 Corps suggested that initially, wire obstacles should consist of the centre fence only of the apron, so that location of the mine-fields and the trace of the obstacle would be clear.

CE, Ninth Army was unable to guarantee that A.Tk mine requirements could be met in full or to state exactly when mines in quantity would be available. He agreed that Engr units at present in the area would remain until they could be relieved by other units with the necessary tpt and technical equipment.

H. Doase

.....Brigadier,
Commanding 16 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution:-

- HQ 10 Corps (2 Copies)
- CE, Ninth Army (1 Copy)
- CE, 1 Aust Corps (1 Copy).
- War Diary. ✓

COPY.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

APPENDIX "H"

Ref File T/1/176.

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

28 Nov 41.

Headquarters,
6 Aust Div

Proposal for Anti-tank School.

Attached is a copy of a proposal submitted by Major P.A. Cullen, 2/2 Aust Inf Bn, for the establishing of an Anti-Tank School for the purpose of training in methods of "Fighting the Tank".

I concur in the proposal and strongly recommend that serious consideration be given to the suggestion.

A.J. Boase Brigadier.
Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

H.Q. 2/2 AUST INF BN
FIELD
27 NOV 41.

16 AUST INF BDE

A/TK ACTION

1. It is generally accepted that Infantry can, by the use of their own weapons and obstacles available, defeat attack by enemy AFV's.
2. To achieve this however three things are required;
 - (a) That the troops should be imbued with an offensive spirit with regard to enemy AFV's and have confidence in their ability to defeat them.
 - (b) That all ranks should have a complete knowledge of the weaknesses of tanks when facing infantry, and of the weapons available to combat them.
 - (c) That troops should have a high standard of skill in the use of those weapons.
3. The aim should of course be for all ranks to reach the standards of Para 2, but in view of the present limited tng programme it is felt that it would be impossible for this to be achieved within the next few months. Nevertheless in view of the likelihood of a Spring Campaign when infantry would have to combat tanks it is, in my view, essential that high standard should be attained by as many personnel as possible by 31 Mar 42.
4. At present, units have not got the time, resources, facilities ammunition allotment or Tank Corps Co-operation to concentrate on this type of training, and it is submitted that in order to achieve the objects and standards referred to, it is essential to approach the problem of "Fighting the Tank" as a special subject on lines similar to Anti Gas Training. The piecemeal instruction in the various methods available for Anti Tank Action at present forced on units cannot achieve the object.
5. It is felt that only a well conducted and well equipped School, under at least Div arrangements to enable equipment to be collected, can hope to get the required results. Only at such a school with full equipment it is suggested, could the full possibilities of A/Tk action be demonstrated and taught sufficiently well to make trainees enthusiastic and confident of their powers.
6. Accordingly it is recommended that a " 6 Aust Div Anti Tank Training Centre" be established forthwith with the object of giving concentrated training in the methods of dealing with enemy tanks and instilling a sense of superiority over enemy AFV's in students. It is recognised that all ranks should be instructed, but it is thought that the best that could be done in present circumstances is to provide a nucleus for unit training schemes by putting the largest possible number through the Training Centre as possible by 31 Mar 42.
7. The following is suggested as the programme for the Training Centre :-
 - 6 Courses of 10 days duration, each with an attendance of 100 students, to commence Monday 5 Jan 42 and thereafter each fortnight.

Allocation of Vacancies:-

9 Bns each 6 Offrs and 42 O/Rs (1 Offr per Coy, 1 O/R per section)	= Total 432 all ranks
Available for other units	<u>168</u>
Total of men trained by 31 Mar 42	600

8. Scope of the course would be as follows:-

- (a) Teaching the limitations of tanks as regards Cross Country Performance and Limited Visibility and aiming.
- (b) Recognition of enemy tanks, vulnerable points etc.
- (c) A/Tk Obstacles Ditch, Scarp, Wire-Gabions, Hedgehog etc, Tank cemeteries.
How to construct them, what they will stop.
- (d) A/Tk Mines - laying, arming etc.
- (e) A/Tk weapons- How to use them;
 - Molotof Cocktails
 - E Y Grenades - 68 Grenades
 - ST Bombs - Smoke Bottles,
 - Crowbars - A/Tk Rifle - HE Grenade
 - Small Arms fire - Home made bombs and explosives
- (f) Protection against tanks Rt Angle Slit Trenches.
- (g) Tank hunting and A/Tk tactics.
- (h) Co-operation with A/Tk Artillery.

9. Suggested requirements for instructors are as follows :-

Chief Instructor	--	Major or Capt
Engineer Offr	--	Lieut
Div Cam Offr	--	Lieut
4 Inf Offrs	---	Lieuts
10 Sgts		(RE & Inf)

Administration would require;

- Adjt
- R.S.M.
- Q.M.S.
- Cooks
- Batmen
- Fatigue men (say 20)

It is suggested that instructors be selected from those who have had experience in successfully combating tanks.

- 10. (a) Location would be suitable in a sheltered position South of Damascus adjacent to 16 and 17 Aust Inf Bde Gps.
- (b) Accomodation could be in tents released by units moving into huts.
- 11. The possibility of such a school evolving a new or improved technique cannot be overlooked.

(Sgd) Major P A Cullen.

APPENDIX "1"

Summary of requirements 1st line pack tpt.

Serial No	UNIT	Pack Mules	A.T. Carts	Dr Mules	Total Mules.
1	Bde HQ.	4	3	6	10
2	Bde Sig Sec	25	1	2	27
3	Inf Bn	198	12	24	222
	3 Inf Bns	594	36	72	666
4	Fld Coy R.E.	120	12	24	144
5	Fld Amb	48	6	12	60
TOTAL		791	58	116	907

Peck Mules

Weight
in lbs

1	Stationery boxes, files etc, Duplicating and Typing	160
2	1 Bren Mag Box Stationery Box	160
3	1 Bren Mag Box 2 picks 12 Mags (28 rds each) 1 Box Grenades 2 shovels	160
4	1 Bren gun 1 " tripod	160

A.T. Carts

1	Offrs mess, Valises Kerosine, burner, Primus	300
2	Res clo R.A.F. Kit, stretcher, kit	300
3	Stores, gear, water containers hydra burners	400

TOTAL Peck mules 1

Draught mules 6

A.T. Carts 3

A.T. Carts
1. 4 big panniers - office equip. 2 boxes telegraph
Security box - electrical tools table and chairs
Total - Peck mules 1
Draught mules 6
A.T. Carts 3

Serial No 2. Inf Bde Sig Sec

Pack Mules			Weight in lbs
1 - 6	No 11 W/T Set.	2 Bags Aerial Gear 6 Satchels	2 85am Accumulators 160
7	6v 100w charging plant	6v 100w charging plant	160
8 - 10	1 drum D3 cable	improvised cradle and one drum D3	1 drum D3 cable 170
11- 12	5 Poles 2 Mattocks, 3 Spades, 2 Picks.	Linesmans tools.	5 Poles 2 Mattocks 3 Spades, 2 Picks 170
13- 15	2 - 6v 85 ah accumulators	2 - 6v 85 ah accumulators	170
16	Security Box	Office Equip	160
17	8 gallons of petrol for burner & Charging Plant	8 gallons of petrol	160
18	4 galls korosene 3 galls Lubricating oil	4 galls Kerosene 3 galls lubricating oil	140
19	1 jar electrolyte	1 jar distilled water.	120
20- 21	3 - 2 gall tins water	3 - 2 gall tins water.	150
22	Cipher personnel Security Box	Spare Sec Amn	160
23	1 case spare W/T Eqpt 6 R.C. Units	1 case spare W/T Eqpt 6 R.C. Units	170
24	109 W/T Set	Aerial Gear	2-12v Accumulator 170
25	1 - 12v Accumulator Instrument mechanics Eqpt	1 - 12v Accumulator Mechanics test gear	170

A.T. Carts

1. 4 Sig panniers - office equip. Tents telegraph - Security box - Electrician tools table and chairs

Total	- Pack mules	25
	Draught mules	2
		<hr/> 27

AT Carts 1

(A) Bn H.Q.

<u>Pack Mules</u>		<u>Weight in lbs</u>
1	CO., Adj., and Batman, 2 valises and gear	140
2	Office and 1 sec gear and office	150
3)	R.A.P., stores 6 primus	600
4)	Primus etc 2 tins water (2 gals each)	
5)	2 stretchers	
6)		
Total Pack Mules = 6		

(b) Coy H.Q. (1)

1	Bombs mortars 2" - 36	80	160
	Picks 8)		
	Shovels 8)	80	
2	SAA - 1000 rds	72	162
	Tins water - 2 (2 galls each)	50	
	Coy Box	40	
3	Rifle A/Tk 1	36	147
	Ann 1/Tk 80 rds	31	
	Ann Mortar Res 36 bombs	80	
4	Bren Tripods 2	60	125
	Boxes Grenades 2	45	
	Sigs gear, helio and stands	20	
Total Pack mules - 4			

(c) Rifle Pl Hq

1	Mortar 2" and Tripod	54	169
	SAA 500 rds	35	
	Picks 5)		
	Shovels 6)	55	
	One tin water - 2 galls	25	
2	Bombs Mortar 2" (72)		160
3	Grenades various		160
Total Pack mules - 3			

(d) Rifle Secs

1	SAA (500 rds)	35	125
	Picks (2))	20	
	Shovels (2))	20	
	Barrel Bren spare	20	
	2 Tins water (2 galls)	50	

pack mules Weight in lbs

2 Case S... 72
 Case TSMG 52 124

Total Pack Mules - 2

(e) H. Coy

1 1 Langefinder 5
 2 tins water (2 galls) 50
 2 shovels 15
 1 Pick 10
 Coy Box 10 110

Total Pack Mules 1

(f) 1 Pl Coy

1 Box 1 Globes Switchboard Box 2 Switchboards 170

2 Box 3 2DV, 3DIII Tape Box 4 2 Lucas Lamps
 spare cells, earth
 pins 12, reading
 lamps 5 174

3 4 and 5 3 drums cable 3 drums cable
 + 1 drum and 2 cross sticks 160
 6 plugs

6 2 drums cable 3 Lucas lamps
 3 cable lavers spare cells 160
 pliers 4 fullerphones

A.T. Carts

1 Extra cable and equipt which is not
 suitable for track. 4 tins water
 (2 galls each)

Total pack mules - 6

Draught mules - 2

8
 A.T. Carts 1

Pack Mules

(g) 2 Pl

1 2 box bren mags **BREN**
 2 tins water (2 galls on tripod
 each) 2 barrels
 2 tins water (2 galls each) 175

(ditto -

Serial No 4. Fd Coy R.E.

(a) HQ Sec

Pack Mule	Detail of Load	Remarks
1.	Tools, kits of, carpenter & plumber	
2.	Tools, kits of Blacksmith	
3.	" " " Painters & Electricians	
4.	" " " Saddler & Shoe maker	
5.	" " " Fitter & Miscellaneous	
6.	" " " Miscellaneous & Vyces	
7.	Surveyor & Draughtsmans Insts	
8.	Block Pulley 2 ton	
9.	Anvill	
10.	Block, base, anvill, & posts picket	
11.	Grindstone & Forge	
12.	Axes, picks shovels mauls & spare helves	
13.	Cordage 1 1/2 in. & S.W.R. 1"	
14.	Pumps L & F	With 2 SUC & 1 DEL HOSE
15.	Pumps Spear Point	
16.	Pumps "NOVO" (Aust. Patt)	With 1 SUC & 1 Del HOSE
17.)		
18.)	Hoses Suc & Del & Miscellaneous water gear	
19.	Tanks 1500 gal "S" type	
20.	" " " " "	
21.	2 Recce Boats	
22.	Camouflage Equip	
23.	LMG Bren & Magazines	
24.	A Tk Rifle Mags & Ammunition	
25.	Carbines Thompson & Ammunition	
26.	.303 Ammunition	
27.	" "	
28.	R.A.P. & Stretchers	
29.	Office	
30.	Map cylinder, documents, baggage etc.	

A.T. Cart

No.	Detail of Load	Remarks
1.	Pumping Set No. 4.	
2.	" " "	
3.	Folding dingy, camouflage & hoses	
4.	Camouflet equipment	
5-9.	Anti gas stores	If carried.

Total Pack Mules = 30
Draught " = 18

48

A.T. Carts = 9

<u>Peck Mule</u>		<u>Remarks</u>
1	Tools, kits of, carpenters	
2	" " "	
3	" " bricklayers	
4	" " plumbers and tinsmiths	
5	" " blacksmiths and fitters	
6	" " painters and miscellaneous	
7	" " miscellaneous	
8	" " " and expense stores	
9	Picks, shovels and spare helves	
10	Axes, spare helves and electricians kit	
11	Hammers sledge 7 and 14 lbs	
12	Bars crow, pinch and boring, bill-hooks, spades and shovels square mouth	
13	Saws cross cut, axes hand, hand spikes, levels and measuring sticks	
14	Grindstone, mawls and spare helves and miners ladder	
15	Blocks cordage and two falls	
16	Cordage and plain wire	
17	Augers earth, posts picket and sand bags	
18	Pumps I & F with 2 suc and del hoses	
19	Pumps spear point	
20	Water hoses and accessories	
21	Tanks 1500-gal "S" type	
22-24	Explosives - G.C. and primers	
25	Exploders, cable, boxes T & J, FI.D., S.F. and Dets	
26	" " " " " "	
27	Camouflage equipment	1 Sec to carry second A/Tk rifle in lieu
28	LMG Bren and magazines	
29	Carbines Thompson and amn	
30	.303 amn	

A.T.
CART NO.

1	Camouflet equipment and compressor * accessories	* Extra boring tools if compressor excluded
---	---	---

Total peck mules - 30
Draught mules - 2

—
32
—

A.T. Certs 1

Grand total 144 mules

12 A.T. Carts

Serial No. 5. Fd Amb

Loads worked out such that each mule will not have to carry more than 160 lbs.

Back Mules

Each Coy

1	1 F.S. Pannier No. 1 1 F.M. Pannier No. 1
2	1 Fd Fracture Pannier 1 Fd Medical Comforts Pannier 2 Thomas Splints
3	1 Fd S Pannier No. 2 1 G.S. Pannier No. 3 2 Thomas Splints
4	G.S. Panniers Light 2 2 Picks and shovels 2 Thomas Splints
5	1 F Med Pannier No. 2 1 Med Comforts Pannier 2 Thomas Splints
6	50 Ground sheets tied in 2 rolls of 15 and 2 rolls of 10
7	40 Blankets tied in 4 rolls of 10
8	1 Lamp Operating in Box 1 Boxes reserve Fd Dressings 1 Box RAP 2 Picks and shovels
9	Cases of Petrol for burners
10	2 G.S. Panniers, Kitchen Utensils
11	1 Hyde Burner 3 Stands 3 Baffle plates 1 Axes felling
12	A.G. Capes, spare and decontamination suits in boxes
13	4 covers rot proof Canvas
14	Haversacks and W/Bottles Medical
15	4 small camp tables 4 stools folding camp 1 bundle 10 blankets

Pack Mules

- 16 Miscellaneous Stores
- 17 6 Camouflage nets
- 18)
- 19) Rations for 64 men
- 20)
- 21)
- 22) Water
- 23)
- 24)

A.T. Carts

- 1 24 stretchers with pillows and slings
- 2 5 steel trunks with stationery light sec equipment etc.
- 3 1 folding GS table & steel boxes with contents

Total Pack Mules -	24
Draught mules -	6
	—
	30
A.T. Carts	3
Total mules for A and B Coys	60
A.T. Carts	6

SECRET

Appx "A" Ninth Army

Tng Instruction No 1. (Pack Tpt)

The standard 1st line pack load tables have been based on these factors.

1. Rations incl mule rations will be sent forward each night to unit meeting points.

2. Approx 66% of G1098 1st line scale of amn only will be taken.

3. Blankets, tentage unit A/G res and res clothing will be carried in 2nd line.

4. The following sub units complete with equipment, weapons and amn will not accompany their units,

(a) Carrier pls of inf bns.

(b) HQ of Fd Amb.

5. Greatcoats if required will be carried on the rifle sec mules and in the AT carts allotted. For this reason rifle sec mules are only loaded up to 125 lbs.

6. All weapons other than rifles and pistols on G1098 scale incl ~~six~~ 3 inch mortars per inf bn will be carried on pack with the following exceptions,

Inf Bns - (a) less 10 Bren LMGs of the carrier pls.

(b) less 18 A.Tk rifles.

(c) all Thompson Sub MGs to be carried by the man instead of a rifle.

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A/Q	1
G(O)	1
G(R)	1
X	1
A	1
Q	1
RA	1
ST	1
RE	1
OS	1
M	1

SCHOOLS HELD FROM 1 Nov 41 - 30 Nov 41

COURSES	Attendance			Duration		Bde H.Q.			2/1 Bn			2/2 Bn			2/3 Bn		
	Offrs	NCOs	ORs	Weeks	Days	Offrs	NCOs	ORs	Offrs	NCOs	ORs	Offrs	NCOs	ORs	Offrs	NCOs	ORs
No 92 METS No 11 Coy Comds	1				8				1								
AIF (ME) Inf School 4 Pl Wps Course	1			4	1						1						
AIF (ME) Junior Staff Sch No 2 Course	1															1	
AIF (ME) Inf Sch No 1 Junior Leaders Course				COURSE CANCELLED													
AIF (ME) Sch of Cookery No 48 Course			1	3	3						1						
AIF (ME) Sch of Sigs No 11 Course			2	3	2				1			1					
AIF (ME) Inf Sch No 2 CSMs Course			3														
AIF (ME) Int Sch No 1 Course	1		1	6					1					1			
G (R) Training No 1 Course	1		2	3	2												
ME DM & MM Sch No 18 Course			1	7	6									1			
AIF (ME) SOME Fd Wkshops Wing No 2 Course	2			2	6				1			1					
ME OCTU 17 Intake			1	16	2									1			
METS Inf Tact Sch No 3 Junior Leaders Cse			3	1	6				1			1				1	
AIF (ME) AASC Sch No 2 Auto Electro Spec Cse			1	2	4			1									
AIF (ME) AASC Sch MT Wing D & M			3	3	3						1			1			1
AIF (ME) Regtl Offrs Sch	2			2	4				1			1				1	
AIF (ME) Inf Sch No 7 Mortar Wing			1	2	4				1					1			
Unit Equip Repairers Cse			3								1			1			1
METS No 12 Comd Cse	2			4	5				1								1
Comb Tng Centre	1				6												1
No 3 Bomb Disposal Cse	1				8												1

Page 2.

Subject: Security at 2/1 Aust Inf Bn Exercise. (continued)

with their/
superiors the identities of strangers even those whose
papers are in order.
Enemy spies would possibly be of senior rank and would
have all their papers in order.

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.
30 Nov 41.

B.E. Freeman Sgt.
28 FSS.

To
 Brigade Major,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

30 Nov 41.

Subject: Security at 2/1 Aust Inf Bn Exercise.

Sir

1. 0830 hrs. Two men in truck gave me position of "D" coy. Asked for positions of other coys, referred me to CO.
2. 1130-1200 hrs. Cpl of advancing section refused to give me any information about his coy HQ. Eventually sent me to coy 2 i/c under escort. I learned from the escort that I was being taken to "D" coy HQ and that the advancing coy was "A" coy.
3. As I.O. 6 Aust Div I tried to give the 2 i/c "D" coy information (false) about enemy. He was sceptical and asked for my identity papers. A platoon officer approached us and was given instructions for attacking a hill held by the enemy, in my hearing. I used this information later. Having heard this I walked away without having had to show any papers.
4. 1230 hrs. A private soldier gave me "C" coy HQ. Found 2 i/c and told him CO required two platoons to attack hill held by enemy (3). He asked me for the password, which I did not know. He decided to see the CO for confirmation, meanwhile ordering two platoons to move off. I was again allowed to slip away.
5. 1330 hrs. A lieutenant in a Bren carrier stopped to ask me where he could find the colonel, I misdirected him. He did not ask me for the password.
6. 1400 hrs. I was caught by an astute sergeant major who insisted on being told the password, and would not be put off.
7. GENERAL DEDUCTIONS. Officers and men are sufficiently security minded not to give information to, or to be taken in by false information from anybody they do not know. But they are not sufficiently so to demand to see the credentials of strangers, and to confirm with their

80
JAN 21 1942

QATANA.

HQ. 16 Aust Inf Bde

ack

1 Dec 41.

Native workers of "A" Camp sat down and refused to work this morning. Their grievance was that there was no transport to convey them to their homes in DAMASCUS after working overtime. The B.M. settled the dispute and the men returned to work.

"B" Coy of 2/2 Aust Inf Bn., Security Officer of 16 Aust Inf Bde and Sjt Freeman of the FSS raided the villiage of RAS EL AIN. Quantities of sig wire, barbed wire and pickets equipment, grenade and cooking utensils were recovered. A number of the inhabitants (13) were brought to QATANA and handed over to the gendarmerie.

Strength of 16 Aust Inf Bde is as follows :-

Headquarters	12 Offrs	62 ORs
2/1 Aust Inf Bn	34 Offrs	741 ORs
2/2 Aust Inf Bn	33 Offrs	745 ORs
2/3 Aust Inf Bn	33 Offrs	740 ORs
"J" Sec 6 Aust Div	1 Offr	37 ORs
Sigs		
7 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn		39 ORs
Total Strength	113 Offrs	2302 ORs.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

2 Dec 41.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn raided MOUDDAMIYE and JDAIDET AARTOUZ without result . 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. raided YAAFOUR and SABOURA; nothing was found at YAAFOUR, but a quantity of military equipment was recovered from SABOURA.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

3 Dec 41.

Capt, A.J.S. Cotter and Capt. B.V. Wilson, G3(CW) and Bde L.O. respectively, came down from 6 Aust Div. Capt. Wilson brought a model of new barbed ^{wire} entanglement to be tested by units of this Bde. Capt. Wilson also requested that the Comd. would select Bde. HQ area at Djedeide defences .

Units received their first allotment of native labour this morning for scarping .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

4 Dec 41.

6

The following officers attended the official opening of Electricity Supply to the Qatana area by the president of Syria :- Lt. Col. K.W. Eather, 2/1 Aust Inf Bn., Major H.H. Hammer, B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde, Capt. D.L.B. Goslett, Capt. J.A. Raftery, Capt. I.C. Fulton, Lieuts. Bosgard, Murray, Whitebrook and Colquhoun .

Major Bowser, DAQMG 6 Aust Div, advised that an Indian mule Coy would be attached to this bde for training purposes.

Brigadier Boase returned from Palestine in the late afternoon.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

5 Dec 41.

Capt. Edwards, R.I.A.S.C., called re Indian Mule Coy. 10 Corps are to arrange camp accomodation for the coy.

A conference of COs was held at 1630 hrs . The QATANA defences were generally discussed, and all reported that work was progressing well, although there was a considerable shortage of suitable tools - such as jumping bars, crowbars, scrapers, etc., for demolitions, also explosives . Lack of supply of short angle iron pickets for wiring was limiting the wiring progress . Every endeavour was being made to supply the tools, etc., required by units, but the difficulty was that there were very few available in the Middle East .

Arrangements were made for a further recce of BOURKOCH Fortress with CO 2/3 Aust Inf Bn.,

The holding of a military GYMKHANA on New Years Day for all units in the QATANA area was discussed, and COs agreed to contribute A£50, attached units to contribute on a pro rata basis according to strength, with the intention of making it a bumper meeting and providing additional interest and recreation for the men, as well as maintaining a high standard in military events .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

6 Dec 41.

The Brigadier and I.O. went to Bourkoch to recce Sheiks Pimple feature and larger feature south as Coy positions in Bourkoch fortress. The Comd. decided to ~~consult~~ ^{refer to} BGS 10 Corps to decide exactly which feature he desired held, as map issued was incorrect.

2/2 Aust Fd Coy moved to Djedeide area today; they were replaced by 2/3 Aust Fd. Coy.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

7 Dec 41.

Comd and B.M. attended a football match held in Damascus between this HQ and 2/1 Aust Inf Bn.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

8 Dec 41.

Lt. Gen. Laverack, GOC of 1 Aust Corps, attended a conference held at HQ 10 Corps. Present were the BGS, DA & QMG (Brig Bassett), Brig. Boase and Brig. Savige.

The question of the layout of defensive position was discussed by BGS and DA & QMG.

In the course of discussion, Brigadier Boase expressed views which are set out in letter (*vide Appx E*) of ~~conference~~. He made it clear to Lt. Gen. Lavarack that, while responsibility for construction of defences in various localities was being accepted, no responsibility for actual tactical layout could be accepted by 16 Aust Inf Bde, in view of the fact that the siting of certain posts and localities was specifically prescribed by HQ 10 Corps contrary to Brigadier Boase's advice.

On the conclusion of the conference, Lt. Gen. Lavarack, accompanied by BGS 10 Corps and Brigadier Boase, visited QATANA Fortress and made a brief general survey of the position from 2 or 3 viewpoints. The General expressed surprise at the extent of Qatana Gap in comparison with the troops allotted for its defence.

The inaugural meeting to discuss the details of the gymkhana to be held at Qatana on 1 Jan 42 was convened today. A committee was elected :- President, Brigadier A.J. Boase, Chairman of Committee, Major Hammer, Organiser, Capt. Goslett, members, Majors McGregor, Miller, Cullen and *Entink*. A skeleton programme was drawn up and the ground selected. Prize money is to be contributed on a strength basis - Inf Bns A£50, other units and subunits in proportion - total A£265.

WAR DIARY.

QATANA

9 Dec 41.

Comd., B.M., and I.O. went to Baalbeck this morning, met Major W.B. Caldwell (2/2 Aust Inf Bn) and Capt. Hutchison (2/3 Aust Inf Bn), and reced reserve coy positions of left fwd Bn, also reserve bn area and possible bde HQ area of the Djedeide defences. ^{in Centre Sector}

As a result of detailed recce, the Comd. decided to open out the reserve coy area of the left fwd bn so that the pls could support by small arms fire the rear pl localities of the fwd coys and also give one another mutual support. It was considered also that representation should be made to the GOC 6 Aust Div with a view to having the left fwd coy of the reserve bn sited further further forward on the west of the railway line, in a position from which it's fwd localities could give support to the rear posts of the reserve coy of the left fwd bn. This matter was subsequently discussed with the GOC 6 Aust Div and the change in the dispositions of reserve coy of the left fwd bn approved. The GOC undertook to examine the area as recommended for the change in reserve bn localities and give a decision later. The decision rather hinged on the question of satisfactory A/Tk defence in the event of the change being accepted.

A meeting of the gymkhana executive committee was held this afternoon. The members discussed the events to be included in the programme and the conditions of entry.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

10 Dec 41.

BGS 10 Corps, Bde Comd, BM, Lt. Col. Stevenson, Capt Walker and Bde IO went this morning to Bourkoch Fortress area to recce feature west of Bourkoch Ruins as a possible Coy posn .

BGS accepted the Bde Comd's recommendation that the fwd feature (172169) almost due west of Bourkoch ruins feature should be prepared as a Coy posn . CO 2/3 Aust Inf Bn was instructed accordingly and the general layout of the posn indicated .

In the afternoon the disposition of coys on the east side of Bourkoch Fortress were recce'd on the ground with BGS and CO 2/3 Aust Inf Bn with a view to determining whether the proposed dispositions would dovetail into the requirements of the Qatana Gap defences as laid down by HQ 10 Corps . BGS 10 Corps agreed that the layout suggested by CO 2/3 Aust Inf Bn for his coys in relation to the defence of Bourkoch Fortress on the east side was suitable although it did not include part of the ground prescribed by HQ 10 Corps for holding in conjunction with the Gap defences .

Major Hammer went to see Bn. exercise conducted by 2/2 Aust Inf Bn during the afternoon in the Ain ech Chih area. The exercise, an all day one, included the Bn in the attack with tanks and carriers co-operating, and later a withdrawal with a night march across country to the Bn camp area . The two troops of tanks attached to the Bde from 6 Aust Div Cav Regt have been most useful in exercises within the Bde, and interesting and instructive demonstrations have been given to all units .

Col. Gee, CO of AACCS, visited this area this afternoon to discuss amenities and canteen services .

At 2130 hrs GOC 6 Aust Div rang to say that Lt. Col. K. W. Eather, CO 2/1 Aust Inf Bn, had been selected to command a Bde, and the Comd 7 Aust Div desired that Lt. Col. Eather report as soon as he could be released . Lt. Col. Eather was warned, and stated that he would like a couple of days .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

11 Dec 41.

98 ORs left this morning for 7 days leave in Palestine. Free transport was arranged .

An order was received this morning that Lt.Col. Eather be present at a conference on Saturday morning at Tripoli, in view of which it was decided to release Lt. Col Eather as from afternoon 12 Dec 41.

CO Sigs 6 Aust Div, Lt. Col. Wellman, reported with Capt. Tribolet, who is to replace Capt. Parsons as OC J Sec Sigs .

Bde Comd discussed with Capt. Muller , 2/3 Aust Fd. Coy, the progress in provision of accomodation in Qatana area . Capt. Muller stated that work was being delayed owing to the difficulty in obtaining necessary materials, particularly the lining for huts, water tanks, cut timber, and latrine buckets .

In view of the protracted delays which had already occurred and the fact that the DCRE Damas had informed Capt. Muller that ~~any~~ next supply of lining for huts would be allotted to Djebel Mazar camp, Bde Comd arranged to meet Capt. Muller at HQ 10 Corps and represent the unsatisfactory position to DA & QMG and the CE.

As a result of the conference the DA & QMG stated that he thought he could make additional transport available to 2/3 Aust Fd. Coy to convey stores from Haifa . It was impossible to get accomodation from rys, which were being used to convey grain and foodstuffs to the civil population . Capt. Muller suggested that the Palestine MT Coy, which he understood had gone to Palestine to draw new vehicles, should return via Haifa and collect engineering stores on their way . DA & QMG agreed to arrange if practicable . Owing to oil stoves not being available and the supply of coal and wood fuel being negligible, it was agreed that the only solution for providing heating for the camp drying huts was to improvise oil burning stoves and flues . Capt. Muller undertook to construct suitable equipment for this purpose if the supply of 44 gallon petrol drums and sheet iron were made available. DA & QMG agreed to produce the empty petrol drums and CE the necessary iron .

The ADS said that supplies of valvoline oil would be made available . Stoves would be of hot plate, splash burner type .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

12 Dec 41.

Lt. Col. K.W. Eather left this afternoon for Tripoli.

Col. R.C. Cooney, G1 10 Armd. Div., visited the Gap area this afternoon with the object of seeing the layout of the defences so that he could prepare a TEWT which will take place on the ground in the near future .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

13 Dec 41.

May- General G. Clarke COC 10 Armd Div and Col Cooney *called on*
~~interviewed~~ Brigadier Boase this morning.

Bde. Comd and B.M. visited the 2/1 Aust Inf Bn. exercise with tanks this afternoon. This is the first time the bn has trained with tanks and the exercise clearly showed the necessity, not only for the sake of the inf but for the tks as well, for more frequent exercises in which both arms participate.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

15 Dec 41.

Capt. muller, 2/3 Aust Fd. Coy, called re constructing complete section post within the defences for demonstration purposes. He was referred to 2/2 Aust Inf Bn for constructing the post in Q3 area. The question of roads holding out in wet weather was discussed. Capt. muller considered they would hold out with a little work and few deviations.

Plan of construction of standard Bde, Bn, and Coy HQ as laid down by 10 corps, was received from 2/3 Aust Fd Coy.

Capt. A.J.S. Cotter, 6 Aust Div, called with Gas Offr, Ninth Army. They made tour of units to discuss gas tng.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

16 Dec 41.

Bde. Comd. and I.O. visited Qatana Fortress this afternoon. It was noticed that better organisation and stricter supervision is required over native labour being employed in the Fortress area . The attention of the CO of 2/2 Aust Inf Bn was drawn to this fact .

WAR DIARY.

QATANA

17 Dec 41.

A conference of COs was held at this HQ today, when the following points were discussed :-

Civil Labour Arrangements for transport of civil labour from Damas were reported not satisfactory . The Staff Capt is to arrange with 10 Corps for speeding up .

Pill Boxes Decided that Bren weapon pits should be normal slit trench type with overhead cover - elaborate pill boxes will not be constructed owing to difficulty of concealing .

DF Tasks COs were instructed to consider DF tasks and forward a trace; the matter is to be discussed with 2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt . 2/1 Bn. were instructed to recce alternate areas within Qatana Fortress .

Pack Transport Units were requested to consider requirements within the Fortresses when they were manned in case of rds not being negotiable .

TRAINING The Bde Comd discussed the new training policy as per attached appendix . He also drew attention to the lack of fire direction and fire control displayed in recent bn exercises . He requested that COs give special attention to this phase of training during exercises of all kinds, and also directed that in all future exercises representatives of all supporting arms be present so that there will be as much cooperation with other arms as possible . It is found that it is difficult to mix one day a week on training with five on defensive works, together with wet weather difficulties, Units find it hard to maintain a general training policy . However, several bn exercises have been carried out, together with some night work, and much valuable training has been gained by the frequent use of the rifle range .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

18 Dec 41.

6 Aust Div called for nominations for duty in Australia on recruiting . Personnel ~~selected~~ *nominated* were Lieut. W. Jackson-Hope (2/1 Aust Inf Bn) Sgt. Standfast (2/1 Aust Inf Bn), Sgt Noonan (2/2 Aust Inf Bn) .

Lieut. Jackson-hope was attending company' Commanders' Course, METS, and 6 Aust Div said that they would make the necessary arrangements for his release .

Major Webb, G2 of 10 Corps, called to say that BGS 10 Corps agreed with the positions as selected by the Comd in the Hardibe area .

Camouflage offr, 10 Corps, called to say that spoil should be removed from diggings . The Brigade Major informed him that, although we agreed that what he pointed out was desirable, the difficulty was to provide men and transport for the removal of the spoil

with CO 2/11 Fd Regt + CO 2/3 Bn

During the morning, Bde Comd and I. O. made a recce of the Bourkoch Fortress area with a view to locating arty OPs and discussing arty DF tasks .

Brigadier W.W.S. Johnston, DDMS 1 Aust Corps, called on A Coy 2/1 Aust Fd Amb .

Sgt. Tosh (AAOC) will be in the Qatana area for some days. His mission is to make necessary modifications to 2" mortar bombs held by units of the Brigade.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

20 Dec 41.

The Bde Comd and B.M. inspected the Carrier School, which concluded this morning, and Brigadier Boase addressed the parade . It has been a most valuable school, and excellent progress has been made . Training in all carrier pls in the Bde and 2/7 Aust Inf Bn is now on uniform lines. The instructors provided by 6 Aust Div Cav Regt did a very good job .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

21 Dec 41.

Col. P. Wright, 85 Base Sub Area, Lt. Col. Hamilton, Chief Instructor of METS, and his staff, called to inspect the Fortress Area. Major H.H. Hammer took them around on a tour and the defensive layout was explained. The party expressed surprise at the amount of work carried out in the short time the Bde had been in the area. Lt. Col. Hamilton was particularly interested in pl and coy "fortresses".

A letter was received from Col Mann, CRE 9 Div, on instruction from CE 10 Corps, that scarping being done by units on the east side of Qatana Fortress was not following the line of rock escarpment, and requested that we elicit the co-operation of 2/3 Aust Fd Coy in this matter. An inspection was carried out by the Bde Comd with Major Miller of 2/1 Aust Inf Bn and OC 2/3 Aust Fd Coy. OC 2/3 Aust Fd Coy expressed himself satisfied with the line of scarp. All Bns had had Fd Coy advice when marking out line of scarp prior to digging.

This matter will be further investigated to ensure that where possible scarp will follow natural line of rock scarp consistent with the siting of section posts.

QATANA

22 Dec 41.

Major Powell, of 2 Aust A/Tk Regt called . Brigadier Boase went with him to recce Bourkoch Fortress and select A/Tk gun positions . visibility was poor and little could be done

Brigadier Perrottt, CE 10 Corps, called and had a general discussion of the defences with Brigadier Boase . The question of tool supply was again brought up by the Comd, also the shortage of equipment in 2/3 Aust Fd Coy . The CE said the country was being scoured for tools .

The question of work on all HQ positions was discussed and arrangements made to go ahead with siting and marking as early as possible .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

23 Dec 41.

6 Aust Div has called for 2 or 3 officers to assist Major Caldwell in his work on the defences at Djedeide . At present there are 200 personnel from 2/1 Aust MG Bn available for work on the reserve bn area .

Major Powell, 2 Aust A/Tk Regt, and representative of 2/3 Aust Inf Bn made a recce of Bourkoch area to select A/Tk gun positions .

Major-General G. Clarke and staff of 10 Armd Div held a TEWT in the Bourkoch area with the object of testing the suitability of the Gap as an exit for Armd forces .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

25 Dec 41.

Christmas Day - a day of heavy rain, and during the afternoon snow fell .

Special arrangements had been for Christmas fare for each member of Bde HQ . A men's committee was formed a few weeks ago under the leadership of Capt. R. Morgan. A school hall was engaged, and the men were responsible for all arrangements for their party . Expenses were paid for out of profits made by a canteen established in Qatana village.

The party was attended by the Brigade Commander, the B.M. and all officers of Bde HQ, and was a great success .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

26 Dec 41.

Bde Comd visited 2/3 Aust Inf Bn and found that they had, with the exception of one coy, moved into huts, which, however, were not yet all paved inside. Surplus tentage was used to make good tents damaged by high winds.

In the afternoon, the Comd and B.M. visited 2/1 Aust Inf Bn in their hutted camp, which was surrounded by a sea of mud. A visit to 2/11 Aust A. Rd. Regt and 2/2 Aust Inf Bn was postponed, as the car became bogged.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

27 Dec 41.

Major General Odlum, High Commissioner for Canada in Australia, who is making a tour of Australian units prior to taking up his appointment in Australia, had lunch at this HQ. He had with him Brigadier Strutt, RAA 6 Aust Div, and Lt. Col. F.R. Burton, HQ AIF(ME).

Major H.H. Hammer visited 10 Corps and was informed by Major Webb that the Bde may be relieved from its defensive works task to carry out training. The proposition was that several thousand reinforcements would relieve 6 Aust Div to allow them to carry out training. This was advance information and not in any way final. Major Webb stressed that, in possibility of move, all defensive works should be sited and dug to depth of 12 ins to allow any incoming unit to carry on work. He stated that 10 Corps were most concerned at the possibility of this Bde leaving the area.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

28 Dec 41.

A conference of COs was held today . Present were the Bde Comd, B.M., COs 2/1, 2/2, 2/3 Aust Inf Bns, CO 2/11 Aust A Fd Regt, OC 2/3 Aust Fd Coy .

Units were instructed to complete siting of all positions, which are to be dug to a depth of twelve inches . Works maps are to be completed to a scale of 1/8333 .

All projected work - scarping and ditching, minefields, and wiring ^{is} ~~are~~ to be shown on the map, which is to be forwarded to this HQ as soon as possible .

COs were instructed to complete arrangements for following and to forward details to this HQ :- sig. plan, arty and mortar DF and CP tasks, mine requirements, concreting required, concrete slabs for overhead cover, and the selection of all HQ locations.

It was decided that, in the event of wet weather, maintenance must be carried out on roads .

In future, there will be a COs conference at 1000 hrs each Saturday, which CO 2/11 Aust A Fd Regt and OC 2/3 Fd Coy will attend . In addition, fd works offrs will hold a weekly conference each Friday with OC 2/3 Aust Fd Coy to discuss technical and works problems .

In the event of the Brigade leaving the area for training, cadres, including unit fd works offrs, and officers-~~and~~ ~~offrs~~ and a proportion of NCOs from each coy would be required to hand over . COs were instructed to make provisional arrangements to this end .

Attention of COs was directed to the provisions of 10 Corps Op. Instn No 4, regarding priorities in connection with the construction of obstacles and fd works - which were not being observed . Further, in accordance with 10 Corps policy, they were instructed to build only cattle fence for wire obstacles until further notice .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

29 Dec 41.

The Bde Comd, B.M., representative from 2/3 Fd Coy and Major Miller, 2/1 Aust Inf Bn, selected bde HQ at 18661695 for Qatana Fortress . Nine Dugouts were sited and pegged out .

2/1 Aust Inf Bn were asked to prepare the dugouts under 2/3 Fd Coy supervision .

WAR DIARY

QATANA

30 Dec 41.

CE 10 Corps and Lt.Col Mann, CRE 9 Aust Div, called and requested that sites be selected for 2 6,000 gallon tanks in each coy area, and that siting of road blocks at the "main gates" of Qatana Fortress should be carried out in conjunction with UC 2/3 Fd Coy as soon as possible.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

31 Dec 41.

During the morning Bde Comd, Major Miller of 2/1 Aust Inf Bn and Major Muller of 2/3 Aust Fd Coy proceeded to the Qatana area to select road blocks. In the afternoon the Comd took Lt. Col Edgar of 2/2 Aust Inf Bn with him to do the same task, with Major Muller again accompanying them.

During the afternoon the Comd met the Camouflage Offr (ME) at Sausage Wood, together with two other offr of 10 Corps, and took them to viewpoints from which they were able to examine section posts of defences.

We have been advised by 6 Aust Div that, during January, this Bde will do three days training per week. However, this is not definite. We now await a definite policy for training within this Bde, although it is difficult to see how the requirements of training can be reconciled satisfactorily with the requirements of defensive works.

WAR DIARY

QATANA

31 Dec 41.

APPENDICES.

- A Schools during the month of December
- B Wheat - Spears Mission
- C Tanks attached from 6 Aust Cav for Training
- D Report to 6 Aust Div on the 2" Mortar
- E Letter to 10 Corps - Depth in Qatana Fortress
- F Installation of Electricity in Qatana -
Invitation from the Mayor of Qatana
- G Equipment and Transport
- H Visit of Major-General Odium
- I 16 Aust Inf Bde Notes on Training
- J Letter from Lieut C. Wade on Carrier School
- K Report on 16 Aust Inf Bde Carrier School
- L Training Policy - Jan 42
- M Note to Units on Use of R/T
- N Security Guard Duties 85 Base Sub Area Damascus
- O Loan of Vehicles to 2/11 Aust Fd Regt
- P Training Programme
- Q Routine Orders - December 1941
- R 16 Aust Inf Bde Security Instn No 1
- S Security Report for December.

APPENDIX A

	BDE HQ				2/1 BN				2/2 BN				2/3 BN				
	OFFRS		ORS		OFFRS		ORS		OFFRS		ORS		OFFRS		ORS		
	T	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	
AIF (ME) JUNIOR STAFF SCHOOL										1				2			
AIF (ME) JUNIOR OFFRS COURSE										3				3			
AIF (ME) INTEELIGENCE SCHOOL			1														
AIF (ME) RIFLE & LMG COURSE							9			4		6		2	2	3	2
AIF (ME) MORTAR COURSE							9	1		4		6	1	1	1	2	
AIF (ME) SME FD WORKS COURSE										3	1			1	2		
AIF (ME) INF CSMs COURSE							2	1				2	1			4	2
AIF (ME) SIGNAL SCHOOL							12					12				7	
AIF (ME) AASC SCH COOKS CSE							2					1					
CLERICAL "			1									1					
MT WING D & M			1				1					3				3	
AUTO ELEC SPEC CSE			1									1			1	1	
MTC & MT INSTRS							1										
AIF (ME) AAOC SCH ADM CSE																	
ARMOURERS			1				1					1				1	
1 AUST CORPS SKI CSE				1			1	1			1	1	2		1		
1 AUST CORPS SIG SCHOOL								1			1		5		1		4
6 AUST DIV REGT SIG CSE								7					12				
SIG TNG BN CSE								19									
WATER DUTIES CSE			2					2					2				
HYGIENE CSE			1					5					5				
CHIROPODY COURSE								4									
CARRIER DVRS COURSE								26					18			18	
16 BDE CARRIER SCHOOL								30			1		30		1		30
LOCAL D & M COURSES			18					85					50				
ANTI-MALARIA COURSES				1										1			1
7 AUST DIV ADMIN CSE															3		
UNIT EQUIPMENT REPAIRERS								1					1				2
MORTAR RANGETAKERS								1					1				
R.P. TRAINING			3					4					4				
COURT MARTIAL CSE								1									
W/T SCHOOL 108 SETS								5					1				4

	BDE HQ			2/1 BN				2/2 Bn.				2/3 BN				
	OFFRS		ORS	OFFRS		OFFRS		OFFRS		OFFRS		OFFRS		OFFRS		
	T	D		T	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	
ME OCTU			1												2	
METS SENIOR					2											
JUNIOR					1			1								
FIELD WORKS					1											
MOTOR CONTACT	1	1												1		
JUNIOR LEADERS							1	2				1	2		1	2
MEWTS RIFLE AND LMG					1		3					5				
MORTAR					1							1				
GRENADE												1			1	
ME METX C.T.C.	2				2				3					1		
ME SCHOOL OF SIGS							2		1			1			1	2
ME GAS SCHOOL							1		1			2		1		
ME REGTL INTELL OFFRS	1				1				1							
ME SCHOOL OF COOKERY			2				5					4	1		2	
ME SCHOOL OF HYGIENE	1		1		1		2					2			1	
ME P & RT COURSE					1		3		1			1			2	
ME BOMB RECCE							1					1				
ME UNIT EQUIP REPAIRERS															1	
ME MOTOR MECH SCHOOL			2									2				
ME AIR PHOTOGRAPHS CSE					1											
ME STAFF SCHOOL	1															
ME CIPHER CSE (HIGH GRADE)			1													
G(R) TNG SCHOOL					1		2									
RASC CLERICAL COURSE																1
METS COY COMDS					3									1		
ME ANTI-MALARIAL SCHOOL				1				1						1		1
CAMOUFLAGE COURSES					1							1			1	
MULE TPT SCHOOL		1		1												

SECRET

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde
1 Dec 41

Ref File S/2/121.

War Diary

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
✓ Security Offr 16 Aust Inf Bde.

WHEAT.

1. Advice has been received from Spears Mission that their campaign to reduce wheat prices is about to commence. In addition to the British authorities importing large quantities of wheat, free markets will be established thereby forcing holders to disgorge.

These plans may be spoiled however, by the smuggling of wheat into adjacent countries, in particular, IRAK. The greater the success of the Spears Mission campaign the more profitable smuggling will become.

2. The co-operation of all Units and formations is therefore essential to the success of the plan. This can be best achieved by co-operating with the FF, by passing onto this HQ any information relative to the attempted passage of wheat out of the country.

MB

A.A. Haver
Major
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

W.H.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Ref File 5/2/121.

OFFICE
Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde
1 Dec 41

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
Security Offr 16 Aust Inf Bde.

WHEAT.

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H.A.H.
Major
S.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

WMK/JWB

SECRET

49
1300

HQ 6 Aust Div.
29 Nov 41. 1. 12. 41
I/1705

6 Aust Cav
RAA 6 Aust Div
RAE 6 Aust Div
Sigs 6 Aust Div
16 Aust Inf Bde
17 Aust Inf Bde
19 Aust Inf Bde
AASC 6 Aust Div
AQ (6)

2/1
2/2
2/3
Search off

WHEAT

1. Advice has been received from Spears Mission that their campaign to reduce wheat prices is about to commence. In addition to the British authorities importing large quantities of wheat, free markets will be established thereby forcing holders to disgorge. These plans may be spoiled however, by the smuggling of wheat into adjacent countries, in particular, IRAK. The greater the success of the Spears Mission campaign the more profitable smuggling will become.

2. The co-operation of all units and formations is therefore essential to the success of the plan. This can be best achieved by co-operating with the FF, by passing onto this HQ any information relative to the attempted passage of wheat out of the country.

Colonel.
GS, 6 Aust Div.

Repeat to units
only this top page
11/2/41

TO ALL ECONOMIC OFFICERS

The following paragraphs are from a directive by the Minister of State dated November 7th and have been communicated to the Free French authorities by whom they have been accepted as forming the plan to be pursued.

- Detailed instructions will reach you in due course.
1. It is essential to break down the feeling that wheat is a good thing to hold.
 2. It is therefore necessary to create a situation in which it is clear that wheat is freely available at reasonable prices and that prices will fall in the coming months. The holding of wheat will thus be made very unattractive both as a speculation on the future course of prices and as an investment designed to provide for the holder's consumption over a long period.
 3. Considerable quantities of imported wheat are being accumulated at suitable centres throughout the country and the shipment of further large quantities both to Syria and the Middle East generally is being arranged.
 4. It is proposed that from a date in the near future which still has to be fixed, the authorities should permit without let or hindrance the buying and selling, and transportation of wheat. In order to secure the fulfilment of the objective referred to in paragraph 1, it is desirable, at least at the outset, that the enforcement even of any general provision against the holding of excessive quantities of commodities should, as far as wheat is concerned, be suspended, the suspension being retrospective. At a later stage it will be possible to consider whether measures are still needed to prevent the holding of excessive quantities of wheat. It is also proposed that from the date in question the buying of wheat at fixed prices by the Commission Mixte or any other public authority, should cease.
 5. From the date in question, the wheat held by the British authorities, both in the country and afloat, will be sold in such a way as is calculated to establish a reasonable level of prices; and the sale of wheat for arrival will be at prices lower than that of spot wheat.
 6. If public authorities require wheat for the purpose of supplying subsidized bread to the poor on a rationed basis, they would be allowed to buy; but their purchases, whether domestic or imported wheat, must be confined to current needs and their purchases of British wheat should be made by private arrangement with the British authorities.
 7. Economy of wheat should continue to be ensured by Government specification of materials to be mixed with wheat in the manufacture of flour.
 8. It is essential that it should be widely realised throughout the country that imported wheat is available in large quantities and is to be freely sold. Arrangements for securing wide publicity are being made and it is important that they should be effective. French propaganda must conform with ours. All propaganda must be unified.
 9. The imports of wheat by HMG are heavy. Apart from providing for immediate needs, they are designed to break down the impasse.

ECONOMIC ADVISER

12,11,41.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

APPENDIX 'C'

Ref File T/1/214

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

29 Dec 41.

6 Aust Div Cav Regt.

The Commander desires to express his appreciation for the recent attachment of two tps of Tanks (O.C. Lieut Glasgow) from your Regt to this Bde for training purposes.

Much valuable training was gained in using the tanks in co-operation with infantry.

The Bde extends its thanks to all tank personnel for their keen co-operation and assistance.

War diary

[Signature]
.....Major.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

[Signature]

For Information:

6 Aust Div.

B.M. It was the Instrs. loaned by 6 Aust Cav Regt for Carrier School whom I wanted the thanks extended for them.
[Signature]

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Ref File T/1/191

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

7 Dec 41.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
{ Lieut Glasgow,
Q.C. Tanks.

TANKS - 6 AUST DIV CAV
ATTACHMENT TO UNITS.

The following program is set out for the attachment of two tps tanks, (Q.C. Lieut Glasgow) to units :-

8 Dec 41	Bde Carrier School
9 Dec 41	2/2 Aust Inf Bn (Report at 1500 hrs).
10/11 Dec 41	" " " "
12 Dec 41	2/1 Aust Inf Bn (Report at 1500 hrs).
13/14/15 Dec 41	2/1 " " "
16/17/18/19 Dec 41	2/3 Aust Inf Bn

If tanks are still attached to this Bde after the above dates, both tps will report to 2/1 Aust Inf Bn for the 23/24 Dec 41.

Further advice later.

A.H. Hammer

.....Major.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

From Gd Brodbeck to file
1200 hrs 7/12/41

HEADQUARTERS

1000 hrs 7/12/41

Headquarters
1000 hrs 7/12/41

7 Dec 41.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
Lieut Glasgow,
P.O. Tanks.

TANKS - 8 AUST DIV CAV
ATTACHMENT TO UNITS.

The following program is set out for the attachment of two tanks, (P.O. Lieut Glasgow) to units:-

8 Dec 41	2/1 Aust Inf Bn	Headquarters School
9 Dec 41	2/2 Aust Inf Bn	(Report at 1500 hrs.)
10/11 Dec 41	" "	" "
12 Dec 41	2/1 Aust Inf Bn	(Report at 1500 hrs.)
13/14/15 Dec 41	2/1 " "	" "
16/17/18/19 Dec 41	2/2 Aust Inf Bn	" "

If tanks are still attached to this the after the above dates, both the will report to 2/1 Aust Inf Bn for the 23/24 Dec 41.
Further advice later.

[Signature]
.....
D.M. 10 Aust Inf Bn

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

No. of Groups.

GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

2/1 2/2 2/3 Aust Inf Bns rptd Lieut GLASGOW 16 Aust Inf Bde
Carrier School.

FROM

16 Aust Inf Bde.

Originator's Number

0152

Date

28

In Reply to Number

one

tp

light

tanks

reporting

each

2/2

2/3

bns

1400

hrs

29

Nov

remaining

until

1200

hrs

1

Dec

then

both

tps

reporting

2/1

Bn

(.)

units

to

arrange

programmes

(.)

Lieut

GLASGOW

to

contact

COs

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

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

1225

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

SIGNED

SYSTEM IN

TIME IN

READER

SENDER

SYSTEM OUT

TIME OUT

READER

SENDER

SYSTEM OUT

TIME OUT

READER

SENDER

T.O.R.

Wt. 32412/1098. 750M. 12/40. P.I. 51-8146.

NOTE TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OFFICERS

Your help is most urgently asked in an attempt to relieve the wheat situation in Syria and the Lebanon without unnecessary use of shipping.

The wheat crop of 1941 was short. In order to tranquillise this area which is a base of military operations the deficiency has to be made good by importation. But it is believed that the wheat situation has been made to look worse than it is by merchants and land owners holding supplies off the market in hopes of better prices. If these supplies can be brought forward, less shipping will be required and more will be available for moving military stores where they are required.

These hoards will move when there is a general belief that prices are coming down. HMG's plans if the people understand them will bring prices down.

They consist in

(a) A programme of imports: 20,000 tons have been landed as well as some 10,000 tons of flour: 20,000 more will be in Lebanese ports by December 15th. A further 40,000 are ordered.

(b) The accumulation of a stock: it will be used to break rings and corners and frighten hoarders. During this period described in the Economic Adviser's note (attached) imported wheat will be used to supplement local supplies in the various schemes now in force to distribute bread or flour in the towns and villages. The stock will amount to 30,000 tons by December 15th, and a further 20,000 tons will be on route.

(c) The use of stock to break the market: At this stage all restrictions on the free movement and sale of wheat will be removed: the imported wheat will be sold freely (as spot or "future") to anyone who wants it. This will reduce to nil the demand for wheat in the black market where as much as L.S. 500 at Beyrouth and L.S. 370 at Damascus is being paid: merchants holding for a rise will have to sell out in face of a competitor ready to sell on such a scale.

No guard against the possibility of the first stocks on offer being brought up speculatively and held for a profit, it will be announced with all the publicity possible that the next stocks to arrive will be sold at lower prices: and the next month's stocks at still lower prices: and so on. Anyone who buys under these conditions for anything but an immediate resale, is asking for trouble: he will lose his money.

By suitable publicity it is probable that black market prices can be made to fall, under the influence of (a): there are some signs that they are already doing so.

They should fall still more as the stocks accumulate visibly; they are being assembled as fast as transport permits at Lattakia, Aleppo and Damascus in Syria: at Saïda, Beirut and Tripoli in Lebanon: and there will be a stock at Haifa too.

They must be broken under (c).

Points to emphasise in describing these plans to those in authority, to merchants and to villagers' are:-

(a) The plan is devised by the British and has the full support of the Free French.

(b) The plan is big: there is no merchant or ring of merchants in Syria and the Lebanon big enough to stand up to it and beat it.

(c) The plan is for the good of all. The present controlled prices of wheat are amply remunerative to the grower: the landowner or the merchant who has refused to sell at the present price is Public Enemy No 1 and deserves all that is coming to him. Let him have no doubt that it is coming.

(d) The plan is part of Britain's plans to help the world. Britain is beleaguered: Britain is rationed. The ships that bring relief to the Levant might have brought food to England. Syrians and Lebanese who help the plan are helping England who helped them: if any don't, their losses will be on their own heads: for

(e) The plan will win.

12.11.41.

ECONOMIC ADVISER.

Ref File T/1/190
 In Reply to S/1835/G

S E C R E T

Headquarters,
 16 Aust Inf Bde.

6 Dec 41.

Headquarters,
 6 Aust Div.

TWO INCH MORTARS.

1. The following points are brought forward for consideration :-
2. FOR THE RETENTION OF THE RIFLE GRENADE.
 - (a) The grenade discharger may be brought into action more quickly than the mortar.
 - (b) Rifle grenades may be said to cover the gap between the maximum throwing range of the hand grenade and the minimum range of the 2" mortar.
 - (c) The new type grenade allows the discharger to be used as an A/Tk weapon.
 - (d) The rifle grenade is more mobile in attack, for use in mountainous country, and where troops are separated from their transport.
 - (e) If it is the intention to arm the section with a 2" mortar there are many occasions when the mortar because of its weight and amn could not be carried by the section in addition to the present loads of Bren Gun, T.S.M.G. and amn plus hand grenades.
3. FOR THE 2" MORTAR TO SUPERSEDE THE RIFLE GRENADE
 - (a) Greater range and greater danger area.
 - (b) Greater smoke producing capacity.
 - (c) Greater accuracy and a higher rate of fire.
 - (d) In defence and including the type of warfare expected in the M.E. in the near future 2" mortars would be a valuable weapon to add to a section's defence.
 - (e) In fixed positions both the 2" mortar and rifle grenade may be employed by the section.
4. TO SUM UP.

The general concensus of opinion is :-

 - (a) The rifle grenade should be retained by the section. It is more mobile in the attack and in mountain warfare, and can be readily used by every man in the section. The rifle grenade is an excellent substitute and always a valuable reinforcement to the 2" mortar.
 - (b) The 2" mortar would increase the load carrying of sections and would not always be readily available to the section. In protracted defence, however, its special characteristics would be of great value to the section and the platoon. As a platoon weapon the 2" mortar, because of its range, danger area, smoke capacity, is considered to be a necessary weapon.

War Diary

HHH
Brigadier,
 Commanding 16 Aust Inf Bde.

AOD

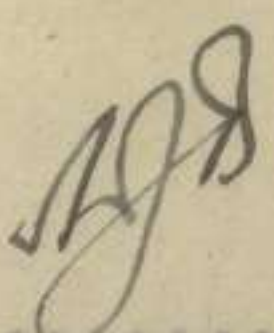
Ref File 0/2/36

SECRETHeadquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

7 Dec 41.

BGS, 10 Corps
-----DEFENCE SCHEME - QATANA FORTRESS

1. Comments and decisions conveyed in 10 Corps letter 60/4/G dated 28 Nov 41 have been noted, and additional localities will be prepared in due course as directed.
2. The need for depth in defence is fully recognised and has been kept in mind during detailed recon for the siting of positions on the ground.
3. With a view to ensuring that the maximum possible strength is available to give depth to the position, the number and strength of FDL's have been kept to the bare minimum necessary for the defence of the perimeter (under night conditions) by a series of mutually supporting posts. With the limited resources available (compared with the extent of the task) it has been necessary, in a number of instances, to disperse section posts to a degree which makes control by the platoon comd in battle unduly difficult if not impracticable.
4. Despite all endeavours to economise in FDL's, it was found necessary to include an additional company fortress to ensure that neighbouring posts on the perimeter were capable of giving mutual support. In this connection it is submitted that, owing to saucer shape of the ground comprising the Fortress area, if the enemy establishes himself on a section of the high ground of the perimeter, the staging of a counter-attack by reserves located in the lower ground in the interior of the Fortress will present an extremely difficult problem. Consequently we cannot afford to have gaps not adequately covered by fire between Coy etc localities on the perimeter.
5. In view of the foregoing it was considered preferable to use the Coy allocated to the reserve area shown on the marked map in square 185169, to occupy FDL's to complete the all-round perimeter defence.
6. In conclusion it is desired to invite attention to ~~the effect of~~ 10 Corps letter 60/4/G dated 29 Nov relative to Defence Scheme - QATANA GAP, the effect of which is to extend QATANA Fortress responsibilities westward and entails the construction and garrisoning of two additional Coy Forts outside the original Fortress perimeter. Unless additional troops are to be provided, it would appear that the scheme for the defence of QATANA Fortress will be seriously prejudiced by the new arrangement.


Brigadier,
 Commanding 16 Aust Inf Bde.

Copy for
War Diary. ✓

War Diary

WAR DIARY APPENDIX F

Monsieur

Le Kaïmakam du Caza de Wadi-el-Ajam, Président de la Municipalité de Katana vous prie d'honorer de votre présence l'inauguration de l'installation de l'électricité à Katana, qui aura lieu au Sérail, sous le Haut Patronage de S. E. le Président de la République Syrienne, le Jeudi 4 Décembre 1941 à 16 h. 30.

Katana, le 1 Décembre 1941

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

APPENDIX G

MOST SECRET

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde
24 Dec 41


Ref File T/2/46

EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT.

- Reference this HQ T/2/42 of 21 Dec 41. Appendix "A".
- Delete all items under Transport and substitute in lieu :-

UNIT	Cars DS	Vans 15 cwt GS	Vans 1 ton	Lorries 30 cwt GS	Lorries B/down	Lorries Garage
HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde	2T				1T	1T
LAD 45						
2/1 Aust Inf Bn		3T				
2/2 Aust Inf Bn		3T				
2/3 Aust Inf Bn			10T	4T		

- T indicates destination TRIPOLI.
- OC LAD 45 will arrange for surplus transport held in view of previous instructions to be made available for return to units as desired.


Major,
 B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

Distribution:

HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde
 2/1 Aust Inf Bn
 2/2 Aust Inf Bn
 2/3 Aust Inf Bn
 LAD 45

TO 16 Aust Inf Bde

Handwritten note: Hand drawn

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Most Secret

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde
21 Dec 41.

Ref File T/2/44

EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT.

Reference T/2/42 of 19 Dec 41 re the above.

Amend Appendix "A" as follows :-

- 2/1 Aust Inf Bn : Amend Vans 15 cwt GS to read 14.
Delete Vans 1 ton - 8.
2/2 Aust Inf Bn : Delete Vans 1 ton - 5.
2/3 Aust Inf Bn : Insert under Vans 1 ton - 5.

H. H. Hammer
.....Major,

B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

Distribution:

HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde
2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
LAD 45
TO 16 Aust Inf Bde
War Diary (2)
File (2)

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde
19 Dec 41

Ref File T/2/42

EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT.

1. The Equipment and Transport as shown on the attached "Appendix A" is to be handed over in accordance with the following instructions :-

(a) Equipment: To be overhauled and returned in perfect condition accompanied by all associated stores to this HQ Forthwith.

AF G1033 will be completed and 6 Aust Div 6219/E2/1 quoted as authority and will accompany stores.

1st line ammunition for Rifle, Boys, will also be returned.

(b) Vehicles: (i) To be selected as Class 1 classification and, under arrangements to be made by O.C. LAD 45 with units direct, will be completely checked at LAD or Workshops if required and made desert worthy. LADs and Workshops will treat this work as Priority 1. Vehicles not measuring up to standard will be returned and replaced by units concerned.

(ii) Vehicles as serviced will remain on Bde Park pending advice as to disposal.

(iii) Units will ensure that all vehicles are complete according to VOL and one copy of AF G871 will accompany each vehicle.

(iv) On directions being given for disposal, units will provide drivers and spare drivers to convey their vehicles to their destination.

(v) Arrangements for the return of drivers etc will be made by this HQ.

(vi) Three days rations will be provided for drivers etc.

(vii) O.C. LAD 45 will be responsible that all vehicles have sufficient petrol, oil, etc, in reserve to proceed to destination.

J.H.H.
.....Major,
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

Distribution:

- HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde
- 2/1 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/2 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/3 Aust Inf Bn
- LAD 45
- TO 16 Aust Inf Bde
- ✓ War Diary (2)
- File (2)

EQUIPMENT

Rifle Boys

Guns Bren

Mountings Bren

Mortars 2"

Complete Stns
Wireless Sets 108Boxes Intelligence
FieldTelescopes
SignallingCompasses liquid
Mk 3Stereoscopes Universal
less lenses attachmentTapes measuring metallic
woven ft 100TRANSPORT

Cars DS

Vans 15 cwt GS

Vans 1 Ton

Lorries 30 cwt GS

Lorries B'down

Lorries Garage

HQ 16 Aust
Inf Bde

1

1

2

LAD 45

1

1

1

2/1 Aust
Inf Bn

5

2

6

8

6

8

2/2 Aust
Inf Bn

3

10

2

5

8

5

5

2/3 Aust
Inf Bn

5 10

2

1

11

14

2

2

MOST SECRETAPPENDIX "A"Ref File T/2/42

COPY

Headquarters.
6 Aust Div.
23 Dec 41.

16 Aust Inf Bde.

VISIT OF MAJOR-GENERAL ODLUM TO SYRIA.

1. The following layout is suggested for the visit of Major-General Odlum, High Commissioner for CANADA in Australia, who is paying a visit to the AIF (ME) :-

26.	12 Noon	Meet at RAS BAALBECK
	1200 hrs -	
	1300 hrs	Visit camp of 19 Aust Inf Bde.
	1300 hrs	Lunch - HQ 19 Aust Inf Bde.
	1400 "	Drive "KETTLE" for description of defensive area.
	1430 "	Drive along A/Tk ditch to R. ORONTES. See tps working in this area, together with types of work going on.
	1600 "	Dep for BAALBECK. Accommodated General's Mess.
27.	0900 "	Visit ruins BAALBECK.
	1000 "	Dep for 16 Aust Inf Bde, QATANA.
	1145 "	Arr HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde. Lunch 16 Aust Inf Bde.
	1400 "	Dep DAMASCUS.

2. The alternative plan if the visit to the Ruins does not take place is as follows :-

	0900 hrs	Dep for HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde.
	1045 "	Arr HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde. Visit camp of works in area.
	1200 "	Dep 16 Aust Inf Bde.
	1300 "	Arr 16 Aust Inf Bde - Lunch.
	1400 "	Dep for DAMASCUS.

3. HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde will be notified by Signal or telephone if Major-General Odlum is visiting their Area.

(Sgd) ????????? Major.
for Col.
A.A. & Q.M.G. 6 Aust Div .

Ref File M/1/11

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde

5 Aug 41.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn

WEAPON TRAINING -
RANGE PRACTICES

1. It is obvious from an analysis of the results of range practices conducted at JAFFA RANGE that there is considerable room for improvement in the handling of the Rifle and L.M.G.

2. Units will realise that in battle, bad application of fire results in a minimum of fire effect, a wastage of amm and is particularly good for raising the morale of the enemy.

3. The object of weapon training is to make the man proficient in handling and firing his weapons so as to give him confidence in them and in his capacity to use them effectively in battle.

4. Advanced weapon training and range practices are a waste of time and amm unless those taking part have reached a certain standard of efficiency.

To attain this standard, those members of the unit who have failed to qualify should be concentrated upon, given additional weapon training and tests of elementary training to prevent any detail of weapon training being overlooked.

5. These individual tests should be carried out prior to the men being taken on to the range and results carefully noted. Any weaknesses can then be coped with and the individual developed to a satisfactory standard.

6. It should be the aim of every commander to ensure that the men under his command have skill in the use of weapons as one of the first essentials for victory in battle.

7. Every endeavour will be made to obtain training amm but it is obvious that much weapon training is necessary before such amm is fired on the open range.

8. The position will be reviewed by C.O's at the end of Aug. 41 and a report submitted by the 30 Aug. 41 showing the results disclosed by the various T.O.E.T.

(Sgd)

H.H. Hammer Major.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

War Diary
- See B17

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Ref File T/1/48

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

31 July 41.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn

TRAINING POLICY TO 16 AUG 41

In view of the report submitted by C.O's on the standard of Pl training already reached, it is directed that Pl training be continued for a further two weeks to the 16 Aug 41.

Every endeavour must be made by all commanders during this period to develop the Pl training standard to a satisfactory level. If the standard is satisfactory the policy will be to commence Coy training.

"LIVE OUT AND TRAIN"

To further develop the control and training ability of junior leaders, i.e. Pl and Sec Comds, it is requested that Coys should be sent to "live out" of camp for a period from Monday to Friday. The move to commence not later than the beginning of the first training period on Monday and to be completed by the last period on Friday.

A suitable training syllabus is to be prepared and submitted to this H.Q. showing the location of Coy H.Q. on each day of the "live out" period.

Particular attention is to be given to the complete decentralisation of command allowing the Sec Comd to take his full share of responsibility.

As decentralisation and the development of a sense of responsibility is the primary reason for the "live out and train" period, the preparation of the syllabus should be based on achieving the primary object. Coy and Pl Comds will prepare simple and minor exercises designed to encourage control and the confidence of the junior leader.

Normal training is to be included in the syllabus, such as weapon training, bayonet, fire control, fire discipline, J.D., minor tactical situations, night training.

A small amount of blank amm .303 will be made available to units.

Imagination, ingenuity, and industry of commanders should be stretched to the fullest extent to produce situations, usual and unusual, which will keep all ranks alert and interested throughout the "live out" period.

The policy should be - MAKE THE WORK HARD BUT INTERESTING - DEVELOP THE JUNIOR LEADER - INCREASE THE STAMINA AND PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS OF THE MAN.

(Sgd)

H.H. Hammer Major.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Ref File T/1/41

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

16 July 41.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn

SYLLABUS - TRAINING POLICY

1. The following syllabi will be submitted by units by 1800 hrs each Saturday. One copy only will be forwarded.
 - (a) General training.
 - (b) Officers training.
 - (c) N.C.O's training.
 - (d) Syllabus for specialists.
 - i. "I" Sec - including sniper training.
 - ii. Signal Pl.
 - iii. A.A. Pl.
 - iv. Mortar Pl.
 - v. Carrier Pl.
 - vi. Pioneer Pl - not more than half day devoted to camp duties - remainder on Pioneer specialist duties.
 - vii. M.T. Drivers and Fitters.
2. Opportunity should now be taken to have discussions with the various personnel of the Administrative Pl on such subjects as :-
 - (a) Office work in the Field.
 - (b) Sanitation and Hygiene in the Field.
 - (c) Water duties.
3. Attention must be given to the training of such personnel as :-
 - (a) Stretcher Bearers.
 - (b) R.M. Police.
 - (c) Armourers.
 - (d) Batmen - as orderlies etc.
 - (e) Training for additional personnel
 - i. Spare drivers.
 - ii. Signallers.
 - iii. Intelligence personnel.
 - iv. Snipers.

4. Officers and N.C.O's.

The duration of Officers and N.C.O's special training classes to be held outside of normal training hours will be NOT less than 5 hours per week and will NOT include time for preparation of the next day's syllabus.

5. Training Policy. The following lessons will be given special attention during the completion of Pl training period to the end of July :-

- (a) CONTROL by ALL junior leaders.
- (b) Weapon Training including Range Practices.
- (c) Fire control and fire discipline.
- (d) Fighting attacks by :-
 - i. A.F.V's.
 - ii. A.F.V's and infantry in co-operation.
 - iii. Enemy Aircraft.
- (e) Action against Parachute and Airborne Troops.
- (f) Minor tactical situations to develop :-
 - i. Alertness.
 - ii. Sense of duty.
 - iii. Military initiative.
 - iv. Aggressive spirit.

6. Platoon Training. The standard to be reached by the week ending 2 Aug 41 will be the completion of Pl training. A report will be submitted to this H.Q. by C.O's on 29 Jul 41 on the standard attained with special paras devoted to discipline control and the points set out in para 5 above.

(Sgd) H.H. Hammer Major.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Ref File T/1/41

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde

16 July 41.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn

TRAINING - CONTROL - DISCIPLINE

1. TRAINING.

(a) The present platoon training period is the basis of all future work and is the solid foundation of the preparation of the whole unit for battle.

(b) The building up and moulding of the platoon as a fighting unit, highly trained and disciplined must receive the whole-hearted efforts of all concerned - the men, Sec Comd, Pl Comd, Coy Comd and the Bn Comd.

(c) A high standard is to be set - so high that only constant vigilance, alertness and efficiency on the part of all Officers and N.C.O's, indefatigably straining every nerve to produce the desired result.

(d) Lack of equipment will NOT be regarded as a reasonable excuse for lack of progress in training.

Improvisation, imagination and pooling of available weapons will be applied to the fullest extent.

2. CONTROL.

(a) There have been many evidences recently of the junior leader allowing the control of the private soldier to slip through his fingers. Orders have been given, but those orders were NOT carried out in their entirety.

(b) Instances have been noted where lack of control on the part of junior commanders and ill-discipline on the part of the men were most apparent but action taken against it has been neglected owing to the UNSEEING EYES of the more senior commanders present.

The junior leader and senior leader must be ever alert to bad control by subordinates, ill-discipline and lack of obedience on the part of the men, and take immediate steps to ensure there is no repetition. Not one incident should be allowed to pass unchecked.

(c) The principle is to set a high standard of control to be achieved by all leaders. Only the BEST is good enough and there must be a continual drive until the BEST is attained.

(d) The Sec Comd must be allowed to lead his section in all phases of training.

The over-enthusiasm of the Pl Comd or his lack of confidence in the ability of the Sec Comd to control his section must never be a reason for Pl Comds to train and control the Pl as a whole.

Decentralisation of command must be practised - the Sec Comd given every opportunity to train and command his section.

If the Pl Comd lacks confidence in the ability of his subordinates, then it is his responsibility to train and teach his N.C.O's. If the N.C.O. fails, it is the job of the Pl Comd to replace him.

N.C.O's must be encouraged and given every chance to exercise their commands. The Sec Comd has to command his section in battle and it necessarily follows that he must command it in training.

3. DISCIPLINE.

(a) It is desired that units in every way raise the standard of discipline. It is felt that at times there is a certain laxity in the maintenance of discipline and the result is reflected in the general demeanour of the men when off parade, on leave, in the cinema and canteens.

(b) Discipline is not the dumb obedience which may be obtained on parade, but the willingness of the man to obey at any time, his good behavior on all occasions and his pride in himself, his turnout and his unit.

(c) The Commander is looking forward to a marked improvement in the general discipline of all units by the end of the Pl training period.

(Sgd) H.H. Hammer Major.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Ref File T/1/8

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

30 May 41.

2/1 Bn
2/2 Bn
2/3 Bn

TRAINING

1. Following on my discussion with C.O's on training on Thursday, 29 May 41, it is pointed out that the basis of training for the next two weeks is to be on a Platoon training basis.
2. The Commander desires that special attention be given to the following subjects of training :-
 - (a) Weapon Training.
 - (b) Bayonet Training.
 - (c) Application of Fire.
 - (d) Fieldcraft.
 - (e) Patrols - Day and Night.
 - (f) Platoon Tactics.
 - (g) Platoon Close Order Drill.
 - (h) Digging and Wiring.
3. There should be constant supervision by senior officers of junior leaders and N.C.O's, to ensure that correct instructional methods are being employed by all instructors to keep the men always interested and alert.
4. On the Commander's return, it is his intention to select Coys at random from units to carry out a series of tests of all phases of training, including a Coy exercise to be prepared and conducted by the Coy Comd.

He will be especially interested in leadership and control by sub-unit comds.
5. Included in the Officers' Training Syllabus, it is desired that the above subjects are covered, so that there will be a "refresher" of what is sometimes considered "elementary" training.

A talk or discussion between officers and with N.C.O's on the subject of Instructional Methods should be carried out at an early period to ensure that all instructors are working on sound principles.

(Sgd)

H.H. Hammer Major.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

Wardinary

Major Hammer,

APPENDIX 'J'

Aust Army Training Regt.
Carrier Wing
A.I.F. Abroad.

18-12-41

Dear Sir/

Having arrived at the above address & being duly sworn in etc, I took over on Monday morning and am quietly finding my way around.

This is rather different to that which I have recently left, we have ^{not} the necessary training stores at the moment, though I do believe it is to be enlarged, shortly.

I fear I was rather spoilt by the wonderful cooperation & assistance which you gave me during the School & I do hope that it finished up to your entire satisfaction, in every way.

This wing is an infantry show & is mainly for training Reinforcements in D & M of Carriers, fortunately I am permitted to run it to my own liking providing I produce results & that remains to be seen.

Had a grand trip down, and spent one night in Haifa, during which time, no grass grew under our feet, it was a good break.

Who hope you will drop in & see us if you are down this way, and permit me to return a little of your hospitality so generously offered.

Would be honoured to be of service to you on the 16th at any accession.

Kindest regards to all

WMB

Yours sincerely
Colin Wade R.

11 Dec 41.

16 AUST INF BDE CARRIER SCHOOLGENERAL REPORT BY C.I. - LIEUT C.A. WADE, 6 AUST DIV CAV REGT

It was my intention during this school to endeavour to bring all those attending up to a reasonable degree of efficiency in all branches of the Carrier Pl work, and at the same time train individuals (drivers, gunners, NCO's, etc) in their own particular job and to a much higher degree of efficiency.

At the conclusion of this school every man should be capable of taking over any one of the positions in the crew. In many cases, as the grading will show, there are some gunners who are also good drivers and vice versa.

The organization functioned particularly well during the last month but the following recommendations are made for any future schools of this nature :-

1. That student NCO's not be used as instructors unless they have previous experience in instructing - and if they are used, they should be placed with other than their own men.
2. The Maintenance Course (for drivers) conducted by the L.A.D., should have been run at the start of the course, whilst the remainder of the school are also doing maintenance work - otherwise it tends to disorganise.
3. A section of L.A.D. attached to the school for the duration to affect major repairs on the spot - a saving of time and mileage on Carriers.
4. A good site for the camp - preferably flat ground, sufficiently large enough for a camp lay-out and near to the training area.
5. No personnel accepted after the first week of the school's inception, as it means special squads and high pressure training for the late comers to bring them up to the standard.

A separate report is attached concerning the officers.

DISCIPLINE.

The general discipline of the troops and NCO's at the beginning of the course was not very good - mainly because the NCO's did not pull their weight and in many cases did not realise their responsibilities - result no control.

During the course I paid special attention to the above and pepped up the O.R's as well as the NCO's and officers; and at the time of making this report I must say that the discipline throughout is very good indeed, though the NCO's need more training on this subject and must be kept up to it by their Pl Comds.

KEENNESS

Special mention is warranted for the remarkable interest shown throughout by all ranks at all times - their willingness to learn was astounding - no less is their "Esprit de Corps" which I consider should be encouraged as much as possible.

STANDARD OF TRAINING

Owing to many of the O.R's being reinforcements and new personnel, and in many cases old hands, Weapon Training was poor, maintenance sketchy and very few knew anything about the correct handling and driving of the Carriers.

NCO's.

With some exceptions, mainly in the 2/3 Aust Inf Bn, although

efficient in themselves, the NCO's lacked control of their men, did not check them sufficiently in their faults; and worst of all argued with their immediate superiors on the least provocation when receiving an order or an explanation.

Their appearance and deportment generally, was good. The standard of training amongst the NCO's, except for the points mentioned, was quite good, some outstanding, (as per graded list). Their main weakness, even now, is fire control and indication of targets.

The improvement in all branches of training is very marked, most of the deficiencies quoted in the preceding paragraphs have been, to a great extent, overcome. Most of the NCO's have shown exceptional improvement and have, beside their other training, gained a reasonable knowledge of tactics and the employment of carriers.

The standard of driving and maintenance, amongst the drivers particularly, is excellent, and the gunners have a good knowledge of the handling of their weapons and when on the range put up a good show - this equally applies to all ranks.

2" MORTAR.

This only consisted of a short course, and one shoot, but all ranks participated and can operate and maintain this weapon successfully.

TACTICS.

Whilst a certain amount of training and lectures were given to the whole school and much improvement shown, all Pls need more exercise with their Bns to make them thoroughly conversant with their use.

All Pls can handle their Carriers very well at night and have had a fairly thorough grounding in this work. Personally, I am very pleased with the improvement shown and the results achieved and it is to be hoped that, on returning to their units, they will be permitted to continue with a certain amount of training, so as to maintain their efficiency, and improve upon the knowledge they have gained.

The behaviour and co-operation of all ranks, with very few exceptions, has been almost all one could desire.

Note:-

More range firing with all weapons and particularly Bren is desirable whenever possible, Tactical work, their weakest being Reconnaissance and Flank Protection and Fire Control and Indication of Targets for the NCO's.

2/7 Bn Carrier Pl. I beg to point out that this Pl needs a very strong Sgt in charge, as the present one, although efficient and keen himself, has little or no control, and is much better suited for an administrative position.

I would like to comment on and thank the Bns, for their co-operation and helpfulness in all matters concerning the school and also to report that the administrative staff did an excellent job. The A/Q.M.S. can be highly recommended as having executed his job with the greatest efficiency and has proved exceptionably reliable. (Sgt. Carney is the A/Q.M.S.)

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION.

It is in my opinion very desirable that a first class Mechanic-Fitter be attached to each Pl and travel in the Pl Truck, to effect major repairs on the spot. It would be necessary to have a good kit of tools with him, as the tools normally carried on the Carriers are not sufficient to deal with anything, other than very minor repairs. Also most drivers are not capable of effecting major repairs, unless they have had thorough and lengthy training in mechanics.

Time is saved in doing the job on the spot, plus the necessity for keeping as many Carriers in operation at all times.

We have found this very successful in the 6 Aust Div Cav Regt and would have been very hard put to keep going without the above.

(Sgd) C.A. Wade, Lieut.
Chief Instructor.

REPORT ON OFFICERS

BY

LIEUT C.A. WADE, CHIEF INSTRUCTOR 16 AUST INF BDE CARRIER SCHOOL2/1 Aust Inf Bn - Lieut. E. GIVNEY

Has shown great improvement, and has a fairly thorough knowledge of all training appertaining to the Carrier Platoon. Has good control of his men and Platoon and does not relax his supervision. His knowledge of tactics and the roles of a Carrier Platoon can be relied upon; except that, he is a little slow in making a decision and acting upon it, he is an ideal Carrier Platoon Comd. His deportment and general demeanour are a good example to his men. He has given me the fullest co-operation and is exceptionally keen; his main fault is that he is a little too lax with his senior NCO's.

2/2 Aust Inf Bn - Lieut. C. SKERRITT

Very good knowledge of tactics and the handling of his Platoon and has shown considerable improvement. Does not exercise his command as he should, a little apt to be over-ruled by his Tp Sgt, and has a bad habit of making a decision, issuing an order and allowing his subordinates to argue with him. Control of men not all that could be desired, because he is too lenient. Needs more training in deportment, is very inclined to slouch, is very keen and anxious to do a good job. Has the making of an excellent Carrier Platoon Comd and is very reliable.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Lieut A.M.C. HUTCHINSON

A very keen man and did everything within his power to make the Platoon efficient. Came to this school with no knowledge of Carriers or their capabilities, and in view of that did an excellent job. His knowledge of tactics is quite good, but owing to the loss of 10 men during the critical training period did not reap the full benefit of the training. He is exceptionally reliable and a very keen student - much too lenient with his men and therefore does not control them as much as is necessary in a Carrier Platoon. His fullest co-operation was available at all times and he is very reliable in all ways, but suggest he is not cut out for command of a Carrier Platoon.

NOTE:

The 2/3 Aust Inf Bn Carrier Platoon was commanded by Sgt Cameron in the absence of Lieut Gall and he carried out his task with the greatest efficiency.

I highly recommend him as a Pl Comd, he has practically all the qualifications necessary for the job. The 2/3 Aust Inf Bn's Carrier Platoon is the best trained and administered Platoon in the school, and set a high standard for the others.

(Sgd) C.A. Wade, Lieut.
Chief Instructor.

16 AUST INF BDE CARRIER SCHOOL

RESULTS - 2/1 AUST INF BN NCO's

KEY

F 50 - 60
G 60 - 70
VG 70 - 85
EX 85 - 100

<u>Army No.</u>	<u>Rank.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>Weapon Tng</u> <u>Incl Range</u> <u>TOETS on LMG</u> <u>.55 A/Tk and</u> <u>2" Mortar.</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
NK 3853	Sgt.	REID. J.R.	G	VG	VG	Reliable & Conscientious.
4092	Sgt.	WARBURTON. E.E.	G	VG	VG	" "
7737	L/Sgt	DAVIES. J.F.	G	EX	EX	" "
2628	Cpl.	BRAIN. D.T.	G	VG	VG	Keen and tries hard but uninspiring.
7494	Cpl.	HAYDEN. L.H.	VG	VG	G to VG	Good type of NCO.
47465	Cpl.	STEWART. A.J.	VG	EX	G	Lacks force but sound knowledge.
4508	A/Cpl.	ELDRIDGE. W.G.	VG	EX	G to VG	One of the keenest and most improved students
2618	Cpl	THOMPSON. N.O.	EX	EX	G	Reliable & Conscientious.
3903	L/Cpl.	GEORGE. W.L.	F	VG	G	slow but painstaking.
13939	L/Cpl.	HENNEBURY. P.F.	F	G	G	Reliable NCO.
6698	L/Cpl.	UPHAM. T.	EX	VG	G	Shows good promise.
46117	L/Cpl.	BAILEY. G.G.			F	Recent arrival at School.
47577	Pte.	RYAN. M.A.				BATMAN.
45923	"	MILLAR. C.W.	VG	VG	G	
9903	"	MENSER. S.A.	EX	F	G	
4580	"	RYAN. C.J.	VG	VG	G	
45458	"	WALLIS. C.	VG	VG	F	
15136	"	WYLD. E.C.	VG	G	F to G	
4533	"	COMMINS. M.J.	F	F	G	
15334	"	END. H.B.	VG	VG	G	
46251	"	CRACKETT. J.B.	VG	VG	G	
46673	"	CADDY. J.F.	VG	VG	G	
47118	"	HARE. W.	VG	VG	G	
9519	"	PEARSON. W.J.	EX	VG	F	
67932	"	JENKYN. W.A.	F	VG	-	
68848	"	O'GRADY. J.L.	VG	VG	G	
68270	"	DAVIES. T.	VG	VG	G to VG	
15135	"	ASHLEY. M.	VG	G	F	
1873	"	SAWYER. R.L.			F	
69213	"	WILKINSON. N.	VG	VG	F	
13491	"	HANSIL. I.H.	VG	G	G	
72199	"	KELLY. F.J.			F)	
69214	"	PICKETT. J.			F)	
1669	"	GOODWORTH. V.N.			F)	New men in Platoon.
41441	"	KING. J.L.G.			F)	
68526	"	LAMB. R.C.			G)	

16 AUST INF BDE CARRIER SCHOOL

KEY

RESULTS - 2/2 AUST INF BN NCO's

F 50 - 60
G 60 - 70
VG 70 - 85
EX 85 - 100

<u>Army No.</u>	<u>Rank.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Weapon Tng Incl Range TOETS on LMG .55 A/Tk and 2" Mortar</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
NX						
2342	Sgt.	NOONAN.E.E.	EX	EX	G	Knows his work well.A little lax.
2361	"	LOVETT. R.H.	EX	VG	VG	Could be more forceful Good allround ability.
2389	"	LACEY.A.P..MM	EX	EX	VG	Good. Possibilities.
23995	Cpl	HANSEN. F.J.	EX	EX	VG	Sound NCO. Very efficient but too familiar with men
2263	Cpl	BRUNNING. L.E.	EX	EX	VG	Efficient & could go further but apt to argue with superiors.
2383	Cpl	MACQUEEN.AA MM	VG	EX	VG	Very sound NCO.
2377	Cpl	BULLOCK. J.K.	EX	EX	VG to EX	Excellent weapon instr.
11715	Cpl	WILSON, A.G.	VG	EX	VG	worthy of further promotion.
4359	L/Cpl	PATTEMORE.EK	VG	EX	VG	Needs experience. V.keen
21099	Pte	NIXON. J.	VG	EX	G	Sound general knowledge
40972	"	HIGGINS.W.	VG	EX	G	" " "
11571	"	GREIG. G.G.	VG	VG	G to VG	" " "
68820	"	RODWAY. H.G.	G	EX	G	" " "
69093	"	ROUSELL. J.	VG	VG	F to G	Needs to apply himself more to his work.
46496	"	JUNIOR. S.	VG	VG	G	
65563	"	JONES. W.T.	VG	G	F to G	
2351	"	YOUNG. F.J.	VG	EX	VG	Very sound - make pros- pective NCO.
71829	"	PEARSE. L.	VG	EX	G	
72641	"	STARR. W.I.	VG	EX	G	
2402	"	DWYER. R.W.	VG	G	VG	Worked hard.
20557	"	LONESBOROUGH.R	VG	G	G	
46551	"	PLATER. E.E.	G	EX	G	
32941	"	PARKES. J.J.	G	EX	F to G	Could improve.
68819	"	HOLMES. D.J.	G	VG	G	Eager to learn.
2243	"	BOADLE. J.L.	VG	EX	G	
11671	"	PALMER. E.E.	VG	VG	G	
69820	"	LANAGAN. O.	VG	EX	G	Shows promise.
1404	"	MURPHY. M.J.	VG	VG	VG	A little lazy but has the knowledge & ability if applied to make an NCO.
7154	"	POWELL. D.	G	VG	G	
2407	"	McGRATH. P.B.	EX	EX	VG to EX	Missed early part of Sch made excellent progress
10656	"	EAGER. A.M.)
69112	"	SHELDON. W.T.)
21442	"	McLADY. G.T.)
68279	"	D'ARCY. H.)

16 AUST INF BDE CARRIER SCHOOL

KEY

RESULTS - 2/3 AUST INF BN NCO's

F	50	-	60
G	60	-	70
VG	70	-	85
EX	85	-	100

Army No.	Rank.	Name	D	M	Weapon Tng Incl Range TOETS on LMG .55 A/Tk and 2" Mortar.	REMARKS
NX						Outstanding. Ideal for O.C.T.U.
4714	Sgt.	CAMERON.A.	EX	EX	EX	
4935	A/Sgt	MANLY. S.R.	VG	VG	EX	Very keen & conscientious
7809	L/Sgt	BAXTER. H.L.	VG	EX	EX	Hard working, conscientious & capable NCO.
9576	L/Sgt	SPIATT. M.	G	VG	VG	Very quiet but a very sound Sec Comd.
5425	L/Sgt	McCORMACK. E.R.	VG	VG	EX	Keen, thorough, responsible.
4580	Cpl	MAQUIRE. L.E.	F to G	VG	G	Very keen & anxious to learn.
5616	Cpl	VARCOE. R.	G	VG	G to VG	A good NCO Not outstanding
4482	Cpl	STANLEY. H.V.	G	EX	G to VG	A good NCO.
4916	Cpl	HARKNESS.C.T.C	G	EX	EX	Most enthusiastic, capable & energetic.
NX41222	Pte	McLENNON.S.A.	G		G to VG) Can drive need more practice.) Mortar & AA personnel.) -excellent instr on weapons good control.
47793	"	KINGSLEY. J.G.	F		F to G	
40830	"	BARDEN. A.G.	G		F to G	
40908	"	ARCHIBALD.A.P.	F		F	
68868	"	McPHERSON. W.	VG		F	
68979	"	SCHMEIRER. A.S.	VG		F	
41356	"	WILLIAMS.J.G.G.	VG		G	
13272	"	MILLER. R.W.	VG		EX	
65668	"	BUNTING. R.S.	VG		F	
9657	"	SWIFT. M.	VG		G	
13509	"	BRAY. E.	VG		F to G	
68507	"	CHRISTIE. G.	VG		G	
4724	"	STANLEY. N.P.	EX	EX	G	Good knowledge of work
4966	"	McGURREN. A.	EX	G	F to G	
4496	"	BERRELL. F.J.	VG	G	G to VG	
4944	"	WALDRON. E.R.	VG	VG	F	
4950	"	BUCKLEY.M.A.	VG	VG	G	
23486	"	CARROLL.M.W.	EX	G	G to VG	
4503	"	PAYNE. L.J.	EX	EX		Detached as Driver to Free French Forces.
41334	"	SMITH. J.L.	VG	G	F to G	
7955	"	PARKINSON.F.F.	VG	G	G	
4984	"	DOUZONS. C.	VG	VG	G	
72644	"	SARGEANT.E.W.	VG	G	G	
25398	"	JONES. P.	F	P	F to G	
5370	"	CHENERY.H.W.	G	VG	F	very quiet but hard working.
13031	"	GEDDES. J.	G	F	G to VG	
5400	"	WALKER. D.F.	EX	VG	G	Good knowledge of driving and maintenance.
5594	"	MURDAY. J.E.	VG	EX	F to G	Good type.
9602	"	LAYLAND. B.S.	F	P	G to VG	Very little knowledge of driving or maintenance.

16 AUST INF BDE CARRIER SCHOOL
RESULTS - 2/7 AUST INF BN NCO's

KEY

F 50 - 60
 G 60 - 70
 VG 70 - 85
 EX 85 - 100

<u>Army No</u>	<u>Rank.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Weapon Tng</u> <u>Incl Range</u> <u>TOETS on LMGZ</u> <u>.55 A/Tk and</u> <u>2" Mortar</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
VK						
5707	Sgt.	KENNEDY. L.A.	F	G	F	Too weak for Pl Sgt asks instead of orders.
5449	A/Sgt.	TAYLOR. D.P.	F to G	VG	F	A little too wild. With more training in responsibilities of an NCO would make good Rifle Pl Sgt.
5845	L/Sgt	FOOT. G.	G	G	F	Requires a good deal of tactical & practical tng Keen - suggest Weapon Tng Sch or J.L. Course.
4718	Cpl	CRAMP. W.H.	G	G	VG	Good word of Comd. To apt to argue with superiors
35326	Cpl	CLAY. K.W.	VG	EX	VG	Very keen & enthusiastic good knowledge.
1732	A/Cpl	LEVETT. T.J.	F	VG	VG	Good general knowledge Arguementive. Under strict supervision has possibilities.
54098	A/Cpl	WILTON. C.H.	G	EX	VG	with experience will make excellent NCO.
4667	Pte	ROSS. J.W.	F	VG	F to G	Not impressive.
16860	"	ROYLE. L.G.	F	VG	G	
54097	"	MUIRHEAD. G.A.	G	G	EX	Nervous but keen.
6912	"	ORPWOOD. J.E.	F	P	F	
7094	"	WATERS. H.F.	F	F	G	
7164	"	WETMORE. J.W.	VG	G	F	
41117	"	CRAMER. L.	F	EX	G	
52294	"	DEVANNY. B.W.	G		G	
55065	"	McGOWAN. F.	F	VG	F	
31314	"	RILEY. P.			G	Learner.
5499	"	LITTLE. J.			F	"
19142	"	WILLIAMSON. J.P.			F	"
57446	"	CAMERON. A.J.	VG		F	
52088	"	OVERS. P.J.			F	Learner.
5719	"	SCARFFE. J.C.			G	"
45640	"	JARRED. W.H.			F to F	
51247	"	KEARNEY. R.				Still A.W.L.
14254	"	SYMONDS. E.H.	F	G	F to G	Good type.
54456	"	WILSON. S.R.	G	F	F	
52224	"	McCARTHY. J.				
52364	"	JACKSON. C.				

Ref File T/1/207

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde

17 Dec 41

2/1 Aust Inf Bde
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
-----TRAINING POLICY - JAN 1942

1. The following phases of tng will be included in syllabi prepared for the month of Jan.
 - (a) Use of Pack Tpt -(where applicable). To include rapid loading and unloading, movement with Pack 1st line Tpt over mountainous country, and mule management generally.
 - (b) Range Practices.
 - (c) Staff and Signal Exercises. (where applicable). At least one exercise to be carried out by each Bn, ect, HQ working down to Coys.
 - (d) Gas Tng. incorporated in tactical exercises.
2. Night Tng.
 - (a) Practise in digging and wiring by night. This may be carried out as part of normal works programme.
 - (b) Deep patrolling in mountainous country.
 - (c) Perfection of drill for a Coy carrying out a night attack at short notice.
3. Wet Weather Tng.
 - (a) Practise for all offrs in use of R/T.
 - (b) Maintenance of No 108 sets by Bn Sigs. An instr will be made available for this on application.
 - (c) Lectures for offrs and senior NCOs on co-operation with Arty. An offr from RAA 6 Aust Div is available for temporary attachment to unit for this purpose.
 - (d) Instn in First Aid for all ranks.
4. General.
 - (a) Any tactical exercises with tps should be preceded by a T.E.W.T. It is considered that these should be attended whenever possible by reps of other arms of the service, particularly of Arty, A/Tk and MG units. This can be arranged by this HQ if reasonable notice is given prior the exercise being carried out.
 - (b) A definite allotment of time to each phase of tng in para 1 above has not been given, since it is realised that the requirements of units differ considerably. Times allotted however, will be included in Tng Programmes submitted on 19 Dec 41.

(Sgd) Maj H.H. HAMMER
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

War Diary
APPENDIX 'M'

Ref File G/2/123

Headquarters,
16 Aust Inf Bde.

22 Dec 41.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn

USE OF R/T.

1. To enable Bn HQ staff to practise the use of R/T and the various codes, one No 11 Set has been allotted to each unit. Communication will be between Bde HQ and units only and there will be no direct R/T communication between battalions.

2. As from 0900 hrs 23 Dec 41, practice messages will be passed between Bde and Bns and vice-versa, during the following periods:-

0900 hrs - 1200 hrs
1400 hrs - 1700 hrs

3. Each unit will transmit two messages daily to Bde. One only of these messages will be so phrased that it calls for a reply. No messages passed by R/T will be for action, but no prefix will be used to indicate that they are only for practice.

4. Attached as Appendix "A" are points to be observed when using R/T.

5. Coy offrs will be practised in the use of R/T and R/T Code on No 108 Sets.

Robert Caplan
.....Major.
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde.

For Information:

HQ 6 Aust Div.

POINTS TO BE OBSERVED WHEN USING R/T

There is every probability your speech is being overheard by the enemy, therefore :-

- (1) Cut it short and exercise intelligence in so framing your message as to give nothing away.
- (2) The R/T Code must be used.
- (3) Think out the wording of your message and make notes of it beforehand.
- (4) Communication must NOT deteriorate into conversation.
- (5) Replies will require to be written down.
- (6) When referring to units use Call Signs or Code Names.
- (7) Appointments Code must be used.
- (8) Map References, times and directions will be concealed in code.
- (9) Use of place-names should be avoided when possible, and place names must NOT be used in conjunction with map Ref Code.
- (10) Speak slowly and distinctly.
- (11) Give the receiver time to write down.
- (12) Do not vary the distance of the mouth from the microphone.
- (13) Spell out unusual words, e.g. "SPROUT" - "Sugar; Pip; Robert; Uncle; Tock".
- (14) Always repeat figures. e.g. "Figures One, Four, Two, Zero." - "I say again, "Figures One, Four, Two Zero."
- (15) All corrections are proceeded by the words "I say again".
- (16) Phonetic alphabet will be used.

When starting a message an Officer will usually say "Orders", or "Information", rather than "Message for you".

Remember always that Corps have interception sets checking up on all traffic.

War Diary

APPENDIX 'N'

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde
6 Dec 41

Ref File S/2/131

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn

SECURITY GD DUTIES
85 BASE SUB-AREA DAMASCUS

The following roster for duties is now allotted. Relieving units will make mutual arrangements for the relief with the unit carrying out the duties. This B4 to be advised when relief effected.

2/2 Aust Inf Bn	-	15 Dec 41
2/1 Aust Inf Bn	-	29 Dec 41
2/3 Aust Inf Bn	-	12 Jan 42
2/2 Aust Inf Bn	-	26 Jan 42
2/1 Aust Inf Bn	-	9 Feb 42

H.A.H.

.....Major,

B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

For Info :-

85 Base Sub-area.
Staff Capt.
✓ War Diary

698
RB

2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt
8 Dec '41

APPENDIX 'O'

F77
1730
9/12
DJ

16 Aust Inf Bde.

LOAN OF VEHICLES

Your co-operation in lending this Regt vehicles to assist in transporting personnel and stores to and from BAALBECK is greatly appreciated.

R. B. Stelman
Lt Col
CO 2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt

HS

HHH

war diary

Ref File T/1/208

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde

17 Dec 41

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

1. The following instruction is based on the latest 6 Aust Div tng policy which has been formulated in an endeavour to achieve uniformity of training within the Div.

2. At the beginning of each calendar month this HQ will notify units of any points that are required to be included in the succeeding months tng.

3. In accordance with these instructions units will prepare a syllabus covering on calendar month. These will be rendered in duplicate, to this HQ by 15th of the previous month and will show:-

(a) The approximate number of hours available for tng in the month and, separately, the number of nights.

(b) Any directions issued by this HQ as to the time to be spent on special subjects. Night work will be shown separately.

(c) Dates and places of unit tactical or adm exercises. The object and scope of the exercises will be shown.

(d) Dates and places of important experiments or demonstrations with explosives, tanks, arty, pillboxes, etc.

4. Programmes will be rendered in accordance with the following pro-forma :-

(a) Coy or Bn Exercises

<u>Date and Duration</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Unit on Exercise</u>	<u>Day or Night</u>	<u>Object and Scope</u>
4 Jan. 6 hrs	QATANA	A Coy 2/2 Aust Inf Bn	Day	Coy in attack involving crossing of gassed area
9 Jan. 12 hrs	QATANA	2/2 AUST Inf Bn	Day & Night	Bn attack incl approach march over mountains using pack tpt.
11 Jan. 6 hrs	QATANA	D Coy 2/2 Aust Inf Bn	Night	Wiring, digging and laying of minefield

5. In addition to the above units will prepare detailed syllabi one week in advance, and will submit copies to this HQ. These syllabi will also be made available for examination by Div representatives who will be conducting regular tours of inspection.

(Sgd) Major H.H. Hammer

B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

Mac Denny

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

APPENDIX *P*

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED
Part 1

No. 246

1 December 41

1. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders No. 34, by Major-General E.F. HERRING, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., issued herewith, will be read and have the same effect and force as if repeated in these orders.

2. SECURITY:

All ranks will be reminded that Military Telephone Lines in the Bde area are NOT security lines. Extreme caution must be used to ensure that matters likely to be of value to the enemy are NOT discussed over the telephone. All ranks should remember that messages of an apparently harmless administrative nature can give valuable information to the enemy.

The above is also particularly applicable to calls made to formations outside the Bde area.

Where any doubt exists, the message should be sent by signal.

A.J. Boase
..... Major
B.N. 16 Aust Inf Bde

NOTICES

SPORTING - FOOTBALL RESULTS:

Soccer - Sunday 23 Nov 41 Royal Fusiliers 11 goals v 2/3 Bn Nil

Rugby - Sunday 23 Nov 41 2/3 Bn 12 pts v 2/1 Bn Nil

DISTRIBUTION - As for BRO No 245 dated 26 Nov 41.

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No. 247

Part 1

5 December 41

1. PAY - BEIRUT:

Personnel on leave are no longer able to draw pay at Pay Office in BEIRUT and all ranks are to be warned against attempting to do so.

2. LEAVE PARTIES - Reporting:

Attention is drawn to previous instructions in the above connection.

All leave parties must report to this H.Q. except one day leave parties which report direct to D.A.F.M. and picture parties which do not report at all.

3. DAMASCUS LEAVE:

DAMASCUS leave will, in future, be for two days. O.C. Leave party will collect £5 Syrian for meal tickets from each member of party and pay this amount to D.A.F.M. in bulk. It is suggested that units arrange for senior N.C.O. to collect the cash from each member of the party before leaving Camp and hand the total to O.C. Party at H.Q. 16 Bde.

4. FROST PRECAUTIONS:

(a) Reference Chapter IV of Pamphlet "Inspection, Maintenance and Care of Army Vehicles (Wheeled)" copies of which have been distributed to units.

(b) Commanding Officers will ensure that proper precautions are taken forthwith.

5. CHURCH SERVICES - Sunday 7 Dec.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

Mass will be celebrated at 0930 hrs in Syrian Catholic Church, QATANA.

Units are requested to arrange tpt to enable personnel to attend the above Service.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The Rev John McKie, Senior Chaplain 6 Aust Div, will conduct the following Services in the Greek Orthodox Church, QATANA (alongside Bde H.Q.) :-

- 0715 hrs - Holy Communion.
- 0930 hrs - Combined Church Service.
- 1800 hrs - Combined English-Syrian Service.

Units are requested to arrange tpt to enable personnel to attend the above Service.

6. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders No. 35, by Major-General E.F. HERRING, C.F.E., D.S.O., M.C., M.D., issued herewith, will be read and have the same effect and force as if repeated in these orders.

Distribution -

As for BRC No 246 dated 1 Dec 41.

.....Major
B.N. 16 Aust Inf Bde

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No. 248

Part 1

11 December 41

1. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders No 36, by Major-General E.F. HERRING, C.B.E. D.S.O., M.C., E.D. are issued herewith.

2. LEAVE PARTIES:

Transport taking leave parties to and from DAMASCUS on local or BEIRUT leave of 2 or more days will move in convoy and on direction of O/C Leave Party. All members of party must travel both ways on this transport. The practice of members moving independently will cease.

Units are not notifying inability to fill allotments. This must be done 24 hours before leave commences.

3. CHURCH SERVICES - Sunday 14 Dec 41.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

Mass will be celebrated at 0930 hrs in Syrian Catholic Church, CATANA.

Units are requested to arrange tpt to enable Roman Catholic personnel to attend the above Service.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The following Services will be conducted in the Greek Orthodox Church, CATANA, (alongside Bde H.Q.) -

0715 hrs - Holy Communion
0930 hrs - Combined Church Service
1800 hrs - Combined English-Syrian Service

Units are requested to arrange tpt to enable personnel to attend the above Services.

J.H. Herring
.....Major
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

NOTICES

ACKNOWLEDGMENT -

The following Comforts Fund Issues are gratefully acknowledged :-

19 Nov 41 71 1 oz tins Tobacco, 71 pkts papers, 71 Razor blades.
30 Nov 41 88 2 oz tins Tobacco, 176 pkts papers, 18 prs sox,
24 scarves, 41 balaclavas, 38 mittens.

16 Nov 41 6 tables, 3 chairs.

It is also desired to acknowledge chairs purchased from grant of £25 Aust received from Amenities Services.

45 L.A.D. desire to acknowledge the following :-

19 Nov 41 16 Tins Tobacco, 16 pkts papers, 16 Razor blades.

Receipt is acknowledged of the following from A.C.F.

8 Dec 41 1 Table, 1 Football.

P.T.O.

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ 6 Aust Div
2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Pnr Bn
2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt
2/3 Aust Fd Coy
"A" Coy 2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/1 Aust Fd Amb
6 Aust Div Sup Col
19 Mob Bath Unit
16 Aust Inf Bde Carrier School
45 Aust L.A.F.
"J" Sec 6 Aust Div Sigs
7 Fl Aust HQ Gd Bn
23 F.F.C.
War Diary
File

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No 249

Part 1

18 December 41

1. RETURNABLE PETROL CONTAINERS:

It has been brought to notice, that petrol containers when returned for re-filling have a quantity of water in them. This is due, in many cases, to drivers failing to screw the screw-tops on firmly. T.O.s and Tpt N.C.Os in future will examine all tins for this complaint before returning for refill.

2. PERSONNEL TRAVELLING IN MOTOR VEHICLES - Safety Precautions:

The dangerous practice of personnel hanging over the sides of moving vehicles still continues. Units will again promulgate to all ranks the necessity for keeping wholly within vehicles when travelling, and any infringement of this rule will be the subject of disciplinary action.

3. CHURCH SERVICES - Sunday 21 Dec 41

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Mass will be celebrated at 0930 hrs in the Syrian Catholic Church, QATANA.

Units are requested to arrange tpt to enable Roman Catholic personnel to attend the above Service.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Combined Church Parade will be held at 1030 hrs in Greek Orthodox Church, QATANA (alongside Bde H.Q.)

4. SPORTS:

Weekly meeting of Sports Officers will, in future, be held at HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde at 0900 hours.

Representatives will bring syllabi for following seven days with them.

[Signature]
Major
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

NOTICES

LOST - Spare wheel, 15 cwt truck, lost between RAYAK and QATANA on 8 Dec 41. Finder please return to 2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT - It is desired to gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the undermentioned goods from A.C.F. -

90 pkts Cigarettes, 90 Razor Blades, 18 prs Sox, 24 Scarves, 41 Balaclavas and 38 Mittens.

DISTRIBUTION - As for B.R.O. No. 248 dated 11 Dec 41.

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No 249

Part 1

18 December 41

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16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

No. 250

Part 1

22 December 41

1. ADJUSTABLE SUPPORT FOR FIRING THE BREN GUN FROM THE CARRIER
UNIVERSAL:

It has been found necessary to provide a means whereby the height of the front Bren gun support on the Universal carrier can be altered to suit individual users.

Rubber covered bars (Rest firing, Pt No T.L. 13657) will be issued when available for the purpose as unit equipment, on the scale of 12 for each Inf and Div reconnaissance Bn and six for each independent Bde group reconnaissance Coy.

The bars are slotted at both ends to fit the side cheeks of the front aperture, and they are designed to rest on the existing rubber firing support (Pt. No. T.L. 533/S.A.)

In order that the Bren gun may be ready for all purposes, the tripod mounting will not be detached when firing from the vehicle.

Units have been developing and fitting to these vehicles mountings of their own design. This practice will cease.

(Applicable to all Tps, M.E.F.). 57/Vehicles/90/S.D. 10.
(Div R.O. para 567). A.C.I. 1879/41.

2. POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA:

The following extract to be published in A.I.F. orders is furnished for your information and advice as necessary to the troops served by you.

"The outbreak of hostilities in the Far East may ultimately affect the regularity of postal communications with Australia. For the information of all ranks the following notes are supplied on the present position.

AIR MAIL SERVICE

So far as can be foreseen, the AIR MAIL service to and from Australia will continue to function. The service will probably not show its present regularity, and at a later stage some limitation of posting to LIGHT WEIGHT MATTER may be necessary in order to facilitate the detours necessary to avoid zones of danger. At this stage, however, it is NOT proposed to apply any limitation, and troops MAY make their air mail postings as hitherto.

SURFACE MAILS

Mails by sea route will probably take longer in either direction, but it is NOT EXPECTED that difficulty will arise either in GETTING MAILS AWAY or in DEALING WITH THOSE ARRIVING BY SEA.

CABLE SERVICE

The cable service is continuing to function, and ordinary and E.F.M. cables may be lodged as hitherto.

P.T.O.

GENERAL

It will be appreciated that any or all of these services may be interrupted or curtailed through developments in the military situation. All ranks will, as far as possible, be kept informed of any such interruptions or limitations to the present services as they arise. THEY MAY BE ASSURED THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WILL BE DONE TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSTAL SERVICES WITH THE HOME COUNTRY IN EFFECTIVE OPERATION."

3. AUDIT OF REGIMENTAL TRUST FUNDS AND MESS ACCOUNTS:

Units are NOT, in every case, complying with instructions re above. See AIF (ME) Orders 157 of 3 Jan 41 and 631 of 20 Sep 41. Returns to be submitted through this HQ on the 14th of each month. The following form of certificate is to be used :-

(NAME OF ACCOUNT)

Balance of A/C at / /
Receipts for the month of

Less total payments for the month of
Balance at

"I certify that all Regimental Trust Funds and Mess Accounts in connection with the unit have been audited for the month of19 and that the amounts have been reconciled with the respective Trust Account Books.

.....C.O.
(UNIT)

4. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders No 37, by Major-General E.F. HERRING, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., have already been issued to units.

5. CHURCH SERVICES - Christmas Day:

ROMAN CATHOLIC:

Mess will be celebrated at 0930 hrs in Syrian Catholic Church, CATANA.

Units are requested to arrange tpt to enable Roman Catholic personnel to attend the above Service.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Christmas Communion will be celebrated at 1030 hrs in the Greek Orthodox Church, CATANA (alongside Bde HQ) for personnel of 16 Aust Inf Bde HQ, 2/1 Aust Inf Bn, 2/3 Aust Fd Coy, "A" Coy 2/1 Aust Fd Amb, 6 Aust Div Sup Col and 19 Mob Bath Unit.

.....Major
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

NOTICES

LOSS OF KIT BAG:

A Kit Bag branded NX 25367 KIRKPATRICK B. was lost between QATANA and MEZZE on 28 Nov 41.

Finder please return to this HQ.

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ 6 Aust Div
2/1 Aust Inf Bn
2/2 Aust Inf Bn
2/3 Aust Inf Bn
2/11 Aust Army Fd Regt
2/3 Aust Fd Coy
"A" Coy 2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/1 Aust Fd Amb
2/2 Aust Pnr Bn
6 Aust Div Sup Col
10 Mob Bath Unit
"J" Sec 6 Aust Div Sigs
45 L.A.F.
7 Pl, Aust HQ Gd Bn
23 F.P.C.
War Diary
File

16 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

BRIGADIER A.J. BOASE - COMMANDING

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

o 251 Part 1 29 December 41

1. 6 AUST DIV ROUTINE ORDERS:

6 Aust Div Routine Orders No 38 by Major-General E.F. HERRING, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., have already been issued to units.

2. PAY - Opening of F.C.O. DAMASCUS:

Fortnightly pay will still be drawn through and acquitted to 16 Bde Paying Officer.

Requisitions must be lodged by 1200 hours on the Tuesday preceding pay day as hitherto.

Acquittance will, in future, be made by units between 0900 and 1200 hrs on the Monday following pay day. Strict compliance with this instruction will be insisted upon.

Supplementary drawings for personnel going on leave will now be made by units from and acquitted to F.C.O. DAMASCUS direct.

In order that personnel may take advantage of any leave available units may make payment to personnel whose leave has been definitely granted up to the last day of their leave and may do this four days before such leave commences.

It is desired that fullest facilities possible be afforded to personnel to draw pay from the unit before proceeding on leave except when proceeding to Palestine.

Pay for current fortnight will be available at HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde at 1130 hrs on 31 Dec 41 and is to be collected before 1300 hrs by units.

It is desired to minimise the amount of Syrian currency carried to Palestine by troops on leave.

In future, personnel about to proceed to Palestine will not be paid in their unit and will be advised to carry a minimum of Syrian currency.

Pay will then be available at Affule Leave Camp.

3. CHURCH SERVICES.

NEW YEARS DAY

ROMAN CATHOLIC. Mass will be celebrated at 0930 hrs in Syrian Catholic Church, QATANA.

Units are requested to arrange tpt to enable personnel to attend.

W. Darcy
.....Major
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde
A.O.D.

DISTRIBUTION - As for BRO No 250 dated 22 Dec 41

War diary

APPENDIX "R"

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

16 AUST INF BDE SECURITY INSTN No 1.

Ref Map QATANA 1/50,000
ZEBDANI 1/50,000

Copy No. ²¹.....
²².....Dec 41

1. GENERAL

- (a) This instruction will be the basis of defence against sabotage, parachutists, air invasion or local revolt. To this end areas of responsibility have been allotted as in Appx "A". Within each area two CPs and a mobile security coy will be maintained.
- (b) The CO will arrange for the unit security officer and other officers as necessary to conduct a thorough recce of the unit area. He is also responsible that the arrangements detailed hereafter are at all times effective.
- (c) It is emphasised generally that speed in passing on reports and information is essential if effective action is to be taken by higher formations.

2. OBSERVATION POSTS

(a) Location

Posts are at present located as in Appx "A".

(b) Duration

Each post will be maintained continuously throughout the 24 hrs.

(c) Composition

The post will be commanded by an NCO with signal personnel attached.

(d) Equipment

Each post will have a prismatic compass and binoculars.

(e) Communication

Continuous signal communication will be maintained with Bn HQ, L/T if possible but wireless will NOT be used

(f) Reports

(i) Immediate report will be made of suspected parachutists, unidentified aircraft or any suspicious or unusual occurrence. The bearing and distance of the activity reported will always be included in the report. With parachutists, the bearing and distance to the estimated point of landing will also be given.

(ii) A log will be kept of all aircraft seen over area. Mention is to be made of type, height and general movement. These details will be incorporated in the "Unusual Occurrences" report.

3. MOBILE SECURITY COY:

.....(a) Duty.

A mobile Security Coy will be detailed for 24 hr duty. This Coy will carry out normal activity but will not leave the Bn area of activity without prior notification to this HQ.

(b) Equipment.

The Coy will be fully equipped to W.E. in so far as supply permits.

(c) Ammunition.

Each man will carry 50 rds S.A.A. at all times.

.....(d) Transport

..... Three 15 cwt trucks will be detailed for security coy duty. This transport may be used for other tasks but will be at ready call.

(e) Supplies.

A supply point, central to Coy activities, will be maintained, containing :-

- (i) 75 miles P.C.L.
- (ii) Three days rations and water for Coy personnel.
- (iii) 10 loaded magazines per Bren.
- (iv) 5 loaded magazines per T.S.M.G.

(f) Additional Transport.

If entire Coy must be mobile, at any time, the additional transport required will be drawn from unit reserves and Bde HQ in order.

4. DEFENSIVE ACTION:

(a) Signals.

Upon a report from O.Ps of an unusual occurrence or of hostile action the Duty Officer will be informed immediately.

(b) Duty Officer.

Upon receipt of the above information the Duty Officer :-

- (i) If the incident reported is NOT in his own area of responsibility will inform the unit concerned and Bde H.Q. in order by priority call.
- (ii) If the incident reported is within his own area of responsibility will immediately send a patrol from the mobile security coy to investigate the area under suspicion and notify Bde HQ by priority call.

(c) Action at Bde H.Q.

The Duty Officer will ensure necessary action has been taken and then :-

- (i) Notify 85 Base Sub Area by priority call.
- (ii) " 17 Aust Inf Bde by priority call.
- (iii) Advise British Security Mission.
- (iv) Advise 6 Aust Div.
- (v) Check that Duty Clerk has informed all other units in the Bde Administrative Area.

and thereafter keep all informed of the progress of events.

5. GENERAL ALARM

In the event of the situation being considered sufficiently serious this H.Q. will give the general alarm by the signal "FULL SECURITY".

6. FULL SECURITY ACTION

- (a) All units will stand-to.
- (b) Security Guards will be doubled.
- (c) 2/2 Aust Fnr Bn will constitute a Bde reserve and await orders.
- (d) Units will take the initiative as regards any local situation in their respective areas.
- (e) All other units in QATANA area will be responsible for protection of their own areas and equipment. Unit reps to report to this H.Q. for further instructions.
- (f) Duty Officer, Bde H.Q. will act as in para 4 (b) above and in addition inform 6 Aust Div by priority call.

7. UNIT SECURITY INSTNS.

A copy of unit Security Instns will be forwarded to this HQ.

.....Major
B.M. 16 Aust Inf Bde

SECRETAREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY & LOCATION OF O.Ps

(Ref 16 Aust Inf Bde Security Instrn No 1)

DatedDec 41

Ref Map	CATANA	1/50,000
	ZEBDANI	1/50,000

Copy No.....

.....Dec 41

AREAS.

(a) 2/1 Aust Inf Bn

18551700 - Rd DAMASCUS - KUNEITRA to 18551600 - 18001600 -
18001700 - 19351700.N.B. (i) Rd DAMASCUS - KUNEITRA incl.
(ii) Village of ARFOUZ incl.

(b) 2/2 Aust Inf Bn

19001800 - 19001700 - 18001700 - 18001836 - Rd BEIRUT -
DAMASCUS to 19001800

N.B. Rd BEIRUT - DAMASCUS excl.

(c) 2/3 Aust Inf Bn

18001780 - 18001600 - 17421600 - 17421780 - 18001780

LOCATION OF O.Ps

(a) 2/1 Aust Inf Bn

No 1 O.P. 18431686
No 2 O.P. 18441621

(b) 2/2 Aust Inf Bn

No 1 O.P. 18351721
No 2 O.P. 18561714

(c) 2/3 Aust Inf Bn

No 1 O.P. 17621717
No 2 O.P. 17691694

DISTRIBUTION LIST(Ref 16 Aust Inf Bde Security Instn No 1)
dated Dec 41

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>Security Instn Copy No</u>	<u>Appx "A" Copy No</u>	<u>Appx "B"</u>
-2/1 Aust Inf Bn	1	1	
-4/2 Aust Inf Bn	2	2	
-2/3 Aust Inf Bn	3	3	
-2/4 Aust Pwr Bn	4	4	
-1 Aust Army Fd Regt	5	5	
-4/3 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.	6	6	
-6 Aust Div Sup Col	7	7	
+16 Aust Inf Bde Carrier School	8	8	
+88 Base Sub Area	9	9	
-6 Aust Div	10	10	
-17 Aust Inf Bde	11	11	
2/1 Aust Fd Arb	12	12	
-27 Sec 6 Aust Div Sigs	13	13	
-5 Aust L.A.D.	14	14	
-7 1 Aust HQ Cd Bn	15	15	
-19 Mob Bath Unit	16	16	
British Security Mission (Damascus)	17	17	
File	18 - 19	18 - 19	1 - 2
War Diary	21 - 22	21 - 22	3 - 4

Headquarters
16 Aust Inf Bde

9 Jan 42

War Diary

SECURITY - DECEMBER 1941

1. SECURITY OFFICER

NX 82 Capt I.C. Fulton took over security duties on the departure of Lieut A.K. Bosgard to the Motor Contact Course, M.E.T.S.

2. PARACHUTIST

A suspected parachutist was reported at 1250 hrs, 12 Dec 41 by the 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. The prearranged system of reports and search parties was put into operation smoothly and quickly. Free French biplane took off from Mezze Aerodrome to investigate but without result. The parachutist did not descend and was finally judged to be a derelict balloon of type unknown.

3. SABOTAGE

Signals wire were cut several times during early December. Co-operation by the local French and Syrian authorities was poor. A Syrian, Isou Mouheddine, caught red handed, was released by the Prévoté without trial. He was released once more without trial after the Prévoté had themselves re-arrested him. As a result of strong representations by the British Security Mission, DAMASCUS, the French and Syrian authorities are now much more active.

4. GENERAL

A Syrian, Mouaddine el Hallak, under arrest for trespassing attacked his guard NX72383 Pte Harvey H. and was shot through the jaw by another guard NX47854 Pte Wardrop P. Both guards were members of 2/2 Aust Inf Bn.