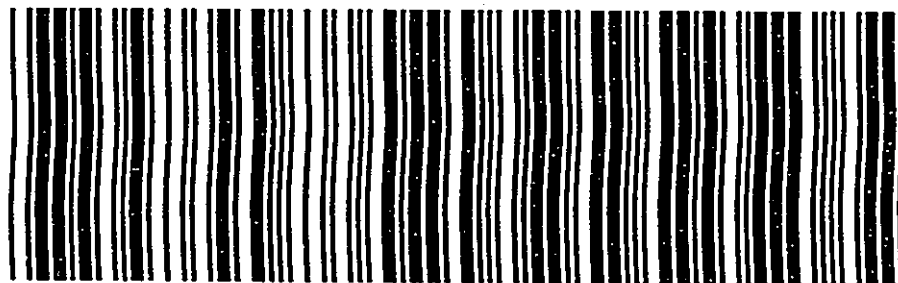


AWM52

Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters,
formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/5/45
FORCES
Drake Force

February 1943



1/5/45-0013

117^D

WAR DIARY.

ORIGINAL

16 MAR. 1943

UNIT: DRAGFORCE (B. Co. 25 AB)

DATE & TIME FROM: 2400 hrs. 1-2-43 TO 2400 hrs. 17-2-43.

PLACE	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS & INFORMATION	REMARKS & REFERENCES TO APPROPRIATE DIARIES ETC
GOODENOUGH IS.	1-2-43	0747	Capt. Fitzpatrick & Capt. Lewis left VIVIGANI in launch 'AERO' to RECC. MUD BAY.	
		1023	'HUDSON' over strip flying very low circled VIVIGANI.	
		1150	'LIGHTNING' flew very low & fast over entire length of strip.	
	2-2-43	1240	4 of 'BETTY' BOMBER over area flying at approx. 3000' circled from WATALUMA to VIVIGANI number of times & flew off in NORTHERLY direction.	
		1010	'MARGARET THWAITES' first sighted heading up channel in direction of VIVIGANI.	
		1215	'MARGARET THWAITES' arrived VIVIGANI with 47 th Bn. personnel & stores.	

W. A. [Signature]
Capt

WAR DIARY.

3

UNIT _____ DATE & TIME FROM: _____ TO _____

PLACE	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS & INFORMATION	REMARKS & REFERENCES TO APPROVED DIARIES ETC
GOODENOUGH IS.	3.2.43	0600	'MARGARET THWRITES' left VIVIGANI.	
		0320	H7 th Bn. troops left VIVIGANI by foot for NATALUMA.	
		0845	1/2 area area. Same plane seems to have been flying over area since first sighted & at 1000 was still present although leaving shortly afterwards.	
	4.2.43	1640	HUDSON' over area on recce.	
	5.2.43	1155	1/2 area area high alt. flying N to E.	
	6.2.43		'AERO' transhipped H7 th Bn. gear to NATALUMA.	
			'MELANESIA' passed VIVIGANI heading for NATALUMA. Grounded on reef approx one mile from destination.	

W. A. [Signature]
H. [Signature]
[Signature]

7

W. A. ~~Boyle~~
H. H. ~~Boyle~~

WAR DIARY

PLACE

DATE

TIME

DIARY OF VARIOUS INCIDENTS

APPROVED BY

GOODENOUGH IS. 10.2.43

AIRC' to base. KILID & TALLER BAY.

0350 1/2 over area from N direction returned in same direction.

DESIKOKI & two other boats arrived with stores.

13.2.43

AS 16 called VIVIGANI with mail & left same day with outward mail.

15.2.43

Due to next weather work held up for day.

"LEPRENA" arrived VIVIGANI bringing back personnel previously evacuated for MEDICAL treatment to MILNE BAY. Also carrying mail, Life Band mail, stores, rations etc.

W. H. Cox
S. J. Smith
1943

WAR DIARY

UNIT

DATE & TIME FROM:-

To

[illegible]

Pls. W. H. Book 9
1 SIC.

WAR DAILY.

SECRET.

COPY NO.

14

18 Feb. 43.

BRACE FORCE AND INTERMEDIATE INSTRUCTION.

STAND TO.

As the force on the strip area has been considerably reduced, stand to will cease as from today. Guards will be maintained in all localities including those occupied by attached troops from 2000 hrs until 0600 hrs.

O.P.s. at WHEATFIELD and WAGTU POINT will still be manned.

AIR POLICY.

As from today Air Policy will be active.

NATIVE LABOUR.

Natives under the direct control of members of this force will be the direct responsibility of the O.C. in each area where they are stationed. Instructions laid down by A.N.G.A.U. on the 2th Feb. a copy of which is attached, will be strictly adhered to. No trading with natives is allowed other than that which is done through Coy H.Q. by A.N.G.A.U. Pit trenches will be dug for natives in all localities.

WATER.

Until such time as testing apparatus is available all water for drinking purposes with the exception of that at Sivagani W.P. will be chlorinated. A supply of tablets will be sent with rations.

SHOOTING PRACTICES.

A supply of practice ammunition will be sent to all localities and all O.C.s. will be responsible to see that a fortnightly Range Practice is held. No indiscriminate shooting will be allowed. Safety precautions will be observed and all natives cleared from the area before practice commences.

MALARIA PRECAUTIONS.

Malaria precautions will be strictly observed in all localities.

SWIMMING.

As sharks abound these waters, guards will be placed at vantage points during all swimming parties.

REQUISITE.

H.Q. will visit all localities at least once every ten days until such time as more transport is available when the visits will be more frequent. A native runner will be sent to H.Q. if there are any urgent cases requiring immediate attention.

Personnel showing the following symptoms will be given malaria treatment until the H.Q. can see them. - Shivering, fever, headache, generalised aches and pains. Treatment consists of 2 tablets of quinine 3 times per day. Supplies of quinine and atabrin will be included in rations for this.

AMMUNITION RETURN.

An ammunition return will be rendered to reach this H.Qs. by Saturday of each week by O.Cs. of all localities.

RETURN OF T.S.M.Gs.

Owen Guns are now available and will be exchanged for T.S.M.Gs. at present held by this Coy. All T.S.M.Gs. and magazines and ammunition for same will be returned on receipt of an Owen Gun.

RESERVE RATIONS.

Fourteen days reserve rations will be maintained in all localities. These are to be turned over at least once a fortnight.

M.T.

All drivers will carry out Daily Maintenance only in the Vivigani Area. Four driver mechanics have been grouped to carry out 100 and 1000 mile maintenance and repairs. These personnel will inspect all vehicles twice weekly and will be responsible for daily inspection of Log Books. Driver McGahan will be in charge.

A mechanic will visit all other localities as often as possible to inspect and service vehicles. Drivers in these areas will carry out all routine maintenance.

The following information will be forwarded to this H.Q. not later than 20th Feb. 43.- This includes all vehicles.

Type of vehicle. Army No. Make. Makers Model, Serial No. of series
Year of manufacture.


Capt.
O.C. Drake Force.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy Nos. 1 to 7.	O.C. Localities.
Copy No. 8.	Coy H.Q.
" " 9.	2/17 Light Ack-ack.
" " 10.	Engineers.
" " 11.	5 Aust. Div.
" " 12.	7 Inf. Bde.
" " 13.	25 Aust. Inf. Bn.
" " 14.	War Diary.

A.H.G.A.U.
Probrionds District,
8th February, 1943.

O.C.
Drake Force.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERSONNEL IN CHARGE OF NATIVE LABOUR.

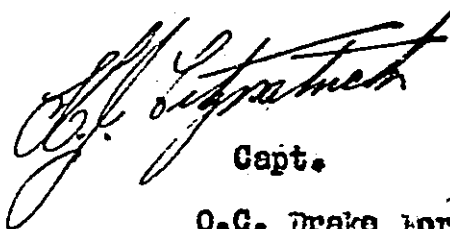
In view of the fact that in the near future many of your personnel will be in charge of lines of native labour for a length of time, the following suggestions may be of a help to them in controlling same with the minimum amount of friction.

1. Their sleeping quarters to be outer bounds to all other villagers, and a boundary made known to them inside which they must keep after the day's work, unless they have special reason to obtain permission for leave from their overseer (white).
2. Roll Call each morning, and any offenders to be fined one stick or tobacco for being absent.
3. Inspections should be made of their sleeping quarters, particular attention being paid to the grass around the "cook-house". It is a great habit of theirs to throw rubbish just out of sight. Also see that no cooked food is stored in their houses, and that all tins are washed by the cooks.
4. Medical attention to be attended to wherever possible. There are not very many cases of malingers among these natives, and any one complaining of fever should have his temperature taken. If possible, do not work labour through heavy rains, but if absolutely necessary, see that they wear leaves and keep their calicos dry, into which they should change as soon as possible. Pneumonia is to be guarded against at all costs, as it proves fatal in nearly 30% of the cases treated. Latrines should be erected, and inspected daily. Here again fine those who are seen to prefer the bush.
5. As many of these natives are from different villages it is very likely that they will consort with the native women. Any case of adultery will be reported to the Village Constable, and the offender will be sent to goal. Obviously this will impede the work in progress, and so all practical precautions should be taken to prevent this.
6. Whoever is in charge of the natives should win their respect. This needs tact, and any familiarity should not be indulged in. Questions about work or their living conditions are perfectly all right, but anything like holding hands or discussing women with them should be cut out. A native very quickly loses respect for a white that tries to live down to their level. Recently one such case was reported by the natives of a nearby island, and the offender was withdrawn and court-martialed.
7. With regard to casual labourers. This island is now recruited to its fullest, and any withdrawal of casual labourers for any time will interfere with the village life. If, however, there is an urgent job in hand that will not last more than two days, the Village Constable should be consulted, and "TAX BOYS" used to help. On no account should women or children take part. A list of the men used and the time taken should be forwarded to A.H.G.A.U. and they will arrange all payments.
8. No payments should be undertaken by the Military. Even cigarettes should not be handed round freely as this quickly spoils natives for barter. The rations that will be forwarded to you from time to time correspond to our Supplementary Rations, and are nothing to do with payment. They consist of :-
2 stick of Tobacco per week to each man.
2 packets " Biscuits " " " " "
1 lb. " Meat " " " " "
1 lb. " Sugar " " " " "
1 lb. " Soap " " " " "

9. Always appoint Boss-boys and give all orders through him. See that he does a fair share of work. These boys are all signed on for a minimum of 6 months, and there should be no necessity for them to miss work in order to visit relatives or their gardens. If they report that a relative is seriously ill and desire a day or two in which to visit them, enquire first how long the illness has lasted, and secondly try and have it verified from another source. Be quick to deal with any reports of discontent amongst the natives, and give them no excuse for nursing a grudge.

G. BASKETT,
For D.O. Trobriands.

This is to be strictly observed by all O.Cs. or Bets/ in all localities with natives under their control.



Capt.

O.C. Drake Force.

8th. FEB. 1943.O.C. DRAKEFORCE.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERSONNEL
IN CHARGE OF NATIVE LABOUR.

In view of the fact that in the near future many of your personnel will be in charge of lines of Native Labour for a length of time, the following suggestions may be of a help to them in controlling same with the minimum amount of friction.

1. Their sleeping quarters to be out of bounds to all other villagers, and a boundary made known to them inside which they must keep after the day's work, unless they have special reason to obtain permission for leave from their overseer (white).
2. Roll call each morning, and any offenders to be fined one stick of tobacco for being absent.
3. Inspections should be made of their sleeping quarters, particular attention being paid to the grass around the 'cook-house'. It is a great habit of theirs to throw rubbish just out of sight. Also see that no cooked food is stored in their houses, and that all tins are washed by the cooks.
4. Medical attention to be attended to wherever possible. There are not very many cases of malarial fever among these natives, and any one complaining of fever should have his temperature taken. If possible do not work labour through heavy rains, but if absolutely necessary, see that they wear leaves and keep their calicos dry, into which they should change as soon as possible. Pneumonia is to be guarded against at all costs, as it proves fatal in nearly 50% of the cases treated. Latrines should be erected, & inspected daily. Here again fine those who are seen to prefer the bush.

5. As many of these natives are from different villages it is very likely that they will consort with the native women. Any cases of adultery will be reported to the village constable, and the offender will be sent to goal. Obviously this will impede the work in progress and so all practical precautions should be taken to prevent this.

6. Whoever is in charge of the natives should win their respect. This needs tact, and any familiarity should not be indulged in. Questions about work or their living condition are perfectly alright, but anything like holding hands or discussing women with them should be cut out. A native very quickly loses respect for a white that tries to live down to their level. Recently one such case was reported by the natives of a nearby Island, and the offender was withdrawn & Court-martialed.

7. With regards to Casual labourers. This island is now recruited to its fullest, and any withdrawal of casual labourers for any time, will interfere with the village life. If however there is an urgent job in hand that will not last more than two days, the Village Constable should be consulted, and 'TAX-BOYS' used to help. On no account should women or children take part. A list of the men used & the time taken should be forwarded to ANGAU. and they will arrange ALL payments.

8. No payments should be undertaken by the Military. Even cigarettes should not be handed around freely as this quickly spoils natives for better. The rations that will be forwarded to you from time to time correspond to our Supplementary Rations & are nothing to do with payment. They consist of:-

2 sticks of tobacco per week to each man.				
2 packets of biscuits	"	"	"	"
1 lb. of meat	"	"	"	"
1 lb. of sugar	"	"	"	"
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of soap	"	"	"	"

9. Always appoint Boss-boys and give all orders through him. See that he does a fair share of work. These boys are all signed on for a minimum of six months, & there should be no necessity for them to miss work in order to visit relatives or their gardens. If they report that a relative is seriously ill & desire a day or two in which to visit them, enquire first how long the illness has lasted, and secondly try to have it verified from another source. Be quick to deal with any reports of discontent amongst natives, and give them no excuse for nursing a grudge.

G. BASKETT.

for D.O. TROBRIANDS.

This is to be strictly observed by all C.C.s of Dato. in all localities with natives under their Control.

H. Fitzpatrick
Capt.

O.C. DRAKE FORCE.

18 FEB. 43.

DRAKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE
INSTRUCTION.

STAND TO.

As the force on the STRIP area has been considerably reduced, stand to will cease as from today. Guards will be maintained in all localities including those occupied by attached troops from 2000 hrs until 0630 hrs.

O.P.s at WATALUMA + WATUTU PT. will still be manned.

AIR POLICY.

As from today AIR policy will be active.

NATIVE LABOUR.

Natives under the direct control of members of this force will be the direct responsibility of the O.C. in each area where they are stationed. Instructions laid down by A.N.G.A.U. on the 8 Feb. a copy of which is attached, will be adhered to. NO trading with natives is allowed other than that which is done through Coy. H.Q. or by A.N.G.A.U. SLIT trenches will be dug for natives in all localities.

WATER.

Until such time as testing apparatus is available all water for drinking purposes with the exception of that at VIVIGANI W.P. will be chlorinated. A supply of tablets will be sent with rations.

RANGE PRACTICES.

A supply of practice ammunition will be sent to all localities and all O.C.s will be responsible to see that a fortnightly Range practice is held. No indiscriminate shooting will be allowed. Safety precautions will be observed and all natives cleared from the area.

before practice commences.

MALARIA PRECAUTIONS.

MALARIA precautions will be strictly observed in all localities.

SWIMMING.

As sharks abound these waters guards will be placed at vantage points during all swimming parades.

MEDICAL.

M.O. will visit all localities at least once every 10 days until such time as more transport is available when the visits will be more frequent. A native runner will be sent to H.Q.s. if there are any urgent cases requiring immediate attention.

Personnel showing the following symptoms will be given malaria treatment until the M.C. can see them. Shivering, fever, headache, generalised aches & pains. Treatment consists of 2 tablets of quinine three times a day. Supplies of quinine and attabrin will be included in all rations for this.

AMMO. RETURN.

An Ammo. return will be rendered to each this H.Q.s. by Saturday of each week by O.C.s. of all localities.

RETURN OF T.S.M.G.s.

Queen guns are now available and will be exchanged for T.S.M.G.s. at present held by this Coy. All T.S.M.G.s, magazines & ammo. for same will be returned on receipt of Queen gun.

RESERVE RATIONS.

Fourteen days reserve rations will be maintained in all localities. These are to be turned over at least once a fortnight.

M.T.

All Drivers will carry out daily maintenance only in the VIVIGANI area. Four Drivers mechanics have been grouped to carry out 100 & 1000 mile maintenance and repair. Five personnel will inspect all vehicles twice

weekly & will be responsible for daily inspection of Log Books. Driver Trilokhan will be in charge.

A mechanic will visit all other localities as often as possible to inspect & service vehicles. Drivers in these areas will carry out all routine maintenance.

The following information will be forwarded to this H.Q. not later than 20th Feb. 43:— This includes all vehicles.

Type of vehicle. Army No. Make. Maker's Model, Serial No. or Series year of manufacture.

H. J. Sanyal
Capt

▼ DRAKEFORCE ADM. INSTN.

1. As from Day D-8 on - Feb. 43 the present role of this force will cease & the new role which will be explained eventually will commence.

2. SECURITY. It is absolutely essential if this scheme is to be successful that the whole scheme is kept secret. In this the following procedure is to be adopted:-

(A) Natives asking questions on or after D. Day will be informed that the area is occupied by thousands of Aust. troops.

(B) Any R.A.F., A.A.M.C, SIGS, CYPHER personnel and Infantry protective personnel for R.I.F. stations will be told NOTHING.

(C) The scheme will not be discussed in the presence of those mentioned in A & B.

(D) If at some future date this force is taken from this Island no mention is to be made of scheme either to Army personnel or Civilians.

(E) FINALLY Remember the three wise monkeys. The above is to be read to all concerned and Engrs. on Three (3) separate days the first being D-8 on - Feb. 43 & the affect on the War effort if this scheme is to leak out to be particularly stressed.

3. All information necessary for various plans is contained in attached sketch.

4. All parties will take 21 days Rations for DRAKE FORCE personnel & natives & attabins. Medical arrangements will be issued later but all parties will take sufficient Quinine & attention to treat urgent Malaria cases and a first aid kit. L.M.Gs, rifles, TSMGs and ammo. plus grenades will accompany all parties. Lieut. March & C.Q.M.S responsible for this.

5. On arrival of Engrs. & stores the time available before D-Day will be taken up with the following:-

(A) Stores to be prepared and placed in all Pl. & Sec. localities.

- (B) Stakes for wire cut & in sec. localities.
(C) Engurs. will prepare all stores ready for immediate erection.
(D) Tracks cut.
(E) Rations allotted and whites to each sub unit locality.
(F) Tools divided up for separate jobs.
6. Personnel and natives less Engurs. will remain in areas on completion of scheme & carry out
(A) Maintenance of posn. (B) Daily light fires in kitchens (C) On fine days hang clothing on line
(D) Grass cut on fields of fire & Bio. areas.
(E) Drive vehicles at least three times daily on all roads & tracks & during an AIR RAID. if bombs not falling in immediate vicinity
(F) Use initiative in adding effect to further confuse enemy.
7. Rations will be supplied weekly by launch
8. NOTHING is to be erected until D Day. D Day will be - Feb. 43.
9. Camouflage must be light, but ~~to~~ must NOT be made obvious as this would defeat object of scheme.

M. J. Fitzpatrick.
Capt.