

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

Item number: 8/2/16

16 Infantry Brigade

November 1942

784

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 40th Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 0001 hrs 1 Nov To 2359 hrs 1 Nov.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<p>NEW GUINEA. (ref map KOKODA AREA 1/2 inch)</p>	<p>1 Nov.</p>		<p>The load pushed on early with a small party to contact Lt Col Edgar; while on back a message was received from the GOC that the Brigade was to push on regardless of the situation at Deniki. The load immediately got in touch with Major Dawson and by 1330 hrs Bde HQ was once again on the move.</p> <p>Before we left ABUARI tobacco, so long awaited, arrived. Not a princely issue - 2/3 of an oz per man - but to the smoke-starved troops it meant a lot. Faces were happy as the brigade personnel marched along the track to MISIMA.</p> <p>It was a happy sort of day. Troops - or the majority of them - had had a hot meal the night before - and hot meals have been rarities in the ranges. The track was drier and fairly easy and the country was becoming more and more pleasant - opening out into garden patches, the valley was widening, the towering, dripping misty ranges were being left behind. Everyone seemed to feel it; even the native carriers returning along the track had stuck gay yellow flowers in their hair, adding an air of almost festivity to the march.</p> <p>We had very little to eat, but we had some tobacco and sun on our backs, and so were happy.</p> <p>Misima proved as charming a spot as ABUARI. It was fortunate that, with rations in the state they were, we were now entering into an area where there were plenty of vegetables in the native gardens. Manrow, yams and taro made a welcome change in diet, as well as providing bulk to depleted supplies and giving us our first fresh vegetables for ages.</p> <p>In contacting the GOC tonight, the load was assured that we would get rations before ours ran out. It was considered by the GOC that our best plan will be dropping from KUNI patch at KOBARA, and arrangements were being made with NCF to be prepared to drop there at short notice.</p>	

At close of the day march two coys 2/3 Bn were located at track junction DENIKI - KOBARA; one coy was at KAILE 142 with Bn HQ and a coy at SIGA. 2/2 Bn was around MISIMA with 2/1 Bn between MISIMA and ABUARI.

Heavy rain fell at MISIMA during the night.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.21.
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 0001 hrs 2 Nov To 2359 hrs 2 Nov

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NEW GUINEA	2 Nov		<p>Headquarters moved from MISIMA at 0800 hrs and arrived at SIGA at 1030 hrs where HQ was established. The track ran through pleasant country, with native gardens, flowers and sunshine, and was easy going. SIGA itself is beautifully situated and the garden there is rich in marrows. We lunched well, and ka was a fine meat.</p> <p>At SIGA 2/3 Bn HQ was contacted, and the battalion immediately pushed on then heels came two coys of 2/1 Bn, who were disposed around SIGA.</p> <p>By dusk 2/2 Bn were established south of PIRIVI and were patrolling along main track towards KOKODA and OIVI. 2/3 Bn had secured KOBARA and had made preparations to receive droppings at the KUNAI patch on 3 Nov. 2/1 Bn had two coys at SIGA, one at KAILE and one at MISIMA.</p> <p>Information received from natives has been vague; there were reports of enemy at PIRIVI and KANANDARA. Nowhere was there visible evidence of the enemy; the gardens were still well stocked, and it seemed that the enemy did not withdraw along the eastern flank of the valley.</p> <p>Today forward elements of 2/3 Bn were reported in KOKODA.</p> <p>At 1825 hours the following message was received from the GOC:</p> <p>"You will be prepared to move towards WAIROPE as from 1200 hrs 4 Nov. At that time 25 Bde will assume responsibility for the protection of the KOKODA area west of and including a line running north and south through OIVI. Meanwhile patrols will be dispatched forward towards WAIROPE"</p> <p>and in a personal message to Brigadier Lloyd —</p> <p>— "Just to see you moving towards OIVI in full strength at earliest. I feel you HQ and 2/1 Bn too far back in view no contact today — time will be saved if you can keep same Bn leading.</p> <p>"Supplies will be dropped KUNAI patch 3 Nov. I want you to capture enemy guns that were used in this area —"</p>	

The G1 informed the Comd that all 25 Bde should be in KOKODA area tomorrow. Two Bns are already in area.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 0001 hrs 2 Nov To 2359 hrs 2 Nov

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NEW GUINEA	2 Nov (continued)		<p>The comd contacted the AD re details of droppings at KUNAI Patch on 3 Nov. He was informed that no amm or emergency rations would be dropped, and that amm would be sent forward on carrier line from KOKODA. 6000 European rations were to be dropped tomorrow.</p> <p>Rain again fell during night - the rule rather than the exception in New Guinea. In fact, a rainless afternoon and night would be something to comment about.</p> <p>The Lt informed the Comd this evening that all 25 Bde should be in KOKODA area tomorrow. Two bns are already in the area.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 0001 hrs 3 Nov To 2359 hrs 3 Nov.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NEW GUINEA	3 Nov.		<p>This HQ reached the KUNAI Patch at 1030 hrs. Dropping had been completed and 2/3 Bn were engaged in picking up. Recovery was not good in the circumstances, the dropping ground being a good one.</p> <p>2/2 Bn were moving off towards the main KORODA-OIVI road to secure the high ground overlooking OIVI. They were re-rationed first; Bde HQ were then re-rationed and moved off in their rear. Next to be re-rationed were 2/3 Bn.</p> <p>Around midday 2/1 Bn were moving into the KUNAI Patch area. 2/3 Bn, as soon as they had their rations, were to move in support 2/2 Bn along main axis.</p> <p>At approx 1430 hrs Bde HQ reached the main KORODA-BUNA, in drizzling rain. This track, reputed to be suitable for MT, would present difficult problems for a jeep. 2/2 Bn were in advance, and the Bde party commenced to move through the bn.</p> <p>At track junction main track and PIRIVI track the Comd met the G1 (Col. Fry) who accompanied him forward.</p> <p>2/2 Bn were moving tactically along the road; however, in accordance with the policy of Rebers this HQ well forward, and as there had been no contact today Bde pushed along steadily and with two sections of the protective platoon leading, found themselves the advanced guard. They had proceeded about 600 yards when, on rounding a turn in the main track, the enemy opened up with LMG and rifle fire.</p> <p>The HQ party dispersed smartly from the road, and immediately took up fire positions. Owing to the dense and tangled undergrowth on either side of the road the enemy could not be seen. Word of contact was sent back to CO 2/2 Bn who moved through our hoops. The Comd moved back about 500 yards and set up his HQ near a creek.</p> <p>2/2 Bn pushed on and maintained contact, and sent out a coy on either flank to attempt to outflank the opposition; but it became apparent that the high ground at OIVI would not be surrendered without a fight. Although the opposition consisted of delaying parties to date, the Comd anticipated that the high features would be defended.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 3 Nov 42 To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NEW GUINEA	3 Nov (continued)		<p>At dusk the dispositions of units were as follows:— 2/2 Bn were forward along the KOKODA-OIVI road, meeting opposition from delaying parties and striking at high ground overlooking OIVI. 2/3 Bn were in rear of 2/2 Bn. 2/1 Bn less one coy were at KUNAI Path, and one coy were holding back junction KOSARA-OIVI-KOKODA tracks. 2/1 Bn has been ordered to prepare to move tomorrow along track to south to ILIMA.</p> <p>2/3 Bn's rationing will be completed tomorrow.</p> <p>The country in the vicinity is tangled, dense, and thicker than that encountered in the ranges. Water is plentiful. Movement off the track is difficult.</p>	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

4 Nov 42

Bde HQ remained in same position today. 2/2 Bn continued to push forward steadily along the main track, advancing one mile up to 1300 hrs. Reports indicated the recent use of the area occupied, by the Japanese; bicycles were found abandoned, and dead mules. Two coys of 2/3 Bn are moving along the main track in support of 2/2 Bn, and are temporarily under their command; remainder of 2/3 Bn began to move at approx 1230 hrs, with rations for 2 days, along main KOKODA-BUNA track.

2/1 Bn patrols were withdrawn, and the bn commenced to move by southern track KOBARA-ILIMO this afternoon. The patrols were taken over by 3 Bn AMF, who today came under our command. 3 Bn are picking up at KUNAI PATCH, KOBARA today, relieving 2/1 Bn of his duty also; after today dropping at KOBARA ceases, and all units will be supplied from KOKODA.

DW LO, Capt Issel, arrived Bde HQ this morning, and discussed with the Comd the movement of 2/1 Bn along the enemy's right flank. 2/1 Bn will have no line comm, and will rely on wireless communication to advise this HQ of their movements. They will have a 208 set to relay information, which this HQ will receive on a 109. An operator for the 208 set is to be provided by 7 Aust Div

This afternoon the GOC, Major General Vasey, arrived at this HQ and discussed the movement forward with the Comd. The GOC was accompanied by the G3(T), Capt. Schofield.

While the GOC was at Bde HQ, Major Hutchinson MC, at present commanding 2/3 Bn, arrived on his way forward and was presented to the GOC.

4 Nov 42 (cont)

Remainder of Bde HQ personnel arrived in area tonight; this brings about the concentration of the two echelons of the HQ, which had moved across the Owen Stanley Range almost as two distinct entities. The brigade should be able in future to move along the road to BUNA in toto.

Additional comforts (cigarettes, writing paper and tooth-paste) were received this evening, in addition to another issue of chocolate - which helped to further raise spirits which had been lifted on leaving the ranges. Fires were allowed to be lit, and personnel had a hot meal and hot tea.

Rain again fell heavily at night, an occurrence which seems likely to be continuous during our sojourn on the flat country.

The fact that supplies will now be sent forward on carrier line from KOKODA should result in a great improvement in the ration situation, and also put a stop to the disconcerting number of prematures in mortar ammunition. In addition, receipts should be 100% of dispatches, instead of the dishearteningly low "recoveries" from some droppings. The road, which was considered possibly fit for MT, is certainly not so in its present condition; however, some solid work by the engineers should soon put it in a fit condition for the passage of Jeeps, and that will further ease the supply situation.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 0001 hrs 5 Nov To 2359 hrs 5 Nov

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<p>NEW GUINEA. Ref map BUNA SE 1/2 inch</p>	<p>5 Nov</p>	<p>1000hrs.</p>	<p>2/2 Bn advised that the enemy had occupied the high features astride the track at OIVI. Lt Col Edgar was putting in a flanking attack with two coys and a third moving round to gain position astride track in rear of enemy.</p> <p>This information was passed while HQ was on the track, moving forward from their previous position to the rear of 2/2 Bn. Later this HQ set up at point 7598990.</p> <p>The opposition from the enemy proved stiff, and by 1300 hours the whole of 2/2 Bn was committed. One Coy was pushing out patrols to deal with a Jap patrol of 14 reported out on the right flank. Two coys were operating on each side of the track. In the meantime 2/3 Bn were moving through forest up peaks on either flank.</p> <p>No reports had been received from 2/1 Bn up till midday, owing to the fact that the power unit 109 set had not arrived from 7 Aust Div. However, a runner arrived at HQ at 1430 hrs from 2/1 Bn. He had only despatches, no messages from Lt Col Sullen. The bn had heard our wireless strength 7 last night, had tried to get in touch but were not successful.</p> <p>2/2 Bn continued to press the attack but were unable to make headway. The enemy is dug in with LMGs and a few 2" mortars. 2/3 Bn commenced an outflanking movement, two coys moving south around the right high feature to secure the high feature with a view to attacking across to 2/2 Bn's front. One coy was making for the high feature to the left of the track. One coy was moving SE to the right of that feature to cut the main OIVI track.</p> <p>The country is still close and difficult to operate over, and progress is necessarily slow.</p> <p>2/1 Bn, who, according to runner, reached point 763893, have been instructed to secure GORARI-ILIMO area and patrol east, south & west.</p> <p>3 Bn AMF moved up during the day, and Lt Col Cameron reported in to the Comd. This bn is disposed with HQ and one coy fwd of Bde HQ, two coys in rear, and one coy just fwd of 2/2 Bn.</p> <p>During the day the Jap fired a few rounds from his mountain gun, but no casualties were reported. Known casualties over last 48 hours are 1 killed 1 believed killed 22 wounded.</p>	

Lieut Elphick, Div. LO., who has been attached to us since FORA, this morning left to return to 7 Aust Div. He will be missed on this HQ as a likeable personality, and a competent officer who knew the country well (he was with 2/3 Bde in the early stages of the withdrawal).

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 001 hrs 6 Nov To 2359 hrs 6 Nov.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NEW GUINEA (ref map BUNA SE 1/2 inch)	6 Nov.		<p>During the day Brigade HQ remained in its present location, and 2/2 Bn, although maintaining pressure and close contact, were unable to make any headway from their positions astride the main track.</p> <p>On the left, D Coy 2/3 Bn maintained contact while A Coy 2/3 Bn worked along the enemy's flanks endeavouring to find their limits, make a wide encircling movement and then cut the main track. This, however, he was unable to do; after moving 500 yards along ridge from D Coy and patrolling further, he was still unable to find the left flank, and could hear the enemy chattering and chopping. He was ordered to link up with D Coy, watch the left flank and make the left secure.</p> <p>On the right, 2/3 Bn had a hard day's fighting. B and C Coys were moving up spurs to the right of 2/2 Bn, and at 1430 hours attacked strongly. They fought fiercely against plenty of opposition, with fire support from 2/2 Bn; B Coy were pinned, but C maintained the momentum of the attack, despite casualties, and actually captured the highest feature. Group to casualties and enemy fire from the ridge on their left they were unable to consolidate, and the enemy forced them back from the highest feature.</p> <p>Comd. 2/3 Bn advised the Comd that he had suffered casualties, and represented that, with an extra company, he could roll up the enemy opposition with his own force, the company being used to consolidate ground gained. Later, he reported casualties were heavier than at first estimated, and an additional Coy would be required to carry out the offensive role. Two coys 3 Bn AMF were moved forward and placed under command 2/3 Bn, with instructions they were to be used for thickening up and consolidating - in view of a report of a large Japanese force moving down between 2/2 Bn and B Coy 2/3 Bn.</p> <p>At 1750 hrs the enemy launched a Coy counter attack with LMG support from right and left, but the attack was repulsed with only one casualty.</p> <p>In the day's operations 2/3 Bn estimated they had inflicted severe casualties on the enemy; they had captured two spurs, and an HMG - the WOODPECKER so frequently heard by us. Their own casualties were approx 40.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 0001 hrs 6 Nov To 2359 hrs 6 Nov.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NEW GUINEA	6 Nov.		<p>Firing heard early in the morning from the direction of GORARI was thought to be from 2/1 Bn, who were estimated to be in that area. Later, a native runner brought in a ship as at 0745 hrs 6 Nov, which reported that 2/1 Bn were in that area, had contacted the enemy, were securing the track junction and moving to LIMBA, leaving one coy at KOKARA-GORARI junction. As a result of these operations the land pointed out to 7 Aust Div.</p> <p>i enemy posts at OVI extend over 3 mile front between the two features, and may be in depth - 2/1 Bn contacted him at GORARI.</p> <p>ii he has 2/2 and 2/3 Bns entirely committed, and half of 3 Bn AMF in a position where they might be committed in operational necessity.</p> <p>iii reserve between OVI and KOKARA. Only 300 of 3 Bn AMF</p> <p>iv enemy has at least two Bns, possibly three</p> <p>At 1800 hrs the Gt rang and informed Brigadier Lloyd that 25 Bde entire would move down LIMBA track at 0630 hrs on 7 Nov. The SOE was willing at this stage to risk having no backstop on this front. Obviously a change in role was impending</p> <p>A three inch mortar shoot at 1750 hrs made an encouraging noise - it was not possible to observe results. The mortars are to shoot again tomorrow.</p> <p>Our known casualties for the day are 13 Killed, 34 wounded. 3 Bn AMF suffered 1 Killed, 2 wounded.</p> <p>The day as usual was fine, with rain at night, though not so heavy as usual.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 140 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 0501 hrs 7 Nov To 2359 hrs 7 Nov.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NEW GUINEA (NEAR BUNA SE)	7 Nov		<p>There was no active contact with the enemy during the night but all units reported that he was still there in the morning.</p> <p>Orders in roles of Brigades were received today. 25 Bde will now move along the LIMA track over route taken by 2/1 Bn, and endeavour to take the enemy in the rear. They are also responsible for the bridgehead over the KUMUSI. Our role is to hold and harass the enemy in his own position, and to hold and consolidate on the high ground when it is captured. On contacting 25 Bde, 2/1 Bn come under their command.</p> <p>2/3 Bn attacked at 0915 hrs this morning, endeavouring to capture the high ground to which so bitter a fight was fought yesterday. Despite supporting fire from 2/2 Bn on the left, they were unable to get forward and suffered casualties.</p> <p>Determined that the enemy should have no peace, the Comd arranged for a 3 inch mortar shoot in the afternoon. Despite a certain amount of difficulty with fuzes, 78 bombs were eventually delivered to the crews and duly passed on to the enemy. Later B Coy 2/3 Bn found a spot from which they could despatch some two inch HE and sent over 14. Another 50x3" have been arranged for early delivery tomorrow.</p> <p>The shoot was watched by the Comd from a vantage point near 2/3 Bn HQ. With him he took the G.I. (Col Spry) and the Warrant Officer Lt Col Lambert. The shoot was described by the Comd as quite successful.</p> <p>Brigadier Eaton and his Bde were on their way early to LIMA, and late this afternoon had contacted 2/1 Bn. 25 Bde are laying mine, which is fortunate, for 2/1 Bn have had to rely on wireless comm, which has NOT worked.</p> <p>2/1 Bn have heard from natives that the gap is in strength at GORARI. A coy is pushing up the track to GORARI, maintaining contact with the balance of the Bn moving towards LIMA. 25 Bde s/hep states that 2/1 Bn should be in LIMA tonight.</p> <p>Major Miller, ex 2 1/2 of 2/1 Bn has now taken over comd. of 2/31 Bn with the rank of temporary Lt. Col.</p> <p>Bde I Corporals, who went out late yesterday afternoon to 2/3 Bn to assist in bringing back stretcher cases, and who was missing overnight, returned today. This party had been attacked and being totally unarmed had to take the bush. After a long trek through the scrub they eventually reached the main track about an hour the Kokoda side of the HQ, all intact except for numerous scratches.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 0001 hrs 8 Nov To 2359 hrs 8 Nov

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.																																															
NEW GUINEA	8 Nov.		<p>There was no change in the situation at first light; our troops were still in contact with the enemy on all parts of the front. When our troops opened fire, their fire was returned.</p> <p>News of the successful fighting in the Western Desert sent spirits soaring this morning; later in the day the arrival of tobacco and other comforts further helped to lift the feelings of troops.</p> <p>The parcels of comforts actually received at this HQ differed from the figures given by 7 Aust Div as being despatched as follows: <u>Deficiencies</u> - 336 oz. tobacco, 200 pkts papers, 120 tubes toothpaste, 470 handkerchiefs, 128 face washers and 442 cakes of soap. Receipt of amended quantities was acknowledged to the AGF by the Comd.</p> <p>Although our present role is to contain and harass, this morning we were informed by 7 Aust Div that, owing to shortage of landings, it was necessary to conserve 3" mortar ammo as far as possible. Accordingly, shoots arranged for today had to be cancelled, and only 25 rounds harassing fire were despatched at 1630 hrs. Units patrolled forward and to the flanks during the day. The enemy fired spasmodically with his mortars, & replied to ours.</p> <p>At 1000 hrs CIVIL GORARI hark was bombed and shelled. Later we were advised that 87 x 20 lb bombs had been dropped. Results were unobserved - the rule in this close country.</p> <p>CO. 2/1 Bn rang during the day, advising us of his position re rations. Although under Comd 25 Bde, it seems that they had made no arrangements to ration 2/1 Bn. Actually, CO. 2/1 Bn's comment was that 25 Bde had not enough for themselves. The Comd assured Lt. Col Cullen that he would ensure that the battalion was maintained, if necessary by ourselves.</p> <p>Hereunder is a statement of casualties of his Brigade to date, exclusive of today's figures:</p>																																																
			<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Officers</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Other Ranks</th> <th rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Killed</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Wounded</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Missing</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Killed</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Wounded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Bde HQ</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">2/1 Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">37</td> <td style="text-align: center;">86</td> <td style="text-align: center;">131</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">2/2 Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">32</td> <td style="text-align: center;">86</td> <td style="text-align: center;">123</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">2/3 Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td> <td style="text-align: center;">93</td> <td style="text-align: center;">128</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">101</td> <td style="text-align: center;">267</td> <td style="text-align: center;">386</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Officers			Other Ranks		Total	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Killed	Wounded	Bde HQ	-	1	-	1	2	4	2/1 Bn	3	5	-	37	86	131	2/2 Bn	3	2	-	32	86	123	2/3 Bn	-	3	-	31	93	128	Total	6	11	-	101	267	386	
	Officers				Other Ranks		Total																																												
	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Killed	Wounded																																														
Bde HQ	-	1	-	1	2	4																																													
2/1 Bn	3	5	-	37	86	131																																													
2/2 Bn	3	2	-	32	86	123																																													
2/3 Bn	-	3	-	31	93	128																																													
Total	6	11	-	101	267	386																																													

8 Nov 42

These figures do not include personnel evacuated sick.

Latest sitrep from 25Bde shows 2/31 Bn in contact with enemy one mile south of GORARI. 2/25 Bn were sent round 2/31 Bn's right flank at 1530 hrs to come in on track between GORARI and the enemy's rear. 2/33 Bn are to move first light tomorrow to bypass enemy at the junction of main OIVI-ILIMA track via GORARI. 2/1 Bn have not changed their dispositions.

The enemy in GORARI area are believed to have some 20 LMG's, 1 HMG and 2" mortars.

9 Nov 42 OIVI POSITION

The early morning "ster-up" brought instantaneous reply from the enemy, testifying to his alertness; his response came from LMG, HMG and 2" mortar.

The day brought forth no change in the general situation. Patrols were out on both right and left flanks, but no contact with the enemy was reported and no new enemy positions were revealed. Forward troops continued to harass along the whole front with small arms fire.

The enemy gun fired occasional rounds this morning and afternoon.

No casualties were reported during the day.

Latest reports from 25 Bde show that 2/31 and 2/25 Bn have got the enemy sandwiched between them and are dealing with him. 2/33 Bn are reported in GORARI village with 2/1 Bn; they think they have an enemy dump or HQ. 2/25 Bn were counterattacked three times, but repulsed each attack. The bdes casualties were notified as 12 killed, while they destroyed 42 Japanese.

Thus, 25 Bde have established themselves across the enemy's LoFC.

The GOC (Major Gen. Vasey) today visited the Comd with his ADC. Accompanied by arty off from 2/14 Regt (Lieut Trevor) who conducted the shoots on TORABAIWA ridge and who is investigating the possibility of arty support in this area, the GOC & the Comd visited 2/3 Bn HQ.

This morning an experiment in air support was carried out. Bde "I" personnel firing signal rockets to indicate our front to aircraft, who bombed and strafed east of the line indicated. Later in the day, following a conference with Capt Good of US Air Corps and Major Warnford, A/CO, who visited this HQ, a scheme for closer support was evolved. Rockets were taken to forward positions ready for firing straight upwards, and aircraft were to bomb 150 yards forward of front line troops.

The aircraft, however, could not be made available.

13 NOV 42

WADAU

16 AUST. INF. BDE

Today the Bde enjoyed a spell from the continual marching which has become a feature of this swiftly moving campaign. The rather depleted, weary yet cheerful healthy troops are now preparing, we hope, for their last roll in the Papuan drama, a role which destined to bring to a close the Japanese period of aggression in this jungle cloaked, rain soaked ~~continent~~ island.

Boots to replace the hulkish sodden shapeless footwears that has given such loyal service for six long weeks, new shirts & trousers to replace the mud bespattered faded issue which for so long has been our sole wardrobe were quickly noticed on clean shaven tanned faced troops. It was with grateful surprise that the fitness & high morale of these freshened troops, so recently emerged from deadly & determined encounters with a much wanted tenacious enemy, became evident as they were passed along the track.

By To-morrow all these ordnance stores should be issued and the Bde should again be pushing forward to contact those JAP Troops which it is reputed, have now withdrawn into the hills across the KUMUSI.

The Comd accompanied by Lt/Cpl CAMERON 1/3 Bn, Capt Williams L.O. 2/3 Bn & Lt. Gordon Bde I.O. left early this morning to contact Adv. Div HQ. Owing to one of those inexplicable misdirections on somebody's part the Comd & party eventually ran the G.O.C & Staff to earth at 25 Bde HQ just EAST of ILIMA, & by the time they reached WEDAU village, had covered close on 18 miles. However information gained & a knowledge of the track over which the Bde was to pass the following day was fitting recompense. The Comd in conference with the G.O.C was able to satisfactorily arrange for the re-equipping & re-ratoning of the Bde & returned to WEDAU to prepare for further fwd. movement. Arrangement by phone allowed other 2/3 Bn. to move fwd along the tk, thus saving the Bde a most arduous & lengthy march the following day.

14 Nov. 42.

To-day in conjunction with written instructions this Bde together with the 25 Bde will move further EAST & will cross the KUMUSI RIVER by first light on 16 NOV. Actually by the individual Bde roles allotted the 25 Bde will be on the left travelling via AWALA-HAGENAHAMBO-IGORA STORE-AMBOSO CROSSING JUMBORA to GONA whilst the 16 Bde further south on the right will move to SANANANDA via ISIVITA-SANGARA-POPPEDETTH SOPUTA.

The move as far as this Bde was concerned commenced with units staggered to allow of freedom of movement along the Mk. EDGAR, Bde HQ, STEVENSON, CULLEN, CAMERON. An early start was obtained and by continuous marching along not unpleasant jungle path which occasionally widened out to an almost respectable road the Bde finally settled in in the KUMUSI-WAIROPE area. The country passed through was noticeably flat in comparison with the previous areas traversed and the majority found no difficulty in covering the distance although the pace was an extremely fast one. It was noticeable also that the greater number of the "late" arrivals were those suffering from the all too common "diarrhoea" ~~to~~ a complaint which has made noticeable in-roads upon unit strengths.

However the camp area was an extremely pleasant one with a tributary of the KUMUSI running along the western edge. An opportunity thus presented itself for a much needed clean up and the river bank was soon crowded with troops.

The Comd accompanied by the BOM proceeded to Div HQ where latest information re the move was received.

15 Nov. 42.

To-day or the early part of it was spent again in ablutions preparatory to an afternoon move towards the river. Line so far subject to alterations are 1300 EDGAR 1330 Bde HQ 1400 CULLEN 1600 STEVENSON.

Bde HQ moved off punctually at 1330 hrs & proceeded slowly towards the crossing. On arrival there however it was found that the time & space program had been too ambitiously worked out and the greater part of the 25 Bde still remained to cross. Actually 16 Bde HQ did not cross the KUMUSI until 0020 hrs on the 16 Nov.

15 Nov 42.

The scene at the river bank was reminiscent of an old English fair or Irish market day. Bns. of heavily laden troops in ~~their~~ mud stained jungle green shirts, slacks, carried ~~by~~ the natives gaily caparisoned in bright coloured lap-laps bedecked with flowers & sprigs of shrubs stuck jauntily jauntily in leather bracelets, all mingled as they awaited their turn to cross.

The means used for crossing were both hazardous and adventurous but were attempted in something of a carnival spirit. On the one hand an extremely flimsy wire suspension bridge that gave all users a bath at its sagging middle and on the other a high strong flying fox that whilst efficient occasionally stopped with the occupant swinging helplessly above the stream.

However the crossing was eventually completed and EDGAR plus Bde HQ spent night 15/16 on the EAST bank of the KUMUSI whilst CULLEN & STEVENSON remained on the WEST side for the night.

16 Nov. 42.

An early start was made this morning on the track to Isivita. Bde "I" Section had already located with the help of guides & native police constable, the commencement of the track and marked it accordingly. The order of march was EDGAR, Bde HQ, STEVENSON & finally CULLEN. STEVENSON & CULLEN did not complete the crossing until late in the morning & consequently were some distance further back, but nightfall found them closed up to reasonable interval. The advance was slow owing to firstly the fact that although the track showed no signs of recent use the possibility of ambush was there and secondly the track winding & slippery with occasional steep pinches did prove tiring to the foot troops. It was evident that troops were showing signs of fatigue & the effect of the "stomach" trouble was making itself felt.

That evening halt was made at a village identified by the help of local natives as UBIBI, & situated approx. One hour ~~half~~ WEST of MUMUNU. The local natives appeared friendly & quite unafraid of the troops occupation bringing several offerings of fruit and vegetables and offering supplied information which bore out observations during the day that there appeared to have been no recent use

16 Nov. 42

of the area by the JAPANESE. The information all pointed to more frequent use of the AWALA TR.

The ration posn. at this stage was proving somewhat of a strain. The comparatively speed with which the advance was being made was creating as so often before a problem in keeping up maintenance supplies and although the Bde moved whenever possible with 3 days hard & 3 days emergency this often proved inadequate.

Arrangements were made however for a dropping ground to be laid out & clearly marked by AASC personnel & sappers attached to the Bde. This was accordingly done, the location of the ground notified to Division and the Bde moved on the following morning leaving a working staff at VBIBI to collect with help of natives & forward rations to the Bde.

For the night a perimeter defence was formed EDGAR less one Coy moving further EAST to MUMUNU, one Coy & Bde HQ remained in VBIBI and the remaining two Bns. blocking up in rear of the VILLAGE.

Nothing untoward happened during the evening.

17 Nov. 42.

At 0800hrs this morning the march was continued the objective for to-day having been ~~was~~ advanced to POPPENDETTA. This in view of the fact that by nightfall on the previous day the Bde had not reached ISIVITA seemed extremely ambitious and proved once more the unreliability & inaccuracy of the maps in use, a fact which had so often been stressed in the past.

However the Bde moved off on time EDGAR still continuing as the advance guard bn. Extremely slow time was made, more troops seemed to be dropping out of food coys and ISIVITA was not reached until 1430 hrs that day. The Comd ordered that Bns keep moving until 1730 & then bed down for night & that hour found the forward troops in a small clearing containing two small huts in no way approaching a village. EDGAR pushed on half mile further, Bde stayed in the clearing STEVENSON less two coys immediately rear of Bde whilst the remainder of STEVENSON & CULLEN found it impossible to cross a river which had risen suddenly

17 Nov 42.

The track during the day had continued through much the same type of country as previously, and showed little evidence of recent use. Jungle rain forest, Kumai patches occasionally passing through a village clearing thence native gardens from which troops were able to enjoy a pleasant change on paw-paws and bananas; a cycle of progress which was only interrupted by the crossing & climbing down to ~~of~~ innumerable cks.

At approx 1700hrs a heavy downpour of rain fell causing most of the cks to swell to sizeable rivers. It was this fact that caused the delay to STEVENSONS 2 Coy & to CULLEN, but by early morning on the 18 Nov the waters had subsided sufficiently for troops to ford the ck.

To-night 16 Bde was again given its objective for the following day as POPPENDETTA

The ration situation was now approaching the already foreseen to certain extent unavoidable climax but news of track rations following us relieved the immediate anxiety.

The Bde Comd was informed that rations would be dropped at POPPENDETTA, in time for the re-rationing of the Bde, and that being the case all set off with light packs as well as light loads the following morning

18 Nov 42

Bde left the previous night's location at 0730hrs. EDGAR still continued as forward Bn followed by Bde HQ, STEVENSON and CULLEN. The slow rate of progress was instrumental in allowing the rear Bns. to block up and although representation was made in an endeavour to speed up the advance no noticeable results were achieved.

The tk was comparatively an easy one and with the native police constable acting as guide presented no real difficulties as far as direction was concerned. Caution was possibly over-indulged in and the Bde did not reach POPPENDETTA until close on dusk.

However EDGAR moved through and took up a perimeter defensive posn around the area closing the main AMBOGO-POPENDETTA and POPPENDETTA-SOPUTA Tks. STEVENSON & CULLEN halted for the night approx 30 & 45 mins respectively further south along the route.

18 Nov 42 (contd)

A few minutes before the Bde Comd reached POPPENDETTA Capt Sublet, ~~1st Bn~~, recently of CHARFORCE and now acting as a Div. L.O contacted 16 Bde HQ with the latest instructions and information. The role of the Bde was outlined, the questions of rations discussed and it now appeared that one arrangement was being made for dropping at SOPUTA and two, that the Bde would push on the next day sending one Bn straight through to SANANANDA to endeavour to cut the SANANANDA-BUNA TR followed by a second Bn whilst the third would remain in the SOPUTA area to secure the dropping ground. Arrangements were made accordingly and STEVENSON was allotted the particular task of cutting the tr with CULLEN following whilst EDGAR who up to this time had acted as advance Bn. was to remain in the SOPUTA area.

As Capt Sublet was under orders to contact 25 Bde that night it was arranged that a small patrol from STEVENSON should accompany him down the AMBOGO Tr. However this precaution proved unnecessary as a patrol from ~~EDGAR~~ EATHER reported in at the Bde HQ having moved down the tr to POPPENDETTA earlier in the day. This patrol had continued through POPPENDETTA a short distance and moved a short distance down the SOPUTA tr. Recent signs of JAP occupation were noticed and they surprised and shot ~~one~~ what appeared to be a JAPANESE orderly evidently a straggler in a small native hut.

Nothing untoward happened during the night and the personnel settled down gladly, being fortunate in obtaining a hot meal & tea from the remaining haversack ration.

The times for movement in the following day were promulgated. STEVENSON was to move through EDGAR & beat the main POPPENDETTA TR at 0730 hrs. followed by Adv. Bde HQ, EDGAR thence CULLEN

19 Nov. 42

There was a slight delay this morning and the advance Coy of STEVENSON did not commence moving until approx 0800 hrs. However extremely fast time was made once they started and although the th. was extremely muddy and cut up a good two to two and half miles was made in the first hour. At approx 1030 hrs. a few shots were heard in front and shortly after reports were sent back to the effect that a few japs evidently stragglers had been contacted.

Two prisoners were duly escorted back, and later four more were killed along the th. The JAPANESE captured were a particularly poor lot, rather disgustingly dirty, badly clothed and physically poor specimens.

There were many traces of JAP occupation along the th. Particularly noticeable were his evident efforts to improve the road, drainage holes appearing at approx. 25 yd. intervals

The closer the Bde moved to SOPUTA the slower became the advance and at 1345 hrs. a small detachment of enemy armed with one L.M.G. and one 2" mortar were contacted approx half mile S.W. SOPUTA. The enemy had chosen a posn. in a kunai patch and had evidently attempted an ambush. However this local holdup was soon cleared and STEVENSON moved fwd again at 1500 hrs. having suffered one casualty.

At 1500 hrs. a Coy patrol under Capt. Blamey of EDGAR left the SOPUTA area moving via tributary to bridgehead over GIRUA river thence North along th with object of contacting Americans. Previous reports from natives had indicated that an American patrol had been in the SANBARA area the day previously.

Later Capt. R. Inel, Div L.O. reported to the Comd and gaining the actual form returned to Div HQ. The GI accompanied Capt Inel on a second visit at approx 1630 hrs and gave the Comd the latest picture. Orders were changed & the Bde was now to locate two Bns etc in the SOPUTA area and push only one Bn. towards SANANANDA.

Meanwhile at 1615 hrs STEVENSON who had pushed on along the th. again contacted the enemy. The actual strength was unknown at this juncture but it was ascertained that the enemy were in posn

19 Nov. 42. (Contd)

astride the tk, just SOUTH of SOPUTA. Consequently CULLEN moved up on STEVENSON and the Comd. made arrangements for dislodging enemy the following morning.

20 Nov. 42.

The following morning it was found that the enemy had vacated his previous night's dispositions. STEVENSON moved forward half a mile halted. CULLEN moved through STEVENSON whilst EDGAR remained in the SOPUTA area. At 0910 CULLEN who had been moving along the tk. struck enemy opposition & the Comd and Major Dawson went forward to investigate the posn. The enemy appeared to be in strength and was making a determined stand. It was known that the enemy had at least one gun, possibly 75mm calibre & was using it effectively. At this stage the units were located along the tk CULLEN in contact, STEVENSON close up in rear of CULLEN with EDGAR still in SOPUTA. The Comd and Adv. Bde were immediately rear of STEVENSONS fwd coy at this stage.

At 1205 hrs two Bde personnel were killed by shell fire and the Bde HQ was moved in off the road and set up HQ, approx one hr march from SOPUTA village.

Word was received at 1400 hrs that a Bn. of 126 U.S. Regt were expected to move up to SOPUTA and arrangements made earlier in the day would then be adhered to, that was that EDGAR on relief being completed would be moved forward.

At 1415 adv. elements of the U.S. tps reported in and EDGAR'S C. Coy under Capt. Bosgard moved forward. At this stage two coys of the U.S had arrived total strength approx 360 men

CULLEN at this stage CULLEN had his whole Bn. committed and Brig LLOYD had ordered a second coy fwd, as soon as the position permitted. CULLEN now had a double flank attack in progress with two coys, relatively weak strength, moving round on enemy's left and rt. flanks. The two EDGAR coys under command CULLEN and commanded by Capt. BOSEARD & BLAMEY were to be used on the right flank. The enemy at this stage were reputed to have two guns, 3 small mortars, 4 Hy. MGs and several L.M.G.s

The posn. at this stage remained unchanged during night although intermittent firing was heard.

~~21 Nov. 42.~~ 21 Nov. 42. Catterns of CULLEN was reported to have moved round for approximately 2000 yds of left of tk and had put in with Capt. Simpson also of CULLEN a two coy attack on what was believed to be a defended JAPANESE bivouac area. The enemy strength in this area was reported as considerably stronger than first anticipated and it was believed that CATTERNS & SIMPSON had both suffered

20 Nov 42

heavy casualties. The action of these two coys in successfully penetrating so deeply into enemy territory and thus causing him to move his defense line back for some considerable distance was in itself an effort worthy of commendation. The force was not successful in capturing the gun which had been causing so many casualties during the day but at least they caused the enemy to pull back thereby disorganising to a certain extent any preparations he may have made for further harassing fire along the th.

Up to a late hour on the 20 Nov. 42 no authentic reports were received of CATTERNS' posn. although his actual posn. on the ground was defined.

This afternoon GOC 7 Aust Div accompanied by Col. TOMLINSON of the 12605 Regt paid a visit to Bde HQ and the comd. was informed of the latest plans in regard to future operations. Col TOMLINSON arranged for a party of his senior officers to move fwd with Bde HQ the following day.

21 Nov 42.

At 0710 hrs. morning 21 Nov. 42 enemy were reported to have withdrawn from previous posns. CULLEN was then ordered to proceed for a further half hour march down the th and half. In the meantime EDGAR was ordered to move and passed through CULLEN at 0800 hrs, followed by STEVENSON. Adv. Bde HQ moved between the two units. Approx 0920 hrs reports were received that the fwd. elements were held up by what was then considered a few snipers but at 1000 hrs. later reports indicated enemy to be in some strength with numerous L.M.G's.

At this stage it was information that the two coys of CULLEN (CATTERNS & ^{SIMPSON} STEVENSON) had been contacted, although little actual knowledge was passed back.

At 1210 EDGAR, still in contact with enemy, had the whole Bn. committed. Two coys had been sent to the rt and two coys to left of main th and two coys of STEVENSON were moved up in support of EDGAR. STEVENSON & CULLEN were moved up in rear of Bde. At this juncture CATTERNS was still astride th in contact with enemy and arrangements were made to relieve him during the night. Up to this time CATTERNS had suffered at least 20 casualties whilst SIMPSON'S coy were reputed to have lost considerably more.

At 1310 hrs. a message was received from Major Buckley of EDGAR that CATTERNS was of opinion that JAPS were endeavouring to work round both flanks and arrangements were accordingly made for HQ Coy of EDGAR and WALKER Coy of STEVENSON to move out to rt & left of CATTERNS in support. Reports were further received at 1530 that a small party of JAPS with LMG had been observed moving back approx 300 yds on left of th. A patrol was sent out from STEVENSON but made no contact.

That evening a successful relief of CATTERNS' coy was carried out. Under cover of darkness a coy of STEVENSON was moved fwd approx 100 yds south of CATTERNS' posn. who then side-slipped the main th and moved back. His casualties, as was feared, were high - some five officers and 26 ORs killed and 53 ORs wounded. This particular action was an epic in itself and estimated figures of enemy dead reaching the 100 mark bore ample proof of the totality of and fierceness of that struggle in the midst of that kunai grassland.

22 Nov. 42.

On the morning of the 22 Nov. the positions of LLOYD HQ and units remained unchanged. The Comd Post of the 156 US Regt. commenced operating from Adv. LLOYD area and in conjunction with latest plan in which 16 Bde would not move fwd. until 156 US Regt had gained the SOPUTA-SANANANDA KILLERTIN Th. June, the movement of the 156 US Regt. tps commenced. The 3rd Bn. passed through 16 Bde Area at 0930hrs. Considerable interest was shown by our tps. in their new partners and the equipment they possessed and to a certain extent thankfulness in the fact that the Bde, now sorely depleted and extremely tired was to receive a deserved rest.

The particular activity of the Bde. had been a continuous and strenuous campaign which commencing on 2nd Oct 42 had continued without a break until the present time. During that period three major engagements had been fought at TEMPLETONS CROSSING, EORA CK, and OIVI HEIGHTS - in addition CULLEN'S Bn. under comd. 25 AVST. Bde had fought a strenuous ^{engagement} battle at GORARI and had suffered heavy casualties along the SOPUTA-SANANANDA Th. A census taken of Bde. strength at 0700 hrs. 22/11/42 showed the position to be as below.

UNIT.	KILLED WOUNDED			MISSING		EVACUATED SICK	
	offrs.	ORs	OR	offrs.	ORs.	offrs.	ORs.
HQ. 16 Avst. Inf Bde.	- 3	13	5.			1	8
2/1 Bn (CULLEN)	8.	78	162	8		6	114
2/2 Bn (EDGAR)	3.	41	98			11.	123
2/3 Bn (STEVENSON)	- 38	3.	103			8.	115.
TOTAL.	11.	160	368	8		26	370 (approximate)

Total Battle Casualties	offrs.	ORs	561	all Ranks
Evacuated Sick	26.	370	396	" "

As a comparison

State on marching out from BASE Area BLSIATABU between 3 Oct. 42 and 7 Oct 42.

	Strength as at 21/11/42	
	offrs	ORs
HQ. 16 Avst Inf Bde	13.	87 (incl sigs)
2/1	27	560
2/2	29	534
2/3	30	589
Total	99	1770
	67	974 (974)

From the foregoing figures the actual work and an accurate conception of the Bde's ^{activities} can be assessed. The few days respite which they were now to enjoy was not before its time.

To-day a troupe of 25 yds. of 2/1 Avst Fd Regt were reported to have loaded at Papper delta and at 1500hrs. Mas. HANSON reports to LLOYD HQ that tree OP already reced was prepared with native assistance and the first

22 Nov. 42. (Contd) ^{registration shots were fired at approx 1700 hrs. The} troops received this activity with considerable interest. Information from the American force at mid-day showed that the 28th. 156 US Regt. was carrying out a double envelopment of the enemy's flanks, making a wide detour on both sides of main th with their objective as the junction of main SOPUTA - SANANWANDA th with the CAPE KILLERTON th. Units of the 16th Inf Bde maintained their posn. acting as a backstop to the Americans. The position of the American forces from this period became somewhat obscure and although the st. Coy was more or less reliably plotted in relation to our own tps the two left coys remained something of a puzzle. In the absence of reliable information they were believed to be somewhere left of th and in vicinity of EDGAR'S left fwd coys. No further information to clarify the form. came to hand during later afternoon.

During the day there had been a cessation of enemy gun fire and far less mortar fire. However during the night of the 22 Nov. 42 there was an increase in the SMA fire along the whole front.

~~At approx 1700 hrs.~~ the GOC again paid a visit to Bde HQ and held a short conference with Comd COL. TOMLINSON of 156 U.S. Regt.

23 Nov. 42.

On the morning of 23rd Nov 42, TOMLINSON force reported being approx 1000 yds N of LLOYD Area left of th, and still moving forward. The st coy was reported to be moving in same direction and eventually this coy was located at and fwd of EDGAR'S st coys, taking up a posn more or less in same perimeter. This fact when reported later in evening to LLOYD HQ was subsequently rectified by Brig. LLOYD.

These two st coys of EDGAR were still holding their posn. in what was considered a fairly well stocked JAPANESE food dump and the American coy was directed to further extend the perimeter defensive posn. Capt. Borgard of EDGAR reported that JAPANESE opposite to him had been seen moving about during the day and in his own opinion the posn. had been reinforced during the night. This opinion was based on the increased volume of fire which had answered the morning fire test.

Further news was received to the effect that a JAP. 75mm gun had been found buried in rear of the STEVENSON Coy left of th. The enemy had gone to great trouble to prevent this weapon being discovered; the complete gun minus one small part of the gun-sight had been carefully packed ⁱⁿ boxes and then buried, but by good fortune was uncovered assembled and trundled back to LLOYD HQ. It was accurately assumed that CATTERNS action in coming in in rear of the enemy's position astride the th. had caused the gun team to adopt this measure. The possibility of getting their gun out was gone once CATTERNS had gained a posn. covering their withdrawal.

23 Nov. 42.

Arrangements were also made during afternoon for a patrol formed from a composite coy of STEVENSON to move out wide & west of main tk and proceed NORTH swinging in to KILLERTON Tk and thence cutting main tk approx 2000 yds SOUTH SANANANDA. In this posn they would be able to conform to the then hoped for push of 1st Aust Bde along the beach tk from GONA or additionally assist the Americans in obtaining their objective, the KILLERTON Tk & SOPWA - SANANANDA Tk Junc. This patrol was only to operate if the enemy were still in posn. on the 24 Nov.

By re-arrangement with STEVENSON unit, the patrol was eventually made up of 4 officers and 93 OR's, selected as the fittest men of the Bn. The period of the patrol's activities was to cover ^{five} seven days and by highfall 23 Nov. preparation was complete. The means of comm. was by 208 set and a set guaranteed to work with an experienced operator was provided by Div HQ. The report of this patrol, covering description of country traversed is included in appendices.

At 1530 hrs. Brig. J. Rogers, formerly 1st Aust Corps and now BGS visited Bde HQ and spent some time with Comd discussing the campaign and problems mainly in relation to supplying of those special articles which had been repeatedly asked for.

Later on in afternoon arty. shoot was again carried out and later reports from EDGARS two rt coys showed that the shoot was successful, falling right on JAP known posns.

At approx 1920 hrs. intense fire was heard from direction of EDGARS two rt fwd coys which was eventually ascertained as a JAPANESE counter attack on the DUMP Area. However the posn. was held. ROSEWARD, the coy comd, reported everything normal and that the original perimeter was being held.

The comd ~~was~~ further ~~was~~ expressed further concern on the posn. on the rt. of EDGARS' coys. The swampiness of the area and the fact that the water was rising in and about the posn. with the resultant effect on the health of the troops seemed to indicate the necessity for some change in location. One heartening fact emerged from all reports, that being that the JAPANESE positions fronting these two rt coys, were in themselves lower than those held by our troops.

The only change which took place during the day was that one pl. of Americans took over from a STEVENSONS COY thus releasing personnel to be included in the WALKER patrol.

The remainder of the night was quiet only spasmodic rifle fire being heard along the front.

24 Nov. 42.

The morning of the 24 Nov 42 was rather notable from the point of view of the intense aerial bombing and strapping by our planes of the whole coast-line from GONA on the WEST, through SANANANDA to BONA on the EAST. The ground actually shook at times with the bomb blasts and in one particular instance one stick of bombs actually fell behind our fwd coys. However this was quickly rectified and the next run brought bombs accurately upon the JAPANESE positions.

At 0930 hrs. the WALKER patrol left LLOYD area on the special

24 Nov. 42. (contd)

task, and contact by WPT was first made with Capt. WALKER at 1230hrs. giving his approx. position

The arty. again carried out additional shoot on right, centre & left enemy posns. in front of our own tps and the forward tps reported the fire as being well placed in enemy area. In all 210 rds. were fired and in addition 3" and 81mm shoots were carried out during afternoon. Since the 16 Bde. had taken up their more or less static positions on both rt & left of the main th. harassing shoots had been the main feature of the activities.

During the afternoon twenty RABAU boys evidently deserted from the JAPS reported into 16 Bde HQ and were sent on to 7 Aust Div for interrogation purposes.

During the latter part of afternoon the two AMERICAN coys left of the track had reported contacting each other and plans were accordingly made for a co-ordinated attack in the morning on the known enemy posn.

A report during the night to the effect that movement seen in the enemy posns. rt. of th. possibly indicated thinning our attempts was tested by fire at 2200hrs. However the volume of fire that answered indicated that the enemy were still in same posn and as relatively as strong as previously reported.

During the night intermittent SAA fire could be heard from the rear of enemy posns.

25 Nov. 42.

A further fire test carried at 0600hrs. morning 25 Nov. 42 brought forth the normal answering fire and arrangements were accordingly made for a 3" mortar shoot to be carried out on enemy posns left and rt. of th. Approximately 80 rds were allotted for the task and the results, observed from our fwd coy. posns. were considered satisfactory.

In addition the US tps carried out both 60mm & 81mm shoot during morning and afternoon. However an unfortunate incident resulted in the afternoon shoot being suspended. One 81mm bomb landed in the combined Australian & U.S. Coy. HQ on rt of th. One OR ^{was} killed, 2 Australian offrs and 6 ORS ^{were} wounded and in addition the American Coy. comd Capt Lee and his 2nd c. Amongst the Australians officers were the 16 Bde B.M., Major L.E. DAWSON and one coy. comd Capt. J. BLAMEY of EDGAR. Both American & Australian tps. were utilised in speedily evacuating the wounded and all were on their way to the MDS before nightfall. Capt. Blamey's condition was reported as "grave" that evening.

Throughout the day American force had been sending out numerous patrols on both flanks. Contact with enemy had been made and they had inflicted several casualties on the

25 Nov. 42 (contd)
Enemy patrols.

During the day arrangements were made for registration of the captured 75 mm gun it being hoped that good use could be made of it in the future.

At 1330hrs first communication was received from the WALKER patrol indicating that the receiver on his 208 set was faulty. Later on a runner reported in from the patrol with the information that Capt. WALKER himself was retiring owing to his having injured his ankle and that the patrol was proceeding on its role with Lieut K. Boyer in command.

During the afternoon the GOC. Major Vasey accompanied by Brig Docherty 21 Aust Inf Bde visited Bde HQ. The GOC discussed certain administrative matters with the Comd, returning to Div. HQ at 1630hrs.

At 1730hrs. Capt. WALKER reported in and gave what information he could in regard to country and condition of the th. through which he had passed and later was called to discuss with the Comd and GSI Major Barrow the possibility of sending a large body of troops around the left to cut the GONA - SANANANDA Th in vicinity of Cape KILLERTON.

The possibility of this action being adopted by the GOC necessitated further information be obtained quickly and finally it was decided that a second special patrol, this time consisting of two officers and 24 ORs from CULLEN would leave the following morning. Its roles were to be (a) to move west of main th, thence NORTH endeavouring to reach coast in vicinity CAPE KILLERTON

(b) to move west of main th, thence NORTH, then swinging east to cut main SOPUTA - SANANANDA Th. at a point approx. 2000 yds south of SANANANDA.

Arrangements were made for the patrol and a tentative time of departure 0900hrs / 26 Nov. was decided upon.

26 Nov. 42.

The morning of 26 Nov. 42 saw no change. The usual morning fire test disclosed the fact that the enemy was still in posn. At 0630 hrs. Lt Col Cullen accompanied by the two patrol officers Lieuts Powell and Murray of 21 Aust Inf Bn. called at Bde HQ and received their instructions from the Comd. The patrol eventually left LLOYD area at 0930 hrs.

The Americans by patrols during the night had pin-pointed one HMG and one LMG posn. and had prepared a plan for a co-ordinated attack during the morning, following a motor borrow of 81 mm's. No further information in regard to "I" & "K" Coys had been received and the posn. of these two left. American coys was somewhat obscure.

At 1530hrs however their situation report stated that the attack had commenced on time after mortaring enemy posns, that "L" coy on right of th had pushed forward some 350 yds and were now endeavouring to outflank HMG fire on their left flank. In addition coys "I" & "K" were reported to have met heavy resistance but that the attack still continued. Eventually their posn. was estimated as 2000/4000 yds NORTH & WEST of main th and they were reported as digging in for night.

A motor shoot with personnel from EDGAR & CULLEN was arranged for 1000 hrs, and further gully registering was carried out at 1015 hrs. on known enemy posns.

26 Nov 42. (contd)

At 0930 hrs. the GI. Col Spny, the CRE. Lt Col McDonald visited Bde HQ and conferred with Brig LLOYD, and shortly afterwards a strength state was called for from all units to show numbers of personnel considered fit to move fwd if the tactical situation demanded it.

The actual figures are attached as an appendix. (B). Sufficient is it to show here strengths as per units

	OFFRS	MEN
16th Aust Inf Bde HQ	13	89
CULLEN -	17	278
EDGAR	26	313
STEVENSON	23	312
Total	79	942.

These figures include 4 offrs, 91 ORs in "B" Echelon and 10 offrs 100 ORs temporarily retained in unit RAP for treatment of sickness and these figures can be considered the absolute maximum of tps available for any move fwd but not for any sustained action that may be asked of them.

At approximately 1500 hrs. whilst American tps. were carrying out a further mortar shoot on enemy posns. left of th a mortar bomb landed in the midst of a Pt. of one STEVENSON coy. Thirteen casualties out of fifteen total strength were suffered. Later on efforts were made to check on whether it was JAPANESE or a drop shot. ~~It~~ A search of the area revealed the nose cap of one JAPANESE mortar bomb.

This disastrous loss necessitated a further pl. being moved forward to reinforce this coy. Later this was determined to be the result of faulty bomb fired by U.S. tps. and no blame could possibly be attachable to them.

Robinson's attacks continued throughout the afternoon and limited progress was reported.

Arty shoot was successfully carried out on enemy posns on left of th and the results were credited as good. by 208 WPT set

Later in afternoon a report was received from the WALKER patrol to the effect that the patrol had reached the KILLERTON TR. at 1130 hrs and had moved a further 1000 yds EAST. At this juncture, the swampiness of the ground and the thickness of the under growth consisting of thorn vine and thickets, made any further passage EASTWARDS impracticable and steps were being taken to find a more suitable path to main th.

A further report was received at 1530 hrs from the CULLEN special patrol which stated that up to 1150 hrs the party had traversed 1500 yds and that under the present dry weather conditions a large force should find no difficulty in moving through this area.

In regard to weather conditions the 26 Nov marked the second rainless day in succession. The days had been muggy & warm and further cases of fever ^{thought to be} mainly "bush typhus" were reported from the unit R.A.P's.

At 1910 hrs. 26 Nov 42, Capt. Bosgard reported that ~~some~~ ^{Some} JAPANESE had been reported on his front wearing apparently new uniforms. However later it was found that bales of new clothing were ~~found~~ ^{discovered} in the dump in which he was positioned and it was concluded that ~~other unaccounted dumps holding similar supplies were~~ ^{this was the probable source} of the uniforms. However in view of the fact that re-inforcements to the JAPANESE tps in this area was an ever present possibility orders were issued to attempt to obtain a prisoner for interrogation and identification purposes. The remainder of evening was extremely quiet, very little ~~AAA~~ fire being heard during the night.

27 Nov. 42.

On the morning of 27 Nov 42 no changes were reported in either LLOYD or TOMLINSONS dispositions and in view of the possibility of these numbered reinforcements a patrol of CULLEN strength approximating one pl. were to be sent out on the rt flank north east of the fwd Coy to endeavour to ambush JAPANESE tps reputed to be using the LofC tk to a second dump in the area. This pl. left eventually at 1430hrs. and were to stay out until 1200hrs. the following day.

Further confusion in regard to American dispositions was experienced owing to the fact that American tps who had dug in the night before in posns. to the front of the STEVENSON Coy left of tk, had pulled out during the night without notifying the Coy Comd. The serious possibilities of such an action could not be overstressed and the matter was represented to Col. TOMLINSON who immediately rectified the posn.

A report during the morning informed Bde HQ that the 25 pdr sheet had been most successful, shells landing bright on enemy posns and the Comd. congratulated Major Hansome on their excellent shooting.

The Comd. Brig LLOYD left Bde HQ at 1115 to visit Div. HQ. and discuss latest situation with G2. Col. Spry.

Endeavourous were made to pin-point the American Coys posns. on the map and Col TOMLINSON sent staff officers out to contact locate the coys. Owing to the doubt which still existed as to their actual position on the ground our tps were warned to be doubly cautious - in

A report from WALKER patrol contained information that they had made contact with a small JAPANESE patrol, killing one. The documents taken from this body, as were also 20 Rabaul natives contacted the previous evening, were sent back under escort. A further report indicated that the patrol had struck an enemy posn. of unknown strength and that the patrol had this time suffered 4 casualties. By wireless communication later on in the day a message was sent to the patrol commander who had signalled his intention of returning on AM 28 Nov instructing him to return by best available route "when necessary" owing to ration posns. (Boyer patrol report attached as appendix)

Special patrol CULLEN further reported on 27 Nov. that they had travelled a further 2500 yds approx. in a northerly direction. The going was particularly strenuous mostly through swampy country and the opinion was expressed that with worsening of weather conditions the track as used by the patrol would be impassable. A considerable portion of the tk had been under water.

The 75mm. JAP gun which had been silent for over 48 hours commenced shelling at 1055 hrs. evidently searching for the 25 pdr. guns. Only a few rounds were fired and there without result.

At 1510 hrs. one humorous rein was introduced into an otherwise dull day by a request through Div HQ from AUSTRALIA HOUSE, LONDON for a clean JAP uniform. When run through to Bde HQ, the request merely brought forth a laconic reply as to "what size?". However within two hours a new JAP uniform was on its way to SW. It was only possible to obtain jacket.

The Comd returned to Bde HQ at 1545 hrs with the news that Major Dawson though still sick and in some pain was progressing favourably.

At 1630hrs. a flight of enemy planes passed overhead and later news was received that the Div. HQ had been subjected to a bombing attack. Capt. Dorsey staff Captain 16 Aust Inf Bde who was on way to visit Major Dawson received a piece of shrapnel in the shoulder and was evacuated.

One interesting event took place to-day in that an American patrol ^{was} wounded a JAPANESE Sgt Major captured by a member of 27th Bn up to the present day in which he expressed a hope that the JAPANESE forces in the area would be able to hang out until fresh tps arrived. The diary containing valuable information was sent back immediately to Div. HQ

During night a ^{intermittent} continuous arty. barrage was laid down along the beach front evidently in an endeavour to prevent any use being made of the landing areas during the night.

28 Nov. 42.

This morning the usual fire test brought forth the customary reply. The two STEVENSON Coys just left of the tk considered there was a lessening of fire power

G

28 Nov. 42

The two left fwd coys however reported no noticeable change and a further 3" mortar shoot was arranged on enemy posns left of the main tk.

At 2035 hrs night 27/Nov. the enemy engaged the rt. Coy 126 US Regt with heavy small arms and 2" mortar fire. Our arty replied being down accurate and effective fire. During this engagement Capt. A. Bosgard of EDGAR was killed.

Lieut. Turner SC(L) left LLOYD Adv. HQ to take over from Capt. Dancy

At 1130 hrs WALKER patrol reported in to LLOYD Area and the patrol report together with sketch of track traversed was forwarded to Div. The condition of the tk. was reported on in full and it was felt that invaluable information had been obtained. No contact had been made with the special Patrol CULLEN

However at 1530 hrs. a runner reported that Lieuts Murray & Powell were still continuing northwards through swamp and vine thickets and the information was brought back of their intention of returning at 1500 hrs.

In regard to the American force Col TOMLINSON reported a successful ambush on enemy L of C right of main tk in which 8 Japs. were killed and the remainder of his force were preparing for attack on enemy known posns in conjunction with 7th Aust Div plans scheduled for the 29 Nov.

A further three PWs, all coolies, were captured by troops on the right of the tk and escorted to Div. Their condition was rather deplorable and one in particular was extremely weak through obvious lack of food and fever.

The 3" mortar shoot in which 130 rds were fired was again considered to have good results, as was also the only shoot in which the use of a spotting plane was made available. Direct hits were reported on two huts on beach as were also hits on stores and huts in the SANANANDA Beach area.

At 1500 hrs. the GOC accompanied by HQ visited Bde HQ. The GOC spoke for a short time with Comd Bde LLOYD and then with HQ, Lt Col named visited Col. TOMLINSON at the 126 US CP.

In the evening at approx 1912 hrs. a red flare was reported apparently fired from the coastal area. The remainder of the night 28 Nov. was extremely quiet only spasmodic M.G fire being heard on rt. flank some distance away probably on the BUNA front.

29 Nov. 42.

Further fire that carried out at 0630 hrs this morning seemed to indicate a greater number of L.M.Gs on Fawcett's front. During this period US. cps opened up with 2" mortar and the JAP fire immediately lessened again further proof of his extreme dislike of mortars.

One interesting fact was contained in the morning Div. sitrep which reported on the sighting by air reconnaissance planes of a number of submarines. The probability of the JAPANESE using this form of transport for purposes of reinforcing the GONA-BUNA area is not overlooked and further air activity evidently searching for these craft were noticed at an early hour.

Activity of 16th Aust Inf Bde was restricted during day to 3" mortar shoot on enemy fwd posns with considered good results, in all 110 rds were fired the majority falling in the target area. Further arty. registration was carried out on enemy posns. in preparation for 7th Aust Div Plan 30 Nov.

The actual mortar registration was delayed until TOMLINSON force had completed communications to his forward coys but and on the result of this registration Bde was to fire for 15 minutes before TOMLINSON zero hour.

At 1045 hrs. Lieuts Murray and Powell reported in to LLOYD HQ and a report based upon their experience & information gleaned from the patrol was immediately prepared and forwarded to Div HQ

29 Nov 42

One fact emerged from these two special patrols that being that the only practicable track for the passage of a large body of troops was that used by the American force which later joined the KILLERTON Tr. The large swamp areas further WEST of the main track under wet weather conditions would be impassable to any infantry force.

Later in the day information was received that 8 members of this special CULLEN patrol had been evacuated two with Malaria, one with an infected foot rash and three with this fever reputed to be "bud typhus".

In conjunction with the probable movement of American troops due to their roles in the attack planned for 30 Nov on the first enemy positions, arrangements were made for a Composite Coy of STEVENSON approximately 100 men to relieve some of the 126 US Regt. As this did not entail any marching but was merely the relief of a static position, arrangements were completed early evening 29 Nov. 42. Many of the personnel of this composite coy were made up from the WALKER patrol personnel, a further indication of the gradually decreasing numbers.

Continued delay in regard to registering our positions was experienced owing to lack of communication from AMERICAN CP to their forward coys. However everything was ready and it was hoped to fully register our positions as soon as the position of the AMERICANS was decided.

At 1540 heavy SAA fire was heard from direction of FIREBROTHER front. However later reports showed the position to be quite satisfactory. It was believed to have started from enemy's left flank and it was considered that the American left coy had met some opposition.

At 1633 the G.O.C. accompanied by ^{Major} General Herring, NGS and Brig Hopkins visited Bde HQ and discussed the position with Brig LLOYD. Later on the party visited 126 US Regt and discussed plans for the 30 Nov with Col. TOMLINSON.

The mortar registration was ~~completed~~ ^{commenced} late in afternoon of 29 Nov as was also final registration of positions and arrangements made for completion early PM 30 Nov 42.

The usual fire test for morning of 30 Nov as far as 16 Bde HQ was cancelled and the zero hour for the 126 US Regt. attack was put back to 0900 hrs. 30 Nov. 42.

30 Nov. 42

The morning 30 Nov 42 was extremely quiet owing to absence of usual morning SAA small arms barrage. Final registration of targets was completed and at 0845 hrs. the barrage of arty and 3" mortar was laid down on known enemy positions.

At approx 0904 hrs. terrific small arms fire was heard correctly interpreted as the commencement of the 126 US Regt attack. The fire was intense but ceased abruptly after approx. 8 mins. The 16 Bde HQ area was occasionally treated to a few stray bullets whistling and cracking through the undergrowth.

From then on reports were somewhat obscure of the actual movement of the American forces. In this particular type of fighting the temporary losing contact with coys was no new experience and news of the success or otherwise of our friends was eagerly awaited.

Reports at 1058 gave the information that the left American force under Major BRECKE was advancing slowly having met enemy opposition of unknown strength. The force under Major BOBETT on right of main track had pushed forward without making contact, and the Bn. Comd had gone forward to investigate the position.

At 1250 Herring of STEVENSON told me of the coys on the left of main track informed Brig LLOYD that the American pl. between his own position and Firebrother had pulled out from their position without any notification being given. As this was a definite gap and definitely open flank

30 Nov. 42
protection, the matter was immediately represented to Col Tomlinson who by using
personnel from rear elements, was able to send four US tps to fill this gap.

Throughout the day spasmodic fire was heard. The actual movement of the American
Corps and patrols were taking sometime to accurately plot on either ground or map and at
1830 hrs Major BRETCHE send a report to the effect that he had contacted the "I" element
Corps - further that he had collected a further 15 Rabaul boys and killed 5 or 6 JAPS.
Up to this time no organized resistance had been encountered.

Further reports during afternoon when pieced together began to give a clearer
idea of the actual American dispositions. However at 1655 orders were given to Lt Col
Boyer (comd STEVENSON composite Coy) to take up pos. rear of TOMLINSON'S CP for
the night or until they received further orders.

At 1630 hrs. the GOC. Major Gen Vasey accompanied by Col Pollard G I 6th Div
and Brig Pater visited Bde HQ. Later the GOC + G1 visited Col TOMLINSON at 126 US Regt
comd Post.

Further news of American tp. movements were received during afternoon without fully
clarifying the pos. and it was with a certain amount of relief that news of Major
BRETCHE'S force cutting the main rd was received at 1940 hrs. Some 20 to 40
JAPS were encountered, a number being shot and 3 trucks were captured.

The remainder of the evening passed quietly except for further intermittent
shelling on beach front.

Summary.

30 Nov. 42 saw the end of a particularly heavy and arduous month of
campaigning as far as the 16th Aust Inf Bde was concerned.

The conditions of the country, the weather and the new type of warfare
encountered had added to the trials and tribulation of the Bde but
throughout in spite of heavy casualties, sickness and extreme discomfort
caused by the adverse weather conditions, the morale of the men never at
anytime could be considered as "lowered". Their achievements in future
history will speak for themselves - their determination and ability to "take it"
was only second to their unquestionable prowess in "dishing it out".

MC

Following is a brief strength state of the Bde as at 30 Nov 42
Total strength 30/11/42 67 offrs. 1795 ORs.

Action and Adv. 3rd Action to pos approx. 3 1/2 miles from SOPUTA and up to
point south SANANANDA where activities of Bde became more or less static
has resulted to date (30/11/42) in following casualties

Killed in Action		Wounded in Action		Evac. Sick	
offrs.	ORs	offrs.	ORs	offrs.	ORs
9	37	4	106	18	344

Total, including killed evacuations 518 all ranks.

Appendix.

The following represent list of AWARDS DECORATIONS, submitted by the Inf Bde for engagements TEMPLETONS CROSSING, EDRA CR, OIVI GORRAI.

2/1 Aust Inf Bn.

M.C. : Lieut Winman, Capt Caters, Capt Bonnell, Lieut Leaney, Capt Cox.

BAR TO M.C. : Capt Caters.

D.C.M. : Cpl Stoddart, Pte Varnum, LCpl Fletcher

M.M. : Cpl Sherwin, Pte Ward, Cpl Donohoe, L/Sgt. Doran, Sgt Brown
Pte Soltan, Pte Stephen, Cpl Baker, Cpl Athanas, Cpl Ledden

2/2 Aust Inf Bn

M.C. Capt Baylis, Capt Ferguson, Capt Fairbrother, Capt Burrows, Capt Bosgard, Capt McGuinness

D.C.M. LCpl Mitchell

M.M. Cpl Pennycook, Cpl Bates, Cpl Devine, Pte Blackford
L/Sgt. Pelosa, Cpl Roberts, Sgt. Park, Pte Harvey T.C

2/3 Aust Inf Bn.

M.C. Lieut McGuinness

D.C.M. Cpl Pitt, Sgt Cory

M.M. Pte Oliver, Pte McFarlane, Pte Walker, Pte Capel, Sgt Chang
Carey, Sgt Carson, Sgt. Cochrane, Cpl Green

0

(B)

Permitted to move forward
if occasion had arisen
NOV 26 NOV 92

	off.	OR's
CULLEN.	17	228
Edgar.	26	313
Stevenson	23	312
Baethq TATI.	13	89
	<u>79</u>	<u>942</u>

(X) (X)

(X) Includes following in B Echelon
each unit

	off	OR's
CULLEN.	-	10
Edgar	-	30
Stevenson	4	51
	<u>4</u>	<u>91</u>
		See over

(X) Also includes following personnel temporarily retained unit RAP's for treatment of sickness.

	Off	OR's
CULLEN,	1	21
Edgar	6	46
Stevenson	3	33
	<u>10</u>	<u>100</u>

U

Fighting strength over strength retained
 No. 42 for Bde. Add. Detached
 Officers 75 ' 4 79
 OR's 880 70 950
955 1029
 discrepancy (8)

HQ. 21 Aust Sup Bde
26 Nov. 42.

(A)

HQ. 16 Aust Sup Bde.

1. Following your request, the following information is submitted:

a. Fit Personnel with Unit:

	Offrs.	Offrs.	OR's.	Total.
Bn HQ	5	18	20	25
HQ Coy	2		52	54
B "	2		319	(41) 49
C "	3		23	26
A & D Coys wiped.	12	-	134	146
Total				

b. Gun Protection Pl.	10	16	OR's - 17
Pl with EDGAR	1	21	- 22
Total	14	171	185

c. Deep Patrols.	2	26	28
B Echelon		10	10
Unfit personnel	1	21	22
Total Unit Strength (incl attached)			<u>245</u> all ranks

26 Nov 42.

✓✓



Lloyd's.

Personnel fit to move fwd

401

Bn HQ (incl att)	5	26	
HQ Coy	3	70	
A Coy	4	40	50
B Coy	4	40	50
C/D Coy*	4	60	
		<u>5</u>	
FIT	20.	286	20 286

Bech.	-	30	30
-------	---	----	----

unfit	<u>16^{xx}</u>	46
-------	------------------------	----

as WJorb 2 Nov.	24.	<u>3</u> 32.
--------------------	-----	-----------------

* In event of movement, it is proposed to amalgamate C & D coys w/c Capt. Rosegar.

cc	Maj Buckley	Capt Inguson
	Capt Swinton	Leiv Harkness
	McPherson	
	Leiv Richards	

76 Nov 42

Personnel fit to move forward

Imm

(a)

BHP H + 23

HQ Coy 1 + 15

C Coy 2 + 3

D Coy 1 + 10

8 + 51

(b) Protection Pl 1 + 18 ~~1 + 1~~

EDGAR - A 2 + 26 } 4 + 71

B 2 + 45 } 5 + 89

(c) Deep Patrol 3 + 88

B Ech 4 + 51

Unfit 3 + 33 12 + 122

23 + 312

~~44 units left~~

(B)

OFFERS ORs.

J ~~13~~ Sigs
att }

2 29

- 4

22. 288 ✓

3. 48 ✓

25 336

PROT. PH

1 17

25

361

2 6

PROT Coy

- 4

367

FSS

- 1

2

LAD

- 2

367

AASC

1 - 3

BOE HQ

9 29

13 89

FOLLOWING FIGURES AS AT 0700 22/11/42 16 AVST INF BDE

"A"

	KILLED		WOUNDED		MISSING		EVACUATED SICK	
	OFFRS	ORs	OFFRS	ORs	OFFRS	ORs	OFFRS	ORs
HQ 16 Bde	-	3	1	5	-	-	1	8
2/1 Bn	8	78	8	162	-	8	6	114
2/2 Bn	3	41	2	98			11	23
2/3 Bn	-	38	3	103			8	25
TOTAL	11	160	14	368	-	8	26	370

Approximate.

Put in WARDIARY
d

TOTAL BATTLE CASUALTIES $\frac{\text{offrs}}{25} \cdot \frac{\text{ORs}}{536} = 561$ all Ranks
 EVACUATED SICK $26 - 370 = 396$ " "

STRENGTH 28.11.42

STATE ON MARCHING OUT FROM BASE AREA BETWEEN 3 OCT and 7 OCT 42

2/1 Aust Inf Bn
 2/2 " " "
 2/3 " " "
 Bde HQ.

OFFRS	ORs	OFFRS	ORs
27	560	15	198
29	534	22	343
30	589	17	334
13	87	13	99
99	1870	67	1074

(Incl Sig. att)

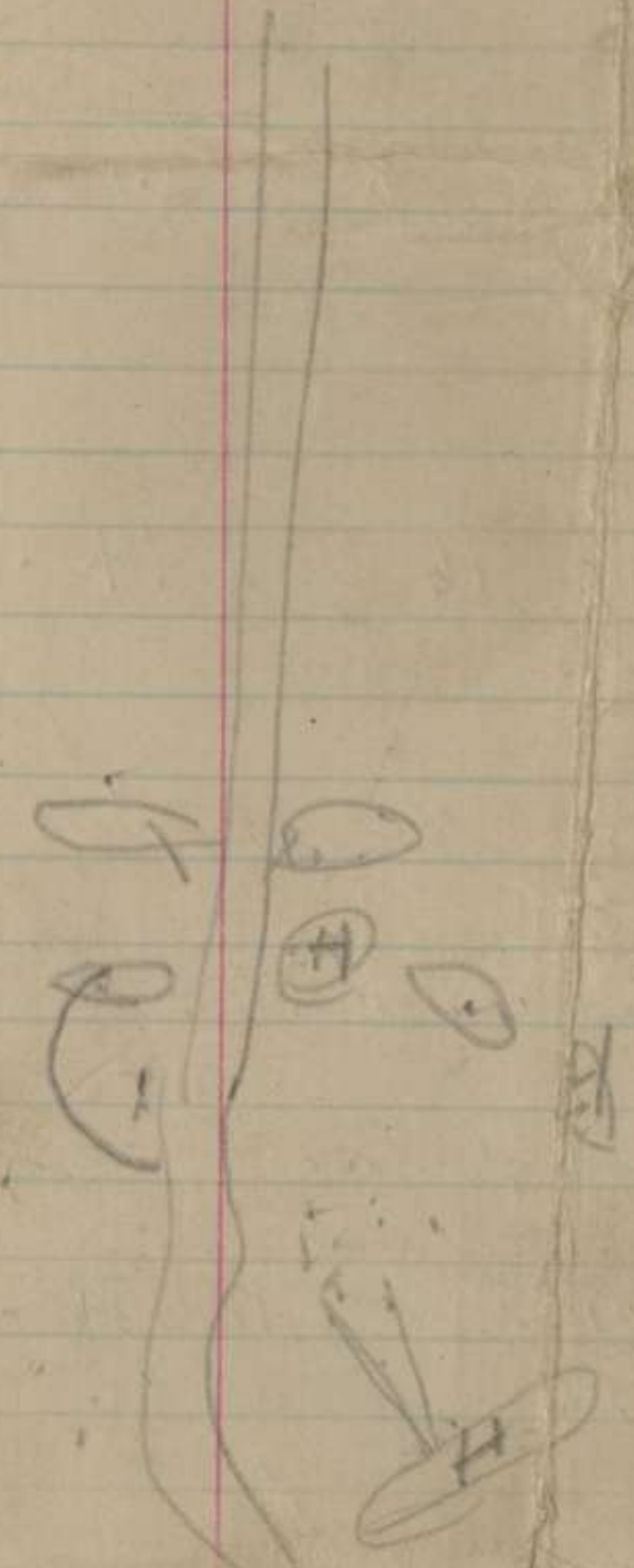
9943 (same metal box) 192 1770 + LUB
 67 974 + +odment
 32 796 + +leave
 35
 Known Casualties 25 536
 Battle
 Estimated in Hospital 19 260

~~Evacuated~~
 Evacuated Sick 26 370 X
 Less in Hospital 19 260
 must have returned 19 110 X
 to units

Jester, Bai
 Golding, J.P.
 Baines
 119 Carter, Kevin

Lt Edgson 2/2
 1770 Crai

Lt Stevenson 2/3
 Wood
 Brown



Lt Edgson
 1770 Crai

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN
 OUT

441

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
 OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO **NANI**

FROM **VIVA**

Originator's Number
04

Date
29

In Reply to Number

(Write horizontally)

Here with	report	of	CULLEN	special	5
patrol	○	on	information	based	10
on	this	patrol	and	on	15
WALKER	PATROL	(ref 02/29)	it	would	20
appear	that	American	L of C	tk	25
then	KILLERTON	TK	is	but	30
th.	for	passage	of	large	35
body	tps	○	Large	swamp	40
area	for the	WEST	these	tk	45
would	be	impassable	under	wet	50
weather	conditions				55
					60
					65
					70
					75
					80
					85
					90
					95
					100
					105
					110
					115
					120
					125
					130

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN** BY ANY MEANS: (* (EXCEPT)) WIRELESS

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CYPHER** IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
 DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

1630

SIGNATURE
 * ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

SIGNATURE

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

Powell Murray - Patrol Report

MESSAGE FORM

Approved March 1943 - 2nd Edition
(Form 100)
(Adapted from)
Army Form 312

OFFICE DATE STAMP

Out : 0800 hrs 26 Nov
In : 1030 hrs 29 Nov

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS
IN
OUT

Route Out : S.P. to June ref 197275

Thence out 1000 yds
Thence due North for approx distance 2350 yds

While moving in a Westerly direction there was abundance of scrub, mud not above ankle depth and vines and the patrol crossed an old native clearing or overgrown garden with two huts approx 500 yds from S.P. Also crossed an American old mine running NORTH to SOUTH. Turning due NORTH the patrol encountered worse going and crossed a succession of 30' wide swamps knee deep and one slightly running stream being forced to cut their way through them but some checked. In this area the swamps appeared to run in an EAST-WEST direction. After proceeding approx 500 yds NORTH the going became worse, continuous swamps in places thigh deep with a foot of mud at bottom. At 800 yds we were stopped by deep swamp water 35 yds wide of depth up to 6 ft. After passing round this area the th improved for a distance of about 200 yds and from then on going was similar or worse. We camped for night on a small piece of high ground in the midst of the swamps. The total distance travelled up to 1130 hrs in a NORTHERLY direction was only 1600 yds.

On the second day by 1200 hrs we had only covered 400 yds on a bearing of 30° So decided to retrace th to high ground about 50 yds back, change direction and endeavor to get out of swamp.

On a bearing of 330° the going was slightly better but the patrol were still finding it necessary to cut their way through vines & thorn bush and pass through swamps. The going was difficult and party only averaged 100 yds per hour. After travelling 250 yds on that bearing patrol encountered a th running EAST to WEST which was thought to be the th made by BOYER of WALKER patrol. There were hills, leaf lino circuit wrapping in area. The patrol bivouaced in this area for second night.

On third day patrol tried several directions but could only make 100 yds per hour - the country had not improved so it was decided to return at 1200 hrs 28 Nov 42.

As we had not reached previously arranged point ref 182263 when the party was to split into the two patrols we acted as one party throughout the period.

The men showed signs of extreme fatigue and out of a total of 4 staffs and 24 ORs eight ORs have been evacuated sick - 2 malarial, 3 with typhus, one with infected foot and two with venereal disease in R.A.P.

No contact was made with our top, Americans or enemy whilst on patrol.
Additional information:
WATER: occasional running swamp stream water was used - it was of bad quality but could be chlorinated. Sterilizing tablets were used.

MOSQUITOES: extremely bad including malarial type (prophylax) - both by day & night.

Time taken in marching hours to go 3450 yds. allowing for normal halts and meals : 23 hours.

Time taken to return same distance allowing for normal halts & meals : 7 hrs 15 mins
Difference in time due mainly to necessity for cutting th on way out
Bluffing on trees can be seen from either direction.

R. G. Powell

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY THE NAME: () () () SIGNATURE	THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CAPHER BY LETTER TO INTERPRETER OR TO FILE DATE () TIME () PLACE ()	ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY	TIME OF ORIGIN
(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)			
SYSTEM TIME IN	HEADER	SENDER	SYSTEM TIME OUT
SYSTEM TIME IN	HEADER	SENDER	SYSTEM TIME OUT
SYSTEM TIME IN	HEADER	SENDER	SYSTEM TIME OUT
SYSTEM TIME IN	HEADER	SENDER	SYSTEM TIME OUT
SYSTEM TIME IN	HEADER	SENDER	SYSTEM TIME OUT
SYSTEM TIME IN	HEADER	SENDER	SYSTEM TIME OUT

T.H.I.
T.O.R.

COPY
MESSAGE FORM

FORM 100
(Rev. 10-1-42)

PATROL REPORT
WALKER PATROL

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS
IN
TUO

TIME OUT: 0930 hrs - 24 Nov 42

TIME IN: 1030 hrs 28 Nov 42 } *Duration 4 days*

Ref map BUNA one inch (prev)

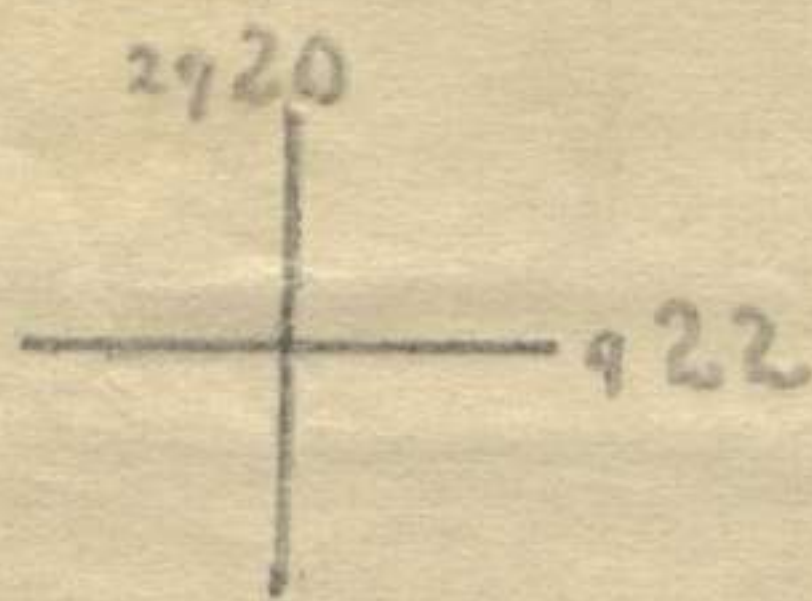
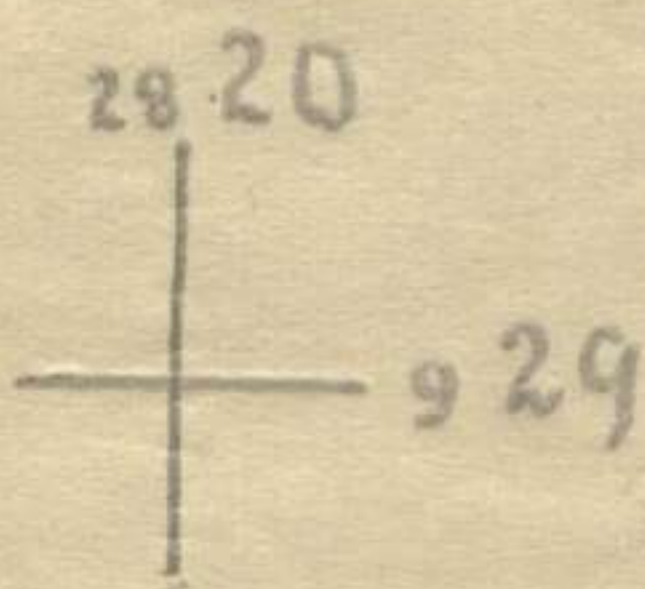
Route out: left American h of c th ref 198244 (approx) moved in NW direction for 2700 yds then moved NE 1000 yds. On second day after turning NE patrol comd realised he was going too far NORTH through sound bearings on firing which he took to be US tps at the junc and bombing on GONA, so turned due EAST for 1200 yds and then struck KILLERTON TK. Patrol crossed the and continued to move 1000 yds due EAST. Realising impracticability of proceeding further owing to undergrowth thorn bush, palms and swamp knee deep he returned to KILLERTON TK at 202271. From that point fighting patrols were sent NORTH along the th and these tps actually contacted 20 RABUL natives already sent on. This patrol moved for approx 1400 yds along the th and took bearing of 10° which coincided with bend in the th at 202283. A recce patrol was also sent SOUTH which moved 1000 yds but had nothing to report. This was on the third day ie. 26 Nov 42. Whilst these two patrols were out a JAP patrol of three men were encountered investigating our rear th WEST - one JAP was killed and two creped in a NW direction. So then moved 500 yds SOUTH along th and bivouaced on third night and on fourth morning continued moving and contacted a JAP posn ref 207256 - enemy strength unknown. The patrol suffered 4 casualties - 2 stretcher cases and 2 walking wounded - . The patrol was withdrawn for approx 200 yds to timber where stretchers were made and from this area then withdrew to edge of tall timber at edge of swamp near unused native huts and took up a defensive posn sending patrols out to endeavour to locate either US force or their L of C. Whilst here the patrol comd received orders to return by same route which afterwards was changed to use "route back at own discretion." In the meantime patrols reported finding US th coming in at approx 204260. At approx 204265 discovered American defensive posn recognised by ration tins and empty mortar castons, where apparently an action had been fought. The natives captured came out of bush and appeared pleased to see our tps. They could speak pidgen English and indicated that there were JAPS all the way along the main SANANANDA th and that they were sleeping in huts built above ground level indicating wet and swampy ground. All the country traversed was swamp with exception of KUNAI patch astride the KILLERTON TK. The th itself is approx 2" wide and does NOT appear to be used as JAP L of C. The th that the patrol moved out on would be impassable if rain set in. The American th would be passable to any number of men and consider once KILLERTON TK contacted could be traversed in NORTHERLY direction.

NOTE RE 208 SET

Only time the SET could receive was when placed in open country, KUNAI or low timber, and during sublight hours. *State prevented sending or receiving at night.*

SIGNED LIEUT BOYER
0858 hrs 29 Nov 42

T.O.R.



TO BE SUPERIMPOSED ON MAP

'BUNA' (PROV) ONE INCH

23 Nov

- 1133 L6 to C7 know these things (25 pdr) of HANSONS, could you supply protection to relieve the troops at present guarding same, they (US troops) are to be used as carrying parties? Yes certainly
- 1215 L6 to E7 Any word from that runner yet? No not yet, will ring HERWIG. L6 says we better play safe and wait a little longer, May Hansome & Mortar sqt is getting to visit Ferguson soon with idea of putting shoot on his front.
- 1230 one Pte COLLEN (10ft 20.015 not less than) will be moving 1700L placed under comd EOBAR. This pl will move to FORGISON area to counteract any possible move on the Ferguson left flank. Quite to meet this pl 1700L EDGAR HQ.
- 1240 L4 to L4 This afternoon may LEONBEATER of the NZ forces who is to join this HQ temporarily as an observer will be leaving my area at 1400L arriving you approx 1500, will you arrange off to meet him? Yes
- 1245 C4 to L4. did our mortar det fire this morning? will find out and ring you back
- 1250 SHOOT COMMENCED.
- 1245 continued WALKER patrol, fact was reported to GIM(1)
- 1305 E6 to L6 wants shoot to shift further left (WEST) of suggest up 100 plus 50yds
- 1330 L6 to N6 Arty finished their job, corps report general area good, we are going to tie in with the switch so that direction can be made by the food corps. What is the posn of amm? Very good any amount. At the moment however arty amm has 3rd priority but will be fired as soon as possible. This art bombing this morning extraordinarily accurate dumped square in enemy fwd posns also straffed the area as well. SIM says good show L6 says US putting on 61m M. Shoot this afternoon. L6 any news ETHER. No he is still holding off what stuff is dropped however the expect to move fwd again at 1400L. N6 says that another 200 25pdr have arrived and are being sent up at HANSONS posns these guns may not be used on present target (SANDONIA dist) but possibly on KATHER, wants HANSONS to select suitable target.

Following are details re special WALKER patrol

Comd: CAPT WALKER RANDALL BYMER SAYERS and 3 Pts = 93+4

RATIONS 4 days hard 3 days emergency 3 days tea sugar & milk.
WATER water bottles filled and sufficient tablets for purification

TECHNICAL

BLANKETS

ARM 150 for TSMG = 150 x 20 = 3000
15 mags (32) for BREN = 15 x 25 x 9 = 3375
2 grenades per man = 2 x 97 = 194
100 lbs for rifleman = 100 x 64 = 6400

Small arms 15975

EqPT ground sheet, gas cape, socks, shovels

Comd 208 SET - one phone

TIME OUT } depend on tactical situation 24 NOV - up to 7 days

TIME IN } or when rations give out

ROLE Sweep left flank striking the NORTH of the - prepared ~~to~~ to either to NORTH or SOUTH - Destroy all enemy within sight or call

GHI to L6 The 865 Bty Rogers is on his way up and is walking arrive approx 1600

Shoot recommenced.

1300 E6/L6 looks good so far. suggest up 100 + another round another 100.

(message passed over to Arty officer) Information from Blammy

1600 SHOOT COMMENCED (25 pdr)

L6 to L6 MORTARS coming along to us by JEEP as far as L4 who will be responsible for fuel movement to 1140 HQ, there are 4 mortars - 3 for COLLEN 1 each to EDGAR & STEVENSON. The personnel will be with mortars, L6 asks if there is any amm? I think so, but if not with the gun at least soon afterwards.

L6 to L6 Comd would like to know what is happening to returns from BOSSARD (JAR dump)? party just gone to get it. L6 says that Comd is most anxious that stuff should not be distributed as it is for the HASC for general distribution, please make sure that it is not issued. Comd does not mind if it remains in dump as long as it is secure, he feels that if everybody cannot share nobody should have it.

L6 parbrother reports pl COLLEN now in posn. L6 says mortar together with sqt in charge arrived this HQ. Well please expect him your HQ, but personnel will follow later

HANSONS to L6 30 shots fired last night 180 today

23 Nov (continued)

1830 L74 to L6 cannot supply those water bottles

1832 CASUALTIES for day 2/1 NIL 2/2 20ffs 20RS wounded 2/3 NIL

L6 to E6 anything else re BOSCARD? Poon still held BOSCARD himself coming back.
L6 says re rice, Comd has told GOC that it will be placed at disposal of RAAC for general distribution
can arrangements be made for fellows coming out to take as much as possible in sandbags.
L6 says BOSCARD poon full of water, so it really under a ft of water? I do not know how bad
but it certainly is very wet. L6 says do you know anything about US tps in BOSCARD poon?
They tried to do the job they failed to do last night, but did not even get as far and are now
back in old poon (job was to attack JAP posn in front of BOSCARD)

1905 out 35 pounder commenced firing

1918 sounds of intense fire from heard

1925 E6 to L6 All the firing is an attack on the right, on who exactly, dont know think
its Blamey front, will let us know as soon as possible. Blamey is going to use 2" M

1928 E6 to L6 The attack is on BLAMEY, he has some US with him, some more are coming
up the river, here they will put in an attack, the US party is the one that was
on the job on BOSCARD'S front. BLAMEY asked for their help they were approx 350 yds
away. US tps need more amm SA and Tommy!

L6 to S7 was the US offr able to tee up arrangements with WALKERS? yes

24 NOV 42

Since early evening we have had intense bombing apparently along the whole front
front at 1750 hrs has been reported GONA - SAMANANDA - GUNIA.

0956 C7-L6

0900 MAJ HANSON TO FINLAY (HANSON'S being taken back - check over & report -

0902 L6 to E6 every trench in story that night - found
found for JAP GUN - being checked.

0913 E7A-L4 JPatrol of Ferguson found JAPS working round on
Fergusons left flank which if continued will put them
behind Ferguson. — Bombing (NEAR) fell in area in
which there were NO JAPS and on BLAMEY'S LOFC

0918 #4 to WANI - above information re bombing passed to GPR
7 AUST. DIV

0927 E7/L4 information that last two bombings were in correct area

0930 47 Walker force left at 0930 hrs

1025 E to L4 Enquiry concerning mortar, heard - would like to know
Fergusons front as splendid targets there

1028 L6 to HANSON Jw. NO contact

1115 WANNERFORD/L6 Had bombing been observed - NO only heard.

23 NOV - SITREP to 1800 hrs - Coy to right of track now in prolongation of main line followed up mortar Barrage with attack on enemy posn - forces were driven back & coy on left of road now situated as follows - one coy on the enemy flank - the other coy has pushed further on and is now believed making for the in rear enemy lines & there has been NO comm. with this coy for five hours & one pl 1st Bn has replaced coy of 16 Bde actual road 500 yds fwd of 16 Bde C.P. & NO further casualties reported - Reported to KAMI -

25 NOV - SITREP to 0800 hrs/2 & Comm. now est. by W/T 200 with coys to left of track & these coys have made contact with each other & are in posn. for co-ordinated attack this AM & one patrol of coy rt. of track, at 1800 hrs 24 NOV report much bomb & mortar damage but NO enemy 500 yds to the left front of this coy & another patrol to the rt front at the same time reported contact with a small enemy patrol killing the leader who was well supplied with rations and well equipped & This coy received mortar fire at 2200 hrs 24 NOV & early morning fire was received from the enemy & a new patrol sent out by night reported a machine gun still employed along main the approx 100 to 125 yds fwd of centre Aussie coy & NO further casualties

25 NOV - SITREP to 1200 hrs - Patrol from coy to right of track contacts enemy Patrol 1000 hrs/2 Two JAP casualties reported & otherwise NO change

25 NOV - SITREP to 1800 hrs/2 & the intense mortar barrage scheduled for 16 hrs was suspended after 1 stray bomb landed in combined area of US Force Command Bn - US cos. 3 W. which could off. and 2nd in coord - CO of coy on right of track - one other officer this same was wounded leading a patrol south and in rear of coy's position where enemy patrol been active in the last two days. No report of coys to left of the main by coys 'I' & 'K' at than Bn Comd has arrived at their position & he has been ordered to re-organise & continue on original objective. If NO report from coy 'I' & 'K' by tomorrow may force us to attack enemy posn. with old fire Bn & Coy 'L'. This will commit my entire force & one JAP officer K by Maj Bond party this AM wants to join CO 'I' & 'K' & documents found on him have been forwarded of our HQ - case in a letter report G.W.

26 NOV - SITREP to 0800 hrs @ enemy force still occupied at 0700 hrs @ Patrol action during the night revealed location of one HMG & one LMG @ co-ordinated attack with det 1st Bn & Coy L will be carried and following mortar barrage this AM @ NO report from coys 'I' & 'K' @ no further cas. reported @ all informed

26 NOV - SITREP to 1500 hrs @ Mortar Barrage was laid down at 1250 hrs @ Coy L in night has pushed fwd 350 yds with little opposition @ det 1st Bn has encountered HMG fire @ this fire now being flanked @ Coy 'I' & 'K' has encountered strong resistance @ seven cos. returned others reported there @ Medical aid and ammo have been sent to these coys @ number of casualties to be reported later @ attack continues @ reported to Adv 7 Div

26 NOV/42 SITREP to 2000 hrs @ 1st Bn det. digging in generally astride the main track @ fwd elements this force approx 150 yds NORTH of night limit Coy west of main track @ this det held up by organized machine gun fire which has not been reduced @ Coys. 'I' & 'K' under Bn Command - report attacking east from present position which is est. to be 3000 to 4000 yds NORTH & WEST of main tracks @ These coys. were sent additional ammo, rations and medical supplies @ 1500 hrs @ these coys are digging in for the night @ Intentions are to re-organize and consolidate present positions during the night and resume attack to-morrow @ casualties reported from AID STATION to-day 1K 29 W incl. 2 officers @ estimated cas to-day 50.

27 NOV/42 SITREP to 0800 hrs @ NO further report from 'I' or 'K' coys, 'L' Coy from the same - Situation NO change - NO further cas reported
All informed

27 NOV/42 SITREP to 1200 hrs @ Active patrolling continues from organ incl. form @ JAP comm. attack on fwd elements of 'L' Coy repulsed @ limit Arty fire very effective in this area @ NO change 'I' & 'K' Coy RPT @ C.P. moved 100 yds North previous location @ 4 & 84 of W. Patrol joined regt this AM. Intention @ all out attack as per DIV plan supported by 16 Bde @ Cas. Report later.

27 NOV/42 SITREP to 1800 hrs @ NO change @ casualties reported 21 wounded, 9 SHELL SHOCK @ all informed

>> Nov Bob. Because of detail being this period

L7 to E7. Have you had any word from Bosgard? No
Bosgard left at 1100 hrs. Probably hasn't had time yet.
Give any assistance you can to US.
Ferguson helping on left.
US get away to a good start.
Do you know how many cranelines Bosgard had? Not sure 2K or so rounded
L7 to Faintly. One unit US has gone to ground the other is going round deeper
Seem to be moving well. All crop counts assisting as well as possible.

E6/L6
Ferguson's decision of carrying out winter shoot.
Is there any possibility of more bombs.
What about thickening up with EY grenades.
Is there only 12 bombs? Will carry out shoot later on.

E6 to L6 1405 Ferguson says US inform is being passed through him, has he ^(re US) any comm. Sigs says
that they have. Ferguson says that apparently only he can hear them. L6 says that
he can hear them OK

1420 L6 to E7 Have you a phone out to right? No. People on right are supposed to have ration
and ammo do you know anything about it? No.

1630 E6 to L6 asks for another 14 men to go to Bosgard. L6 says it can be arranged
probably from STEVENSON. L6 says a Coy US gone in on EDGAR's right. E6 mentions
ration room, men are out of food having had no breakfast or dinner.

1633 L6 says he will arrange something or see (Bosgard has rations now for only
one meal)

L6 to S7 can you oblige with 14 men to carry rations to Bosgard? yes
certainly, will they return tonight? cannot be certain, but as they
have a sig line to follow this time they should be

1635 L6 to E6 The party of 14 men will be down tonight

L6 to NANI Urgently require wire, we cannot do job properly unless we have it, point
is, is it more important to have wire in rear or fwd? (nothing fixed as
NANI could not see out point)

L6 to WALKER? that kink in the rd where you are, what how prominent is it,
From the point where WALKER is to corner of road 358° and switches off at 42°. only
good for 300x at 42°

NANI to L6 appreciates the posn re wire and will see that yards get a supply
they will use runners in rear as much as possible and so release a certain amount

1850
1920 L6 to S7 Comd would like you to give enemy a bit of hurry up at
0630 tomorrow and follow up by patrols. L6 passed inform re
sinking of JAP cruiser & destroyer off BONA'

1900
1930 L6 to E7 rptd instrs to S6

22 Nov 42

1025 L6 to May WANERTON request for a/c support (see message book)

1110 FAIRBROTHER to L6. US tps 500 yds on left had contacted enemy patrol and had dispersed them

1050 L6 to May WANERTON extending time of B US from 1200 to 1300 hrs

0955 E7 to L6 stating small JAP parties infiltrating between WALKER & GALL

1208 E6 to L6 American Coy Comd believes that JAP have dug in from an opposite side of KUNAI path to them, at the moment the American coy are pinned down in ~~the~~ KUNAI path.
Also reports that Furgerson is being mortared from a position he thinks he is in front of GALL

1230 L7 to N7 When Tomlinson gets past the junction L7 is to take left the ~~is~~ that of course depends on EATHER progress. L7 says no sign of gun at moment are mortaring one of our front coys. Said also that ~~CATTERERS~~ caused at least 100 JAP casualties & this is quite a modest estimate. Said Bde fighting strength 418 and 750
L7 said will not move along road till it is clear and U.S. have the junction. N7 said that there are enemy both sides of the river and not only this as before supposed.

1235 G3(1) to L6 at 1250 this will be gap over area working no further WEST than point midway SANDANA & GONA.

1245 L7 to S7 asks if GALL is OK, to L7 he seems sick, suggests this as a line of thought, mentions excellent work GALL had previously done

1250 L7 to Ferguson How are things? Very quiet. How are things with US? along jungle the running parallel with main line. Furgerson suggests they turned in to soon and not far ^{away} along left. Furgerson is using 2" M on enemy. L7 says US not doing any good as they are. Furgerson agreed and said that he was helping them as much as possible and had supplied them with a guide. US now pushing further swinging further round to left.

25 NOV

L14/L7

- ① Paper sent down this morning - certain complications which can be arranged by CUMEN making alterations in proximity. Information passed to L7 re mortar ammunition. Sgt Telling - mortar ammo. good condition.
- ② G.O.C. Brig. Docherty, HQ visited Bde HQ. Discussed certain administrative matters with L7.
- ③ O.B. Rear Detents. 16 Nos. Inf Bde / Numbers personnel now held at Reception Camp.
- ④ Patrols / U.S. all units notified by L.O. - 1/3 Bde information passed to Lieut Silk. Registration of captured gun taking place at 0730hrs - units notified. Division notified.
- ⑤ 1/6 No. E7/L4. Mortars landed in Blaney HQ. several wounded - further particulars to follow. U.S. mortar team stopped shooting. One killed - 6 wounded - 3 Americans. (including B.M., Capt. Blaney)
- ⑥ Message received from WALKER - Walker on way, in damaged ankle - Bayre taken over. Had not reached objective at time messenger left.

⑦ L7/News - Walker to report to L7 immediately

⑧ 0930-1330 - 4 hours - muddy going
M. Dooks re Nov.

1410hrs L7 to E7A what is that firing? finding out
1412hrs re above - enemy fire in reply to US mortar shoot - own mortar shoot now starting - No known cas and No enemy movement

⑨ L7/N6 - Correll & Walker now with L7 - information passed re Walker patrol. Possibility of WALKER going on WEST side. Report - has quickly, is information required. Task - ① to proceed to coast - if find swamp for first couple miles are they to continue? Suggested possible use of runners - Possible strength 2 offrs. 40. L7 would prefer to send one offr + Inf. retreat as quickly as possible.

⑩ C7/L7 - Special job 2 offrs. 24 men possibly out for four days - C7 + 2 offrs to report L7 in morning. Offrs. Powell & Murray.

26 Nov 42

- ① L7/C7 - 2 offrs. reported Bde HQ received information re patrols to main the Cape Killerton. Patrols leaving this AM - expedient day of turning back at mid day 28 Nov. Inf. to be passed back regularly.
- ② Message E6/L4 - indications are that there is increased rifle fire along front & less automatic fire. Possibly saving L.M.O. endeavouring not disclose enemy strength. Bosquad thinks strength increased. Fourbrother reports pos. unchanged.
- ③ E6/L4 reporting recovery of one American body from KUNAI PATCH. Inf. passed to re US Ref.
- ④ 0745 L75 Capt DUNN are you firing any mortars this morning? no amm. L7 say L14 pushing some this morning, L7 will check as to whether any amm in area and if there is will ring Capt DUNNOR back.
- ⑤ 0750 L7 to E7 Re the amm there were 198 rds here yesterday & that is 3" and 154 2" Mortars E7 would like to have shoot today, will coordinate with CUMEN would start about 1000 will ring L7 before starting
- ⑥ 0810 L75 N6 Other day was speaking to GOC re appointment of WALKER as B.M., with the approval of the GOC am having him here in place of DUNNOR. Temporary B.M., has having arranged with all other duties.

25 NOV

1410 L to E & A what is that firing? finishing out

1412 2 above - enemy fire in reply to ^{US} mortar shoot - own mortar shoot now starting - NO known cos. com NO enemy movement seen

26 Nov

26 Nov

(1) have told the murray & powder patrol to be sure to bear EAST. Also patrol will blaze each side to give some indication of trail.

(2) 0815 14 to 14 what about the mortar shoot, when amn? 14 says amn is in dump 32 rds per unit shoot to start at 1000L please coordinate with CULLEN. already done so

(3) 17607 re these recommendations are spoke of yesterday, Col SPAY will be down today could you let me have them this morning? Trause has gone to the AGP office to type them should be back in time.

(4) 0950 17 to E6 arty are going to do a spot more registering in front your HQ in about 5 hr

(5) 0950 G1 together with the CRE and Capt Madden arrived this HQ

(6) 17 to E7 get BURROUGHS on to a survey as to the number of fit men available that one could call fighting strength (incl front line tys and as many Bechelen as possible)

(7) 17 to C7 ditto above.

(8) 1130 Cpl. Fisher to report Div HQ 30 Nov for transportation to Sig School

(9) 1130 Notified Capt. Blaney dead - wounded 25 Nov. 42

(10) 1135 E6 to L4 number of fit men on hand 23 and 244 which incl Bech one minimum Br HQ

(11) 1145 16 to E6 what would be the minimum number of men for carrying? 20. What would they carry? mortars Vickers & RAP, not supplies, no men are drawn from the 4 coys (i.e. 23 & 244)

(12) 1241 16 to E6 STEVENSONS men approx 315 men are putting on a show this afternoon, US tys on the left flank are staging an attack NOT before 1300L but probably soon after. Please warn your people especially BOSGARD, as a change over is expected on that front at about that time. The mortar shoot is hereby cancelled.

(13) 1245 16 to C6 ditto above warning

(14) 1250 16 to E6 There was a bit of confusion re mortar shoot. Ours is cancelled and men return. US mortar shoot goes on

(15) 1558 L/S to 14 give no fire support until advised by me.

(16) 1325 HERWIG reports mortars landing his area, Sgt of left fwd pt says only 2 men left still lot of fire coming from JAP but cannot tell whether they (JAP) are moving. reports that US are crawling fwd. 16 asks HERWIG to let him know if possible whether bombs are enemy or drop shorts. HERWIG reports that casualties to left fwd pt was 13 out of 15 more probably elsewhere. HERWIG reports US adv slowly now 50 or 60 yds fwd of front elements. it was Lieut SIMPSONS coy that suffered the casualties.

(17) 1330 16 to 57 can you replace the pt lost by HERWIG. Will do it as soon as possible through there will of necessary delay.

(18) 1334 HERWIG TO LD Have reinforced pt from personnel round my HQ as temporary measure, has moved 12 men from reserve.

TIME	BETWEEN	NUMBER	CONVERSATION	DATE 26 NOV 42
1355	HERWIG TO L6	19	reports US tps are now 150yds beyond their SP and are now trying to flank the to WOODPECKER on the left flank. HERWIG is of the opinion that either JAP has withdrawn or US has passed round JAP posns in some way, as JAP posns are only 60yds or so in front of the HERWIG posn	
1402	HERWIG TO L6	20	LYSAGHTS CAS. 2K 10W 1 SHELL SHOCKED (incl 3 stretcher parties)	
1410	E6 to L6	21	The F.OO has gone fwd with US, BOSGARD has no comm, wants to know if there is any way of contacting FOO? Yes through RECKETS BLUE. FAIRBROTHER reports sounds of chopping to his front.	
1413		22	3 shells landed in gun area	
1415	HERWIG TO L6	23	They have found a nose cap to the mortar dropped HERWIG area definitely JAPANESE	
1418	HANSOME TO L4	24	just rec'd 4 shells in gun area, one pretty close, must have come from good way back, possibly the coast.	
1420	L4 to HERWIG	25	could you send the JAP mortar shell nose cap down to us? OK	
1430	HERWIG TO L6	26	Reports 4 more casualties found (see no 20)	
1435	L7 to E6	27	Dunlop there? no gone to Herwig. L7 says tell him NOT to move any troops until he has seen L7	
1440	L6 to HERWIG 7	28	US rear elements were 300yds in front our fwd coms and have NOT contacted JAP	
1455	to HERWIG TO L6	29	US assault is about to begin from posn roughly 150yds ahead our fwd tps.	
1500	NANIB to L7	30	any news? yes US have moved fwd 150yds in adv our coys on left of road on right flank. understand US have moved fwd 350yds almost to the on BOSGARD front. arty shoot reported by Bosgard as most successful. 13 casualties caused by JAP mortar (LYSAGHTS) Has reduced one pl out there to 1 off & 2 men who are being replaced by pl from STEVENSON.	
1515	L7 to Bosgard	31	How are things? I had thought that L coy had started the attack as I have just heard LMG and grenades on my right flank. How did arty fire effect JAPS? they seem to be diggin new posn. What do you estimate strength enemy? 3 LMG, 4 M6, 2 mortars & quite a few rifles. How are the cheeps? very tired. How many US with you? about as many as we had during the first attack. Is your posn still wet? no quite dry now, we did a bit of good with our mortars (60s) we dropped 40 bombs on their area	
1530			Runner reported on from special patrol	
1600	L6 to E7	32	Herwig put res pl in pos. - did you do anything about pushing them? No not until instructed by L7 ©	
1605	L6 to HERWIG S/6	33	arranged for 1 pl of 10 men to take over LY SIGHT from have they left - YES.	
1625	L6 to E6	34	These 10 men in Ferguson & Fairbrother, surely if they are in front line they are fit to attack, if not they should be back behind, anyway I will add another 20 men. - OK	
1650	L6 to BOSGARD	35	are you in contact with US? no. when did you last hear from them 3 hrs ago. can only place US by sounds of fire, shooting is coming closer on his left flank thinks it is US tps slathing M6	
1700	E6 to L4	36	casualties 3W	

TIME	DIVISION	BETWEEN	CONVERSATION	DATE 26 NOV
1710	37		PERSONNEL FIT FOR MOVE FWD CULLEN 13 + 155 EDGAR 20 + 256 STEVENSON 12 + 122 Side HQ 45 + 533 13 + 89 58 + 622	
1715	39	E7 to L6	E7 understands no fire was to opened without sig to L7. But Huy Wps a his float has been ordered to open fire on a rocket signal and cease on another rocket signal. BOSGARD wanted to open fire as well, but Capt DUNCOFF said No and referred it to Bde. L7 says BOSGARD only may open fire when US do but must cease directly the US do	
1720	39	S6 to L4	STEVENSON casualties 5K and 2W	
1730	40	E7 to L6	There at about 40 more recommendations to sign. RMO says may BUCKLEY not fit enough to do so will he sign them? Under the circumstances yes us long as you sign FOR co sign	
1800	41	E7 to L6	HERWIG reports UST in 100yds in front of HERWIG food post and will remain there for the night	
1810	42	L6 to BOSGARD	I have my HANSOME here trying to find out where MENTAR that has been firing most of the afternoon, can you give us an idea? Furgerson says roughly 120° from his post, BOSGARD cannot say but will try, and locate next time it is used	
1820	43	MAG GIBSON To L6	What is the posn of walking wounded? Taken back by JEEP if any JEEP happens to be there, suggest you get on to L14. However it will be a bright moonlight night good idea if they start walking	
1830	44	MAG GIBSON L14 L6	The gun posn are going to hold the next JEEP for an hour in the hope that wounded can reach posn in time to have ride back, L6 ask gun posn to hold wounded and ring L14 if JEEP does not come	
1900	45	E4 to L4	FURGESON reports that his left PC is hearing sounds of chomping approx 15 or 20 yds away. Also is sending out patrol tonight to try and cut JAP wire	
1910	46	E7 to L6	BOSGARD reports JAPS seen on his front have been dressed in clean apparently new uniforms, is arranging to have a JAP body searched and papers food to this HQ	
1920	47	E7 to L6	BOSGARD finds that there are bales of new JAP clothing in the dump in his posn and think that this explains new cloths seen on JAPS. The cloths on the dead JAP are unfortunately cut to ribbons by Tommy gun fire ∴ cannot send them to us as promised	

27 Nov 42

22 Nov

141E

- 1110 leading Coy on left flank (K Coy 3 Bn 126US Regt) in contact with JAP patrol and drove the patrol back
- 1118 disposals of troops. I Coy follows K Coy shown on overlay attached. 1MG Squad from M Coy to I Coy, K Coy with 1MG Squad attached. L Coy with 1MG sect attached on trail as shown on overlay M Coy less 1MG platoon bivouac shown on overlay. Bn clears bivouac at 0640L. K Coy moved out of assembly area at 0940L followed by I and L Coys. No casualties. Intention I & K Coys to make a left envelopment & L Coy to make a right envelopment
- 1140 (From W patrol) Ask your order to join Regt will be accomplished as fast as possible
- 1145 ~~115 to 56~~ Lt FISHER of your unit who is to be sent to the front, sign sheet as report to Div 30 Nov
- 1204 Pass thru 16 Bde by 3 Bn in progress @ two Coys to left and one Coy to right of track @ successful engagement small JAP patrol reported 1130 hrs @ Two sqds of det 1st Bn astride road 2 Coys to front 16 Bde command Post remains 1st Bn held in reserve @ 2nd Bn detached to trail of 3rd Bn @ W patrol moved from Wairoa to rejoin Regt @ NO casualties @ double envelopment enemy flank continues
- 1240 Capt Alexian to Lieut Carpenter - message from Col Hardwick starts - too many panels in small area @ will drop on one designated
- 1323/19 Nov For TAMILSON & HARDING - NEF authorizes us to use any routes distinct to Div Area to accomplish our mission but to inform 7 Div if necessary enter their area @ MOTT
- 1500 hrs 53/3rd Bn - Just talked with an Aussie back from the front and he believes our 60's got into the JAP - overheard a conversation on the phone that the trail was clear, what was meant I do NOT know.
- 1000 hrs From Col 7 Div - SITREP to 0700 hrs @ 16 Bde @ 16 Bde maintained contact throughout night 18 31/27 @ enemy activity with 1MG & mortar @ 35 Bde @ ash on GONA now in progress @ patrol on track one mile east of GONA last night reported having dealt with small party 6 JAPS observed NO other activity @ 1/3 Bn passes thru SOPUTA AM 22 @

P.T.O.

126 US Regt less det of 1 Bn passes thru 16 Bde to-day to continue adv
to SANANDA landing strip in progress of construction at 166165
ref map BUNA (Prov) one inch

2215 hrs/21 From Aco 7 Div - Further on SITREP 1600hrs @ 25 Bde
foot patrols having reached within 500 yds GONA report
NO enemy in that area @ Bde will occupy GONA first light
22 NOV then move east @ two @ 16 Bde @ shell fire on 16 Bde
front today as from mountain gun or mortar.

1528/hrs SITREP 126 US TO 7 AMX Div TO 1600 hrs

Planble envelopment enemy flank continues, slight
progress by two left flank corps NO report from right
flank corp. Reported casualties (2 wounded)

(SUPPLEMENT TO 1600/L SITREP)

SITREP to 1800hrs @ coy to right of track passed by right flank of
AVST right coy and continues movement @ 2nd Bn now detached
having difficulty fording river at SOPUTA - Necessary to build
rafts - Bn NOT cleared river as of 1615/L @ NO change corps to
left of track @ casualties reported 4 K 4 W

SITREP to 0600hrs/L @ 2nd Bn cleared GIRVA ford @ SOPUTA
1900/L NOV 22 will proceed to join 32 DIV @ envelopment enemy
flanks continued - Coy on right of track made contact during
the night.

TO C.G. 7 AVST DIV From TOMLINSON: SITREP to 1200 hrs.

2 Coys to left of track continue attack. CO. TO right of track reports
repulsing counter attack launched during the night, killing 40 JAPSO
All coys have enveloped enemy flanks and are now in posn to launch
flanking attacks @ Sec. with Hw Mts being sent to coy on right to
neutralize strong concentration of JAP anto weapons - casualties
since last report 3 K 1 W - 1 Prisoner taken

SITREP to 1200 hrs/29 NOV - NO report of coys on left of track since last sitrep 00-04/208
set now on way to this force on left @ coy on right of track no change in disposition namely
one pl between Avst tps 3 track - balance of this coy on right of Avst tps - casualties no change.

28 NOV/42 - SITREP to 0800 hrs

Our night flank harassed by automatic weapons fire during the night of fire at 0645/L was answered by enemy fire. Intentions to continue attack morning 29 NOV as (given) 7 Div (operations) @ casualties since last report (6 wounded, 1 killed)

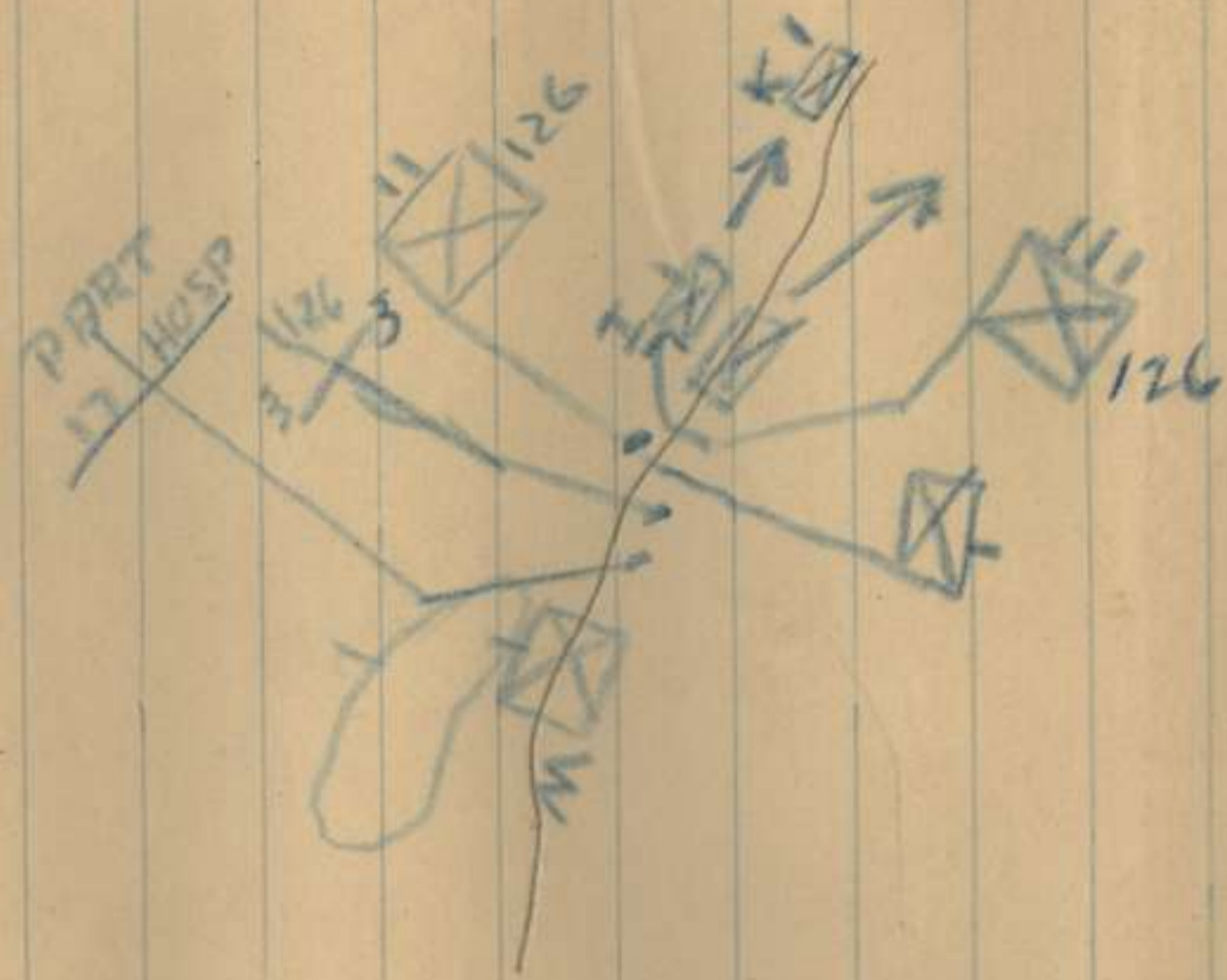
28 NOV/42

SITREP to 1200 hrs @ Contact patrol between night & left units astride main tk reports unarmored enemy in what appears to be enemy line of comm. to fwd posns. Strong patrol sent out to attack or rather ambush this enemy party. Posn of 1st Bn det. now rearranged to conform with AVSSIE Posn. attempt being made to cut more direct line of communication route to det. 3rd Bn now reported approx 1000 yds north and 1000 yds west my C.P. @ Sgt EX. officer was sent to this Det in an attempt to clarify its posn. Heavy casualties reported from these det. @ Actual battle casualties that have passed thru first Aid Station to date @ 6 off. and 87 enlisted men. Patrol activities to be continued, and complete arrangements for Div. Plan of 30 NOV @ all informed.

1803/29 NOV TO 7 DIV —

Mortar barrage on enemy line at 1700 followed up by patrol
action to left and right of track to ascertain enemy strength
and damage done @ Report later @ nothing further to report @
NO additional casualties.

14
20



25
26

M



INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEET

10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18



COMPILED FROM LATEST INFORMATION, UP TO 4 NOV 42
 A. B. SURVEY 422167

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address

Date

16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details
9 Nov 42

8 Nov 42

Sitrep No. 145 to 1600 hrs / from 7 Aust Div

MANUEBA : ref map WAIROPE one inch : 16 Bde continues to harass the Jap positions with two and three inch mortar fire CIVI area : 2/1 Bn at track June 6794 : HQ 25 Bde located at track June 6794 2/32 Bn in contact one mile south GORARI : 2/25 and 2/33 Bns in posn vicinity track June 6794 : CHAPORSE : Patrols sent to SANGAI area with the following tasks (a) locate personnel 2/14 Bn left there by Capt BUCKLER (b) take posse (c) obtain all possible information ref Jap movements ; locations and treatment of natives : BASE AREA : Base Details BAE 7 Aust Div closes Base area 1800 L/S and personnel move fwd to rejoin units : AIR OPS : 3 A20's bombed and strafed enemy posns within an area 500 yds CIVI 0850 to 0900 L/S : Posn identified and bomb runs made on target at 1000 feet : 83 x 20 lb frag bombs all dropped in target area : results not observed : 3 strafing runs made and 4500 yds expended : Mil activity observed : 32 US Div : no contact with enemy ; message from 128 Inf Regt quote ANGAU runners report 200 Japs arrived WARISOTA plantation : small groups withdrew SIKHEI : further native report states Japs assembling POKONDEITA SARANANDA and SOPUTA unquote : W Patrol located vicinity WAIROPE :

The following congratulatory messages have been received by HQ 7 Aust Div : Comd 7 Aust Div instructs that they be passed to all under comd : From Major-General THURSTON convey my heartiest congratulations to all concerned at capturing KOKODA : these fine troops must feel a pride and satisfaction at this splendid accomplishment which I fully share and quote wishes from General MacArthur quote heartiest congratulations to GOC Comds and all ranks AUSTRALIAN ARMY FORCES on recapture of KOKODA unquote : From HQF quote O-in-C and GOC HQF congratulate all ranks 7 Aust Div on magnificent effort leading to occupation of KOKODA : Major-General WHISTECOMBE adv ech 5 AS wishes to be associated with congratulations unquote : following message from Comd 7 Aust Div sent in reply : quote please thank General MacArthur for his congratulations which are much appreciated by all : with KOKODA behind the troops are rapidly preparing to chase the Jap further and destroy him : unquote :

Bel

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address

Date

To 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details from 7 Aust Div 0639 9

Sitrep No. 146 to 0700 hrs : 25 Bde : fwd elements 25 Bde still in contact with the Japs on the track leading south from GORARI : enemy holding posns in depth : outflanking movement now in progress to cut in behind enemy rear vicinity GORARI : 16 Bde : 16 Bde continues to harass Jap posns in OIVI area : enemy appears to be holding OIVI-GORARI area in greater strength than at first anticipated : 21 Bde : 21 Bde comes under comd 6 Aust Div 1800 L/9 : CHAFORCE now located 750902 ref BUNA SE MILNS FORCE : BRANK FORCE : activity confined to recce BELI BELI area : enemy L. of C. BUNA-OIVI : unconfirmed native reports indicate Japs assembling POPONDETTA SAMANANDA SOPUTA : 8 Nov Bombers strafed tin huts POPONDETTA huts ANDEMBA and W/T station SAMANANDA : No movement on main SAMANANDA WAIROPE track : BUNA strip apparently flooded : moderate A/A encountered from known posns : AIR OPS : BUNIN FAISI area two cruisers (heavy) 9 destroyers 20 cargo vessels anchored vicinity ERVENA ERVENA ISLAND : All informed.

NOTICE

While Chaplain GALLAGHER (Roman Catholic Chaplain) is with 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details, MASS will celebrated EVERY MORNING at 0700 hrs in tent in 2/3 Aust Inf Bn Details Lines formerly occupied by Lieuts SAYERS and STEPHENSON.

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

Date 10 Nov 42

Sitrep No.147 to 1600 hrs : MAROUBRA : 25 Bde have now closed enemy posn south of GORARI : fierce fighting took place during morning our troops inflicting 100 enemy casualties : One prisoner and a number of captured documents being sent back : meanwhile remainder of Bde is moving in outflanking movement to secure GORARI : 16 Bde : Continuing attack on enemy posns OIVI area : CHAFORCE : All available personell working on drome: no report SANGAI patrol : Patrol sent to investigate report of enemy on DENIKI track : expect report back back 1500 L/9 : 32 US Div : landing elements 1 Bn 126 US Regt moving NW from SAPIA : air movement remainder 126 US Regt in progress : det 2 Bn 126 US Regt moving north up KUMISI valley to reinforce W Patrol : MILNE FORCE : nothing to report : AIR OPS 6 A20's bombed and strafed OIVI area : ground flares and signals easily sighted : bombs dropped in target area : posn strafed 1600 .5 and 3400 .303 : no results or enemy activity activity observed : pilot considers area covered fairly well :

GENERAL : BBC announced the surrender of ALGIERS to US forces at 2200 hrs 8 Nov : Most of Frencg forces confined to barracks : One 35000 ton battleship one cruiser two destroyers entered ALGIERS harbour and shelled several points before surrender : a naval battle is reported off CASABLANCA also naval battle in progress in the Mediterranean.

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details
 Date 10 Nov 42

Sitrep No. 143 to 0700 hrs 10 Nov 42 from 7 Aust Div.

MARUBRA : 25 Bde : 2nd elements 25 Bde are now in vicinity GORARI having driven enemy to NE : 2/1 Bn moving to cut DIVI-ILINA track : meanwhile balance of Bde having encircled the enemy south of GORARI are gradually closing on his position : Jap has counter attacked twice in an endeavour to escape but has been repulsed with casualties : killed 42 wounded 58 : 16 Bde : continues to contain enemy by wide flanking patrols and mortar fire
 MIAMI POINT : PW captured by BRAKE FORCE 50 Oct stated he belonged to No. 5 SASBRO unit : 250 this unit originally landed GOODENOUGH and 200 escaped to PERCIVAL IS : PW denied presence SASBRO in MIAMI area : 32 US Div : balance 120 Regt who landed VILIGELA 8 Nov now moving by sea to POINTE
 air move from MORSEY : Bn less one and half coys deployed SABA : One and half coys deployed POINTE where strip reported in good condition.
 AIR OPS : usual shipping concentrations observed BUI-FAISI : Interpretation photos taken 8 Nov described 2 landing craft carriers : NEW ISLAND : B25 on reef sighted and bombed and tpt 8jt GEORGES CHANNEL course 160 degrees tpt hit and stopped : Later observed beached : BUIA WAIROPE : 9 A20's strafed BUIA SAKANANDA SAKARI KAKANDETTA POPONDETTA ISUVITA : 3 barges seen SAKANANDA one left smoking : camouflaged object object like armoured car seen half mile inland : Jap W/T installation POPONDETTA structure resembling RIF station extensively damaged : All informed ;

Belle

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

To 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details from 7 Aust Div 0620 6

Sitrep No. 149 to 1600 hrs : MAROUBRA : 16 Bde : opposition being met is greater than first anticipated : Jap estimated strength is one Bn holding well dug in positions on high ground at CIVI and is using numerous LMG's in addition to Mtn gun and mortars : our outflanking movt round this feature still in progress : sounds of firing this am indicates that 2/1 Bn is in contact with the Japs in the vicinity of the track between ILIMA and GORARI : pressure is being maintained by our troops : 3 Bn situated at KORARA : 25 Bde : 2/5 [redacted] patrol to YODDA reports no signs of recent occupation by Japs although they had been in occupation some time ago : Patrols 2 hrs beyond YODDA found no new tracks : CHAFORCE in posn SE KOKODA 75390L (ref map EUR 5E) : MILNFORCE : Nothing further to report : KANGA : LAE OP reports one landing barge left 0745 /L /5 heading north : returned 1200 L/5 : much M activity carrying stores in drome area :

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details
 Date 11 Nov 42

Sitrep No. 149 to 1600 hrs 10 Nov from 7 Aust Div

MARQUERA : 25 Bde engaging enemy CORARI area : 2/31 Bn on track approx 2 miles south of CORARI opposed to strong enemy det : 2/25 Bn moved to post on this track in rear enemy det approx 500 yds North of 2/31 Bn and attacked enemy rear : 2/33 Bn completed move 9 Nov around east flank and attacked and drove enemy back from post apparently used as HQ or dump : Bn occupied large village believed CORARI forcing enemy back to NE : 2/1 Bn moved NE to reach track CORARI-ILINGO : 16 Bde still fighting enemy main CIVIL post : heavy engagement 16 Bde front morning 10 Nov : enemy using mountain gun and 81 mm mortar :

KAYIA LAE OP reports 5 fighter LAE drone 1105 L/10 .
SP 09 Rear V patrol vicinity WAINOPE reports no contact with enemy : patrol being reinforced : BUNA AREA : 20 RABAU natives escaped from BUNA approx 4 Nov : stated some Jap movement BUNA north to SALAMAU : extent of movement and route not yet known : AIR OPS : 8 B25's attacked SOPUTA : 228 x 100 lb frag bombs dropped : 2 direct hits W/T sta and one A/A gun blown out of pit : 3 A20's bombed and strafed SOPUTA : 120 x 20 lb parachute frag bombs dropped and 1700 rounds expended : A/A pound bombed and strafed along Jap troops seen running away : confirm A/A gun blown out of pit and fires still burning from previous raid : A6 conclusion of strike reported no enemy A/A guns in action at SOPUTA : All informed :

TOO 1610

Ball

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

"J"

To 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details from 7 Aust Div 0590 3

Atrop No. 134 to 0800 hrs : Adv HQ 7 Aust Div opened DENIKI 1700 L/2
2/31 In and Adv HQ 25 Bde moved into KOKODA 1600 L/2 : Exploitation proceeds
patrols picked up RABAUL boys who stated Japs left KOKODA area two days ago
for beach : Engr and ALO estimate 2 days work by In necessary before planes
can land KOKODA drome : fwd elements 16 Bde moving through KOBARO through
ILIMO : on completion present the CHAIFORCE returning base :

7 hrs 42
784

TOO 0820
TII 0845

A J Roberts
A J Roberts

F

J Robertson
NX 730
A J

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

To 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details from 7 Aust Div 0629 8

Sitrep No. 144 to 0700 hrs : MARQUESSA : 15 Bde : Enemy still offering
stubborn resistance in OIVI area : Successful mortar shoot carried out
on 7th posn on afternoon 7 Nov : Elements 2/1 Bn on right flank still
in contact with enemy at COMANI : 25 Bde continuing outflanking
movement : 32 US Div : HQ 125 US Regt opened MERRIMAN : AIR OPS : 2
medium bps vicinity of GEORGE CHANNEL : Off MARSH IS near ARAVE
grounded schooner apparently burnt out observed and strafed :
SAVING : 1 Battleship 1 Cruiser 1 Destroyer 1235 L/7 : SEA PASSAGE :
Convoy of at least 12 large vessels course 180 degrees at 1300 L/7 :
BURN PAISI : normal concentration shipping observed :

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

To 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details from 7 Aust Div

0623

7

Sitrep No. 141 to 0700 hrs : MAIROUBA : 16 Bde : An increasing enemy opposition is being encountered by 16 Bde on high ground near CIVI. Jap posns astride track extend for approx 3 miles to high ground south of CIVI : enemy strength estimated at 2 bns : heavy fighting continued throughout 6 Nov : 2/1 Bn on right flank in contact with enemy patrol vicinity COMAKI : 25 Bde : 25 Bde moves morning 7 Nov in outflanking move on 16 Bde's right along KOBANO-ILIMA track to Jap L. of C. : REINFORCE : 2Bn 128 US Regt NATUYA OJ1609 ref map ILIMA street patrolling all tracks that area : Reports that Japs at HONANDA 2 miles NE INONDE : KIMIKI VALLEY : 126 US Regt patrolling all tracks KUVIC to 6 hrs north BAKIBILLA : AIR OPS : P40 crashed afternoon 6 Nov 22 one and half miles north KOKODA drome : Pilot killed

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

To 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details from 7 Aust Div 0617 6

Sitrep No. 140 to 0800 hrs : MAROUBRA : no further report : MILNE FORCE :
TAUPOTA patrol killed 2 Japs 4 Nov : DRAKE FORCE : VIVIGANI strip 4000
x 100 yds not suitable for DC3 and low landing ~~area~~ speed aircraft :
IND PARTOL : Sig operating D Patrol W/T attacked by Japs 4 Nov : Patrol
leader two days overdue recce OIVI area : A Patrol concentrating KOKODA :
During morning 4 Nov party US Army offrs from W patrol vicinity WAIROPE
visited HQ 25 Bde : AIR OPS : night 4/5 Catalinas attacked shipping off
SHORTLANDS and KIHILI drome : results not observed : RABAUL : Recce
reveals 39 large U/I ships in harbour : All informed :

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details
 Date 12 Nov 42

COPY

Adv HQ 6 Aust Div
 9 Oct 42

MESSAGE FROM MAJOR-GENERAL A. J. BOASE C.B.E.

The following message from Major-General A.J. BOASE CBE will be promulgated to all members of units commanded by Major-General BOASE when he was G.O.C. 6 AUST DIV:-

"On relinquishing command of 6 Aust Div I desire to express my grateful thanks for the loyal support and assistance I have received from all ranks during my tenure of command. It is with profound regret that I sever my connection with 6 Aust Div and I look forward to renewing my associations with it in the not too distant future.

Good hunting and good luck to you all!"

(Signed) BOWSER Colonel
 A.A. & Q.M.G. 6 Aust Div

.....

Sitrep No.151 to 1600 hrs from 7 Aust Div 11 Nov 42

Enemy forced out of posns at CIVI : only route of escape over rugged jungle country to NE : 16 Bde advancing to CIVI : enemy still holding out south of GORARI although village in our hands : fierce fighting taking place in this area : known enemy casualties 8 Nov 149 killed: Preliminary interrogation PW captured GORARI reveals 1000 men YAMANAKA unit arrived BUNA Sep :

KANGA : LAE OP reports two pinnaces arrived LAE 0745 L/11 : One departed 0850 L/11 : AIR OPS : 5 B17's attacked shipping BUIN FAISI : over target 0215-0210 L/11 : 20 x 500 lb bombs dropped : black smoke and debris observed after possible hit 10000 ton vessel : 3 A19's bombed and strafed POPONDETTA SANGARA HAGENAHAMBO ISURAHAMBO and AWALA :

RWF Mansell

Major
 Comd 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

Bde

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

Date 12 Nov 42

Sitrep No.132 to 0700 hrs from 7 Aust Div

MAROUBRA : 16 Bde is pursuing with vigor the enemy who withdrew from posns DIVI first light 11 Nov 42 : at same times 2/25 and 2/31 Bns closed in on Japs South of GORARI and posn captured : 150 Japs killed 3 PW captured : 2/25 and 2/31 Bns then joined Bde 25.

DIVI - WAIROPE : 2/1 Bn last reported in contact with enemy east GORARI on main track : known enemy casualties since 8 Nov 300 killed : Adv HQ 7 Aust Div DIVI 1500 1/11 : 32 US Div W patrol reports Jap supply route main track WAIROPE - ILEMO : Thence Japs using main track and making little use alternate track to south : Natives report enemy using pontoon bridge across KAMUSI near old suspension bridge :

All informed :

Bde Tpt Details

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details
14 Nov 42

ALL UNITS

^P
1. PASSWORD :

From 0001 hrs to 2400 hrs 14 Nov 42 - RIVOLI
From 0001 hrs to 2400 hrs 15 Nov 42 - BELVILLE

2. DUTIES :

Duty Unit : 2/1 Aust Inf Bn Details
Next for Duty : 2/2 Aust Inf Bn Details

Duty Officer : Lieut G.B. GIDLEY-KING
Next for Duty : Lieut A.J. SIMPSON

Lt Grover Lieut
Adjt 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

.....

Sitrep No. 155 to 1600 hrs 13 Nov 42 from 7 Aust Div

Elements 25 Bde have now surrounded enemy pocket just west of
ILIMA assault being made from first light : remainder of Bde now
pressing east : Further reports state death casualties since 8
Nov enemy killed 5 Officers 500 C.R.'s by 25 Bde alone : Jap PW
states their casualties amount to half strength of unit :

TGO 1640
THI 1638
TOH 0945/14

hours Duval

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

Date 14 Nov 42

Sitrep No. 156 to 0700 hrs from HQ 7 Aust Div

25 Bde have cleared crossing KUMUSI : some Japs contacted WAIROPE BRIDGE area dispersed with casualties and fled north : Captured RABAUL boys state Jap crossed river during night 12/13 Nov using rubber boats : Troops later being ferried away in lorries to Buna to be taken away in big boats : boys state many Japs wounded : approx 300 RABAUL boys captured today : CHAFORCE moving WAIROPE area to come under comd 25 Bde 14 Nov : temporary loading bridge vicinity WAIROPE expected to be completed tonight : adv continues ~~kanixk~~ 14 Nov : Objectives 25 Bde AWALA 16 Bde East bank KUMUSI vicinity WAIROPE : Adv HQ 7 Aust Div opens 1500 hrs 14 Nov track junction approximately 1000 yds NE WAIROPE BRIDGE : preliminary interrogation PW number 5 TSUMA KEISHAN Superior Pte : Unit KUSUNOSE Regt (144 Regt) HORII BN (2 Bn) : member bn gun pl : 2 guns in pl : PW arrived BUNA beginning August from RABAUL : rice only ration PW had 5 days ration when captured : plenty rice still available : Japs using obscure jungle tracks : mainland tracks avoided : PW thinks Japs will return to BUNA : PW knows of no bridge under construction KUMUSI river : PW captured south of GORARI by 25 Bde 10 Nov : All informed

See.

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

--	--	--

Address 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

Date 15 Nov 42

Sitrep No. 153 to 0700 hrs 15 Nov from 7 Aust Div

MAROUDEA : Owing to lack of br facilities impossible to cross KUMUSI RIVER in strength before pm 15 Nov : river varies from 200 to 400' minimal current 6 knots : no br standing no ford located to date : 3 bosun chairs 2 wire suspension hrs for foot traffic were completed last night 14 NOV : 25 Bde 16 Bde now concentrated vicinity old WAIROPE BR : 25 Bde have small elements across river on East bank and expect one Bn complete there by 0800 : Adv HQ 7 Aust Div opened 1200 hrs location 500 yds north old WAIROPE BR on west bank

KUMUSI : MILNEFORCE : MISINA native report in past have ~~seen~~ heard engines and seen boat lights vicinity LACIRA and HUGOYA (MISINA) : possible subs recharging in sheltered harbours or waters : ref sitrep No. 157 : Later figures enemy casualties 2 Bn and 3 Bn 144 Regt to 2 Nov total losses killed wounded sick missing 1185 all ranks remaining effective 356 : KALGA FORCE

landing barge approached SALAUMAU from SW landed 0800 hrs : ADM OPS : BUNA

MAMBARE area : large sea going canoe loaded bales strafed and sunk near mouth KUMUSI : Other bales piled on sandbags nearby and two canoes similarly loaded approx 5 miles upstream also strafed : nine sea going canoes evenly dispersed observed on CONA beach : Nil sightings KUMUSI RIVER incl

EVADA : SOLOMONS AREA : shipping concentration BUN FAISI dispersed morning 14 Nov : enemy convoy consisting of 2 A/C carriers at least 10 tops 13 U/I vessels reported moving direction GUARDAGANAL KAVIEN : 18 A/C sighted on drone : convoy 4 vessels moving east :

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Sitrep No. 160 to 0700 hrs 16 Nov 42 from 7 Aust Div

MAROTUBA : no further report :
52 US DIV : to 1800 L/15 : no enemy contact : 128 Regt main body ORO HAY
MUDOGUMBI area : patrols CAPE SUDESI area NOREPOT : 126
Regt less two coys BOFU HATUNGA area two coys in with Div
HQ PONGANI : W Patrol NOREPOT
KANGA : to 0800 L/15 : LAE OP reports schooner returned LAE night
14/15 Nov but preparing to depart again : work on blast
day continuing :
AIR OPS : KAIROPE BUNA AREA : SOPUT A/A Posts heavily bombed and strafed
by B27's BEAUFIGHTERS with unobserved results : two barges
previously sunk off GONA now disappeared 2 loaded canoes
moving north GONA : objects probably supply dropping parachute
observed ground SANGARA and fires vicinity mission : SANGARA
area strafed : no movement seen track SANGARA KAIROPE :
BUN PAISI AREA : 42 vessels observed incl at least four heavy
cruisers nine destroyers :

TOC 0830
THI 0855
TOR 1530

Bdu

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details
16 Nov 42

ALL UNITS

1. PASSWORD

From 0001 hrs to 2400 hrs 16 Nov 42 - LUCILLE
From 0001 hrs to 2400 hrs 17 Nov 42 - BALLOON

2. DUTIES

Duty Unit - Mounting 1900 hrs 16 Nov 42 - 2/3 Aust Inf Bn
Next for Duty - Bde Tpt Details (Details)

Orderly Officer - Lieut L.W. GROVER
Next for Duty - Lieut F.J. DUVAL

L. W. Grover Lieut
Adjt 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

.....
Sitrep No.159 to 1600 hrs 16 Nov 42 from 7 Aust Div

MAROUBRA : No further report

KANGA : LAE OP reports feverish activity constructing three blast
bays north end LAE aerodrome : fwd patrols on Recce MUBO :

AIR OPS : Result 11 B17 strike RABAU 0400L/15 : 78 x 500 lb bombs
dropped : 12 incendiary bomb clusters also dropped :
1 direct hit u/i vessel : many fires started and 8 separate
heavy explosions heard : one B17 crashed landed BATUMATA
140 miles east of MORESBY near ABAU :

2/28

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

SITREP 294 to 1000 hrs 23 Nov 42. FROM : 7 AUST DIV.

MILNE FORCE : At 1945 L/22 submarine sighted at point S of ??????? and travelling WEST (.) 32 U S Div to 1000 L/22 - 1 Bn 128 Regt 1 Bn 126 Regt pushed fwd against enemy resisting strongly with many well prepared M G posns and snipers in trees (.) Both Bns reached and secured CAPE DIDAIADERE (?) 3 Bn less one coy 128 Regt also attacked but failed to make progress and took up defensive posn S E of CAPE DIDAIADERE (.) 6 Indep Coy advanced along new strip against strong M G and sniped posns (.) 1 Coy 3 Bn 128 Regt held posn astride road S W end NEW STRIP (.) 2 Bn 128 Regt astride road GERUA ~~xxx~~ BUNA 1500 yds S of BUNA - held up by M G and mortar fire 1 Coy moving round through close swampy country to outflank their opposition (.) 2 Bn 126 Regt moving to support crossed GERUA R and bivouaced R bank of GERUA (.) A Coy 114 Engineers moved GERUA to assist at crossing (.) enemy planes bombed area slight damage to 25 pdr (.) DOBODURA strip now ready for use (.) 2 Secs 25 Pdrs landed by air with tps 23 Nov (.) 7 AUST DIV (.) landing barges approached GONA beach night 22/23 (.) 0100 L/23 one enemy barge moved out from shore (.) second barge still in shore and third barge out to sea (.) Only one figure seen to disembark (.) Squall weather prevented attack by our air craft (.) KANGA FORCE (.) no report (.) AIR OPS (.) 2 possible destroyers in VITJAE STRAITS attacked L 1815L/22 no damage observed (.) all informed.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Sitrep No. 296 to 1000 L/24 from 7 Aust Div A.I.F.

MILNE FORCE : SITNOR

32 U.S. DIV : NO REPORT

7 AUST DIV TO 1900 L/23 : 16 BDE : ENEMY COUNTER ATTACK OF FWD RIGHT FLANK REPULSED WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES TO ENEMY : PATROL 160 STRONG MOVED WIDE OF LEFT FLANK TO CUT MAIN TRACK 1 MILE NORTH TRACK JUNC REF MAP BUNA ONE INCH 207252 : 3 BN 126 U.S. REGT PASSED THROUGH 16 BDE AND MADE ENVELOPING MOVEMENT ON RIGHT AND LEFT FLANKS : RIGHT ARM HAS CONTACTED AND FORCED BACK ENEMY ON RIGHT OF 16 BDE : LEFT ARM MOVING EAST TOWARDS ARRAK JUNCTION :

25 Bde : ATTACK GONA AREA MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT 23 NOV : HEAVY CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES : 3 BN AMP FORWARD SOPUTA MOVING TO GONA AREA : SE 2/1 FIELD REGIMENT IN POSITION NORTH OF SOPUTA AND RANGING SANANANDA AREA 1900 L/23 : TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT LANDED POPONDETTA STRIP THROUGHOUT 23 NOV : KANGA FORCE : 0800 L/24 14 FIGHTERS PARKED LAE DROME : 3 FIGHTERS PATROLLING OVER DROME : 3 ENEMY PINNACES APPROACHING LAE :

AIR OPS : BUNA AREA 24 NOV : BETWEEN 0720 and 0810 HRS BEACH AREA BUNA-CAPE KILLERTON- SANANANDA BOMBED AND STRAFFED BY 10 A20's 9 BEAUFIGHTERS 12 P40's 3 WIRRAWAYS AND 13 B17's : NMS SEEN EXCEPT FEW JAPS ALONG BEACH VICINITY SANANANDA : A/A REPORTED FROM BUNA STRIP AND END OF SANANANDA STRIP AND GONA WRECK : AIR ATTACKS CONTINUING : ALL INFORMED

DISTRIBUTION

Bde Tpt Details

2/1 Aust Inf Bn Rear Details

2/2 Aust Inf Bn Rear Details

2/3 Aust Inf Bn Rear Details

Notice Board.

MESSAGE FORM

TO : 14 AUST INF BDE 16 AUST INF BDE REAR 21 AUST INF BDE 25 AUST INF BDE REAR 30 AUST INF BDE 2/7 AUST CAV REGT 2/6 AUST CAV REGT RAA 6 AUST DIV RAE 6 AUST DIV SIGS 6 AUST DIV 7 Aust MG BN 16 AUST INF BDE REINFT GP AQ

FROM : 6 AUST DIV

1

23

SITREP NO 105 to 2400L/22 (.) MILNE FORCE to 0930L/22 (.) SITNOR (.) 32 US DIV to 0400L/22 (.) strip area (.) at 2026L/21 det 2/10 bn crossed SINEMI CK at 294247 (ref map BUNA loc 4 ins) (.) other disposns no change (.) govt sta area (.) K and I coys 3 bn 127 regt have established bridgeheads east of ENTRANCE CK between 263264 and 263259 (.) K coy has approx 50 men across 1 coy two pla (.) remainder 3 bn in posn west of CK (.) three enemy bombers flew over BUNA heading south 1535L/21 (.) no report bombs or sups dropped (.) 2400L/21 enemy a/c dropped 1 bomb 1000 yds from bty arty near ANGO 247190 (.) 7 AUST DIV to 0800L/22 (.) 30 bde (.) jap mtn gun firing intermittently from 0525L (.) slight activity reported in jap fwd locs (.) document captured AMBOGA R area positively identifies 170 inf rpt inf regt as the only regt of 21 ind mxd bde (.) bde under comd maj gen YAMAGATA (.) KANGA FORCE to 0800L/(.) nothing to report (.) AIR OPS (.) enemy loc west bank mouth AMBOGA R bombed and strafed with unobserved results (.) MAIMBA mission buildings bombed 1430L with unobserved results (.) possible 30 foot boat concealed in cove ROBINSON BAY south CAPE WARD HUNT (.) NEW BRITAIN (.) 1000 ton cargo ship bombed at ARAWA 0910L (.) near miss lifted stern and strafing caused fire (.) RABAU (.) 1035L recce a/c observed 71 vessels and smaller craft in harbour (.) CAPE GLOUCESTER (.) coast watcher reports enemy have landed and fifty observed in occupation of landing ground (.) total strength NOT known all informed NGF I 2000L/22

If liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands this message must be sent in CIPHER

Originators Instns Degree of Priority

TOO 0930

THI

TCR

Immediate

A. Reganlan Capt.

H. Q. 16 AUST. INF. BDE. RECEIVED. Date 7.1.44 Hrs 1400 No 166

(113)
[Handwritten signatures and scribbles]

TO

MESSAGE FORM

14 AUST INF BDE 16 AUST INF BDE REAR 21 AUST INF BDE 25 AUST INF BDE REAR
30 AUST INF BDE 2/7 AUST CAV REGT 2/6 AUST ARMD REGT RAA 6 AUST DIV RAE 6
AUS DIV SIGS 6 AUST DIV ~~XXX~~ 7 AUST MG BN 16 AUST INF BDE REINFT GP AQ

FROM 6 AUST DIV 2 24

SITREP NO 106 to 2400L/23 (.) MILNE FORCE (.) no report (.) 32 US DIV (.) nothing further to report (.) 18 inf bde 2020L/23 (.) 2/10 bn adv westward along main strip throughout day (.) by 1730L/22 had reached 1000 yds along strip with right flank on Ck at 286253 and foremost elements on line running north and south (.) 1 bn 126 regt protected left flank during adv and are now facing south and continuing carry out this role (.) 1 bn 128 regt and one coy 2/10 bn in res west of SINEMI CK crossing (.) AA gun NW end main strip knocked out by arty fire (.) 7 AUST DIV to 1830 (.) fwd elements 2/7 cav reinforced by one sqn have established contact with rd block garrison (.) two standing patrols now located between rd block and fwd elements 2/7 cav (.) slight enemy activity reported west of track (.) all units continued offensive patrolling throughout day (.) tac/R reports 1 by AA gun stern GONA wreck probably 3 ins (.) KUMUSI AREA ref BUNA 4 ml strat (.) native reports indicate small det have landed from small craft by night between KURENADA and DANAWATU QD 0936 (.) some enemy reported seen at FUFUDA QD 0639 and SENANI QD 0335 strength NOT stated (.) MAMBARE area (.) patrol reports JAPS building shelters north bank DUVIRA Ck near its junct with MAMBARE R where two launches still hidden by day (.) recce a/c failed locate this hideout due overhanging foliage (.) KANGA FORCE (.) nothing further to report (.) AIR OPS BUNA AREA (.) 1050L beaufighters strafed enemy posns southern MANGROVE IS SURIRAI PT and GIRUWA (.) 2 serviceable barges with oil ~~xxx~~ drums sighted just west SANANANDA PT (.) 1500 ton vessel sighted beach near ARAWE (.) 1145L med bombers attacked scoring 10 near misses (.) vessel spun through angle 45 degrees consid destroyed (.) CAPE GLOUCESTER (.) runway appears unserviceable numerous tents or canvas covered dumps nearby (.) MG fire encountered (.) KAVIENG (.) 6 vessels observed in harbour 1000L (.) 6 ZEKES attempted interception 2 destroyed 2 possibly (.) NGF I 2000L/23)

If liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands this message must be sent *in cipher* IN CIPHER

Originators TOO 1000
Instns
Degree of THI
Priority TOR
IMMEDIATE

H. Q. 16 AUST. INF. BDE.
RECEIVED.
Date 25/12 42 Hrs 12.21
No E3544

MESSAGE FORM

TO: 14 AUST INF BDE REAR 21 AUST INF BDE 16 AUST INF BDE 25 AUST INF BDE
 REAR 30 AUST INF BDE REAR 2/7 AUST CAV REGT 2/6 AUST ARMD REGT RAA 6 AUST
 DIV RAE 6 AUST DIV SIGS 6 AUST DIV 7 AUST MG BN 16 BDE REINFT GP AQ

FROM: 6 AUST DIV 1 25

SITREP 107 to 2400L/24 (.) MILNE FORCE to ~~XX~~ 1200L/24 (.) sitnor (.) 32 US DIV
 to 1440L/24 (.) strip area (.) ^{flank} ref map BUN A locality 4 inch (.) 2/10 bn with
 1 bn 126 regt protecting left advanced NW along old strip gaining 400 yds to
 204252 (.) right flank secure on ck (.) tanks out of action two burned one hit
 by AA gun one bogged under fire expect recover later (.) strong enemy resistance
 from west end old strip (.) chopping heard 0330L/24 in sea mouth of SINEMI and
 GIROPA PT (.) arty engaged and chopping ceased (.) at 2130L/24 six bombs dropped
 7 mls west of EMBOGA 0050L/24 bombs dropped HARIKO area (.) NO damage
 BUNA GOVT STA area (.) 127 regt supported by arty advanced from SW govt gardens
 to NE of gardens between incl track 266261 and ENTRANCE CK at 263264 (.) enemy
 posts GARDEN area being mopped up (.) 1015L indications US tps in coconut
 plantation vicinity track junc 269264 (.) 7 AUST DIV to 0800L/24 (.) six
 barges proceeding from GONA wreck engaged by a tk rifle and MG fire NIL results
 observed (.) barges put out to sea (.) u/i a/c over posns 2200 to 2245L/23 and
 0015 to 0045L/24 (.) two bombs dropped NO damage or cas (.) evacuation of 16
 aust inf bde to MORESBY completed (.) KANGA FORCE to 0800L/24 (.) abnormal
 truck activity on LAE drome (.) objective not observed (.) AIR OPS (.) BUNA
 area (.) 0835L/24 sighted five camouflaged canoes OPI seven large outrigger
 canoes on beach UINENA (.) NIL activity seen (.) three seaweed fires on beach
 one mile north NASSAU BAY (.) five canoes with 3/4 japs each strafed LOKAUA
 0917L and activity among trees KELKEL also strafed (.) ARAWA (.) at 0900L
 strike force unable locate ship previously bombed (.) LAE (.) drome bombed
 0600L 0620L and 1100L (.) bombs near JACOBSENS and astride runway (.) slight by
 AA (.) LORENGAU (.) drome appeared u/s (.) 50 ft schooner strafed in harbour
 at 0930L all informed NGF I 2000L/24

H. Q. 16 AUST. INF. BDE. RECEIVED. Date <u>25.12.42</u> Hrs <u>1530</u> No <u>111-844</u>
--

If liable to interception ~~or~~
 to fall into enemy hands this
 message must be sent in CIPHER

Originators Instns
 Degree of Priority

T00 0730
 THI
 TOR

Immediate

As per [unclear] Capt

MESSAGE FORM

TO : 14 AUST INF BDE 16 AUST INF BDE REAR 21 AUST INF BDE 25 AUST INF BDE
 REAR 30 AUST INF BDE REAR 2/7 AUST CAV REGT 2/6 AUST ARMD REGT RAA 6 AUST D
 RAE 6 AUST DIV SIGS 6 AUST DIV 7 AUST MG BN 16 AUST INF BDE REINFT GP AQ

FROM : 6 AUST DIV

1

26

SITREP NO 108 to 2400/25 (.) MILNE FORCE to 1300/25 (.) situation normal (.)
 32 US DIV to 1515L/25 (.) ref BUNA 4 ins (.) strip area nil report (.) govt sta
 area to 1515L/25 (.) 1125L/25 F and G coy 2 bn 127 regt attacked through govt
 gardens without barrage but with diversional activity by our tps on left flank
 (.) G coy unable make progress (.) F coy pushed through to coast and is to
 establish line facing SE along GARDENS tr connecting with G coy (.) A coy 1 bn
 127 regt to move to beach and establish line facing govt sta (.) 7 AUST DIV to
 1440L/25 (.) targets successfully engaged by our arty otherwise no change (.)
 u/i a/c spasmodically overhead 2200L/24 to 0400L/25 bombs dropped but not
 located (.) SANANANDA area (.) patrol reports area east of rd block 185261 to
 189261 to 196264 to 204266 to 203272 too swampy and difficult for movt large
 bodies of tps or def posns (.) KUMUSI - MAMBARE area (.) patrol reports 20/30
 hungry enemy tps remaining DUVIRA CK area with 16 ft launch and mission punt
 indications preparing evacuation (.) NO japs MAIMBA mission or MANU (.) tac/R
 reports (.) BAKUMBARI appears occupied several tents in area (.) 4 camfgd huts
 at GUGUMI PT (.) 2 large ships boats observed in vic (.) third boat near KUMUSI
 mouth (.) KANGA FORCE to 0930L/25 (.) trucks still active LAE drome appearing
 from north end where amn dump may be located (.) 154 RABAUL boys escaped
 SALAMAUA now under our control (.) AIR OPS (.) suspected enemy localities west
 of AMBOGA mouth strafed (.) LAE attacked 1437L/25 bombs fell near JASOBSENS
 (.) all informed NGF I 2000L/25

If liable to interception or to
 fall into enemy hands this message
 must be sent in **CEPHER**

Originators Instns
 Degree of Priority

TOO 0930

THI

TOR

M. Kear
Quirk Major
1/2 Officer

H. Q. 16 AUST. INF. BDE.
 RECEIVED.
 Date 27.12.44 LHS 1100.
 No 64 *off*

MESSAGE FORM

TO: 14 AUST INF BDE 16 AUST INF BDE REAR DETAILS 21 AUST INF BDE 25 AUST INF BDE REAR 30 AUST INF BDE REAR 2/7 AUST CAV REGT 2/6 AUST ARMED REGT 7 AUST MG BN RAA 6 AUST DIV RAE 6 AUST DIV SIGS 6 AUST DIV 16 AUST INF BDE REINFT GP AQ

FROM: 6 AUST DIV

1

27

SITREP 109 to 2400L/26 (.) 11 AUST DIV to 1300L/26 (.) sitnor (.) 32 US DIV to 1250L/26 (.) ref map BUNA 4 in (.) strip area to 1250L/26 fwd movement resumed 0700 hrs (.) right flank no change (.) progress made along timber edge south of old strip (.) present vicinity 28 grid line (.) one enemy post 285248 captured (.) mortars fired smoke across NW corner strip near dispersal bays (.) GOVT STA are to 1250L/26 (.) 137 regt posns obscure (.) contact NOT mad with fwd det during night (.) posn remainder of force NOT known but arty reports indicate have withdrawn to west and SE edge of GOVT GARDENS (.) 7 AUST DIV to 1800L/26 (.) 21 bde (.) patrol activity continues (.) 30 bde (.) 36 bn launched successful attack from east with object driving wedge between jap posns east SOPUTA-SANANANDA RT track (.) 36 bn adv enabled US tps east of track to move fwd 150 (.) 55/53 bn also endeavouring push fwd (.) two barges reported floating off mouth of ck near SANANANDA PT 1720L/25 (.) MAMBARE-KUMUSI-AMBOGA area (.) punt previously sighted mouth AMBOGA R now gone (.) three camouflaged canoes on north bank OPI R (.) number of fallen trees appear to be camouflage for several barges at RED ROCK PT (.) KANGA FORCE (.) to 0800L/26 (.) ref target map LA/IB further truck activity LAE drome (.) suspected dump area 206874 extreme north end of drome (.) visiting a/c park area 218860 (.) AIR OPS (4) FINSCAFEN (.) bombs fell east side runway 1130L nil activity observed (.) NEW IRELAND (.) 8000 ton tpt sighted 30 miles south HANOVER IS and two large vessels KAVIENG harbour (.) NEW BRITAIN (.) CAPE GLOUCESTER runway bombed 1030L nil activity observed (.) convoy 1 cruiser 4 destroyers two cargo vessels reported moving north in ST GEORGS CHANNEL 1000L (.) three direct hits claimed on cargo vessel starting fire (.) 1130L convoy headed south in poor visibility (.) NEW I 2000L

If liable to interception
or to fall into enemy hands
this message must be sent
IN CIPHER

Originators
Instns
Degree of
Priority

TOO 1000
THI
TOE

IMMEDIATE

B. Q. 16 AUST. INF. BDE.
RECEIVED.
Date 28.14.44 Hrs 11.00.
No 27

Situation report 2 Nov 48

To 21 Bde, Rear details 16 Bde, Rear details 25 Bde, RAR, Sigs,
HQ Comd AASC, Ord, 7 Aust. Div, Reception Camp, Comd Base Area,
copies to A Q, Medical, Battle Board.

From 7 Aust Div

0574

1

Sitrep No 130 to 0700 hrs (.) 16 Bde (.) HQ 16 Bde opened AMBARI
village 1345 L/31 (.) 2/1 bn located AMBARI (.) adv elements 2/2
working fwd to MISIA (.) no contact (.) track shows no sign recent
use (.) 2/3 bn following 2/2 bn (.) coy 2/2 bn which moved night
of 30/10 passed enemy dug posn and recovered Bren in good
condition (.) Adv HQ 7 Aust Div opened AIOLA 1700 L/31 (.) 25 Bde no
report (.) MIA area (.) info states CHORAVA natives endeavoured to
spec. friendly natives guiding our recon patrol (.) natives report
Japs in lower DOBORA (.) LAC reports 13 Jeros landed approx
1445 L/31 and were parked in blast daze (.) inclement weather prevented
strike force reaching target afternoon 31 Oct.

TOO 0530

From 7 Aust Div

0537

1

Sitrep No 131 to 1600 hrs (.) 16 Bde (.) on right flank 2/2 bn
entered MISIA early this morning without having made contact with
enemy (.) fwd elements pushing fwd PAILE (.) 25 Bde (.) on left flank
fwd elements were 2 1/2 hrs fwd of ISRAVA moving to MISIA at 1300
L/31 (.) no contact on either flank (.) adv being continued with all
vigour first light 1 Nov (.) 3 bn arrived AIOLA 2000 L/31 and passed
to comd 25 Bde (.) CHORAVE (.) CHORAVE moving AIOLA area on
completion present task of moving casualties from MRS NYOLA 1 to
NYOLA 2 (.) AIR OPS (.) 1 B17 recon REBAIL (.) 11 JERES (.)
intercepted 2 of which shot down (.) 2 definitely hit with A/F
bullets and pieces seen falling off engines (.) one hit with
incendiaries and motor seen smoking badly (.) no damage to B17 (.)
MORSEY AREA (.) raid 39 by possibly three enemy bombers 0645 L/1 (.)
bombs reported falling in harbour and 7 mile drone (.) no report
casualties or damage (.) LAC (.) 16 P40's attacked LAC drone (.)
16 JERS reported on drone 31 Oct air borne (.) 2 shot down 2 probably
shot down (.) one P40 missing

TOO 1629

Bde.

MESSAGE FORM

**CALI
AND
INSTRUC-
TIONS.**

IN

OUT

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO **16 Aust Inf Bde Rear details**

FROM **7 Aust Div**

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

(Write horizontally)

Sitrep No. 304 to 1000 L/28 - Ref map BUNA 12 to 1 mile - MILNE FORCE -
Japs captured at AHIONA by natives 27 Nov - 32 US DIV - no further report
7 AUST DIV to 2000 L/27 - 16 Bde at 1700 L/26 fighting patrol on left of
SOPUTA SANAWANDA track 206256 contacted enemy and inflicted casualties and
captured 20 small natives BABAUL - few Japs seen wearing new uniforms - some
amount of enemy shelling thought to be 75mm to right of posn - 3 Bn 126 US
coy on right flank was counter attacked morning 27 Nov - attack repulsed
with assistance of 25 pr tp - 21 Bde expected complete air move today - 25
Bde patrols active - 10 Jap planes bombed and strafed DIV HQS MDS and US M
1630 L/27 some casualties - all trees both ends of POPONDETTA landing strip
now cleared on No.1 - No. 2 Strip work completed incl clearing of trees
0900 L/28
KANGA FORCE - nothing to report
AIR OPS - 4 A/C Squadrons under operational command 5 AF from 28 Nov -
at 2330 L/27 ground report warships off METRE ROCK bearing SE towards BUNA
later recon A/C could not locate - 0737 L/28 A/C reported to TAL 19
unidentified objects approx 100 miles East SALAUMAU - being investigated -
All informed

5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
105
110
115
120
125
130

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN**
BY ANY MEANS: (* (EXCEPT)) WIRELESS

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CYPHER**
IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL
INTO ENEMY HANDS.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNATURE
* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND
INSERT "INCLUDING."

SIGNATURE

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

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

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN
OUT

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

FROM 7 Aust Div

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

(Write horizontally)

Sitrep No. 306 to 1000 L/29 - MILNE FORCE - Sitnor - 32 US DIV - 1 Bn 128 US
 Regt relieved 3 Bn 128 Regt 28 Nov - our patrol active vicinity new strip
 located MG posn - raid to be carried out night 28/29 Nov with arty support to
 engage these and A/A posns North end of new strip - 1 Coy 2 Bn 128 Regt astride
 track 400 yds North of track junction 265267 ref BUNA map 1 inch - One coy
 movin up track through wire entanglements - believed some Japs trapped betwee
 these two coys - other units no change - arty concentration on BUNA missing
 28 Nov 42 - at 1815 L/28 one enemy bomber supported by fighters over DOBODURA
 and PARLOCK BRIDGE - 7 AUST DIV - Div HQ closes present location and opens
 vicinity DOBDURA 1600 L/29 - 16 Bde - on morning 29 Nov successful mortar shoot
 130 bombs carried out on enemy posns - out patrols active - 21 Bde - 2 Bns now
 in GONA area approx 1200 yds East GONA village astride GODA SANANANDA track
 with patrols on right and left flanks - Patrol brought in 120 RABAUL native
 boys am 28 Nov 42 - Det 2/16 Bn landed POPONDETTA am 28 Nov and moving GONA
 area 0630 L/29 - 25 Bde - Intense patrolling and sniping being carried out -
 patrol contacted small party Japs some without arms or equipment in KUNA patch
 1 mile south GONA killed 30 - enemy posns 800 yds EAST GONA not now occupied -
126 US REGT - Further dets D patrol 6 Ind Coy now joined 7 Aust Div - A patrol
 6 Ind Coy less detachment moving to SOPUTA from KOKODA - artillery shoot with
 air observation resulted 4 barges being sunk SANANANDA and several store houses
 struck - PIB patrol reports KUMUSI RIVER clear of enemy - native patrols killed
 95 of enemy between 19 and 28 Nov - KANGA FORCE - 2000 L/28 20 fighters landed
 LAE drome - AIROPS → BUNA - 1605 to 16 20 L/28 marauders attacked area old str.
 High fires started in plantation around strip - ground troops reported black
 smoke and smell of oil burning - medium A/A encountered - 1830 L/28 Pilot report
 ed transport 300 yds off shore pm 28 Nov heavy bombers attacked GONA wreck -

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS: ((EXCEPT)) WIRELESS

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER
IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL
INTO ENEMY HANDS.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNATURE
* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND
INSERT "INCLUDING."

SIGNATURE

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN
OUT

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

(Write horizontally)

scored 3 direct hits with 1000 lbs bombs - LAE - 1920 L/28 Beaufighters and
BOSTON bombers made low level attack - 5 enemy fighters in blast dens strafed
- bombs fell among 10 aircraft parked near strip - intense A/A from known
posn 0300 L/29 medium bombers attacked - no results observed - possible ship
sighted WEST side of SALAUMAU ITHSMUS - 0550 L/28 Beaufighters strafed LAE
aerodrome no results observed due bad weather - 0850 L/29 Beaufighters
strafed LAE aerodrome no results observed due bad weather - 0900 L/29
4 destroyers sighted 30 miles North CAPE GLOUCESTER course: 265 degrees
speed 25 knots - heavy bombers to strike - All informed -

5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
105
110
115
120
125
130

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN**
BY ANY MEANS: (* (EXCEPT)) WIRELESS

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CYPHER**
IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL
INTO ENEMY HANDS.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNATURE
* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND
INSERT "INCLUDING."

SIGNATURE

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN
OUT

No of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

FROM 7 Aust Div

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

(Write horizontally)

Sitrep 307 to 2000 hrs L/29 - MILNE FORCE 1200 L/29 - air raid No.9 0227 L
0345 by unknown no. of planes - 30 to 40 bombs dropped vicinity GURNEY'S FIELD
Nil damage or casualties - 32 US DIV - 0800 L/29 - no change - Jap MG's on
new strip engaged with mortar fire results not yet known - 2 Bn 128 Regt
and 2 Bn 126 Regt no change strong patrolling progress - WANIGELA - progress
Jetty 90 MM O/O Rd jetty to strip completed by 30 MM O/O - 7 AUSTR DIV ref
sitrep No.306 HQ 32 US Div moved DOBUDRA not HQ 7 Aust Div
0800 L/29 16 BDE - no change - 21 Bde - elements moved to posn near beach
approx 1000 yds past GONA met by opposition 400 yds south of coast night
28/29 Nov - remainder of Bde moved 0500 L/29 en route GONA area - 1545 L/29
2/14 Bn on beach at small creek 900 yds EAST GONA MISSION heading EAST -
2/27 Bn almost in GONA village met by opposition - 25 Bde - harrassing fire
on enemy posns and store dump continueing throughout the night - by 1300 hrs
L/29 secured footing SE corner GONA MISSION - strong opposition NORTH and WEST
3 Bn 126 Regt US - no change posns - arty recce plane over BURA A/A guns -
encountered little A/A fire - KANGA - nothing to report - ADV HQ NGF opened
POPONDETTA ref 082119 at 2000 L/29 - AIR OPS - GONA AREA heavily attacked by
our bombers 0930 to 1100 L/29 - target area well covered - fires started
little A/A encountered - 20/30 enemy observed seeking shelter off beachn
during attack - ref sitrep 306 4 enemy destroyers sighted at 0900 L/29
again sighted at 2200 L/29 again sighted 1130 L/29 40 miles WEST NORTH EAST
CAPE GLOUCESTER speed 19 knots - at 1330 L strike force reports one destroyer
left burning another standing by approx 70 miles EAST of MADANG - remaining
two vessels observed fleeing course 340 degrees - 1710 L four enemy destroyers
sighted approx 35 miles NW CAPE GLOUCESTER course 90 degrees speed 10 knots -
All informed

Distribution

Bde Tpt Details

- 2/1 Aust Inf Bn Details
- 2/2 Aust Inf Bn Details
- 2/3 Aust Inf Bn Details

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS: () WIRELESS

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER
IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL
INTO ENEMY HANDS.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNATURE
* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND
INSERT "INCLUDING."

SIGNATURE

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN
OUT

No of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO
16 Aust Inf Bde Rear Details

FROM
From Rear HQ 7 Aust Div

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

(Write horizontally)

Sitrep No. 308 to 30 Nov 42 - ref Map BUNA 1 inch - MILNE FORCE - Sitnor - 32 US DIV - to 1800 L/29 - enemy MG posn between two strips BUNA destroyed by Mortar fire - enemy attack to reoccupy dispersed with casualties - 3 Bn 128 US Regt moved to rear of 1 Bn 128 US Regt between NORTH end new strip and coast two coys 2 Bn 128 US Regt abreast on SOUTH edge grassy strip south of road between ENTRANCE CREEK AND BUNA CREEK - 2 Coys 126 Regt along BUNA CR 1 Coy 2 Bn 126 Regt astride road near bridge over ENTRANCE CREEK with coy at road junction 265267 - patrolling by fwd units - 1145 L/29 enemy bomber dropped 4 bombs PORLOCK HARBOUR from 15 feet no damage - 7 AUST DIV - to 1800 L/29 16 Bde and 126 US Regt - no change -
AIR OPS 29 Nov - GONA very effective - 21 Bde - 2/14 Bn established astride track in 175285 opposed by enemy to WEST in strong posns - 2/27 Bn held up 300 yds EAST of GON1 - both dug in for night - 2/16 Bn assembled area 165276 25 Bde - 3 Bn withdrawn from SE GONA village as underfire enemy and 2/27 Bn - air recce over BUNA - observed series reddish reddish blue very lights from CIRUNA in sets 3 with 1 minute interval from 0435 to 0450 L - MORESBY raid 91 0345 L/30 two unidentified planes dropped bombs from 1700 feet NE 7 mile strip - A/A engaged no casualties -
KANGA FORCE - 1800 L/29 - in view consistent bombing SALAUMAU Japs moved majority troops and material LABABIA ref map MOROBE IW 8189 - recent bombing SALAUMAU killed great number of natives working for Japs - landing craft launched formerly at SALAUMAU now moored LOKANU - navigation lights seen nightly between LOKANU AND LABABIA - Natives report that Japs have explored and are now maintaining all tracks SALAUMAU LOKANU LABABIA - 0900 L/30
11 fighters IAE drome -
AIR OPS - 1820/2020 L/29 heavy bombers attacked 4 heavy destroyers approx 20 miles from CAPE GLOUCESTER - one near miss apparently disabled vessel one hit one near miss GONA wreck 0430 L/30 - 1825 L/29 4 destroyers approx 15 miles North of CAPE GLOUCESTER - one vessel crippled 20 miles oil streak emitting black smoke and moving about 3 knots - 0230 L/30 3 destroyers course 75 degrees speed 30 knots 30 miles NW TALASEA -
ALL INFORMED

5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
105
110
115
120
125
130

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS: (* (EXCEPT)) WIRELESS

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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