

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

Item number: 8/2/17

17 Infantry Brigade

October 1942

GRETA, NSW. Bde HQ personnel spent a busy day packing up at Greta Camp.
 1 Oct 42 Uniforms consisting of K.D. slacks, shirts, and gaiters were returned dyed jungle green. Some freakish effects were seen as a result of uneven dyeing. The effect of tying garments in knots before dyeing gave the light and shadow result of perfect camouflage. The spraying of equipment was not so successful as the process had to be repeated at a later date.

Bde HQ was visited by Lt-col CHIH WANG, Chinese Military Liaison Officer.

Major Muir B.M. and Lieut Gordon L.O. left Bde HQ to travel to BRISBANE. The party arrived at BRISBANE at 0230 hrs and went to Adv LHQ.

GRETA, NSW. Bde Comd and B.I.O. left GRETA by way of the New England Highway and for BRISBANE. The night was spent at ARMIDALE where they arrived at 1700 hrs. A call was made at 5 AGH and the following morning they left for BRISBANE.

Packing up at Bde HQ was completed in preparation for an early morning move.

In BRISBANE B.M. perused arrangements made by B.D.L.O. for the reception of 17 Bde and the obtaining of tropical equipment and the balance of G1098 scale equipment. These arrangements were very comprehensive and thorough. At 0900 hrs B.M. attended D.C.G.S. conference where it was stated that 17 Bde were bound for MILNE BAY. At 2000 hrs B.M. attended a conference called by Brig S.D. where transport loading priorities were fixed. On the B.M.s suggestion it was agreed that the actual allotment of vehicles to units was not necessarily binding as transport would probably be pooled at MILNE BAY. Therefore it was agreed to transfer from the Army Fd Wk Shops two 15 cwt trucks to be shipped for the use of 46 LAD.

NSW and BRISBANE
 3 Oct 42 With Capt MAYBERRY B.M.(L) in charge of the party Bde HQ personnel marched to GRETA station where they entrained at 0520 hrs. The train party consisted of Bde HQ, HQ Coy and A Coy 2/5 Bn. The days train journey was most uneventful with stops being made for breakfast at GLOUCESTER, lunch at KEMPSEY, and tea at SOUTH GRAFTON. The camouflaged suits of the troops caused much comment amongst civilians at the various stops.

Bde Comd stayed at Lennox Hotel, BRISBANE, while B.M. visited Queensland L of C and Ascot Racecourse Camp where he allotted unit areas from the space available. Carrier personnel at YEERONGA were told off for guide and reception duties.

BRISBANE
 4 OCT 42 Bde HQ personnel arrived at BRISBANE at approx 0500 hrs. Trains were changed and they travelled out to Ascot Race Course, arriving in time for breakfast. During the day Bde Comd and B.M. arrived at Ascot and had a look at the new quarters.

BRISBANE
 5 Oct 42 Bde rear party arrived at Ascot from Greta and Bde Comd moved into quarters at Ascot Race Course Camp. A conference of Bde Offrs was held at 1100 hrs

BRISBANE
 6 Oct 42 All units of 17 Bde were now in unit lines at Ascot.
 In the afternoon a lecture was given to all Offrs by Lieut RAUGHTON G3 I, Land Ops, Brisbane. Captured Japanese equipment was on view at the lecture.

BRISBANE
 7 Oct 42 The usual morning conference was held at Bde HQ.

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BRISBANE
8 Oct 42

Another busy morning at Bde HQ packing up once more. Distribution of S.E. New Guinea maps was made to units, to be opened only after embarkation. In the afternoon Bde HQ personnel marched to the docks and embarked on S.S. "BOTH" at 1500 hrs. Capt CHAPMAN S.C. prepared to fly across to NEW GUINEA. S.S. "BOTH", a Dutch ship built in Amsterdam in 1931, appeared at first sight to be typical of the many small tramp vessels trading throughout the East Indies. Major HAY 2/8 Aust Fd Coy was to be O.C. troops, with Bde Offrs as follows, making the voyage --- Lieuts PAWSON, MacBRIDE, TOONE, EDGAR, and GORDON. Capt TUTT Sup O., and Capt SCOTT Sig O. also travelled. "K" Sec Sigs being quartered with Bde HQ. 46 LAD and Bde HQ transport personnel to follow in later sailings. S.S. "BOTH" pulled out from the quay at 2000 hrs and sailed out into the estuary where anchor was dropped while awaiting the mustering of the convoy. Approx 20 Offrs and 600 troops were taken aboard. One employment platoon and one labour coy came aboard late in the evening. They were embarked without warning and without tropical equipment. Bde Comd and B.M. remained behind to fly across later.

AT SEA
9 OCT 42

Morning found S.S. "BOTH" still lying in MORETON BAY. At approx 2100 hrs the anchor was raised and the ship sailed in convoy escorted by a corvette. The convoy consisted of three transports vessels plus escort. It was evident that the standard of meals would be high and the trip comfortable. S.S. "BOTH" was manned by Dutch Officers with an Australian "Union" crew. The crew were ill mannered and untidy and subsequently caused trouble on several occasions.

AT SEA
10 Oct 42

To-day, one N.C.O. and several O.R.s of the Labour Coy approached the O.C. troops and asked to be sworn in as A.I.F. The cargo aboard S.S. "BOTH" included several tons of amonol and petrol and strict instructions were issued regarding smoking. Prompt and heavy punishments for the first two or three offenders discouraged any disobedience of this order. An improvement in the standard of lifeboat drill also appears to have been accelerated by the knowledge of our dangerous cargo -- the A.I.F. educating the first voyage Militia.

AT SEA
11 Oct 42

Bde Comd and B.M. left BRISBANE and flew to TOWNSVILLE on the "BUNGANA". A call was made at ROCKHAMPTON on the way. While in TOWNSVILLE they stopped at the Seaview Hotel and had meals at HQ Townsville L of C Mess. It was very interesting and gratifying to see the large concentration of air force, particularly U.S. planes at TOWNSVILLE.

On board S.S. "BOTH" a voluntary church parade was held on the forward deck in the morning. The day was quite uneventful. A few sharks were seen following the ship. In contrast to the overcrowded conditions prevailing on larger ships by which Bde HQ had travelled in the past year, troops found that they had ample room to move around and that hammock space was not unduly cramped. Altogether it promised to be quite a comfortable voyage. The Militia voyagers accustomed to all the comforts of permanent camps were soon shaken down into their place by the more experienced A.I.F.

From the time of their arrival in BRISBANE until their departure by air, Bde Comd and B.M. attended daily conferences at Adv LHQ., and were engaged in finalising requirements for the destination of the Bde.

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AT SEA
12 Oct 42 This day the sea was calm and the weather remained sunny and perfect as we sailed North between the Great Barrier Reef and the mainland.

After dropping the B.M. at TOWNSVILLE, Bde Comd left by Qantas Imperial Airliner "CORIALANUS" and flew to CAIRNS. After lunch the flight was continued to PORT MORESBY arriving there at 1930 hrs. Comd called and saw the G.O.C. General BLAMEY, Comd N.G. Force, Gen HERRING and G.O.C. 6 Aust Div, Maj Gen VASEY. The night was spent at the Port Moresby Transit Camp. At Moresby Bde Comd caught up with S.C. who had flown across earlier.

AT SEA
13 Oct 42 After another good days sailing within sight of the mainland S.S. "BOTH" pulled into the inlet at TOWNSVILLE and dropped anchor at 2015 hrs. On censoring a large percentage of the mail, Bde I.O. was appalled by the lack of security sense amongst the troops and it was arranged with O.C. troops to have mail held for three weeks. Precautions were also taken to see that mail did not go ashore at TOWNSVILLE with any member of the crew.

Bde Comd flying by Qantas aircraft arrived at MILNE BAY at 1000 hrs. The flight was completely uneventful. Maj Gen CLOWES, Comd Milne Force arrived by plane later in the morning and an outline of future operations was given to Brig MOTEN. It appeared that until the ultimate role of Milne Force was decided, 17 Bde would probably be required to take over part of the defences. In the meantime they would be sited in camps fairly widely separated. Attached troops who had been with the Bde would revert to Force control.

At 2030 hrs an A.S.O. came aboard S.S. "BOTH" and informed that they were 14 hrs overdue. The vessel had been due to sail from TOWNSVILLE at 1800 hrs. The convoy was considerably delayed by the M.T. ship stoked by an Australian crew. The Philippino crew had gone on strike at BRISBANE.

AT SEA
14 Oct 42 S.S. "BOTH" sailed from TOWNSVILLE at 1130 hrs escorted by a destroyer and Catalina aircraft. The coastline was followed until dusk. During the afternoon, Lieut MacBRIDE, B.I.O. commenced outlining Bde HQ revised Standing Orders to a meeting of Bde N.C.C.s. O.C. troops informed B.I.O. that the Chief Officer was having trouble with the crew regarding fresh water. The posting of guards on water supply points was suggested and acted upon.

After waiting for air passage at TOWNSVILLE, B.M. left by flying boat for PORT MORESBY arriving at 1900 hrs when he called at HQ N.G. Force.

Bde Comd inspected the whole of the proposed camp site of 17 Bde at MILNE BAY with the S.C.

AT SEA
15 Oct 42 On board S.S. "BOTH" Lieut EDGAR gave the first of a series of lectures on C.W. in the morning. In the afternoon Lt Mac BRIDE continued his talk on Bde HQ. S.O.s. The convoy was now out of sight of land and heading N.E. to MILNE BAY.

Bde Comd continued his inspection of Bde camp site and B.M. arrived by air at MILNE BAY.

AT SEA
16 Oct 42 An uneventful day at sea as we passed through the waters of the Coral Sea. The weather hot and sultry.

Bde Comd inspected all 9 Aust Inf Bn dispositions in detail with Lt-col MATTHEWS C.O. and also part of 2/9 Aust Inf Bn area in view of the possibility of 17 Bde taking over the area at a later date.

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GILI GILI After sailing through a maze of thickly wooded islets entered MILNE BAY. MILNE BAY in mid afternoon. The trip up the bay was uneventful 17 Oct 42 and S.S. "BOTH" tied up between a sunken vessel and the pontoon wharf at GILI GILI. (map ref -- SAMARAI 4 miles to 1 inch L4246) The vessel had been sunk some time recently by naval action when Japanese warships pulled in to MILNE BAY and bombarded the GILI GILI area. Cargo salvage work was proceeding on the partly submerged vessel. Rain was falling heavily as the troops disembarked at 1730 hrs. The prospect on shore appeared cheerless as trucks ploughed through the mud of the makeshift jetty. Bde HQ site was reached at 1800 hrs and personnel settled down in tents for the night.

Maj Gen CLOWES indicated to Brig MOTEN that there was a possibility of 2/5 Bn being employed in an operation with the Navy for the capture of GOODENOUGH ISLAND which is supposed to be occupied by 300 - 400 Japanese. Lt-col STARR C.O. 2/5 Bn was informed of the project and he was instructed to commence jungle warfare training immediately. The idea being to bring the standard of training of re-inforcements into line with other troops of the Bn. The operation to be known as "OPERATION DRAKE"

GILI GILI Bde HQ was installed in a large rambling white house, officially MILNE BAY known as No.1 House, Adm Gp, and unofficially as "TARGET HOUSE", 18 Oct 42 the name coming from previous Japanese attempts to bombard the area. At 0145 hrs on our first night of occupation we were greeted by a signal which we had not heard since Easter Sunday 1942 in CEYLON -- "AIR RAID RED". The All Clear was given at 0200 hrs. Planes were heard over the area but as far as we could ascertain there were no incidents. Our A/A guns did not open up. Bde Staff Offrs had a busy day liaising with HQ Milne Force and adjacent Bdes. The dispositions of units in neighbouring areas were collected as a basis for Bde situation maps. On the Gili Gili 3" to 1 mile map, Bde HQ was located at 029009 and 2/5 Bn Hq at 965984. It was pleasing to see the great amount of air activity over the area. Operating from No.1 Strip AEROCOBRAS of the U.S. Air Corps kept up a ceaseless protective patrol while our ships were being unloaded at Gili Gili wharf. Intelligence reports received, showed that two Japanese, remnants of the force that attacked MILNE BAY, had been captured 2 - 3 miles from our HQ the previous day.

Regarding "OPERATION DRAKE" a conference was held on board H.M.S. "ORUNTA" with G.O.C. Milne Force, Maj Gen CLOWES, Brig MOTEN, Comd MORROW of the "ORUNTA", Lt-col STARR 2/5 Bn, Capt TEMPLETON, District Offr of GOODENOUGH ISLAND and Mr HENDERSON trader of GOODENOUGH ISLAND, G1 and AQ of Milne Force. The broad outline of the expedition was discussed. Major Muir B.M. spent the evening with Adjt 2/5 Bn preparing Staff tables for the expedition.

GILI GILI A further conference on "OPERATION DRAKE" was held at Milne Force HQ MILNE BAY with G1., Lt-col STARR, and the 1st Officer of H.M.S. "ORUNTA". 19 OCT 42 Further details of the expedition were discussed. It was arranged that Lt-col STARR Coy O.C.S would fly over GOODENOUGH ISLAND in the afternoon. Later in the day as a result of a wire received from New Guinea Force, "OP DRAKE" was cancelled as far as 17 Bde was concerned, although in the first instance the operation was to be carried out by direct instructions of N.G.FORCE. It appears that we are the only intact Bde which could be used as a Bde outside of New Guinea. 18 Bde were not complete, 7 Bde are Militia, 19 Bde are engaged at DARWIN, and all Bdes of 7 Aust Div, plus 16 Bde are heavily committed in the KOKODA area. It appears that 17 Bde will be next for a big operation.

The first of a regular series of morning conferences under the direction of the B.M. was held at Bde HQ Ops Centre with all Bde HQ Officers present. Matters discussed were, own and enemy troop disposns, comms, supplies and amenities.

Bunheads

GILI GILI Capt MacBRIDE arrived at Bde HQ and was attached temporarily as MILNE BAY Asst S.C. until the return of Lieut HUTCHISON who was attending 20 Oct 42 a school back in Australia.

46 LAD arrived to-day with the rear elements of Bde HQ.
2/6 Bn and 2/7 Bn had now arrived in the area and were located at map ref -- Milne Bay Provisional 2" to 1 mile, 2/6 Bn 036015, and 2/7 Bn 916981. Tp 3 Aust A/Tk Bty was placed under comd 2/5 Bn for Adm until notified otherwise.

On request from DAAG., B.M. instructed 2/5 Bn to have 160 men ready at 2300 hrs to assist Docks Op Coy in unloading ships.

GILI GILI Bde Comd called at 2/6 Bn and interviewed 7 Sgts and W.O.s who MILNE BAY had been recommended for commissions. They were the first group 21 Oct 42 of Sgts who would have the opportunity of obtaining commissions on a large scale, since the formation of 2/6 Bn. In the afternoon Bde Comd made a recce of 2/12 Bn area with Lt-col GUINN. 2/7 Bn would probably be required to take over 2/12 Bn area to-day.

Lieut STEWART 2/5 Bn arrived to take charge of the guard platoon which had been unofficially raised to take the place of the Aust HQ Gd Pl.

GILI GILI It was arranged with Maj GOBLE 2/5 Bn to conduct a jungle training MILNE BAY school for junior leaders. The students to learn all about jungle 22 Oct 42 plants, native foods, the skinning of bush pigs and other useful accomplishments. The condition of Japanese prisoners brought in recently after being at large in the jungle since the Milne Bay Ops showed that they were not at all experts in living off the country. 2/6 and 2/7 Bns commenced their jungle training to-day.

A lecture was given to Offrs and NCO s on the recent Ops in Milne Bay by Lt-col CUMMINGS 2/9 Bn. The lecture was rudely interrupted by an Air Raid Alert at 2130 hrs. A/A fire was opened. Several reports received later of bomb bursts were difficult to confirm. It is certain however that enemy planes were overhead. Craters from bombs which widely missed their marks would be almost impossible to locate in the dense jungle. Adjut 2/5 Bn rang to say that considerable small arms fire had been heard S.e.E of their location and the Bn was Standing To. 2/9 Bn could not confirm the report nor was their a report to this effect from any other unit. It was therefore assumed that the small arms had been fired by some persons unknown to signal the All Clear. The 2/5 Bn Stood Down at 0015 hrs. The Air Raid "ALL CLEAR" was sounded at 2232 hrs.

GILI GILI At the morning conference at Bde HQ, B.M. outlined the GOODENOUGH MILNE BAY ISLAND Operation now being carried out by 2/12 Aust Inf Bn. 23 Oct 42 During the conference Bde Comd announced that a signal he had received indicated that the GOODENOUGH show was going alright.

2/7 Bn moved to an area at 002012 ref map Milne Bay Provisional 2"

At 1100 hrs the following signal was sent to 2/5 Bn -- SECRET. WARNING ORDER. Rifle Coy 2/5 Bn will relieve coy 2/9 Bn on N.E. coast WEDAUA → TAUPOTA at an early date to be notified. Coy 2/5 Bn will take over amn, sups, tentage, sets W/T now with coy 2/9 Bn. Move overland. Instns follows. Ack

B.M and Staff worked late in the evening preparing 17 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No.4 which was issued for distribution by L.O.s at approx 0015 hrs. (See War Diary Copy attached as Appx)

Daily rains were setting in making the tracks around Bde HQ into a quagmire where the surface had been chopped up by heavy transport.

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GILI GILI Information was received that a Jap prisoner had been captured
MILNE BAY on the shores of MILNE BAY. After interrogation it was established that
24 Oct 42 that there were 19 others in the area. The prisoner brought in
weighed only 4 stone. It was decided to send out a platoon to
clean up these strays.

GILI GILI Air Raid Red was sounded at 1144 hrs and again at 2030 hrs.
MILNE BAY This was the fourth Alert in the past week. We hope that we
25 Oct 42 may not rival the record of Malta.

17 Pl "D" Coy 2/5 Bn with skeleton Coy HQ (O.C. Capt McGEOCH)
left for WEDAU on the north coast of the northern peninsula to
patrol the area between WEDAU and TAUPOTA.

A censorship instruction allowing personnel to mention in outward
correspondence that they were now in New Guinea., was followed by a
spate of letter writing by all hands.

GILI GILI To-day opened with the following interesting entries in the
MILNE BAY operations log --0430 hrs Air Raid Red, 0447 All Clear, 0448 Air
26 Oct 42 Raid Red (some activity), 0530 Air Raid Yellow, 0535 All Clear.
Apart from the passing of a few unidentified planes overhead the
Alerts were uneventful and had little more than a nuisance value.

Instructions were issued and preparations made for a platoon from
2/6 Bn (Comd Lieut ROSS) to go out by launch to AHIOMA, make
a landing there, and beat up the scrub for stray parties of Japs
that were known to be at large in that area. It was decided
to send a member of Bde HQ Int Sec with the party to keep a log
of events, make topographical notes, and assist in searching any
prisoners. B.M., B.M. (L), and I.O. completed arrangements at a late
hour and personally supervised the embarkation of the patrol at GILI
GILI wharf.

GILI GILI The 2/6 Bn AHIOMA patrol left GILI GILI on the yacht "PINNA".
MILNE BAY They were expected to return on foot late on the 28 th Oct
27 Oct 42 travelling by the coast track.

During the day one section of 16 Pl "D" Coy 2/6 Bn marched out to
take over a standing patrol in the MAPO area. (ref Map Milne
Bay Provisional 2" to 1 mile O27041) from 25 Aust Inf Bn.
Patrol to be in Comm with 2/6 Bn HQ by R/T.

Capt McGEOCH with his "D" Coy 2/5 Bn party arrived at WEDAU to-day.

GILI GILI Bde Comd set out to find the jungle school conducted by Major GOBLE
MILNE BAY 2/5 Bn. After being stuck in the mud, a very unpleasant experience
28 Oct 42 on the glue pot tracks of MILNE BAY, the school was located.
Major GOBLE seemed to have missed the point of the whole scheme
by his selection of the location of the school. Although he had
gone far enough away he had not penetrated far enough into the
jungle. It was decided that this point would be corrected in
future schools.

----- Brigadier,
Commander 17th Aust. Inf. Bde.

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GILI GILI
MILNE BAY
28 Oct 42

After a short canoe trip around the shores of the bay, L/Cpl MacDonald and party arrived at Bde HQ bringing with them one Jap prisoner from the encounter they had had that day with an isolated party of Japs in the WAHAHUBA area. The prisoner was fed and caged for the night. The following is a verbal report by Lieut ROSS, Pl Comd 3 Pl "A" Coy 2/6 Bn. Area patrolled -- ref map Milne Bay Provisional 2" to 1 mile. Between grid lines 18 - 20 from coast to depth approx 2 miles. Topography -- Flat coastal strip varying from one to two miles in depth running into the foothills, series of shoulders rising as main range approached. Area broken up into mixture of jungle, swamp, and native gardens. Many creeks all easily fordable run to the sea. General --- 27 Oct, arrived at AHIOMA at 0615 hrs. At 0625 hrs contacted guide Barnaba who placed guides Ru and Gatimo at the patrols disposal. On information given by natives patrol moved to LILOHOA and north from coast to depth 1 1/2 mile, searching country en route. Bodies of two Japs were found, one in each of two gardens, both had been recently shot. returned to coast moving West of outward track, reaching coast East of WAHAHUBA. Afternoon -- Patrol moved North again, splitting into two groups covering all country between in and out routes of morning patrol. Heard shooting during movement North, investigated without result. Returned to coast approx 1730 hrs and took up perimeter defence for the night. At approx 1830 hrs natives reported having seen party of four Japs hurriedly moving North, away from area patrolled during afternoon. Guides were required to enlist services of natives who gave information, for the following day. 28 Oct -- At 0715 hrs patrol moved out with guides of previous day plus ten other natives, moved North to furthest point of previous days penetration. Natives acted as fwd recce patrol with pl split into four gps each with guides. Three natives moved fwd of native patrol as scouts or spotters. Japs were sighted by natives 1/2 mile from S.P. and patrol surrounded native garden. One Jap was here taken prisoner and held under guard while patrol moved on in pursuit of other Japs. Fifteen minutes later natives patrol reported hearing Japs talking in the jungle near the bank of creek. Patrol moved to position and surrounded area indicated and closed in. Four Japs were sighted and killed. Further recce was made of surrounding area without further success. Natives were of the opinion that patrol had accounted for all Japs who had been seen in the area during the previous two or three days. The patrol returned to the beach with the prisoner arriving at approx 1320 hrs. The prisoner was despatched by native canoe and escort who were instructed to proceed to 17 Bde HQ. Patrol proceeded round coast track eventually reaching 2/6Bn HQ at 2130 hrs.

The above patrol report is given in detail as war diary material to illustrate the type of patrol that had been active in mopping up operations since the Japanese met their first setback after landing on the shores of MILNE BAY/.

GILI GILI
MILNE BAY
29 Oct 42

"D" Coy 2/5 Bn less one pl moved out at 0557 hrs this morning for TAUPOTA.

18 Aust Inf Bde reported that the relief of their "D" Coy 2/9 Bn by "D" Coy 2/5 Bn was completed at WEDAU.

A very interesting lecture on New Guinea was given to Bde HQ Officers and men by Capt AUSTIN of A/N/G/A/U/

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GILI GILI A message from HQ Milne Force stated that 17 Bde would move to
MILNE BAY 18 Bde HQ at HAGITA HOUSE on 1st Nov. 18 Bde would move to 17 Bde
30 Oct 42 position in TARGET HOUSE.

A.Q. Milne Force rang to say that a signal from Hq 6 Aust Div required that Capt Chapman be made available as DAQMG 6 Aust Div. Although Bde Comd felt that it would be very inconvenient to release Capt Chapman at this time, he decided that he would not stand in the way of Capt Chapman's promotion. Capt Chapman would be released after 2 Nov and Capt MacBride was recommended for the position of S.C.

The TAUPOTA area was handed over completely at 0930 hrs and all 2/9 Bn personnel left by the vessel "MATOMA" at 1000 hrs. It was decided that in future the det 2/5 Bn at TAUPOTA would be known as "MAC COY". They were warned that they would be required to send a platoon patrol to ANNIE INLET area to converge with a patrol from the S.E. 2/7 Bn were notified that they would supply the patrol from the S.E. Lieut Mossman, ANGAU Patrol Offr reported sighting fresh Jap tracks two miles to the south of WAGIMATA this morning. MAC COY were instructed to keep a sharp lookout in the area 4 miles to the west of TAUPOTA.

GILI GILI Lieut Gen HERRING visited MILNE BAY and enquired if 17 Bde could
MILNE BAY provide 12 senior lieuts for transfer to the Militia as Coy Comds.
31 Oct 42 Brig MOTEN informed him that we could make them available. Brig WOOTTEN flew to PORT MORESBY to take over Comd 6 Aust Div. Maj Gen VASEY would take over 7 Aust Div when Maj Gen ALLEN returned to Australia. It was understood that Maj Gen ALLEN would Comd 2 Aust Corps.

The vessel "MATOMA" was expected to leave GILI GILI wharf to-day carrying supplies to the forces on GOODENOUGH ISLAND and along the north eastern coast of the peninsula. Bde "I" Sgt who was to make the voyage was recalled at the last moment owing to B/I/O/ being evacuated to hospital.

The Jap prisoner who had been interrogated and kept at Bde HQ left under escort by plane for PORT MORESBY to-day. In spite of the bloodcurdling threats which had been uttered by the troops this lonely Jap prisoner was made more or less a pet during his stay in the cage at Bde HQ. He appeared to appreciate keenly the many kindnesses shown by the boys. When first picked up he showed a desire to be shot or killed by native knife, and indicated that had the circumstances been reversed such would have been the fate of a lone prisoner.

Handwritten note:
Mossman's letter
I.O.

M. Moten
Brigadier,
Commander 17th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Official War
Diary
No 1

Appendices

Oct 1942

WPI

SECRET

COPY NO 10

31 Oct 42.

17 AUST INF BDE ADM INSTN NO.1.

(Issued in conjunction with 17 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No.4.)

Ref Maps MILNE BAY 3" = 1 mile.

ADM LAYOUT - VIDE 3" = 1 M. Map issued to Units on arrival (as amended by Location Statements).

1. SUPS

Amn, Pet and Rations Deliveries to present Bn Def Areas will be maintained by Bde arrangement.

2. MEDICAL

(a) The medical plan for MILNE FORCE is based on geographical rather than unit considerations.

(b) A.D.S. have been established at :

- (i) 987988 (A Coy 11 Aust Fd Amb)
- (ii) 021007 (B Coy " " " ")
- (iii) 044003 (2/2 Aust Fd Amb)
- (iv) 140993 (Lt Sec 2/5 Aust Fd Amb),

and casualties will be evacuated to whichever Post is most convenient.

(c) Car loading posts are being established as required and circumstances permit. Units will be advised by signal of locations.

NOTE: In the event of operations on or near the coast, it may be possible to maintain an L of C for Supply and evacuation by sea. Bde will arrange for this L of C and advise units.

3. REC.

No change from present method.

4. P.W.

(a) O.C. Gd Pl att 17 Aust Inf Bde will establish P.W. cage at Bde H.Q.

(b) Movement and escort of P.W. to this cage will be by unit arrangement.

5. BURIALS

Copies of A.F.3314 (Burial Reports) in respect of own and enemy dead will be distributed as follows :-

- (i) 2 copies to Records Liaison Officer MILNE FORCE.
- (ii) 1 copy to 2/2 Aust Graves Registration and Enquiry Unit.
- (iii) 1 copy to Unit H.Q.

The Unit copy is NOT necessary as regards enemy dead.

TIME OF SIGNATURE. *11.10 hrs*.....hrs.

ISSUED THROUGH L.Os.

DISTRIBUTION: As for 17 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No.4.

A.P. Chapman Capt.
S.C. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

WPI

SECRET

COPY NO _____

24 Oct 42.

(S)

SECRET

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.36
(From 0900 hrs 22 Oct 42 to 0900 hrs 23 Oct 42.)

PART I

OPERATIONS

OWN (iii) AIR

(a) Rece : NIL SIGHTINGS of enemy shipping in sea lanes
to MILNE BAY 22 Oct.

BUIN FAISI AREA

1130 hrs 21 Oct : 2 battleships (probably)
7 cruisers
18 destroyers (incl some gunboats)
2 S/P tenders (probably)
2 Submarines
16 Merchant vessels.

FAISI HARBOUR

1015 hrs 22 Oct : 2 cruisers 7000 tons
1 probable submarine
2 destroyers
2 cargo vessels 4000 to 5000 tons
5 U/I small vessels.

TONOLEI HARBOUR

1015 hrs 22 Oct : 2 probable battleships
1 probable a/c carrier
2 probable heavy cruisers
4 probable light cruisers
12 destroyers
2 submarines
5 cargo vessels 3000 to 7000 tons
9 U/I small vessels.

ENEMY (iii) AIR

HATFORCE

1935 hrs 20 Oct. 2 enemy twin engined
planes flew over from N.W. at 1945
the planes returned and circled area.
At 2015 hrs planes flew over low the
area from S.E.

PART IV

OTHER FRONTS (ref Map MORESBY 4" Strat.)

(a) MAROUBRA

20 Oct : Reports received rather corrupt now being
checked but it appears that there was intense
fighting throughout the day. 2/2 Bn moved
north along ridge due east TEMPLETONS intention
swing in two coys on enemy left flank.
Patrols 2/2 Bn simultaneously worked around
his right flank dispersing JAP patrol
encountered and killing 3.

By 1600 L all Coys 2/2 Bn held up by enemy in strong
 posn high ground and using LMGs and by mortar fire
 with considerable effect. 1610 L 2/1 and 3 Bn mortars
 began combined shoot in support of 2/2 Bn. Enemy
 LMGs difficult to locate. No estimate enemy
 casualties, our known casualties exceed 70 repeat 70.

Relief of 25 Bde as follows :

2/33 Bn relieved by 2/3 Bn 1700 L/20 moved AASC dump
 South TEMPLETONS, Will be relieved by 2/25 Bn
 0730 L/21 and move MYOLA area. 3 Bn relieved by 2/1
 Bn but standing by as res for present.

(b) KANGA

LAE O.P. report approx 20 men observed moving two
 QF guns to hill NW and runway. AAF previously pin-
 pointed AA posn in immediate vicinity. KAPA KAPA -
 JAURE area. US recce patrol reached URVABA QH 9078
 returned JAURE QJ 0058 18 Oct. Further recce coy
 and 110 personnel for dropping sta expected JAURE
 by 19 Oct.

2 Bn 126 US regt vicinity KALI KODOBU moved JAURE
 18 Oct.

- 2 probable heavy cruisers
- 1 probable e/c carrier
- 4 probable light cruisers
- 12 destroyers
- 2 submarines
- 2 cargo vessels 5000 to 7000 tons
- 2 U/I small vessels.

At 2015 hrs planes flew over low the
 area from S.E. The planes returned and circled area.
 planes flew over from N.W. at 1945
 1955 hrs 20 Oct. 2 enemy twin engined

SECRET
SECRET

PART IV

(ref MAP MONSIEY 4" Street.)

(a) MAROURA

20 Oct : Reports received rather corrupt now being
 checked but it appears that there was intense
 fighting throughout the day. 2/2 Bn moved
 north along ridge due east TEMPLETONS intention
 swing in two coys on enemy left flank.
 Patrols 2/2 Bn simultaneously worked around
 his right flank dispersing JAP patrol
 encountered and killing 5.

WDI

COPY NO _____

24 Oct 42.

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.36

(From 0900 hrs 22 Oct 42 to 0900 hrs 23 Oct 42.)

PART II

OPERATIONS

OWN (111) AIR

(a) Recce : NIL SIGHTINGS of enemy shipping in sea lanes to MILNE BAY 22 Oct.

BUN FAISI AREA

1130 hrs 21 Oct : 2 battleships (probably)
7 cruisers
18 destroyers (incl some gunboats)
2 S/P tenders (probably)
2 Submarines
16 Merchant vessels.

FAISI HARBOUR

1015 hrs 22 Oct : 2 cruisers 7000 tons
1 probable submarine
2 destroyers
2 cargo vessels 4000 to 5000 tons
5 U/I small vessels.

TONOLEI HARBOUR

1015 hrs 22 Oct : 2 probable battleships
1 probable a/c carrier
2 probable heavy cruisers
4 probable light cruisers
12 destroyers
2 submarines
5 cargo vessels 3000 to 7000 tons
9 U/I small vessels.

ENEMY (111) AIR

HATFORCE

1935 hrs 20 Oct. 2 enemy twin engined planes flew over from N.W. at 1945 the planes returned and circled area. At 2015 hrs planes flew over low the area from S.E.

PART IV

OTHER FRONTS (ref Map MORESBY 4" Strat.)

(a) MARCOUBRA

20 Oct : Reports received rather corrupt now being checked but it appears that there was intense fighting throughout the day. 2/2 Bn moved north along ridge due east TEMPLETONS intention swing in two coys on enemy left flank. Patrols 2/2 Bn simultaneously worked around his right flank dispersing JAP patrol encountered and killing 3.

(2).

By 1600 L all Coys 2/2 Bn held up by enemy in strong
posn high ground and using LMGs and by mortar fire
with considerable effect. 1610 L 2/1 and 3 Bn mortars
began combined shoot in support of 2/2 Bn. Enemy
LMGs difficult to locate. No estimate enemy
casualties, our known casualties exceed 70 repeat 70.

Relief of 25 Bde as follows :

2/33 Bn relieved by 2/3 Bn 1700 L/20 moved AASC dump
South TEMPLETONS, Will be relieved by 2/25 Bn
0730 L/21 and move MYOLA area. 3 Bn relieved by 2/1
Bn but standing by as res for present.

(b) KANGA

LAE O.P. report approx 20 men observed moving two
QF guns to hill NW and runway. AAF previously pin-
pointed AA posn in immediate vicinity. KAPA KAPA -
JAURE area. US recce patrol reached URVABA QH 9078
returned JAURE QJ 0058 18 Oct. Further recce coy
and 110 personnel for dropping sta expected JAURE
by 19 Oct.

2 Bn 126 US regt vicinity KALI KODOBU moved JAURE
18 Oct.

VIA (111) YWHE

HAWKWOOD

PART IV

(not Map MONSIEY 4" Scale.)

(a) MARGURRA

30 Oct : Reports received rather corrupt now being
checked but it appears that there was intense
fighting throughout the day. 2/2 Bn moved
north along ridge due east TEMPLETONS intersection
swing in two coys on enemy left flank.
Patrols 2/2 Bn simultaneously worked around
his right flank dispersing JAP patrol
encountered and killing 5.

18 Oct '42.

LOCAL NEWS:

Yesterday afternoon 61 Bn captured 2 Japs at WEHURIA CREEK near DUA, DUA. The prisoners were unarmed, without boots, in poor condition and offered no resistance.

S.W. PACIFIC:

There have been no fresh developments in the Owen Stanley Range. Little progress has been made in the last 24 hrs. The Japs are stated to be dug in across the track at Templeton's Crossing. Another Jap occupied village on Timor has been raided by Allied medium bombers. A village about 50 miles north of Buna which is believed to be a Jap stopping place on the supply route from Lae to Buna, has been raided.

OVERSEAS:

Anxiety is growing in Washington re the outcome at Guadalcanal. Fresh Jap troops have been landed on the south coast of the island and are moving across the mountains to attack the American forces in the rear. The Japs have also landed artillery which is now shelling U.S. troops. Enemy naval forces shelled American positions in the north of the island on Wednesday. The Germans are still held on the Stalingrad front. A report from the Middle East states Greek units are now in action against the enemy there.

(OVER)

W. L. L. L.
Hand
Hand
Hand

CONCERT PARTY SIXTEEN FOR W.E. 22 OCTOBER 1948

18.10.48	..	2/9 Bn Church Parade	at	0930	1000
		Force H Q Church parade	"	1100	"
		A Heavy Battery	"	1500	"
		24 Field Coy.	"	1900	"
19.10.48	..	2/9 Bn)	"	1430	"
		2/9 Bn) 2 shows	"	1900	"
20.10.48	..	2/5 Field Amb)	"	1430	"
		2/5 Field Amb) 2 shows	"	1900	"

		2/5 Bn H.Q.	"	1455	"
		2/5 Bn H.Q.	"	1900	"

19 Oct 42.

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 33(From 0900 hrs 17 Oct to 0900 hrs 19 Oct)

PART I

OPERATIONS.OWN(i) LAND.

On 17 Oct 2 JAPS were captured by a party from 61 Bn approx 4 miles up WEHVRIA CK at DUA DUA. They were unarmed, wore no boots and were in very poor condition.

They offered little resistance. The prisoners were sent by plane to N.G. Force on 18 Oct.

OWN(iii) AIR.

Our recce a/c reported nil sightings of enemy shipping in approaches to MILNE BAY, 17 and 18 Oct.

ENEMY (i) LAND.TAUPOTA

4 JAPS were found dead on 17 Oct. It is believed that 2 of them escaped wounded from an encounter on 7 Oct, while the other 2 are those who escaped in the encounter at AWAIAMA on 15 Oct.

PART II

1. SUMMARY OF AIR RECCESSOLOMON IS -18 Oct

East of BOUGAINVILLE IS: 1430 hrs. 2 heavy cruisers, 2 small U/I vessels in posn $05^{\circ} 52' S$, $157^{\circ} 30' E$ course 280° , speed 20 knots.

Off BUIN Strip BOUGAINVILLE IS

1630 hrs: 13 ships, incl 1 battleship, 3 cruisers, 2 carriers, 7 U/I smaller ships.

20 miles South of TONOLEI HARBOUR BOUGAINVILLE IS

10 vessels dispersed.

PART IVOTHER FRONTS.

Ref Map BUNA SALAMAUA strat.

(a) MAROUBRA. 15 Oct 3 Bn moved round left flank of 2/33 Bn to cut main track, while one coy 2/33 Bn moved into posn on right flank to co-operate with 3 Bn.

Three mortar dets from 16 Bde moved up to support further attack. Enemy not patrolling and holding fire until our fwd tps press closely. 2/25 Bn continuing to probe enemy front and flanks. 2/31 Bn patrolling KAGI area.

3 Bn succeeded in cutting main track causing enemy to withdraw. 2/33 Bn advanced through 3 Bn at 1500 L/15 to south bank of EORA CK. JAPS reported holding north bank, br demolished.

16 Oct. 2/33 Bn continuing attack.

(b) KUMUSI VALLEY. Natives reported JAPS crossing KUMUSI R by rope br at PAIVA QH 8787 Aust 'D' Patrol vicinity QH 8783.

(c) KANGA Fwd patrols SALAMAUA - MUBO area state JAPS have sup bases and tp concentrations KOMIATUM and LOGUI. 200 tps at LOGUI. 3 inch AA guns KOMIATUM HILJ. Natives all neighbouring villages impressed to repair track SALAMAUA - MUBO and carry stores.

6. CAPTURED EQUIPMENT.

A parcel containing articles taken in action in New Guinea between 26 Aug and 3 Sept 42 has been recovered by HQ ~~CHINCHLAND~~ I of C Area. The infm contained in various articles would have been of considerable operational value at the time of capture. Similar instances of laxity on the part of tps, franking offrs and Unit Censors have resulted in the loss of valuable infm.


Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

Distribution:

(As for Intell Summary 32 plus 5 copies : 17 Aust Inf Bde.)

1021

SECRET. K-300

Copy No. 9

20 Oct 42.

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELL SUM NO 34

(From 0900 hrs 19 Oct to 0900 hrs 20 Oct 42)

PART I

OPERATIONS.

OWN (iii) AIR.

19 Oct.

All sightings by our a/c in shipping lanes to MILNE BAY

Attacks

18 Oct

Night 17/18 Oct: B17's attacked shipping FAISI area. 1 heavy cruiser was damaged, 2 others possibly hit. Near misses on large seaplane tender and other ships. 1 ship was observed burning off BUIN.

B17's attacked RABAUL HARBOUR, town and wharves and LAKUMAI drome. Results unobserved.

B25 scored direct hit on seaplane PILELO IS near ARANI, NEW BRITAIN.

MUBO was bombed.

PART II

1. SUMMARY OF AIR RECCES

18 Oct

BUKA 1 destroyer, 1 cruiser, 1 merchant vessel

KALIENG 2 destroyers, 1 transport 8000 tons.

SWKAVIENG 1 seaplane tender and small escort vessel.

19 Oct

TONOLEI AREA 1520 hrs 19 Oct.

40 ships incl 2 carriers, 1 seaplane tender, 8 heavy cruisers, 10 light cruisers or destroyers, 8 MVs, 11 U/I smaller vessels.

PART IV

OTHER FRONTS

(a) MAROUBRA: 16 Oct. 0830L 2/33 Bn attacked to force EORA CK coming south TEMPLETON'S CROSSING while 2/25 Bn renewed its attack. During day 2/33 Bn advance forced enemy opposing 2/25 Bn to withdraw. 2/33 Bn followed by 3 Bn maintained advance driving back enemy rear parties. Disposed evening 16 Oct fwd coy 3 Bn 2 miles south of EORA CK village. Remainder 3 Bn and 2/25 Bn north of jung tracks from MYOLA and KAGI. 2/33 Bn at TEMPLETON'S XING and had seized high ground to east. HQ 25 Bde TEMPLETON'S XING.

Patrol of 2/31 Bn sent out morning 16 Oct to locate DOUGLAS crashed dropping sups EFOGI NORTH located wrecked A/C west KAGI all crew dead.

17 Oct. First light two Coys 3 Bn began encircling movement and Jap east flank. 2200 L/17 3 Bn in contact 800 yds north TEMPLETON'S. The two coys astride track dug in near enemy posn. Enemy using 37 mm and hy mortars.

Throughout day 3 Bn continued attack enemy front and rear. Enemy casualties 41. Two lt mortars and much eqpt captured. In evening enemy made several local counter-attacks but repulsed with hy casualties.

2/25 and 2/33 Bns east and west track respectively 200 yds north TEMPLETON'S. First light 18 Oct det 2/25 Bn will move against enemy's left flank.

HQ 25 Bde opened TEMPLETON'S 1500L/17. 16 Bde moving up 18 Oct to maintain impetus of attack.

Patrol 2/25 Bn reced track from MYOLA to NW found it little used and rough.

17 Oct one sick PW being held NAURO.

No infm when and where captured.

(b) KANGA FORCE

16 Oct recce left for MUBO - SALAMAUA area.

BUNA area. Native reports indicate no enemy stationed ORO BAY but occasional small patrol visits from BUNA where large gun sited JIROPA PT. Reports also state small dete enemy WAIROPE SANGARA SOPUTA BUNA with labour corps.

SALAMAUA area enemy estimated 500, MUBO 500, KOMIATUM 200 and LOGUI 200.

LAE C.P reports by explosions considered possibly from arty piece newly installed.

[Handwritten signature]
Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

Distribution:

As for Intell Sum No 33.

WPI

LOCAL NEWS

At 2133 hrs 22 Oct an air raid "Red" was declared owing to the presence of U/I aircraft. Certain of the gun sites engaged the A/C and in all 35 rounds were fired. Several reports of bombs being dropped were received, but there is no visible evidence of their fall and no reports of damage.

No other local news.

S.W. PACIFIC

SOLOMONS

There has been no fresh news of fighting in the Solomons since Washington's announcement of much air activity in this area. Two American destroyers have been sunk. In the air battles over Guadalcanal two Zeros were shot down for the loss of one American aircraft. US divebombers attacked Jap destroyers and one was damaged. An enemy cruiser which was attacked at night was hit and stopped. A large number of enemy ships have been sighted in this area.

NEW GUINEA

The Japs have suffered a further withdrawal in the Owen Stanley Ranges. This was the result of an Australian flanking movement.

OVERSEAS

British-flown Mustang fighters demonstrated their great range today by attacking targets in Holland and flying on into Germany to continue their work there. Their total distance flown was between 600 & 700 miles.

At Stalingrad the Russians have reoccupied several buildings and have driven back several strong counter-attacks.

Mosquito bombers, operating singly, attacked targets in Germany.

Flying Fortresses, escorted by fighters, bombed objectives in Brittany. Three failed to return.

Some bombs were dropped on Malta.

In the Middle East, Capuzzo, Tobruk and Sollum have again been bombed.

ERG
YV
[Handwritten signatures and initials in black and red ink]

1970

244

17 Aunt Iny Bole

LOCAL NEWS

No local news.

S.W. PACIFIC

SOLOMONS

There has been no material change in the military position in the Solomons, although American troops on Guadalcanal have driven back the first Japanese thrust.

American planes have been pounding Jap supply dumps on Guadalcanal.

Allied aircraft have again attacked shipping in Rabaul Harbor.

NEW GUINEA

Rain is hampering the movements of our troops in the Owen Stanley Range. No change is reported from this area.

Port Moresby had a night attack by three bombers. No damage was caused.

Troops in New Guinea are now being armed with Owen guns.

OVERSEAS

The Germans have now been held for three days on the Stalingrad front.

RAF planes were over Italy last night. No details are as yet available, but it is stated these planes were based in England.

Another daylight raid was carried out yesterday on railway yards in Western Germany and in the Ruhr Valley.

Mustang fighters were over France again yesterday. They attacked enemy troop concentrations and motor transport.

Spitfires set fire to two armed enemy trawlers off the coast of France yesterday.

Four more enemy bombers were shot down over Malta yesterday.

COMBAT PARTY LIST

Continued

25. 10. 48	61 Bn P Coy 43 23 Ingre	March Parade	1430 hrs 1900 hrs
26. 10. 48	8/1 Coy		1430 1900
26. 10. 48	61 Bn		1900
26. 10. 48	61 Bn		1900
26. 10. 48	61 Bn		1900
31. 10. 48	61 Bn & 3/1 Pioneer		1900
31. 10. 48	35 AA Coy - Route 13		1430 1900
31. 10. 48	35 AA Coy - Route 6		1430 1900
5. 11. 48	6 AA - Turret Hill		1900

17 Aust Inf Bn

146a

86c

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500L/25

A further Jap prisoner was captured near LILIHU yesterday.

The native woman who gave the information leading to his capture stated that he was one of a party of 30 Japs who ran away on sighting her. P.W. was too weak to run away so the woman tied him up and contacted one of our patrols.

OVERSEAS

SOLOMONS:

A second Jap attack on American positions on GUADALCANAL HAS been beaten back.

In air operations over the Solomons 12 Jap planes were shot down for the loss of 3 American aircraft.

American dive bombers have attacked Japs on RUSSELL ISLAND to the N W of GUADALCANAL.

ESPERIO SANTO ISLAND, to the south of the Solomons, has again been shelled, probably by a Jap submarine.

OTHER FRONTS

A further German attack on STALINGRAD has been flung back. The position is still the same as it was four days ago. The relief army to the N.W. has made some advance. No change has been reported in the Caucasus. 1800 Germans were killed on Russian fronts yesterday.

Yesterday's raid on Italy has now been officially stated to have been made on the Port of Genoa. Considerable damage was done to shipping and harbour installations.

Spitfires and Mustangs were over France again yesterday. They attacked locomotives and railway junctions.

100.1.1000 to 1000.1.1000

A further Jap prisoner was captured near ...
The prisoner stated that he was one of a party of 20 Japs who had been
on a fighting force. He was too weak to run away so the ...
him up and captured one of our patrols.

...

...

A second Jap attack on American positions on ...
has been beaten back.

In air operations over the ...
shot down for the loss of 3 American aircraft.

American dive bombers have attacked Japs on ...
to the ...

... to the south of the ...
again been snalled, probably by a Jap submarine.

...

A further German attack on ...
The position is still the same as it was four days ago. The relief
... has made some advance. No change has been recorded
in the Caucasus. 1800 Germans were killed on Russian fronts yesterday.

Yesterday's raid on Italy has now been officially stated
to have been made on the port of Genoa. Considerable damage was
done to shipping and harbour installations.

Airraids and sabotage were over France again yesterday.
They included locomotives and railway junctions.

WD1

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500L/30

The daily recession of the sea approaches to Milne Bay this morning revealed nil sightings of enemy shipping.

There is no land news to report.

SOLOMONS

There have been no new air or sea operations in this area. There seems to be a lull in the naval battle.

Buka and Rabaul have been raided again. At Buka one enemy bomber has been destroyed and many large fires started. Two ships in Rabaul Harbor were hit - one a warship. Our pilots report the AA barrage at Rabaul to be improved apparently seeking protection from Allied Flying Fortresses - which have been paying this harbor some attention. There is still a considerable amount of shipping in the Solomons area. In the Owen Stanley Ranges the Japs have been driven back.

AUSTRALIA

The Government has approved of certain repatriation benefits for members of the Militia, mainly in re-establishment in jobs after the war.

OVERSEAS

Washington reports no big-scale fighting in the Solomons yet. Minor attacks by the Japs are reported which have been repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. The sea and air battle is continuing over an area stretching 100 miles to the east. The Jap forces on Guadalcanal are estimated at 17,000.

A big tank battle is developing in the Middle East. Axis air forces are still stated to be on the defensive. A force of enemy dive bombers attempting to attack our infantry had 13 of their number shot down by Allied fighters.

Two Axis supply ships have been sunk and another damaged by Allied planes off Tobruk.

No further Axis air raids have been reported on Malta.

In Russia a successful German attack has been reported in the Caucasus. The Red Army is now counter-attacking. At the other end of the Caucasus in the German drive on the Grozny oilfields the enemy are still halted in the Nosdook area. At Stalingrad the Germans have incurred further heavy losses in their drive on the factory area.

In America the biggest oil pipeline in the world is being laid from the East Texas oilfields to the Atlantic Coast.

CONCERT PARTY MATRONS FOR 1/1 5th NOV 42

30th Oct	Native Labour Camp	1200 hrs	
31st Oct	61st Aust Inf Bn	"	
1st Nov	3/6 AA Bty	1450 "	
	22 AA Bty	1950 "	
2nd Nov	33 AA Bty	1930 "	
3rd Nov	62nd AA (MB)	1930 "	
4th Nov	A.C.B. on strip	1930 "	
5th Nov	38th Fighter Sqd (USA)	1930 "	

DRH

DRS.

W/W

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/6 AUST INF BN

(Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	2		
Captains ...	8		
Lieutenants ...	18		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
Totals ...	29		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
		NIL		

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
		NIL		

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3		4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.		Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt.col	VX166	WOOD	F G		Yes	CO
Major	VX290	NORRIS	G M		Yes	2 i/c Bn
Capt (T/Maj)	VX48	PICKEN	K S		Yes	OC HQ Coy
Capt	VX181	JONES	J S		Yes	OC B Coy
Capt	VX58	TILLEY	Q A		Yes	OC C Coy
Capt	VX3561	SHERLOCK	W H		Yes	OC A Coy
Capt	VX5172	DEXTER	W R		Yes	OC D Coy
Lieut (T/Capt)	VX3837	STEWART	H McB		No	2 i/c A Coy
Lieut (T/Capt)	VX4051	SHELDRIK	A G		Yes	OC Carrier Pl
Lieut (T/Capt)	VX3964	CLARKE	F D		Yes	2 i/c C Coy
Lieut (T/Capt)	VX3511	GULLETT	H B		Yes	2 i/c D Coy
Lieut	VX9890	HAY	D O		Yes	Adjutant
Lieut	VX5145	LEWIS	E A		Yes	2 i/c B Coy
Lieut	VX5200	HARRIS	M N J		Yes	Pl Comd
Lieut	VX3829	LAVER	H L		No	
Lieut	VX3805	ROSS	A R		Yes	Pl Comd
Lieut	VX5238	WATERSTON	J W		Yes	Pl Comd (Mortars)
Lieut	VX3466	BURKE	R G		No	Leave - AUSTRALIA
Lieut	VX3907	WALKER	J C		Yes	QM
Lieut	VX5015	CAMERON	W J		Yes	Pl Comd (Pioneers)
Lieut	VX4459	WALKER	S R		Yes	2 i/c Carrier Pl
Lieut	VX7586	MARSDEN	H McL		Yes	IO
Lieut	VX10226	BROUGHAM	K L		Yes	Pl Comd
Lieut	VX4559	PRICE	E W		No	
Lieut	VX38096	URQUHART	R D		Yes	Pl Comd
Lieut	VX51193	PARK	J W		Yes	Pl Comd
Lieut	VX40080	McNAMARA	C L		Yes	Pl Comd
Lieut	VX54300	PALMER	G M		Yes	Pl Comd
Lieut		ASHTON	T W		No	IO

- o Attending Coy Comd's Course, LARA, Vic.
- o Attending Guerilla Warfare School - AUSTRALIA.
- o Attending A/Tk School - AUSTRALIA.
- o Attending Second Aust Army D & M School - AUSTRALIA.

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.		Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
NX112075	Capt	QUINN	W M J	AAMC		RMO
VX89035	Chapl	FIRTH	T	AACHD		Padre

2/6 AUST INF BN
(Unit.)

F. S. Wood Lt.col
Commanding 2/6 Aust Inf Bn

24 OCT 42
(Date of Despatch.)

17 AUST INF BDE
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

WTR

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/5. AUST INF BIV. (Unit)
A.I.F. = 11/12/3 34 X 858 ATTACHED. 1 X 14.

PART A—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment.)
*			
Lieut.-Colonels	1		
Majors	2		1
Captains	18	2	
Lieutenants	25	5	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters	1		
Totals	40	7	1

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank	Name	Corps	Date	Cause
LIEUT	FRI	G.MPK 6AUST DIV	23.10.42	Rejoined unit from Hospital.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank	Name	Corps	Date	Cause

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed
LT-COL.	Yx 46	STARR P. D.	2/5 Bn	YES	C. O.
MAJOR.	Yx 111	GOBLE N. L.	"	YES	C/O JUNGLE COURSE.
MAJOR	Yx 158	ROWAN A. T.	"	YES	Coy. Comd.
CAPT.	Yx 71	DUFFY J. W.	"	YES	A/2 1/2 Bn
"	Yx 5338	MACFARLANE R. H.	"	YES	ADJUTANT.
"	Yx 3364	BRADLEY H. A.	"	YES	Coy. 2 1/2
"	Yx 159	ROWELL F. A.	"	YES	Coy. Comd
"	Yx 74	MACKENZIE A. N.	"	YES	Coy. Comd
"	Yx 3367	WRAY F. D. H.	"	YES	Coy. 2 1/2
"	Yx 115	MALGEOCH J. A. H.	"	YES	Coy. Comd
"	Yx 3368	SCOTT C. E.	"	YES	Coy. 2 1/2
"	Yx 3374	PEARSON A. H.	"	YES	Coy. Comd
"	Yx 4493	SHERLOCK H. D.	"	YES	G. M.
"	Yx 7499	BENNETT A. C.	"	YES	CARR. Pl. Comd.
LIEUT (T/CAPT)	Yx 0788	BROWN H. J.	"	No	SCHOOL
LIEUT.	Yx 41104	SMITH W. T.	"	YES	I. O.
"	Yx 3379	SHILTON A. L.	"	YES	S. O.
"	Yx 5228	MORSE S. L.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 708	WALTERS V. M.	"	No	SCHOOL
"	Yx 48670	GEER A. S.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 45245	MARTIN W.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 11806	TAIT WILLS E.	"	YES	A. 2 1/2 Coy
"	Yx 3347	CAMERON L. A.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 5208	DAVIS A. L.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 3729	SAMSON R. S.	"	No	SCHOOL
"	Yx 25106	ROBINSON B. L.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 3357	SMITH A. C.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 50248	FRY G. MCK	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 30252	PENNY A. R.	"	No	SCHOOL
"	Yx 5274	TAYLOR J. W.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 7403	LEASK J. C.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 24370	PERLSTEIN L. H.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 43977	BENNETT R. H.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 29962	TRAINOR F. D.	"	YES	Pl. Comd
"	Yx 5369	STROM G. F.	"	No	SCHOOL
"	Yx 54385	WEMBRIDGE T. M.	"	YES	T. O.
"	Yx 44800	STEWART R. M.	"	No	DET. 17 AUST INF BDE
"	Yx 52874	TOONE J. R.	"	No	"
"	Yx 3371	LINCOLNE J. G.	"	No	HQ. AIF
"	Yx 52852	LANGLANDS C. R.	"	YES	Pl. Comd

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held	Personal Number	Name and Initials	Corps	Date of attachment	Nature of attachment
CAPT	Wx 3357	MACPHERSON D. W.	AAMC	15 May 41	R. M. O.
CHAP.	Nx 35024	GALLOWAY B.	A. A. C. H. D.	MAY 41	PADRE

2/5 AUST INF Bn.

(Unit)

24 Oct. 42.

(Date of Despatch)

R. MacFarlane CAPT. ADJT.

(Signature of Commander)

17 AUST INF BDE.

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

W.W.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/46 (Unit) L.A.D. (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	<i>1</i>		
Lieutenants			
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	<i>1</i>		

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Capt.	116892	SKINNER, F.L.	A.R.O.C.	YES.	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.

2/46 Aust LAD (Unit.)

79 Signer Capt. (Signature of Commander.)

24/10/42 (Date of Despatch.)

1st 402/12 Aust Div. Bde. (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

17 AUST INF BDE H. (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Brigadier	1		
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	5 (incl 1 T/C-apt)		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	12		

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
T/C-apt	I. H. MORRIS	6 Div	20 Oct	

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
T/C-apt	J. M. MENZIES	6 Div	Rear Party 17 Bde.
Lieut	A. M. C. HITCHCOCK	6 Div	School

W.D.

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
T/Brig	ST 2889	M.J. MOYEN	6 Aust Div	Yes	
T/Maj	X 6936	R.A.C. MUIR	"	Yes	
Capt	VX 1111	A. P. CHAPMAN	"	Yes	
Capt	VX 3272	W.M. MAYBERRY	"	Yes	
T/Capt	VX 44612	I. H. McBRIDE	"	Yes	
Capt	VX 7562	H. G. SWEET	"	Yes	
T/Capt	X 4525	H. G. SWEET	"	Yes	
Lieut	VX 3707	D. A. McBRIDE	"	Yes	
Lieut	VX 155	J. H. FRISON	"	Yes	
Lieut	VX 51042	I. R. GORDON	"	Yes	
Lieut	VX 5140	A.G.S. EDGAR	"	Yes	
Lieut	VX 52872	J.R. TOONE	"	Yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	VX 14040	E. W. SCOTT	6 Div Sigs		Sig O.
Lieut	VX 44800	R. H. STEWART	2/5 Bn	22 Oct	Guard Off.
T/Capt	X 4525	V. X. TUTT	2 Coy MASC		Sup O.
Major	VX 74185	R. R. DREW	Sal Army		Welfare O.

S. C. 17 Aust Inf Bde (Unit.)

A.P. Chapman
 (Signature of Commander) Capt

S. C. 17 AUST INF BDE.

25 Oct 42 (Date of Despatch.)

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/46 Aust L A D (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	1		
Lieutenants			
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	1		

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

(Adapted)

W-19

2/6 AUST INF BN (Unit) 24 OCTOBER 1942 (Date).

To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	-		
W.Os. Class II.	7		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	5		
Staff Serjeants	1		
Serjeants	33		
Corporals	67		13
Troopers, Privates, &c.	686		
TOTALS	799	*	*

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

Includes 8 Lance Sergeants

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
VX 4753 Sgt JAMIESON A	AAPC	VX36480 Pte STEVENS A	17 Bde
VX 4406 A/Sgt COUGLE M E	2/2 Fd Amb	NX29931 Pte DODD H W	6 Div Postal
VX 5110 Cpl MURRELL A L C	AAOC	VX31250 Pte EVANS A G	AAOC
VX4408 Cpl DOWD H P	AAMC Tng Wing	NX 3231 Sigmn JOHNSTONE I M)	
NX94441 A/Cpl CREASEY D G	AAMC Tng Depot	NX 4539 Sigmn NEEMAN T R)	K Sec Sigs 6
WX31368 Pte AMOS J B	2/7 Bn	N191873 Pte RUSSELL C J)	Aust Div
VX32804 Pte HEENAN J H	AAMC Tng Wing		

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

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

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

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
General Duties		13						
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)		13						

Notes—(a) If rank other than Private is involved give details on back.

(b) Authorised Trades or Specialists not included in list above will be added as required in spaces provided.

2/6 AUST INF BN

Unit.

Date of Despatch **24 OCT 42**

F. G. Wood Lt. Col
Commanding 2/6 Aust Inf Bn

17 AUST INF BDE

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

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

(Adapted)

2/5 AUST INF BN. (Unit) 24 OCT

1942 (Date)

To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	2	1	
W.Os. Class II.	6		1
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	.		
Staff Serjeants	6	1	
Serjeants	36		0
Corporals	78	2	
Troopers, Privates, &c.	762	29	
TOTALS	890	*33	*1

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Sgt NORMAN K.S.	A.A.M.C.	Hsgt BAXTER J.D.	A.A.O.C.
Hsgt BRUGGY J.	6Aust Div Postal Unit.	Pte MEEK V.C.	A.A.O.C.
3 O.R.'s.	K. Sec Sigs.	Pte SALBU S.	A.A.O.C.
1 O.R.	A.A.P.C.	Pte DYSON L.	A.A.O.C.
		Sgt BROWNING T.S.	2 M.D.T.D. AAMC.
		Sgt FLEMING R.C.	AAPC.

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

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

2/5. AUST INF BN. Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(Adapted) (Aug. 41)
(page 2)**PART D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in
Part A of Army Form W. 3009.**

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)								

Notes—(a) If rank other than Private is involved give details on back.

(b) Authorised Trades or Specialists not included in list above will be added as required in spaces provided.

2/5 AUST INF BN.

Unit.

A. MacFarlane CAPT. ADJT.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 24. 10. 42.

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

FIELD RETURN OF

2/46 Aust. LHD (Unit) *24/10/* 19*42* (Date)

To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.	<i>1</i>		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants			
Staff Serjeants	<i>1</i>		
Serjeants			
Corporals			
Troopers, Privates, &c.	<i>7</i>		
TOTALS	<i>9.</i>	*	*

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.

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

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
<i>6</i>	<i>ORs</i>	<i>detached with Rear Party</i>		

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

BY 17 MUST LINE BDN

Oct 42

(Adapted)

(Unit) 19 (Date).

To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.	-		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	1		
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	2 2		
Corporals	8 5		
Troopers, Privates, &c.	48		
TOTALS	57	*	*

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.

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

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
VX 5108	WO II	HOODIE	6 Aust Div	
VX 13016	Pte	CAMPBELL	6 Aust Div	
VX 13014	Pte	 	6 Aust Div	
VX 17702	 	MILROY	6 Aust Div	
VX 8819	Col	 	6 Aust Div	
VX 55010	Pte	 	6 Aust Div	

PART B

OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

A. PERSONNEL ATTACHED ON W.E.

A.A.M.C.	VX 7469	Cpl	SMITH	J J
A.A.O.C.	VX 5108	WOi1	MOODIE	
	VX 3001	Sgt	ADAMS	E
A.A.S.C.	SX 9708	Cpl	RUSE	F D
	NX 5161	Pte	KELTY	V
	VX 36037	Pte	DANIELS	
	NX 72095	Pte	PASSFIELD	W C
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	VX 12397	Pte	NICOL	
	VX 12511	Pte	PARTINGTON	
	VX 4849	Pte	BLISS	J
	VX 53363	Pte	PERRY	J E
	WX 7343	A/sgt	BEACH	A R
	VX 44865	L/Cpl	PROPOSCH	W E
	VX 54284	Pte	O'CONNOR	J G
	VX 47501	Pte	SCOTT	W H T

TOTAL 15

B. PERSONNEL ATTACHED NOT ON W.E.

2/5 Aust Inf Bn	9 ORs as Guard Pl Sec			
	1 OR - Batman Gd Comd.			
	1 OR Clerk - VX 53315	Pte	WHITE	S E
2/6 Aust Inf Bn	9 ORs as Gd Pl Sec			
	3 ORs Camp Duties			
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	9 ORs as Fd Pl Sec			
A.A.O.C.	VX 7511	Pte	CREMOR	R
	VX 15109	Pte	STOBO	W

TOTAL 34

H-17 AUST INF BDE Unit.

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

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)								

Notes—(a) If rank other than Private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised Trades or Specialists not included in list above will be added as required in spaces provided.

H-17 AUST INF BDE Unit.

ap Chapman Capt.
Signature of Commander.

S. C. 17 AUST INF BDE
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

Date of Despatch... 25 Oct 42.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

(Adapted)

2/46 Cust LAD (Unit) 31/10/42 1942 (Date).

To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.	1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants			
Staff Serjeants	1		
Serjeants			
Corporals	1		
Troopers, Privates, &c.	6		
TOTALS	9.	*	*

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.

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

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
<i>Spec ORs with new jobs</i>				

2/46 LAD

Unit.

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

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Rivetters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheeler		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)								

Notes--(a) If rank other than Private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorized Trades or Specialists not included in list above will be added as required in spaces provided.

2/46 LAD

Unit.

(Signature)
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch

31/10/42

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

FIELD RETURN.

In lieu of AF3008

31 Oct 42.

PART D - NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

T/Brig	5X2889	M/J/MOTEN.	6 AUST DIV	Yes
T/Maj	QX6936	R.A.C.MUIR	" " "	"
Capt	VX1111	A.P.CHAPMAN	" " "	"
Capt	VX3272	W.M.MAYBERRY	" " "	"
T/Capt	VX4461 ₂	I/H.McBRIDE	" " "	"
Capt	VZ7562	H.G.SWEET	" " "	"
Lieut	VX3707	D.A.McBRIDE	" " "	NO Hosp
Lieut	VX155	J.H.PAWSON	" " "	Yes
Lieut	VX5104 ₂	I.R.GORDON	" " "	"
Lieut	?	A.M.C.HUTCHISON	" " "	NO School
Lieut	VX5140	A.C.S.EDGAR	" " "	Yes
Lieut	VX5287 ₂	J.R.FOONE	" " "	"
T/Capt	VX 5519	J.M.MENZIES.	" " "	NO Rear Party.

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

Capt	VX14040	E.W.SCOTT	6 Aust Div Sigs	SigO.
Lieut	VX44800	R.H.STEWART	2/5 Aust Inf Bn	Guard Offr
T/Capt	QX4525	V.X.TUTT	2 Coy AASC	Sup O
Major	VX74183	R.R.DREW	Sal Army	Welfare Offr

HD 17 Aust Inf Bde Unit

Sanjford Capt
S.C. 17 AUST INF BDE

31 Oct 42.
Date of despatch

6 AUST DIV - MILNE FORCE.

PART A. STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

Brigadier	1
Lieut-Colonels	-
Majors	1
Captains	5 (incl T/Capts)
Lieuts	6

Total 13

Officers joined during week

Nil.

Officer quitted during week

Lieut D.A.McBRIDE. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn 31 Oct 42. Hosp.

Y

San Diago

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

(in lieu of A F W 3009)

PART A STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

<u>Detail</u>	<u>Posted Strength</u>	<u>Surplus</u>	<u>Reinforcements</u>
Waii	1		
Staff Sgts	1		
sgts	3		
Cpls	5		
ORs (Ptes)	36		
	<u>TOTAL</u>	46	

PART B OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

AS PER ATTACHED SHEET

PART C DESCRIPTION OF OTHER RANKS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS REQUESTED

NIL

PART D DETAIL OF REINFORCEMENTS OR SURPLUS ETC

XXXXXXXXXXXX

17 Aust Inf Bde
.....Unit

Jan. J. C. B. v. 704 Capt
.....
S.C. 17 Aust Inf Bde

Date..... 31 Oct 42

Milne Force
.....
Bde, Div, Area etc with which
unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS - in lieu of AFW 3008

PART B OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

A.A.M.C.	VX 7469	Cpl	SMITH	J J
A.A.O.C.	VX 5108	WOii	MOODIE	
	VX 3001	Sgt	ADAMS	E
	VX 7511	Pte	CREMOR	K
A.A.S.C.	SX 9708	Cpl	RUSE	F D
	NX 5161	Pte	KELTY	V
	VX 36037	Pte	DANIELS	
	NX 72095	Pte	PASSFIELD	W C
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	VX 12397	Pte	NICOL	
	VX 12511	Pte	PARTINGTON	
	VX 4849	Pte	BLISS	J
	VX 53363	Pte	PERRY	J E
	WX 7343	A/Sgt	BEACH	A R
	VX 44865	L/Cpl	PROPOSCH	W E
	VX 54284	Pte	O'CONNOR	J G
	VX 47501	Pte	SCOTT	W H T
	VX 53315	Pte	WHITE	S E
		Pte	CAMPBELL	W

10 ORs as Guard Pl

2/6 Aust Inf Bn	VX 5064	L/Sgt	CRAIG	W J G
	V 617242	A/Sgt	COOK	T
	VX 10670	L/Cpl	CAUSON	

9 ORs as Guard Pl.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn	SX 1073	Cpl	CHURCH	P A
	VX 13162	Pte	APPLEBY	L F

9 ORs as Guard Pl.

Salvation Army	VX 50823	Pte	WHITE	
-------------------	----------	-----	-------	--

Air Support Signals	4 ORs attached.			
------------------------	-----------------	--	--	--

"K" SES SIGS	36 ORs attached.			
--------------	------------------	--	--	--

TOTAL	92 ORs attached.			
-------	------------------	--	--	--

NEW GUINEA.

In the Aiola area of the Owen Stanleys, a deadlock has been reached with the stiffening of enemy resistance. The Japs are dug in and trench warfare is in progress. The enemy positions are believed to be strongly defended. It is evident that they intend to make this their last stand before Kokoda. Allied air units have the skies to themselves and are continually harassing enemy lines of supply.

JAVA.

Australian and Dutch soldiers continue to fight on in the hills of Java. They have formed themselves into small guerilla bands.

N. AFRICA.

There is no material change in the position in Egypt. Heavy armoured forces have clashed. This meeting of armour has resulted in heavy Axis losses. Our tank losses were comparatively light. The Eighth Army continues to make progress after throwing back a heavy German counter-attack. The Allied Air Forces continue to have the upper hand in the air. Thirteen Axis bombers were shot down in one attack. The docks at Mersa Matruh were again bombed. Correspondents state that the German defensive system is in great depth and they are well dug in.

SOLOMONS.

U.S. authorities report that the Japanese have suffered more heavy naval losses at Gaudalcanal. No figures are given but these are believed to be the enemy's heaviest losses in the Solomons campaign. U.S. Marines are determined to hold their gains. Although at present the Americans do not hold air superiority, there are definite signs that they are on the upgrade while the Japanese Air Force is finding it increasingly more difficult to replace losses of planes and pilots.

BURMA.

More details are given of the Japanese raids on U.S. airfields in ASSAM. 95 enemy aircraft took part in a recent raid and 5 were shot down.

RUSSIA.

Little news is available from Stalingrad where the fighting continues in the streets of the N and NW suburbs.

Office Centre

W.D.

NEWS SUMMARY BY H.Q. 17 AUST INF BDE AT 0800 hrs 30 Oct 42.

NEW GUINEA. The battle of Kokoda is in full swing. Although the Japanese are dug in on every ridge, our troops continue to make some daily advance. It is evident that the fighting is more than a mere series of skirmishes and has developed into a full scale battle.

EGYPT. Conflicting reports from various sources claim heavy losses of ~~tank~~ tanks on either side in the Desert battle. Berlin Radio makes the extravagant claim of having destroyed 300 Allied tanks. Cairo states that the Axis tanks received a bad mauling in Tuesday's attacks. 43 enemy planes were shot down in three days. Another Axis tanker has been sunk ~~in the area of Tobruk~~ off Tobruk, making the second tanker to be sunk in this area in two days. It is thought that the urgency of Rommel's requirements has forced these tankers to attempt the landing of supplies at the advanced base of Tobruk in preference to the safer port of Benghazi.

MALTA. Enemy air activity over the island has been on a greatly reduced scale since the opening of the offensive in N. Africa.

SOLOMONS. A real showdown is expected in the Solomons before long. The Japanese have made further mass landings and are advancing against the U.S. troops in a three-pronged drive. American aircraft claim to have damaged one battleship, one cruiser, and one destroyer near the Stewart Islands.

RUSSIA. A new German drive is being pushed along the banks of the Volga. Two new German Panzer Divs and two infantry divs are taking part in this attack on Stalingrad. The Russians admit they have made slight withdrawals in the Mozdock area of the Caucasus but are counter attacking against the Black Sea port of Tuapse. Soviet ski troops are operating far behind the German lines in the high Caucasus.

BURMA. Japanese raids against airfields in Assam are stated to have been made as reprisals for a heavy raid by U.S. planes on Lashio at the end of the Burma Road.

U.S.A. The 1600 mile Alaska Highway which has been built in the incredibly short time of 6 months will be officially opened for traffic in a few days time. The Highway, making the only land link between Alaska and the United States is expected soon to be humming with traffic carrying essential war supplies to and from the far North.

23 Oct 42.

REF MAPS :- MILNE BAY PROVISIONAL 2" = 1 mile
NEW GUINEA STRATEGICAL SERIES 1" = 4 miles.

INFORMATION

1. ENEMY

Attention of comds is directed to 17 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No.1, to current summaries issued by HQ MILNE FORCE and to radio broadcast news. Appreciation of this information indicates the following :-

- (a) Although the Japanese main effort in S.W.P.A. appears to be concentrated against the SOLOMON ISLAND GROUP, sufficient enemy army and naval strength exists within one day's sail of MILNE BAY, to make an attack upon this area with equal or greater numbers than those tps of MILNE FORCE now locally available.
- (b) While possible enemy lines of approach are regularly patrolled by our A/C and isolated watching stations are in operation, the frequent presence of low lying cloud layers and mist may enable an enemy seaborne force to approach to within a few hours or less striking distance of MILNE BAY without being detected.
- (c) A seaborne attack might be supported or preceded by land or aircraft carrier based planes, paratps, plane landings of tps or light tanks upon prepared strips or crash landings upon clearings.
- (d) The shore of MILNE BAY will permit landing of tanks and M.T. from landing craft.
- (e) The enemy could assist an attack on MILNE BAY by landing part of his force in GOODENOUGH BAY and striking SOUTH by tracks across the STIRLING RA.
- (f) Isolated Jap survivors are still at large in the STIRLING RA area. Although disorganised and poorly armed, parties of these may yet approach MILNE BAY for the purpose of seizing rations or weapons. It is also possible that they might make minor and suicidal attacks on tps or H.Qs.

2. OWN TPS

- (a) Due to fluidity of ops in New Guinea and the limiting nature of terrain, bns or coys at any time may expect to be detached from their parent bdes or units and operate under direct orders of higher formations. Orders of battle and dispositions change frequently, and at regular intervals Comds will inspect those of MILNE FORCE at this H.Q.

2. OWN TPS (b) -

2. OWN TPS (Contd)

- (b) The whole area occupied by Milne Force is organised for all round defence. Within this area, every allied unit and sub-unit incl all adm units and Air Force ground staffs are organised in def localities each also for all round def. Trace of present dispositions MILNE FORCE - See Appx "C".
- (c) It will be realised that the employment of units in certain eventualities depends considerably on developments. It may, in some circumstances, be necessary to strengthen certain def localities to permit time for manoeuvre and the use of res or unengaged units in outflanking ops or otherwise to the best advantage. Possible tasks for units outside this Bde, as directed by MILNE FORCE are att as Appx "A".
- (d) Order of Battle - 17 Aust Inf Bde.

HQ. 17 Aust Inf Bde
K Sec Sigs
46 Aust L.A.D.
Det 6 Aust Div Postal Unit
2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
J Tp 3 Bty 1 Aust A/Tk Regt.

3. TOPOGRAPHY

In the use of maps of Milne Bay area units are reminded that a proper survey has NOT yet been made and inaccuracies may be anticipated.

INTENTION

4. 17 Aust Inf Bde will occupy unit areas organised for all round def from which it will be prepared to counter-attack in any direction, especially against enemy landing effected in MILNE BAY.

METHOD

5. GENERAL POLICY

Units will be prepared to operate speedily in a mob offensive role from their def localities which will be regarded as bases within which units can reorganise and replenish amn and sups.

6. UNIT LOCALITIES

Def localities will be prepared and occupied as follows :-

<u>Unit</u>	<u>General Area</u>
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	square 9698
2/6 Aust Inf Bn	square 0301
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	Areas of high ground EAST and WEST of 000008 previously prepared by 2/12 Aust Inf Bn.
J tp 3 Bty 1 Aust A/Tk Regt	Within 2/5 Aust Inf Bn area.

7. POSSIBLE MOB TASKS -

7. POSSIBLE MOB TASKS

The att table Appx "B" enumerates certain tasks which in varying situations may have to be carried out by units as specified. All possible avenues of employment are NOT incl, merely those which are MOST likely to arise. Units concerned will make immediate recess of routes and areas specified and will prepare and submit to this HQ. plans for giving effect, in case of need, to the tasks enumerated. Comds will ensure that all offrs and key personnel are fully acquainted with the areas, defs, and routes involved, and with the plans projected.

In addition to these tasks units will be prepared to operate offensively along the NORTH and SOUTH shores of MILNE BAY.

8. ADDITIONAL BN RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) On receipt of separate instns from this HQ., 2/5 Aust Inf Bn will dispose one coy in area TAUPOTA-WEDAU.
- (b) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn will be responsible for protection against enemy incursion from the NORTH by all tracks over STIRLING RA from excl Track DUIA-TAUPOTA area, to excl Track 10 - KILOHI CK. Boundaries will be checked by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn's liaison through this HQ. with adjoining units. In the majority of cases NOT more than one sec should be detached to cover any one track.

9. PATROLS

Both for op and tng purposes units will implement a policy of active and deep patrolling along all avenues of approach. For this purpose, liaison may be made direct with adjoining units and 24 hrs notice given to this HQ. of any other than purely local patrols.

10. PRIORITY DEF WORKS

- (a) Clearing undergrowth from fds of fire.
- (b) Digging sec posns.
- (c) Wiring, limited to D.A. fence outside grenade throwing range of sec posts.

Wire requirements, together with trace scale 4" = 1 mile of proposed defs will be submitted to this HQ. as early as possible.

11. A/TK

J Tp 3 Bty 1 Aust A/Tk Regt will come u/c 2/5 Aust Inf Bn for adm. Its op role will be defined later.

ADM

- 12. 7 days res sups, water and amm will be held within each bn def area. Detailed adm instn issued separately.

INTERCOMN

- 13. Frequencies, call signs, code names down to coys have been issued separately.
- 14. With exception of Sets 108, wireless silence will be broken for test purposes as ordered by this HQ.
- 15. HQ. 17 Aust Inf Bde - Adm Building No.1.

ACKNOWLEDGE

TIME OF SIGNATURE

..... 2320 hrs.

ISSUED FOR DISTRIBUTION BY.....at.....hrs.

Manocharis

Maj.

B M. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

COPY NOS.

	<u>CP INSTN</u>	<u>APPS</u>		
		A	B	C
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	1	1	1	1
2/6 Aust Inf Bn	2	2	2	2
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	3	3	3	3
J Tp 3 Bty 1 Aust A/Tk Regt	4	4	4	-
HQ. Milne Force	5	5	5	4
7 Aust Inf Bde	6	-	6	-
16 Aust Inf Bde	7	-	7	-
Comd	8	6	8	5
B.M.	9	7	9	6
War Diary	10/12	8/10	10/12	7
File	13/15	11/13	13/15	-

APPX "A" to 17 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN NO _____

SECRET

Copy No 8

23 Oct 42.

MILNE FORCE TASK NO.	UNIT RESPONSIBLE	NATURE OF TASK
	<u>7 AUST INF BDE</u>	
1	9 Bn	Offensive role in area GILI GILI - No.3 Strip
2	9 Bn	Outflank enemy move from EAST towards No.1 Strip (via Route 3 along coast or via new jungle track developed by 9 Bn Northwards from Route 3).
3	25 Bn (Less Coy at No. 1 Strip)	Support of 9 Bn in def role in that sector.
4	"	Offensive action in 9 Bn sector.
5	"	As for Task No.1.
6	"	Offensive action to outflank enemy move from area MAIWARA-Northwards on No.1. Strip.
7	61 Bn	Offensive action to outflank enemy move from area MAIWARA - GILI GILI against No.1 Strip.
8	" "	Offensive action S.W. towards GILI GILI or MAIWARA in support of 25 and 9 Bns.
	<u>18 AUST INF BDE</u>	
13	2/9 Bn	As for Task No.3) Via Route 3 or tracks on either
14	" "	As for Task No.4) side of KALOHI CK.
15	" "	Offensive action in area No.1 Strip (Via Route 1 and/or new jungle track 977994 to 988002).

APPX "B" to 17 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN NO _____

SECRET

COPY NO 10

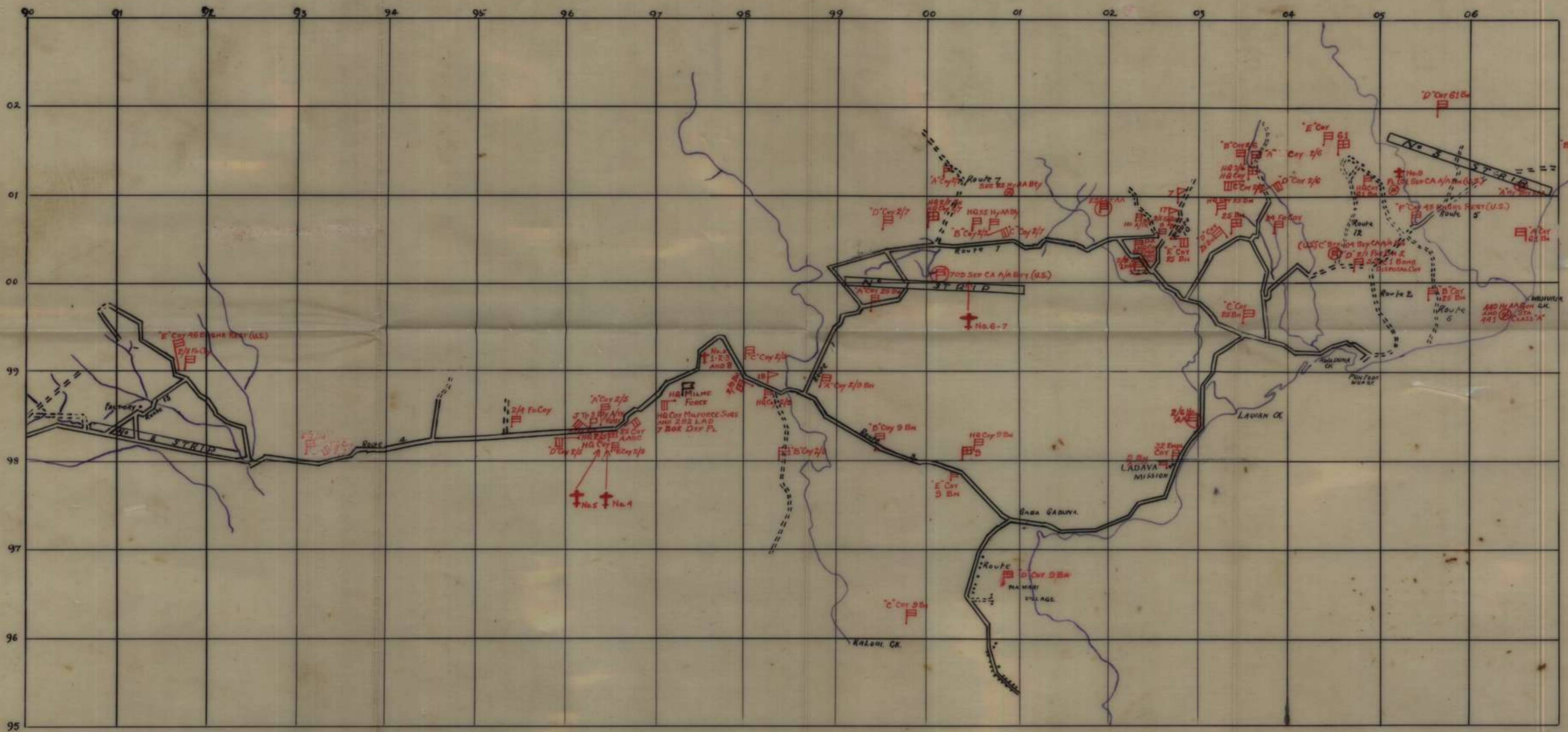
23 Oct 42.

MILNE FORCE TASK NO.	UNIT NOW RESPONSIBLE	UNIT PREVIOUSLY RESPONSIBLE	NATURE OF TASK
9	2/5 Bn	2/9 Bn	Support of 9 Bn in def role in that sector)
10	" "	" "	Offensive action in 9 Bn sector)
			Via one or more of the follow- ing routes :- Route 3, tracks along either side of KALOHI CK, track to be developed through jungle running generally eastward from 2/9 Bn bivouac area to KALOHI CK.
11	2/5 Bn	2/9 Bn	Offensive action in area No.1 Strip. Via Route 1 and/or new jungle track 977994 to 988002.
12	" "	" "	Occupy firm base normally occupied by 2/9 Bn along KALOHI CK.
16	2/7 Bn	2/12 Bn	Offensive or def ops against enemy action about area No.1 Strip or approaches thereto from South and/or East.
17	" "	" "	Occupy def switch line vicinity Route 8, just WEST of AWADUM CK.
18	" "	" "	Offensive action in area GILLY GILLY - No.3 Strip.
19	2/6 Bn	----	Support of 61 Bn in def role in their sector, especially on N.W. flank.
20	" "	----	Offensive action in 9 Bn sector.
21	" "	-----	Offensive action to outflank enemy move from area MATWARA - GILLI GILLI against No.1 Strip.
22	" "	-----	Action S.W. towards GILLI GILLI or MATWARA in support of 25 and 9 Bns.

APPX C TO 17 AUST INF BDE OP INST N^o. 4.

SECRET
COPY No. 7...

OPERATIONAL UNITS ONLY



LEGEND

8 FIGHTER GROUP	+
8 FIGHTER SECTOR	+
3 FIGHTER GROUP HQ	+
3 FIGHTER COMPANY	+
624 SIG PLATOON B	+
35 FIGHTER SQN	+
26 " "	+
625 COY	+
422 BOMBARDMENT SQN	+

SCALE 3" - 1 MILE

INT Sec
HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

WPI

SECRET

COPY NO _____

File No. S/G14/79.

LOCATION STATEMENT OF 17 AUST INF BDE and UNITS under Comd as at
2359 hrs 20 Oct 42.

Ref Map. MILNE BAY PROV 2" - 1 mile.

UNIT	MAP REF.	PLACE.
<u>H. 17 AUST INF BDE</u>)		
"K" Sec Sigs.)	026007	No. 1 Adm Building.
46 L.A.D.)		
Protection Pl.)		
<u>2/5 AUST INF BN</u>	965983	
A COY	964984	
B COY	965982	
C COY	963984	
D COY	962983	
HQ COY	965984	
<u>2/6 AUST INF BN</u>	036013	
A COY	036014	
B COY	035014	
C Coy	035013	
D COY	037011	
HQ COY	036013	
<u>2/7 AUST INF BN</u>	931981	
A COY	930981	
B COY	929981	
C COY	928981	
D COY	927981	
HQ COY	932981	
J Tp 3 Bty		
2/1 Aust A/Tk Regt	963984	Under Comd 2/5 Aust Inf Bn for admn only.

Major.

B/M, 17 Aust Inf Bde.