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17 Infantry Brigade

December 1942, Appendices
Including Log Diary, part 1 of 2

MORESBY ARMY NEWS SHEET

Published by the Army Education Service for free distribution to
Defence Services' Personnel in Australian New Guinea

Vol. I.

Monday, 26th October, 1942

No. 39

EDITORIAL

EXIT M.A.N.S.

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U.S. CORRESPONDENT KILLED

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He was buried with Army honours at the military cemetery near Port Moresby, his Press colleagues attending the funeral. Darnton served with U.S. forces in France in the last war.

MAY ROBSON DEAD

The death has occurred at Beverly Hills, California, of May Robson, the Australian-born stage and screen character actress, aged 78 years. Despite failing health and eyesight, she had been active in moving pictures until a few months ago. Her last picture was "Joan of Paris."

May Robson was known in Hollywood as "The Gracious Lady." Her kindness stamped her in the cynical society of the film colony as an exceptional figure, the more so because her age and experience gave her a prestige, and her talent a cachet, that might easily have made her an object of envy. In 1926 she made her first film, "Angel of Broadway." She was the daughter of Captain Henry Robson, R.N., of Melbourne.

THE ISLES OF SOLOMON

(Continued from last week.)

The waters enclosed by the arms of this Rabaul-Moresby-Tulagi triangle form part of the Coral Sea—the scene of the large-scale combined naval and air engagement earlier this year which frustrated the Japs' advance by sea towards Moresby.

Samarai, Buna, Salamaua, Gasmata, Buka, Kieta, Faisi, Gizo—attractive names of native origin, on one or other of the arms of the triangle, all figure in the present S.W. Pacific war picture.

The population of the British Solomons is between 90 and 100 thousand natives and not more than 400 Europeans—missionaries, plantation hands and Government officials. Guadalcanal, named by the Spaniards Mendana and Quiros who visited it in the 16th century, is the largest of the islands in the chain. A kunai grass plain stretches along its northern coastal end for 20 to 30 miles, spreading back for a width of 5 to 10 miles to the slopes of the single mountain chain, 8,000 ft high in parts, that runs the 80 mile length of the island. It is on this coastal plain that the Japs built the aerodrome which they are now seeking to recapture from the Americans. Coconut plantations and mission stations are found at intervals round the island, the headquarters of the Marist Mission, under the French Bishop Aubin, being right in the centre of the present scene of action. Gold mining was just being developed in the mountains at the outbreak of war; some of Lever Brothers best South Sea coconut estates are in the vicinity. Ben Boyd, the Australian whaling king, met his end at the hands of the Guadalcanal natives when he anchored his vessel "Wanderer" off the south-west coast in 1851. The place is now known as Wanderer Bay. Blackbirders (slavers of the South Seas) decimated the native population in the latter half of last century, by taking away the able-bodied men for the Kanaka labour needs of Fiji and Queensland. From 1893 ensued a period of protective peace for the people under British administration.

And now war again: not the war of primitive bow and arrow, or of blackbirder's musket, but modern war of air, land and sea. Peace has departed from the Isles of Solomon.

The possession of the Solomons is of great strategic value; in Japanese hands they can threaten the sea routes between Australia and U.S.A. Bases established there could be used for launching naval actions, even invasion forces, against Australia and New Zealand. The Allied plan is to prevent the Japs. from occupying and using these bases and to hold them for our own use; to drive him back along his island tracks towards Rabaul, facilitating the job of dislodging him from that important Australian centre.

Not before then will peace be permanently established again in the Isles of Solomon.

ANSON, HOWE AT SEA

Sister ships of King George V and Duke of York, the new 35,000 ton battleships, Howe and Anson, are in full commission and serving with the Fleet.

Anson has already been in action while escorting a convoy to Russia. Main armament of the new dreadnoughts includes ten 14-inch guns and sixteen 5.25-inch guns. The 14-inch guns are of a new model, with an effective range greater than that of 15-inch guns.

Australian News

Men's shirts, collars and pyjamas in future will be made to standard patterns and sizes. Shirts will be shorter back and front, pyjamas will be minus pockets and the luxury styles of pre-war days will disappear, while patterns for collars will be reduced from over 20 various kinds to six.

The Prime Minister said last week that, during the next six months, Australia must play her part as a productive fighting nation in a measure previously not contemplated. Her full manpower resources must be directed towards the war.

The recent Merchant Navy Day in Melbourne raised £11,000 for the heroes of the sea lanes.

The first Australian song to come from New Guinea, "The Man-Eating Mossies of Moresby," written and composed by Wing-Commander Good, was broadcast over the A.B.C. during the week.

The first march of its kind in Australia's history was seen in Sydney last Saturday when 30 U.S. nurses, Australian nurses, 100 V.A.Ds., 1300 A.W.A.S. and 1,000 W.A.A.A.Fs. took part. The procession was headed by Matron Croll, of the 113 Australian General Hospital.

Doris Phillips (20), a Sydney girl now working in a London munitions' factory, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for bravery during a London air raid. Miss Phillips went to England with her parents over eight years ago.

A total of £6,640,000 has been paid in premiums under the Federal Government's War Damage Insurance scheme.

The former Federal Treasurer in the Menzies Government (Mr. P. C. Spender), is shortly to visit America. He said last week that the Parliamentary recess afforded him an opportunity to gain a wider knowledge and a fuller understanding of the problems which must still be met and solved.

To avoid confusion, the Army Minister (Mr. F. M. Forde) explained that the abbreviation A.M.F. should be used only with reference to the whole of the military forces of the Commonwealth, including the A.I.F.; the letters C.M.F. when referring to Citizen Military Forces or militia.

To meet labour shortage in primary industries, the Federal Government intends training 10,000 women rural workers.

Rats are invading Sydney. The Lord Mayor (Ald. Crick) has appealed to the public for their co-operation in an extermination campaign. The rats are cunningly negotiating dock traps.

Fixed retail prices for 21 brands of imported cigarettes were announced recently. These brands were originally being shipped to other countries, but due to war conditions they have been landed in Australia and are part of refugee cargoes requisitioned by the Government for sale in Australia. The Prices Commissioner said the public would be unfamiliar with some brands, though Ardath, Craven A and Capstan cigarettes were well-known in Australia. The imported cigarette was often larger and heavier. This was the main reason for somewhat higher prices in some cases.

A fine of £500 was imposed in the Sydney Central Summons Court on J. Gunton (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., trading as F. Kanematsu (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., for attempting to trade with the enemy. Investigations showed that orders had been placed with a Japanese firm after proclamation of gazetted prohibitions.

"VERGELTUNG."

1919—1942?

(by "Base Wallah.")

Vergeltung is the German word for repayment or reprisal. I first heard the word—and learned its sinister meaning for a prisoner-of-war in German hands—in 1917, after Bullecourt. The "Black Hole of Lille" where 1,000 Australians were left underground in a mediaeval fortress dungeon for up to three weeks in conditions of systematic inhumanity, was the spear-head of *Vergeltung*.

And now in 1942 the Hun pronounces a new *Vergeltung*—this time the Canadian prisoners from Dieppe being the victims.

A Portent

I see *Vergeltung* as a portent. It is not the only parallel between 1917 and 1942. Every day, every news session, shows new ones.

The Kaiser had his dream plan of Welt-Anschauung (World Domination). Hitler has his equally ambitious Kampf. In both wars, the German nation (not the leaders only; their people were all behind them; sharing their dream-plans) goose-stepped out full of confident arrogance. *Deutschland uber Alles* (Germany above the World) was the popular ballad of 1914—replaced in 1940 by the Horstwessel of spurious origin. Then as now, one man dominated German life, German thought, German sentiment. Then as now, one man drove the German war machine. The German feeds on progress and success; his is a rigid single-track plan: everything must go according to the plan. The plan—Welt-Anschauung or Kampf—is infallible. Do not the national leader-idols say so?

1914—Hoch der Kaiser! 1939—Heil Hitler!

Russia Enslaved

At the first signs of failure of the plan, confidence begins to weaken. The machine begins to lose its driving force; its works show signs of cracking up. This happened in 1917. In the last war Russia broke—and became enslaved to Germany. There were over 3,000,000 Russians and Poles, military and civilian prisoners, working to keep the German war machine going in early 1918; working and dying like flies. What were the lives of a few thousand miserable moujiks in the grand plan of *Deutschland uber Alles*? But there was Verdun—one of the many graveyards of the plan. And Bullecourt—and Villers Brett, and all the others.

This time poor France provides the slaves; while Stalingrad replaces Verdun; and the plan—Hitler's Kampf—shows symptoms of failure.

Present Symptoms

The present symptoms are those of 1917-18; a whipping-up of civilian morale (the whip being just the wrong weapon for such a purpose); Generals dismissed; propaganda going mad; spirit nourished on recrimination and hate—a diet, too much of which sours the mental stomach; threats of violence replace the old arrogant promise of early victory; hospitals fill with wounded; casualty lists, no longer to be suppressed, grow; victory is delayed and delay must be explained. Hitler makes a speech—it lacks a little of the old cock-sureness and inspiration. Goering promises better days—a whole sausage extra issue to every soldier home on leave.

Whisperings commence at home—the thumb-screw of authority, demanding blind, unquestioning allegiance, presses harder. Resentment smoulders. Three years pass.

This England—of Lloyd George or Churchill; this British Empire, which should have disintegrated—it hangs together; seems even closer bound in its parts.

When will it all end? This year, next year, sometime....? Dry rot sets in at home; troops on leave from the front find nothing but melancholy

Move Against Malaria

To protect troops fighting in New Guinea from malaria, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research at Canberra is rushing work on the development of a repellent of the malaria-carrying mosquito before the wet season commences in the north.

The council has two months in which to discover it and manufacture it in large quantities. In the research, six Army and civilian entomologists sit for hours daily in a canvas tent letting mosquitoes bite them. They believe their experiments will yield a substance which will deter mosquitoes from biting for much longer than do present repellants.

The oil of a Tasmanian tree is being used in experiments, but some people are allergic to its smell, and efforts are being made to overcome this.

there. For them there is no respite from fighting.

The "conquered" countries, their spirit is unconquered; it flames up at unexpected times and places. Perhaps there will be no victory in the end. The Hun gets rattled. He must divert attention from the main issue. He takes "reprisals" against Allied prisoners, to show that he is still on top; to convince himself that the plan is still working. Your German is the most gullible person in Europe; his whole nurture and all his traditions have combined to build him that way. In this he is no different in 1942 from 1917.

Victory Vanishes

Goering threatens: the people must keep up their work and spirits—or they will be punished. Hitler himself introduces a new note of warning to his speeches. Goebbels goes to such fantastic lengths in his propaganda that it defeats itself.

Feed 'em on victory! Feed 'em on promises! Feed 'em on lies! Feed 'em on threats! Until they weary of such an unsatisfying diet. What left to appease that growing hunger which the promised victory is the only fare that can satisfy?

The spirit of Stalingrad—and the menace of growing Allied strength—stand in the way. Victory becomes less and less assured. More threats; more lies; more propaganda; more excuses—but still no victory. Dry-rot deepens; confidence shakes; whispers spread; a fertile field for the seeds of revolt.

The Inevitable End

"I grew increasingly convinced," wrote one who recently came out of Germany after closely watching the progress of the plan, "that the whole impressive fabric of Nazi military power was a brittle structure which rested on the ability to win actual military victories, but which lacked both the inner conviction and the moral stamina necessary to give it more than superficial strength. I became convinced that, if victories on the field of battle were denied to it, it would fall apart and vanish, leaving only a wonder that the world had ever been impressed by its appearance of strength."

There is ample evidence that such will be the inevitable end.

"Deutschland Kaputt" (Germany is broken, finished), said young Oskar Landmann, my Bavarian prison guard, in August 1918, through the bars of my 6'x6' *Streng-arrest* cell. (*Streng-arrest* is close confinement. I was undergoing my second term of *Vergeltung*). That's what happened in 1918. I saw it from inside. It culminated in the workers' and soldiers' revolution; started from the naval yards at Kiel and spread like a flame over the face of Germany. The set-up today is the same. The same symptoms begin to appear.

Shall 1918 find rebirth in 1943?

And shall we in our turn exact "Vergeltung"?

CAULFIELD CUP RESULTS

Taking the lead a furlong from home, Tranquil Star went on to win the 1942 Caulfield Cup by half a length from Heart's Desire, with El Golea third. There were 24 runners, course scratchings being Tuhitarata and Damalis.

Colonus set the pace up to the two furlongs post when he was challenged by Heart's Desire and Tranquil Star. From then on the race developed into a duel, El Golea and Skipton proving the most dangerous of a bunched field. A furlong to go, Tranquil Star, under the whip, had the race won.

Details:—Tranquil Star, 8.12 (A. Breasley), 1; Heart's Desire, 7.3 (H. Morris), 2; El Golea, 8.8 (V. Hartney), 3. Others; Velocity, Skipton, True Flight, Distinction, Rex Buzz, The Trapper, Lugano, Wilson, Prairiedale, Sir Locket, Watchguard, Son of Aurous, David Innes, Portfolio, New Warrior, Kooreen been, Colonus, Dark Felt, Hero, Amazed, Hestia.

SPECIAL NOTICE

"Soldiering On"

"Soldiering On" is the Australian Army's Own Christmas Book for 1942. Its 200 pages are packed with interest for every Australian soldier, his relatives, and friends; articles, stories and drawings, humorous and otherwise, by members of the Army; and 56 full pages (16 in colour) of reproductions of Australian Official War Paintings and photographs, many not previously published. To order the book a special form must be filled in. Copies of this form are available at your unit O.R. and a limited number at Army Education. The form, together with your pay-book, should be taken to your pay Sergeant who will debit you with 5/6. That's all you do. The Army arranges for postal delivery to the address stated on your form.

MISSIONARIES RESCUED

Hunted by Japanese for eight weeks, during which they suffered privations in the Guadalcanal jungle, 14 Roman Catholic missionaries—seven priests and seven nuns—have been rescued and evacuated from the Solomons. The missionaries, all members of the Marist Order under the Bishop of the South Solomons, the Rt. Rev. J. M. Aubin, included Brother George, 42 Walters Street, Paddington, Sydney; and Brother Michael, Leopard Street, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. The party was brought to safety at Kukum in the Guadalcanal district patrol-boat, commanded by a young sub-lieutenant, D. C. Horton, a former asst-district officer in the British Solomons, who is now in the R.A.N.V.R.

Brother Michael, whose family name is Cunningham, served with the 31 Battalion, A.I.E., in the Great War.

New Vic. Speaker

Brigadier Knox (U.A.P.; Upper Yarra) was elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in succession to Mr. W. Slater, who has been appointed Australian Minister to the U.S.S.R. Brigadier Knox defeated Mr. T. D. Oldham (U.A.P., Boorondara) by 29 votes to 27, on the second count. The new Speaker, who is 57 years of age, commanded the 23 Bn. at Gallipoli and Lone Pine, and served in Egypt, Sinai and France in the last war.

To fill the gap between the cessation of publication of *M.A.N.S.* and the commencement of the daily newspaper referred to in column 1, page 1 the local Army Education Service will continue to issue its duplicated daily news bulletin to all units until further notice.

Contributions totalling some hundreds of pounds have been made to the Commonwealth Austerity Loan by the natives of this Territory. At least one N.G.F. Digger has put the whole of his bank balance and pay-book credit into the loan. Have you got a bank balance or pay-book credit?

General Smuts in England

"Our defence phase is now ended; the stage is set for the last phase, which is offensive," declared General Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, in a speech to the British Parliament on Wednesday. "Once the time has come to take the offensive it would be folly to delay, to be over-prepared and perhaps miss the opportunity. We are not likely to do that. It would be unwise to say more on this point."

BEACON TO MANKIND

In a tribute to Britain, General Smuts said: "This is a great occasion for me. I am deeply conscious of the exceptional honour you are doing me."

"The people of this island are the real heroes of this epic world-wide drama. I pay my small tribute to their unbending, unbreakable spirit. I have seen much war damage in Britain. But one thing is not lost. The most precious of all remains—the splendour of spirit which has shone over this land from the soul of its people and been a beacon for the oppressed and the downtrodden in this new martyrdom of man."

NAZI ARMY BLEEDING TO DEATH

Turning to the Eastern front, General Smuts said that Hitler had made a fatal mistake in attacking Russia, where the German Army was bleeding to death. "The appalling blood-letting which is necessary for Hitler's ultimate defeat is being administered by the Russians. They alone can do it. Despite losses, they do not show the least sign of giving in. Their bitter defence will go on, bitter to the end. This impression is confirmed by the best inside information."

"The Allies' course is clear—they must give whatever help is possible in the fullest measure, with the utmost speed. The Russians are bearing more than their share of the common burden."

COLOSSAL AXIS BLUNDERS

General Smuts listed as three colossal Axis blunders—Hitler's failure to press on to London instead of turning off to Paris; the German attack against Russia; and the Pearl Harbour attack. "Will our enemies make a fourth?" he asked. "Will Japan treacherously attack Siberia? Time alone will show."

FAR EAST BLOW

General Smuts said the fall of France had most seriously affected the Allies' Far Eastern position. Vichy had opened Indo-China to the Japanese. "We never dreamed that this back door to Singapore would be opened against us by our ally," he said. "Ill-disposed people had taken the fall of Singapore as a proof of decadence. It merely was a consequence of the fall of France, nothing more."

"For Japan just as surely as for Germany, the writing is on the wall," he said. "All that will remain from her spectacular success will be: 'Japan for the Japanese.' I do not deplore Pearl Harbour. It was a heavy price from our viewpoint, but was well worth paying. It suddenly solidified American opinion as nothing else could have done, and America, at one sudden leap, was in the war."

POST-WAR PLANS

"The war," concluded General Smuts, "is a new crusade in which the sort of post-war world envisaged and the social and international order at which we are aiming are most important questions. Our ideas on these matters 22 years ago were much too vague and crude, much too ambitious. They had not stood the test of hard experience. This failure helped to contribute to the present conflict. We are passing beyond ordinary politics and political shibboleths. It is no longer a case of Socialism, Communism, or any other 'ism,' but of achieving common justice and fair play for all."

W01

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(Continued from last week.)

The waters enclosed by the arms of this Rabaul-Moresby-Tulagi triangle form part of the Coral Sea—the scene of the large-scale combined naval and air engagement earlier this year which frustrated the Japs' advance by sea towards Moresby.

Samarai, Buna, Salamaua, Gasmata, Buka, Kieta, Faisi, Gizo—attractive names of native origin, on one or other of the arms of the triangle, all figure in the present S.W. Pacific war picture.

The population of the British Solomons is between 90 and 100 thousand natives and not more than 400 Europeans—missionaries, plantation hands and Government officials. Guadalcanal, named by the Spaniards Mendana and Quiros who visited it in the 16th century, is the largest of the islands in the chain. A kumai grass plain stretches along its northern coastal end for 20 to 30 miles, spreading back for a width of 5 to 10 miles to the slopes of the single mountain chain, 8,000 ft high in parts, that runs the 80 mile length of the island. It is on this coastal plain that the Japs built the aerodrome which they are now seeking to recapture from the Americans. Coconut plantations and mission stations are found at intervals round the island, the headquarters of the Marist Mission, under the French Bishop Aubin, being right in the centre of the present scene of action. Gold mining was just being developed in the mountains at the outbreak of war; some of Lever Brothers best South Sea coconut estates are in the vicinity. Ben Boyd, the Australian whaling king, met his end at the hands of the Guadalcanal natives when he anchored his vessel "Wanderer" off the south-west coast in 1851. The place is now known as Wanderer Bay. Blackbirders (slavers of the South Seas) decimated the native population in the latter half of last century, by taking away the able-bodied men for the Kanaka labour needs of Fiji and Queensland. From 1893 ensued a period of protective peace for the people under British administration.

And now war again: not the war of primitive bow and arrow, or of blackbirder's musket, but modern war of air, land and sea. Peace has departed from the Isles of Solomon.

The possession of the Solomons is of great strategic value; in Japanese hands they can threaten the sea routes between Australia and U.S.A. Bases established there could be used for launching naval actions, even invasion forces, against Australia and New Zealand. The Allied plan is to prevent the Japs. from occupying and using these bases and to hold them for our own use; to drive him back along his island tracks towards Rabaul, facilitating the job of dislodging him from that important Australian centre.

Not before then will peace be permanently established again in the Isles of Solomon.

ANSON, HOWE AT SEA

Sister ships of King George V and Duke of York, the new 35,000 ton battleships, Howe and Anson, are in full commission and serving with the Fleet.

Anson has already been in action while escorting a convoy to Russia. Main armament of the new dreadnoughts includes ten 14-inch guns and sixteen 5.25-inch guns. The 14-inch guns are of a new model, with an effective range greater than that of 15-inch guns.

Australian News

Men's shirts, collars and pyjamas in future will be made to standard patterns and sizes. Shirts will be shorter back and front, pyjamas will be minus pockets and the luxury styles of pre-war days will disappear, while patterns for collars will be reduced from over 20 various kinds to six.

The Prime Minister said last week that, during the next six months, Australia must play her part as a productive fighting nation in a measure previously not contemplated. Her full manpower resources must be directed towards the war.

The recent Merchant Navy Day in Melbourne raised £11,000 for the heroes of the sea lanes.

The first Australian song to come from New Guinea, "The Man-Eating Mossies of Moresby," written and composed by Wing-Commander Good, was broadcast over the A.B.C. during the week.

The first march of its kind in Australia's history was seen in Sydney last Saturday when 30 U.S. nurses, Australian nurses, 100 V.A.Ds., 1300 A.W.A.S. and 1,000 W.A.A.A.Fs. took part. The procession was headed by Matron Croll, of the 113 Australian General Hospital.

Doris Phillips (20), a Sydney girl now working in a London munitions' factory, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for bravery during a London air raid. Miss Phillips went to England with her parents over eight years ago.

A total of £6,640,000 has been paid in premiums under the Federal Government's War Damage Insurance scheme.

The former Federal Treasurer in the Menzies Government (Mr. P. C. Spender), is shortly to visit America. He said last week that the Parliamentary recess afforded him an opportunity to gain a wider knowledge and a fuller understanding of the problems which must still be met and solved.

To avoid confusion, the Army Minister (Mr. F. M. Forde) explained that the abbreviation A.M.F. should be used only with reference to the whole of the military forces of the Commonwealth, including the A.I.F.; the letters C.M.F. when referring to Citizen Military Forces or militia.

To meet labour shortage in primary industries, the Federal Government intends training 10,000 women rural workers.

Rats are invading Sydney. The Lord Mayor (Ald. Crick) has appealed to the public for their co-operation in an extermination campaign. The rats are cunningly negotiating dock traps.

Fixed retail prices for 21 brands of imported cigarettes were announced recently. These brands were originally being shipped to other countries, but due to war conditions they have been landed in Australia and are part of refugee cargoes requisitioned by the Government for sale in Australia. The Prices Commissioner said the public would be unfamiliar with some brands, though Ardath, Craven A and Capstan cigarettes were well-known in Australia. The imported cigarette was often larger and heavier. This was the main reason for somewhat higher prices in some cases.

A fine of £500 was imposed in the Sydney Central Summons Court on J. Gunton (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., trading as F. Kanematsu (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., for attempting to trade with the enemy. Investigations showed that orders had been placed with a Japanese firm after proclamation of gazetted prohibitions.

"VERGELTUNG."

1919—1942?

(by "Base Wallah.")

Vergeltung is the German word for repayment or reprisal. I first heard the word—and learned its sinister meaning for a prisoner-of-war in German hands—in 1917, after Bullecourt. The "Black Hole of Lille" where 1,000 Australians were left underground in a mediaeval fortress dungeon for up to three weeks in conditions of systematic inhumanity, was the spear-head of *Vergeltung*.

And now in 1942 the Hun pronounces a new *Vergeltung*—this time the Canadian prisoners from Dieppe being the victims.

A Portent

I see *Vergeltung* as a portent. It is not the only parallel between 1917 and 1942. Every day, every news session, shows new ones.

The Kaiser had his dream plan of Welt-Anschauung (World Domination). Hitler has his equally ambitious Kampf. In both wars, the German nation (not the leaders only; their people were all behind them, sharing their dream-plans) goose-stepped out full of confident arrogance. *Deutschland uber Alles* (Germany above the World) was the popular ballad of 1914—replaced in 1940 by the Horstwessel of spurious origin. Then as now, one man dominated German life, German thought, German sentiment. Then as now, one man drove the German war machine. The German feeds on progress and success; his is a rigid single-track plan: everything must go according to the plan. The plan—Welt-Anschauung or Kampf—is infallible. Do not the national leader-idols say so?

1914—Hoch der Kaiser! 1939—Heil Hitler!

Russia Enslaved

At the first signs of failure of the plan, confidence begins to weaken. The machine begins to lose its driving force; its works show signs of cracking up. This happened in 1917. In the last war Russia broke—and became enslaved to Germany. There were over 3,000,000 Russians and Poles, military and civilian prisoners, working to keep the German war machine going in early 1918; working and dying like flies. What were the lives of a few thousand miserable moujiks in the grand plan of *Deutschland uber Alles*? But there was Verdun—one of the many graveyards of the plan. And Bullecourt—and Villers Brett, and all the others.

This time poor France provides the slaves; while Stalingrad replaces Verdun; and the plan—Hitler's Kampf—shows symptoms of failure.

Present Symptoms

The present symptoms are those of 1917-18; a whipping-up of civilian morale (the whip being just the wrong weapon for such a purpose); Generals dismissed; propaganda going mad; spirit nourished on recrimination and hate—a diet, too much of which sours the mental stomach; threats of violence replace the old arrogant promise of early victory; hospitals fill with wounded; casualty lists, no longer to be suppressed, grow; victory is delayed and delay must be explained. Hitler makes a speech—it lacks a little of the old cock-sureness and inspiration. Goering promises better days—a whole sausage extra issue to every soldier home on leave.

Whisperings commence at home—the thumb-screw of authority, demanding blind, unquestioning allegiance, presses harder. Resentment smoulders. Three years pass.

This England—of Lloyd George or Churchill; this British Empire, which should have disintegrated—it hangs together; seems even closer bound in its parts.

When will it all end? This year, next year, sometime....? Dry rot sets in at home; troops on leave from the front find nothing but melancholy

Move Against Malaria

To protect troops fighting in New Guinea from malaria, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research at Canberra is rushing work on the development of a repellent of the malaria-carrying mosquito before the wet season commences in the north.

The council has two months in which to discover it and manufacture it in large quantities. In the research, six Army and civilian entomologists sit for hours daily in a canvas tent letting mosquitoes bite them. They believe their experiments will yield a substance which will deter mosquitoes from biting for much longer than do present repellents.

The oil of a Tasmanian tree is being used in experiments, but some people are allergic to its smell, and efforts are being made to overcome this.

there. For them there is no respite from fighting.

The "conquered" countries, their spirit is unconquered; it flames up at unexpected times and places. Perhaps there will be no victory in the end. The Hun gets rattled. He must divert attention from the main issue. He takes "reprisals" against Allied prisoners, to show that he is still on top; to convince himself that the plan is still working. Your German is the most gullible person in Europe; his whole nurture and all his traditions have combined to build him that way. In this he is no different in 1942 from 1917.

Victory Vanishes

Goering threatens: the people must keep up their work and spirits—or they will be punished. Hitler himself introduces a new note of warning to his speeches. Goebbels goes to such fantastic lengths in his propaganda that it defeats itself.

Feed 'em on victory! Feed 'em on promises! Feed 'em on lies! Feed 'em on threats! Until they weary of such an unsatisfying diet. What left to appease that growing hunger which the promised victory is the only fare that can satisfy?

The spirit of Stalingrad—and the menace of growing Allied strength—stand in the way. Victory becomes less and less assured. More threats; more lies; more propaganda; more excuses—but still no victory. Dry-rot deepens; confidence shakes; whispers spread; a fertile field for the seeds of revolt.

The Inevitable End

"I grew increasingly convinced," wrote one who recently came out of Germany after closely watching the progress of the plan, "that the whole impressive fabric of Nazi military power was a brittle structure which rested on the ability to win actual military victories, but which lacked both the inner conviction and the moral stamina necessary to give it more than superficial strength. I became convinced that, if victories on the field of battle were denied to it, it would fall apart and vanish, leaving only a wonder that the world had ever been impressed by its appearance of strength."

There is ample evidence that such will be the inevitable end.

"Deutschland Kaputt" (Germany is broken, finished), said young Oskar Landmann, my Bavarian prison guard, in August 1918, through the bars of my 6'x6' *Streng-arrest* cell. (*Streng-arrest* is close confinement. I was undergoing my second term of *Vergeltung*). That's what happened in 1918. I saw it from inside. It culminated in the workers' and soldiers' revolution; started from the naval yards at Kiel and spread like a flame over the face of Germany. The set-up today is the same. The same symptoms begin to appear.

Shall 1918 find rebirth in 1943?

And shall we in our turn exact "*Vergeltung*"?

CAULFIELD CUP RESULTS

Taking the lead a furlong from home, Tranquil Star went on to win the 1942 Caulfield Cup by half a length from Heart's Desire, with El Golea third. There were 24 runners, course scratchings being Tuhitarata and Damalis.

Colonus set the pace up to the two furlongs post when he was challenged by Heart's Desire and Tranquil Star. From then on the race developed into a duel, El Golea and Skipton proving the most dangerous of a bunched field. A furlong to go, Tranquil Star, under the whip, had the race won.

Details:—Tranquil Star, 8.12 (A. Breasley), 1; Heart's Desire, 7.3 (H. Morris), 2; El Golea, 8.8 (V. Hartney), 3. Others; Velocity, Skipton, True Flight, Distinction, Rex Buzz, The Trapper, Lugano, Wilson, Prairiedale, Sir Locket, Watchguard, Son of Aurous, David Innes, Portfolio, New Warrior, Kooreen been, Colonus, Dark Felt, Hero, Amazed, Hestia.

SPECIAL NOTICE

"Soldiering On"

"Soldiering On" is the Australian Army's Own Christmas Book for 1942. Its 200 pages are packed with interest for every Australian soldier, his relatives, and friends; articles, stories and drawings, humorous and otherwise, by members of the Army; and 56 full pages (16 in colour) of reproductions of Australian Official War Paintings and photographs, many not previously published. To order the book a special form must be filled in. Copies of this form are available at your unit O.R. and a limited number at Army Education. The form, together with your pay-book, should be taken to your pay Sergeant who will debit you with 5/6. That's all you do. The Army arranges for postal delivery to the address stated on your form.

MISSIONARIES RESCUED

Hunted by Japanese for eight weeks, during which they suffered privations in the Guadalcanal jungle, 14 Roman Catholic missionaries—seven priests and seven nuns—have been rescued and evacuated from the Solomons. The missionaries, all members of the Marist Order under the Bishop of the South Solomons, the Rt. Rev. J. M. Aubin, included Brother George, 42 Walters Street, Paddington, Sydney; and Brother Michael, Leopard Street, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. The party was brought to safety at Kukum in the Guadalcanal district patrol-boat, commanded by a young sub-lieutenant, D. C. Horton, a former asst-district officer in the British Solomons, who is now in the R.A.N.V.R.

Brother Michael, whose family name is Cunningham, served with the 31 Battalion, A.I.F., in the Great War.

New Vic. Speaker

Brigadier Knox (U.A.P., Upper Yarra) was elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in succession to Mr. W. Slater, who has been appointed Australian Minister to the U.S.S.R. Brigadier Knox defeated Mr. T. D. Oldham (U.A.P., Boorondara) by 29 votes to 27, on the second count. The new Speaker, who is 57 years of age, commanded the 23 Bn. at Gallipoli and Lone Pine, and served in Egypt, Sinai and France in the last war.

To fill the gap between the cessation of publication of *M.A.N.S.* and the commencement of the daily newspaper referred to in column 1, page 1 the local Army Education Service will continue to issue its duplicated daily news bulletin to all units until further notice.

Contributions totalling some hundreds of pounds have been made to the Commonwealth Austerity Loan by the natives of this Territory. At least one N.G.F. Digger has put the whole of his bank balance and pay-book credit into the loan. Have you got a bank balance or pay-book credit?

General Smuts in England

"Our defence phase is now ended; the stage is set for the last phase, which is offensive," declared General Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, in a speech to the British Parliament on Wednesday. "Once the time has come to take the offensive it would be folly to delay, to be over-prepared and perhaps miss the opportunity. We are not likely to do that. It would be unwise to say more on this point."

BEACON TO MANKIND

In a tribute to Britain, General Smuts said: "This is a great occasion for me. I am deeply conscious of the exceptional honour you are doing me."

"The people of this island are the real heroes of this epic world-wide drama. I pay my small tribute to their unbending, unbreakable spirit. I have seen much war damage in Britain. But one thing is not lost. The most precious of all remains—the splendour of spirit which has shone over this land from the soul of its people and been a beacon for the oppressed and the downtrodden in this new martyrology of man."

NAZI ARMY BLEEDING TO DEATH

Turning to the Eastern front, General Smuts said that Hitler had made a fatal mistake in attacking Russia, where the German Army was bleeding to death. "The appalling blood-letting which is necessary for Hitler's ultimate defeat is being administered by the Russians. They alone can do it. Despite losses, they do not show the least sign of giving in. Their bitter defence will go on, bitter to the end. This impression is confirmed by the best inside information."

"The Allies' course is clear—they must give whatever help is possible in the fullest measure, with the utmost speed. The Russians are bearing more than their share of the common burden."

COLOSSAL AXIS BLUNDERS

General Smuts listed as three colossal Axis blunders—Hitler's failure to press on to London instead of turning off to Paris; the German attack against Russia; and the Pearl Harbour attack. "Will our enemies make a fourth?" he asked. "Will Japan treacherously attack Siberia? Time alone will show."

FAR EAST BLOW

General Smuts said the fall of France had most seriously affected the Allies' Far Eastern position. Vichy had opened Indo-China to the Japanese. "We never dreamed that this back door to Singapore would be opened against us by our ally," he said. Ill-disposed people had taken the fall of Singapore as a proof of decadence. It merely was a consequence of the fall of France, nothing more.

"For Japan just as surely as for Germany, the writing is on the wall," he said. "All that will remain from her spectacular success will be: 'Japan for the Japanese.' I do not deplore Pearl Harbour. It was a heavy price from our viewpoint, but was well worth paying. It suddenly solidified American opinion as nothing else could have done, and America, at one sudden leap, was in the war."

POST-WAR PLANS

"The war," concluded General Smuts, "is a new crusade in which the sort of post-war world envisaged and the social and international order at which we are aiming are most important questions. Our ideas on these matters 22 years ago were much too vague and crude, much too ambitious. They had not stood the test of hard experience. This failure helped to contribute to the present conflict. We are passing beyond ordinary politics and political shibboleths. It is no longer a case of Socialism, Communism, or any other 'ism,' but of achieving common justice and fair play for all."

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HQ MILITARY FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 37.
(From 0900 hrs 23 Oct 42 to 0900 hrs 25 Oct 42)

PART I.

OPERATIONS

OWN (i) LAND

Natives report 20 JAPS vic WAKANUBA (one mile east LILJHI) 23 Oct. All in very poor condition. 19 ran away, one captured by woman and boy of ten. JAP brought in by natives 24 Oct. Suffering from malaria and starvation. At present in hospital. Natives suitably rewarded.

OWN (iii) AIR

RECCE: NIL sightings of enemy shipping in sea lanes to MILNE BAY 23 Oct.

TONGAREVA HARBOUR:

1055 hrs 23 Oct : 2 probable battleships
 2 probable a/c carriers
 3 probable heavy cruisers or s/p tenders
 4 heavy cruisers
 12 destroyers
 11 U/I vessels.

FAISI HARBOUR:

1055 hrs 23 Oct : 3 U/I Vessels 6-7000 tons
 5 probable destroyers.

RABAUL HARBOUR

1415 hrs 22 Oct : 33 large vessels
 21 small vessels.

EAST OF BOUGANVILLE: In position 05°45' S 156°40' E course 135°.

1055 hrs 23 Oct : 1 destroyer
 1 small gunboat
 in posn 06°30' S 156°10' E
 1 destroyer
 2 cruisers 5-7000 tons.

ATTACKS:

NEW BRITAIN:

22 Oct: 4 seaplanes sunk off PILELO ISLAND.
 22 Oct: B17s attacked shipping RABAUL HARBOUR and claim 4 direct hits probably sinking 1 cruiser 1 destroyer 2 large merchant vessels. Other vessels probably damaged include 1 large merchant ship 1 transport 2 cargo vessels.

BOUGANVILLE:

23 Oct: Confirmed CATALINA attack BUKI aerodrome 17/10 as destruction 20 aircraft and fuel and bomb dumps.

NEW GUINEA:

A20s bombed vicinity DENIKI and strafed DENIKI-KONODA track.

ENEMY (111) AIR.

MORESSBY: Two planes dropped bombs vicinity WANDS DROME and 7 MILE DROME 2010L/25. AA engaged ineffectually.

(NGF Sitrep 230).

MELNE BAY: 2123L/25 unknown number of U/I A/C approached from NE and flew over BAY. No bombs dropped.

PAGE IVOTHER FRONTS(a) MAROUBRA:

20 Oct : Hard fighting continued throughout day. Vigorous flank attack by 2/2 Bn forced enemy out of his prepared posns early morning 21 Oct. LOCKHEED LIGHTSTAR landed and took off from partially prepared strip MYOLA 21 Oct.

21 Oct : 16 Bde pushed fwd maintaining contact with retreating JAP. 2/2 Bn plus two coys 2/3 Bn moved along ridge right flank and secured ground overlooking EORA CK village from SOUTH and EAST. 1650 L 2/1 Bn astride main track held up by enemy in strength approx 1000 yds SOUTH EORA CK village. 1710 L coy 2/3 Bn on right flank reported JAPS encountered just SOUTH EORA CK village.

22 Oct: 2/31 Bn less one coy moving from KAGI along track to ALOLA. HQ 25 Bde now located MYOLA. "A" patrol 6 IND COY moving SOUTH now at QC-4317 "Y" patrol 6 IND COY returning base GUBBIN. Morning 22 Oct enemy forced back along track past EORA CK village by 2/1 Bn with 2/2 Bn closing in from EAST. 2/3 Bn joined pursuit on high ground NORTH EORA CK village met some opposition. HQ 16 Bde expected at EORA CK village PM 22 Oct. 2/31 Bn comes under comd 16 Bde. 3 Bn now located TEMPLETONS. 2/25 Bn track and creek crossing one mile SOUTH TEMPLETONS. Afternoon adv continued despite intense inf, gun, mortar and MMG fire from enemy. Disposns 1800 L/22. Two coys 2/1 Bn on ridge NORTH EORA CK village moving towards ALOLA balance 2/1 Bn fwd slopes spur EAST village. 2/3 Bn based on spur SOUTH of and overlooking village with coy along creek NORTH and EAST. fwd elements this coy in contact with enemy track and creek crossing 500 yds NORTH of village. 2/2 Bn on high ground to EAST of track 1000 yds SOUTH village. Attack continues first light 23 Oct. CO 2/3 Bn slightly wounded but carrying on.

(b) RAHWA:

22 Oct : IAE O.P. reports enemy bombers landed IAE 0735 L. Departed NE and SE at 0829 and 0945. Truck moving down probably petrol from NORTH end drome and placing in bu midway between No 3 blast bay and SOUTH end drome. Three bombers took off IAE 1800 hrs probably identical with A/C attacked MORESSBY 2010L/22.

(c) HARFORCE:

21 Oct : 2 Bn 125 US Regt withdrawn from overland trail to be moved PONGANI by sea.

22 Oct : 125 US Inf now have 235 men in posn NORTH of PONGANI. Recce det preparing to move on route EMBESSA J-7141 -KOTORI - KINJAKI - PONGANI.

-5-

(a) JAURE AREA:

20 Oct : 2 Bn 126 US Regt between DOROBISOLO IARUNI.

(c) KUMUSI VALLEY.

"D" patrol based BARUMBILA reports 1300L/20 JAPS withdrawn to ASISI three miles SOUTH WAIROPE ransacking native villages en route. "D" patrol and det 126 US Regt from JAURE moving NORTH

Small recon patrol reports JAP patrol strength about 20 encountered approx 15 miles SE WAIROPE 15 Oct. JAPS fit and well armed opened fire with IMGs. Forced our patrol to withdraw. 52 US Div fighting patrol moving to area.

(f) BUNA AREA:

20 Oct : O.P. established ADJORA QD 1505 with view BUNA and GONA.

Infm 21 Oct states NO JAPS ADJORA QD 1505 BOFU QJ 1193 SERAPI QD 1303. Armed OROKAIVA natives from SANGARA have raided this area. Infrequent JAP patrols reported to INONGHE D 1706.

Natives report NO JAPS at BUNA but some being hidden in bush by local natives.

G.S. MILLER FORCE.
Col.

WPI

21 October 43

REPORT TO HQ 1/23

One or more U/I aircraft caused a red alert at 2030 hrs last night but departed NW without dropping any bombs. This morning at 0415 hrs an enemy heavy bomber made two runs over MILNE BAY dropping several bombs. Two craters 3-6 feet in width have so far been found vicinity LADAVA MTSION. No casualties or damage.

In addition to the Jap captured vicinity LILINI on 24th - a second Jap was captured to-day by GI Bn. The first Jap has turned out to be KOREAN being probably one of the coolies landed in the original party. He does not speak JAPANESE.

SW. PACIFIC.

Flying Fortresses yesterday made their second successive night raid on RABUL. Flying from bases in Australia the planes attacked shipping in the harbour, scoring a direct hit on a 17,000 ton seaplane-tender with a 500-lb. bomb. No interception was encountered and all our planes returned safely.

Allied bombers raided the aerodrome at LAB yesterday, destroying 2 enemy bombers on the ground and possibly two more.

In the OWEN STANLEY RANGE, our troops continue to advance slowly. Steady progress is being made.

OVERSEAS:

In the Middle East the 8th Army has been given the order to advance and destroy Rommel's Army. No further information is available although it is known that the 8th Army has reached the German-Italian system of defence in several places. The attack which began at 10 p.m. on Friday with strong air support was on a 40 mile front.

At the same time as the 8th Army is commencing its push, the RAF is beginning to batter Axis supply bases in Italy. Giant Lancaster bombers, for the second successive day, flew the round trip from Britain to Italy and return. This time the target was the industrial city of MILAN which was left with many huge fires burning in the target area. One large factory was seen to receive a hit from a 4000 lb. bomb. The raid was carried out in daylight, the greater part of the flight being unattended. Only three planes failed to return from the 1000-mile trip.

A later report states that the RAF were over Italy again last night but details are not yet available. BERNE, in Switzerland, had an alert lasting three hours yesterday.

There has been no change in the position at STALIN RAD, fighting for small positions only taking place. The enemy were driven back after bitter fighting. The relief army in the NW has made some further progress. In the Caucasus the Russians are still defending successfully.

In the GILBERT ISLANDS an American report tells of the sinking of two enemy patrol vessels, a destroyer and a transport.

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One of our patrols ambushed five Japs at WILSON yesterday afternoon, killing four and capturing the fifth.

WILSON

No further news has been released of the position on GUADALCANAL, although a heavy Jap attack on the airfield has been repulsed. To the west of the field US Marines have made some slight progress. Two enemy destroyers have been sunk by US dive bombers. Catalinas have attacked an enemy aircraft carrier and a cruiser 400 miles NE of GUADALCANAL. Hits were scored on both vessels.

NEW GUINEA: A force of Beaufighters attacked LAE scoring hits on three enemy barges and silencing AA fire. One of our aircraft is missing.

Allied attack bombers have raided the BOONA trail. The position in the OWEN STANLEY RANGE remains unchanged.

Weapons captured from the Japs at MINN BAY have been examined by military experts in Australia. They are stated to be mostly copies of German weapons.

DARWIN: Nine bombers raided DARWIN yesterday, arriving in three waves. No damage is reported.

AFRICA

The Eighth Army has made some further progress and all previous gains have been held. Air activity has been on a large scale, there having been 2000 Allied raids in one day over the whole North African battle area.

The Japanese base of KISKA in the ALBERTIAN ISLANDS has had further raids, over 18 tons of bombs being dropped.

Air activity has commenced again on the borders of INDIA. In ASSAM, Jap planes have attacked American airfields. Two enemy planes were shot down for the loss of one American aircraft.

In STALINGRAD the Russians are counter-attacking at both ends of the city.

British mosquito bombers have attacked German shipping, leaving one vessel blazing. Targets in Holland and Belgium were also attacked.

Spitfires attacked warehouses and railway engines along the occupied coast yesterday.

Allied aircraft have dropped 15,000 tons of bombs on Germany in the last two months.

100-1000-1-1000-1000

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GUADALCANAL

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NEW GUINEA: A force of Beaufighters attacked LAE scoring hits on
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Allied aircraft have dropped 13,000 tons of bombs on
Germany in the last two months.

23 OCT 42.

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELL SUM NO 38.

(From 0900 hrs 26 Oct 42 to 0900 hrs 28 Oct 42)

PART 1

OPERATIONS.

OWN (i) LAND.

KB - AHIOMA area

On 26 Oct natives encountered two JAPS approx 2½ miles inland from vicinity WANADALA. One was killed attempting to escape. The other was captured. Natives were suitably rewarded.

TAUPOTA.

A.M. 27 Oct: 3 JAPS encountered and killed in hills S.E. TAUPOTA.

OWN (iii) AIR.

(a) Ship Sightings.

KAVIENG.

1130 hrs 25 Oct: 1 cruiser, 1 tender, 1 transport
1215 hrs 26 Oct: 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 2 merchant vessels

BUIN - FAISI area.

1500 hrs 26 Oct: 24 vessels incl 3 cruisers, 7 destroyers, 3 "mystery ships", 1 tanker and 10 merchant vessels.

BUKA PASSAGE

1050 hrs 26 Oct: 2 transports, 1 destroyer.

IN TRANSIT

1519 hrs 26 Oct: 1 battleship, 1 large cruiser, 2 destroyers approx 60 miles south of FAISI.
0855 hrs 27 Oct: 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer in posn 05° 50'S, 152° 10'E course 010°.

(b) Attacks.

KAVIENG.

Night 24/25 Oct: 3 Catalinas attacked, 3 direct hits on fuel dumps. Fires visible 40/50 miles. 1 4 engined bomber hit and destroyed.

IAE and SALAMAUA

were bombed 26 Oct whilst support was extended to our ground forces by the strafing of the MISIMA - DENIKI areas.

ENEMY (iii) AIR.

MILNE BAY:

Enemy a/c over MILNE BAY at approx 0430 hrs 26 Oct. Gun sites engaged. Some bombs were dropped. 2 craters found vicinity LAUDAVA mission. Nil damage or casualties.

PART IV Other Fronts.

(a) MAROUBRA.

23 Oct. Our attack maintained in face of tenacious enemy resistance and by persistent fire arty mortar MMGs.

(a) MAROUBRA (Continued)

By 1800 L leading elements 2/1 Bn advanced approx 700 yds along track north EORA CK village with right flank moving along high ground to east.

'A' Patrol 6 Ind Coy vicinity YODDA 17 Oct report route YODDA KOKODA regularly patrolled and under observation by enemy O Ps.

25 Bde commence fwd move.

24 Oct: 2/1 Bn continuing adv along main track to ALOIA and high ground on right. Strong enemy resistance supported by lt arty and isolated sniper parties difficult to dislodge. Pocket of enemy located on fwd slopes precipitous spur commanding ascent into EORA CK village. Elements 2/3 Bn attacking frontally while two coys 2/2 Bn making difficult outflanking move to gain top of spur by morning 25 Oct.

Two patrols 50 strong with W/T moved out right flank to contact two coys 2/1 Bn and outflank enemy opposing 2/1 Bn north EORA CK village. Known enemy casualties 24 Oct 11 killed.

25 Bde disposes at 1800 L/24. 2/31 Bn less one coy in rear 16 Bde HQ north EORA CK village. 25 Bde HQ TEMPLETONS with 2/25 and 2/33 bns in vicinity.

25 Oct: 2/1 Bn less one coy making progress direction ALOIA along main track and high ground east. Enemy maintaining tenacious resistance but his gun and mortar fire decreased late afternoon. 2/3 Bn and one coy 2/1 Bn continuing frontal pressure on enemy now estimated one bn straggling down spur commanding EORA CK village. No report of 2/2 Bn encircling move. 'A' patrol 6 Ind Coy at YODDA 06 5502 24 Oct. Have seen and shot only one Jap. Patrol moving off track through jungle in attempt reach KOKODA unable take W/T set.

(b) KINGA.

23 Oct. Japs installed three dual purpose AI guns KOMIATUM, where strength garrison confirmed between 400 and 500 living in huts near guns. Japs have sup dump LOGUI south side mouth FRISGO river.

24 Oct. SAIAMUA area no Jap outposts LOKANUI LABABIA. Work reported being done centre LAE drome. One bomber parked during morning south side drome took off heading south 1500 hrs.

(c) BUN. area.

24 Oct: Reliable native reports BUNA and SINEMI strongly held by enemy. SANMINDA held by small number armed men and large number enemy labour corps. Guns at JIROPA PT - BUNTINGS store. Many small craft concealed in mangrove BUNA - SANMINDA.

25 Oct: Reliable native reports confirm BUN. area strongly held by Japs.

Distribution:

(As for Intell Sum No 37)

Col.
GS MILITARY FORCE.

7 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 4to 19 Oct 42ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF JAP FORCES

(On Infm Received to 18 Sep)

| AREA | IDENTIFICATIONS | TOTAL DIVS | AREA | IDENTIFICATIONS | TOTAL DIVS |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------|----------------------|---|------------|
| <u>SACHALIEN</u> | 7 Div | 1 | <u>SUMATRA</u> | 38 Div May have moved to Japan | 1 |
| <u>JAPAN</u> | Xh, Xj, Xk, Xl, Xn, Xn 15 Plus 10 New Divs Also 15 Depot Divs One unident Div shown here believed moving North China | 15 | <u>JAVA</u> | 5, 57 Div ident of 58 Regt in this area suggests presence of new Div | 3 |
| <u>MANCHUKUO</u> | 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 20 26 23, 24, 25, 41, 52, 53, 54, Xb Xc, Xe, Xf, Xg, Xp, Xs, Xu | 26 | <u>CELEBES</u> | 88 Div (Possibly moved North) | 1 |
| <u>KOREA</u> | 19, 20 Depot Divs | -- | <u>TIMOR-BALI</u> | Xe probably det of 6000 Timor | 1 |
| <u>NORTH CHINA</u> | 26, 27, 32, 36, 37, 69 8 110 Plus one unident from Jap | 8 | <u>AMSON</u> | Grn (No recent infm) (of strength) | -- |
| 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 15 IM Bdes | | | <u>BORNEO</u> | Unidentified Div | 1 |
| <u>CENTRAL CHINA</u> | 3, 13, 15, 22, 34, 39 10 40, 70, Xv 116 Divs 1, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 IM Bdes | 10 | <u>NEW BRITAIN</u> | 16, Xd (less 2 Regts in NG) 65 (?), 35 Bde Gp | 3, 1/3 |
| <u>FORMOSA</u> | 28 Depot Div | -- | <u>PAPUA</u> | (BUNA-KOKODA-EFOGI) 2 Regts Xd div. (MILNE BAY) REMNANTS of - KURE No 5 Spec NLP 3 " " SASEBO" 5 " " YOKOSUKA " 5 " " 10 Pnr Unit | 2/3 |
| <u>SOUTH CHINA</u> | 28, 104 2 19 I.M. Bde | 2 | <u>GILBERT IS</u> | YOKOSUKA No 6 Spec N.L.P. (en route) | |
| <u>HAINAN</u> | 21, 22 I.M. Bdes 30,000 Unident Troops Reported in this area | -- | <u>GUADALCANAL</u> | SASEBO No 1 Spec NLP Poss. Pnr Unit | |
| <u>PHILIPPINES</u> | 4 (?65) 1 | 1 | <u>JALUIT</u> | Xt Div | 1 |
| <u>INDO CHINA</u> | 21, 51 Divs 2 One of these Divs may have moved North | 2 | <u>TOTAL 86 DIVS</u> | | |
| <u>THAILAND</u> | Two unident Divs 2 | 2 | | | |
| <u>BURMA</u> | 17, 18, 33, 55, 56 Divs 5 | 5 | | | |
| <u>MALAYA</u> | Guards plus one other 2 | 2 | | | |

A New Army (3rd) Reported in MANCHUKUO
17th Army is in RABAU AREA)
14th Army possibly in RABAU AREA)

These armies would include
Divs in NEW BRITAIN

NOTE It is considered that Japan can form and equip a
minimum of 100 Divs. She appears to have sufficient
manpower for up to 130 Divs.

(Adv IHQ Intell Sum. No 7)

WPI

APPX "B" TO 17 AUST INF BDE INT SUMMARY NO. 1.
FROM 0600 hours 19 OCT to 0600 hours 21 OCT.

TRACK REPORTS

Ref Maps SAMARAI 1/4" to 1 mile.
GILI GILI and WAIGANI 1" to 1 mile.

HAGITA FORD

Become impassable to all vehs periodically after heavy rain.

TRACK RUBBER PLANTATION (941982) - GWENAGWENARENA (936044)

2 Oct. First 1 1/4 miles motor rd with gravelled surface, first 1/3 mile being through rubber plantation and the remainder through coconut plantation. From here it is a foot track, overgrown in places.

Track runs parallel KANIPOKA CREEK throughout crossing it five times. All fords are shallow.

Surrounding country is flat with light jungle and wait a while. It is possible to traverse it in all directions. The trail has been widened and blazed as a main track.

TRACK ROUTE 13 at 916992 - GWENAGWENARENA (936044)

Track leaves WATER TOWER on a bearing of 40 deg magnetic, crosses WAIGANI CREEK at 220 yds, then reenters the creek and follows up the bed for 900 yds. At 926012 there is a sharp rise, then a descent to sago swamp at 930016. At 939034 track joins track RUBBER PLANTATION (941982) - GWENAGWENARENA.

Vegetation is coconut plantation to WAIGANI FORD then light jungle to 930016, then sago swamp followed by dense jungle to approx 934022. Thence light jungle.

KANIPOKA CREEK

This creek runs into the NAIWARI near KALAKALA VILLAGE (937973). It has a gravel bottom throughout. With the exception of plantation area from 938979 to 943004 banks are covered with light jungle and wait a while. From approx 938980 to 943004 banks are precipitous averaging 20 feet in height, and creek is 20 feet wide and one foot deep. From 943009 north banks are flat and creek varies from 20 to 60 feet in width with average depth of 1 foot.

TRACK BALAGA-DUABO

Distance 10 miles. Travelling time 7 hours with porters. 5½ hours with small party travelling unloaded and with no long halts.

Vegetation

Jungle throughout. Only clearings are native gardens and flats along GOMINI RIVER covered with bladey grass six feet high.

Track

BALAGA-DUGAMA. Through flat country wet and muddy but mud not more than six inches deep, four shallow fords and one footbridge.

GOMINI RIVER. Ford is difficult to find. It is 150 yds long and four feet deep (river in flood) crossing the river at 145 degrees.

GOMINI RIVER-PIWEEPI. Flat muddy track at least four feet wide. Eight shallow fords and three footbridges.

PIWEEPI-DUABO MISSION. Narrow track (two feet in places) estimated to rise over 1000 feet in about two miles.

AFVs

The track from PIWEETI to BALAGA could be used by Lt tanks but there are several obstacles, the main one being the GOMINI RIVER. This would require at least 200 yds of bridge. Several of streams at present crossed by footbridges would be A Tk obstacles until bridged. Except in isolated spots Tks would be unable to leave track.

TRACK 910982-DUGAMA

This track is true to map GILI GILI 3" to 1 mile. It commences on south bank of MAIWARA RIVER half way between two fords. This pt has been blazed. Southern end of track joins track BALAGA-DUABO 20 yds west of DUABO village track. Has been well used but recently jungle growth has obscured odd pts.

Vegetation is light jungle with no open areas. Track forms a satisfactory short cut to DUGAMA for portage parties.

TRACKS 898982 DUGAMA and 893983 DUGAMA

No evidence of the tracks has been found.

TRACK 945983 - TRACK JUNG 926929

Motor track to edge of jungle, thence well defined track four feet wide but narrowing to two feet in places. Fords over MAIWARA RIVER and GOMINI RIVER not over 2½ feet deep. Track is wet and runs through swampy country but would save up to two hours travelling time to DUABO compared with route 945983 BALAGA-DUABO.

TRACK MAIWARA-GIBARA

The following additional infm has been received.
Passability. The track is

OBSTACLES

MAIWARA RIVER. Although falling on 18 Sep was still waist high, and ford was 80' long.

UPPER NIHANIHA RIVER. ((84942). Bridge requires 4 hrs work by one sec, lengthening northern end to make a satisfactory inf crossing.

UNNAMED CREEK (980935). Single tree bridge, requires hand ropes to make a satisfactory crossing.

NIHA NIHA RIVER. Native ferry takes four men and is in very bad repair. Crossing took 30 mins for 36 men. Not fordable owing to slimy bottom.

GOVINI RIVER. Ford breast high but after rains river floods swamp area on southern bank. Canoe crossing took 1 hr for 56 men despite use of tow line.

GIBARA RIVER. Ferry takes 4 men and is in very bad repair. Crossing took 35 mins for 6 men. Not fordable owing to slimy bottom. This river would be difficult for craft of two foot draft and is closed at mouth by a sand bar only negotiable at flood tide.

Area Junc MAIWARA RIVER-KALOHI CREEK. The country consists of swampy dense jungle thick with mosquitoes. Natives will not live in this area because of danger of malaria. Movement is difficult except on tracks river junc MEDOWA and river junc DONA DONA.

SOUTHERN APPROACHES

MAIWARA RIVER - KALOHI CREEK

The MAIWARA RIVER is navigable to flat bottomed barges similar to Jap M.L.C. as far as its junc with KALOHI CREEK. Inf can advance along both banks.

KALOHI CREEK is not navigable but is fordable anywhere by inf. Inf can approach along both banks but dense jungle along both sides confines approach to immediate banks of creek.

At DONA DONA there is a jungle path leading east to Route 9 near junc Routes 9 and 3. From DONA DONA to HAGITA FORD there is a track passable to jeeps. It is estimated that it would take three hours to bring a coy from the mouth of the MAIWARA RIVER to DONA DONA. Travelling from DONA DONA to HAGITA via track $\frac{3}{4}$ hour.

TRACK GIBARA-MAIWARA

This is good track and would be passable to MT in dry weather and tracked vehs in wet if rivers were bridged at the following pts :- 008958, 985943, 982926, 989918, 994909. At these pts rivers are. Tk obstacles and NINA NINA, GOMINI and GIBARA Rivers are not fordable by inf. These rivers including the MAIWARA are navigable to flat bottomed barges.

Shipping by launch to GIBARA and taking track to DUABO which is passable to MT gives a much shorter route to DUABO than via BALAGA.

NORTHERN APPROACHES

Route 978995 (west of HAGITA) - EANEANENE to KALOHI CREEK

972018 - This track is passable to carriers as far as EANEANENE and with a small amount of work such as clearing of logs off pathway could be made passable as far as 2900 yds north of EANEANENE. This is the government track to the north coast. Further recesses north of KALOHI CREEK are being undertaken. ANGAU advises that it takes 5 hours travelling time from the North Coast to HAGITA. From pt 972018 KALOHI CK to HAGITA FORD is passable to tps. The general vegetation is dense but penetrable and there are many paths leading south.

A good foot path leads from North of HAGITA HOUSE through the jungle to Route 1 at point 989002 and could be used as an alternate counter attack route to STRIP 1 if Route 1 was denied.

WAI

⑤ *Disembarkation Sequence*

SECRET
COPY NO 6

17 AUST INF BDE INT. SUMMARY NO. 1.

(From 0600 hours 19 Oct to 0600 hours 21 Oct.)

PART I. : OPERATIONS

Own : Land

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

Own : Air

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

Enemy : Land

TAUPOTA 4 Japs were found dead on 17 Oct.

Believed approx 40 Japs in area between AWAURIA BAY and BENTLEY BAY.

PART II.

1. SUMMARY OF AIR RECCES.

SOLOMON IS. - 18 Oct

EAST of BOUGAINVILLE IS. : 1430 hrs. 2 heavy cruisers, 2 small U/I vessels in posn 05°525, 157° 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.

2. O. OF B.

Following is LHQ est. of Jap. forces based in RABAU based on infm to 7 Oct.

NEW BRITAIN : HQ 17 Army (and possibly 14 Army)
16 Div.
55 Div less 2 regts in New Guinea.
65 Div (may be 4 Div).

PAPUA (BUNA - KOKODA - TEMPLETON'S CROSSING):
Two regts 55 Div.

(MILNE BAY) : Remnants of

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|------|-----|
| KURE | No. 5 | Spec | NLP |
| KURE | No. 2 | " | " |
| SASEBO | No. 5 | " | " |
| YOKOSUKA | No. 5 | " | " |
| 10 Pnr Unit. | | | |

GILBERT IS. -

2. O. OF B. (Contd)

GILBERT IS. :

YOKOSUKA No.6 Spec NLP (en route)

GUADALCANAL :

SASEBO No.1 Spec NLP
35 Bde Gp (probable)
Pnr Unit (possible)
One Div (unidentified)

JALUIT :

(in MARSHALL ISLANDS)

one Div (unidentified).

3. IDENTIFICATIONS

(i) 144 Inf Regt and 55 Engr Regt have been identified in KOKODA area. This confirms the identification of XD Div as 55 Div.

(ii) Reproduced below is a sketch showing a brass identity disc captured at IORIBAIWA 28 Sep.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Div Code Name (TATE) | | 2 believed to be number of coy. |
| | | 8) |
| | | 4) Serial No. of unit |
| Soldier's Name { 6 - | | 2) (55 Engr Unit). |
| { 3 - | 0) | |

In the event of discs of this type being captured the serial no. of the unit should be immediately signalled as an identification.

(iii) Another form of identification worn by Jap tps in IORIBAIWA area is a small cloth insignia strip worn vertically on the left breast. This bears the unit and the soldiers name. On the right breast a small cloth tag marked with a black square is worn. Its meaning is not known.

(iv) Collar badges captured at IORIBAIWA confirm that Jap badges of rank are being thus worn now.

NOTE :- To be repeated in all unit summaries.

4. ORGANIZATIONS

NIL.

5. PERSONALITIES

NIL.

6. EQUIPMENT

(i) The use by the enemy of a 60 mm QF gun is reported from the OWEN STANLEY RANGE. This type has not been previously identified but is believed by NGF to be a dual purpose A TK and Fd gun. It is believed that the regimental gun coy off 144 Inf Regt is equipped with two 60 mm QF guns and two 75 mm mountain guns.

6. EQUIPMENT (ii) -

6. EQUIPMENT (Contd)

- (ii) At CORREGIDOR, the Japs are reported to have used a bomb which bursts with a huge flame. Two of these dropped exploded about 500 feet above the ground.

7. TACTICS

O.C. A Coy 2/9 Aust Inf Bn which has been patrolling WAGA WAGA Area reports that when Jap parties are led by an officer or an N.C.O. they follow dry creek beds and avoid making noises.

8. C.W.

- (i) No indication of immediate preparation by the enemy for C.W. have been reported up to the present in NG area. However, it is considered that JAPAN will not hesitate to use C.W. if it should appear advantageous. Timely warning of enemy intentions to use gas can only be obtained if formations and units co-operate by fwding the following infm :-

- (a) The carrying of respirators by JAP soldiers.
- (b) The carrying of unusual eqpt.
- (c) JAP uniforms (to test for impregnations).
- (d) All types of weapons and munitions especially if markings vary from the usual.
- (e) Reports of dumps or demolitions liquid or containers of unusual nature.

- (ii) A captured document indicates that the supplementary canister of the JAP respirator is intended for use against Carbon Monoxide, generated by fire in warships, or by underwater explosion. It is effective against concentrations of Carbon Monoxide up to 3%.

9. GENERAL

- (i) The following from a PW interrogation illustrates the JAP attitude to capture and should be brought to the notice of all ranks :

"The PW expressed a keen desire to return to JAPAN after the war but was anxious that NO advice of his capture be fwded to his wife or relatives as this would bring shame upon his wife and family."

- (ii) Crashed Aircraft

Extracted from HQ MILNE FORCE G.S. Instruction No 1. :-

"(a) GENERAL

It will be a vital necessity to make the best possible use of any evidence which may fall into our hands as the result of the capture of enemy aircraft and crews and to ensure that our crashed aircraft are not interfered with by unauthorised persons.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY OF ARMY UNITS

It is the responsibility of the nearest army unit to supply a guard, unless the aircraft is brought down near an RAAF establishment.

The primary duty of the guard is to ensure that there is no unauthorised pilfering or search of the aircraft or the area of the crash.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY OF ARMY UNITS -

9. GENERAL (Contd)

(ii) Crashed Aircraft (Contd)

"(b) RESPONSIBILITY OF ARMY UNITS (Contd)

The unit making the capture will immediately get in touch with Force HQ and RAAF HQ.

The guard will remain until RAAF Intelligence and Technical officers make all necessary searches for documents and technical data.

(c) DISPOSAL OF AIRCRAFT

The crashed aircraft is to be deemed the property of the RAAF whose representatives will make arrangements for disposal according to their judgment.

(d) DISPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS

All documents found on prisoners and/or aircraft are to be sent by the quickest means to Air Intelligence, RAAF HQ, TOWNSVILLE. Documents may be briefly examined prior to despatch. They should be put in separate parcels clearly marked with identification marks of aircraft and date, time and location of crash.

(e) DISPOSAL OF PRISONERS

Aircrew prisoners must be kept segregated and forbidden to talk among themselves. There must be no fraternisation or communication except for such medical attention as may be necessary.

Aircrew prisoners will be sent under guard by the most available means to RAAF HQ, TOWNSVILLE. "

(iii) Identification Names of JAP A/C.

In reporting of crashed enemy aircraft, type of aircraft will be substituted by identifying names. A list of these names is att. as Appx "A".

(iv) The following infm is from a U.S. Army M.I. publication :-

"The Japs wear a piece of clothing like a towel (the FOONDOHSHEE) wrapped around their waist and between their legs. This has numerous folds and is used for secreting papers, weapons, etc. Japs strongly resent removing it but prisoners should be made to strip covered by rifles and the cloth should then be examined for hidden articles."

(v) The attention of all ranks will be directed to the danger existing through the presence of crocodiles in local streams.

PART III. - TOPOGRAPHICAL

(i) LANDING STRIPS

WEDAU reports landing strip now 600 yds long by 30 yds wide bearing 235 deg and gives a comfortable landing for MOTH aircraft. Strip is 1300 yds from WEDAU on bearing of 213 deg.

TOPOGRAPHICAL (ii) -

PART III. - TOPOGRAPHICAL

- (ii) Recent reports on tracks in this area are att. as Appx "B" to this summary.

PART IV. - OTHER 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.

PART V. - SECURITY

- (i) It is reported that a raid on NUBO (SALAMOA area) by our troops was unsuccessful because the enemy knew of the impending attack, probably from native intelligence.

- (ii) MORALE. Attempts to break down morale of tps in operational stations have been brought to notice.

In one instance, a soldier endeavoured to impress listeners by erecting a vivid mental picture of the horrors of modern warfare.

This type of fifth column activity, if allowed to continue, would have a marked effect on imaginative tps, and eventually lead to lowering morale throughout the army. Cases such as these in this area should be reported immediately, and drastic action taken against offenders.

- (iii) CENSORSHIP.

Green envelopes must not be used for discussions of military matters. It has been noted that offr's have been using green envelopes. This privilege applies only to O.Rs.

It is evident that some unit franking offr's are not sufficiently aware of the serious consequences which may follow the leakage of infm conveyed through the mail.

In a recent censorship on the mail from a Bde, no less than 36 per cent of the mail which had been franked and bore the unit censor stamp conveyed infm of projected movements and the most flagrant offenders were officers who franked their own letters.

(iii) CENSORSHIP -

PART V. - SECURITY (Contd)

(iii) CENSORSHIP (Contd)

If this serious breach of discipline persists, it will eventually lead to the withdrawal of this privilege from officers.

NOTE : To be repeated in all unit summaries.

(Adv LHQ Summary No. 7)
(NGF Int Summary No 83)

Ramphel Majcr.

B/M. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

- Copy No. 1 HQ Milne Force
- 2 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
- 3 2/6 Aust Inf Bn
- 4 2/7 Aust Inf Bn
- 5 3 Bty 1 Aust A/Tk Regt
- 6 Comd
- 7 B/M.
- 8 Officers to Note File.
- 9 File
- 10-12 War Diary.

SUPPLEMENT TO 17 AJST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.1.

GOODENOUGH IS.

A captured message from the Jap force on GOODENOUGH IS. discloses that there are more than 300 Japs marooned there in the area of GALIWAUA BAY. They are short of weapons and ammunition and are living on native food. They are endeavouring to communicate with BUNA by messengers sent by canoes.

APPX "A" TO 17 AUST INF BDE INT SUMMARY NO.1
FROM 0600 hrs 19 OCT TO 0600 hrs 21 OCT

JAPANESE AIRCRAFT

Non-operational in S.W.P.A.

List of Identifying Names (Replacing Serial Numbers)

| <u>FIGHTERS</u> | <u>Identifying Name</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Type 96, SSF, Mitsubishi | CLAUDE |
| Type 97, SSF, Mitsubishi | ABDUL |
| Type 97, JSF, Nakajima | CLINT |
| Type 97, SSF, Mitsubishi Mitsu | SANDY |
| Type 97, 2SF, F/P | ADAM |
| Type 98, SSF, Kawasaki | PERRY |
| Type 98, 2SF, Mitsubishi | DICK |
| Type 0, 2E SSF, Mitsubishi | HARRY |
| Type 1, SSF, Mitsubishi | RAY |
| Type 1, SSF, Kawasaki | JIM |
| Type , SSF, Mitsubishi Mitsuto | BEN |
| AT 27, SSF, | GUS |
| Suzukazo 20, SSF | ONAR |
| T.K. 4, 2E, SSF | FRANK |
| T.K. 19, SSF, | JOE |
| ME 110, 2E, SSF, Messerschmitt | DOC |
| <u>RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION</u> | |
| Type 94, RF/P, Kawanishi | ALF |
| Type 97, RF/P, Aichi | BOB |
| <u>TORPEDO AND DIVE BOMBERS</u> | |
| Type 96, D/B, Mitsubishi | SUSIE |
| Type 96, T/B, Nakajima | JEAN |
| Type 97, T/B, F/P, Kawanishi Kawa | MABEL |
| Type 1, D/B, Nakajima | DOT |
| JU 87B, D/B, Junker | IRENE |
| <u>LIGHT BOMBERS</u> | |
| Type 97, LB, Kawasaki | MARY |
| Type 97, LB, Kamikazo | BABS |
| Type 98, LB, Mitsubishi | SONIA |
| Type 1, LB, (ground attack), Nakajima | JOYCE |
| <u>MEDIUM BOMBERS</u> | |
| Type 96, MB, Nakajima | EVE |
| Type 97, MB, | JULIA |
| Type 98, MB, Mitsubishi | LOUISE |
| Type 98, MB, Nakajima | BESS |
| Type , MB, unidentified | MAISIE |
| BR 20, MB, Fiat | RUTH |
| JU 88, MB, Junkers | JANICE |
| Type , BF/P, Aichi | IONE |
| Type 0, MB, Mitsubishi | GWEN |
| <u>FLYING BOATS</u> | |
| Type 96, 3E F/B, Mitsubishi | BELLE |
| Type 98, 1E F/B, Aichi | LAURA |
| Type 99, 2E F/B, Kawanishi | CHERRY |
| Type 99, 4E, F/B | JOAN |

Used in S.W.P.A. -

JAPANESE AIRCRAFT

Used in S.W.P.A.

List of Identifying Names

FIGHTERS

Type 97, SSF
Type 0, SSF
Type 0, SSF, F/P
FW 190, SSF
ME 109F, SSF

Identifying Name

NATE
ZEKE
RUFÉ
FRED
MIKE

RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION

Type 95, RF/P
Type 0, OF/P

DAVE
PETE

TORPEDO AND DIVE BOMBERS

Type 97/3, T/B
Type 99, D/B

KATE
VAL

MEDIUM BOMBERS

Type 96, Mk IV, MB
Type 97, MB
Type 1, MB

NELL
SALLY
BETTY

FLYING BOATS

Type 97, 4E, F/B

MAVIS

(COIC 5 Oct 42)

APPX "B" TO 17 AUST INF BDE INT SUMMARY NO. 1.
FROM 0600 hours 19 OCT to 0600 hours 21 OCT.

TRACK REPORTS

Ref Maps SAMARAI 1/4" to 1 mile.
GILI GILI and WAIGANI 1" to 1 mile.

HAGITA FORD

Become impassable to all vehs periodically after heavy rain.

TRACK RUBBER PLANTATION (941982) - GWENAGWENARENA (936044)

2 Oct. First 1 1/4 miles motor rd with gravelled surface, first 1/3 mile being through rubber plantation and the remainder through coconut plantation. From here it is a foot track, overgrown in places.

Track runs parallel KANIPOKA CREEK throughout crossing it five times. All fords are shallow.

Surrounding country is flat with light jungle and wait a while. It is possible to traverse it in all directions. The trail has been widened and blazed as a main track.

TRACK ROUTE 13 at 916992 - GWENAGWENARENA (936044)

Track leaves WATER TOWER on a bearing of 40 deg magnetic, crosses WAIGANI CREEK at 220 yds, then reenters the creek and follows up the bed for 900 yds. At 926012 there is a sharp rise, then a descent to sago swamp at 930016. At 939034 track joins track RUBBER PLANTATION (941982) - GWENAGWENARENA.

Vegetation is coconut plantation to WAIGANI FORD then light jungle to 930016, then sago swamp followed by dense jungle to approx 934022. Thence light jungle.

KANIPOKA CREEK

This creek runs into the NAIWARI near KALAKALA VILLAGE (937973). It has a gravel bottom throughout. With the exception of plantation area from 938979 to 943004 banks are covered with light jungle and wait a while. From approx 938980 to 943004 banks are precipitous averaging 20 feet in height, and creek is 20 feet wide and one foot deep. From 943009 north banks are flat and creek varies from 20 to 60 feet in width with average depth of 1 foot.

MULLINS HARBOUR

The southern coastline from FYFE BAY (Square L01) to the entrance to MULLINS HARBOUR is shallow and rocky with either steep hills to the waters edge or swampy flat with small beaches. There are many small islands.

MULLINS HARBOUR is calm and shallow and the entrance is closed by sand spit giving a depth of 9'. East of WERI WERI (12 mls SW of TOMONAU) are mangrove swamps with many inlets. These swamps are black slimy mud, crocodile infested and with a putrid smell. The track along MULLINS HARBOUR is marked with pieces of tin nailed to trees. Without these, the route would be impossible to follow.

TRACK BALAGA-DUABO -

TRACK BALAGA-DUABO

Distance 10 miles. Travelling time 7 hours with porters. 5½ hours with small party travelling unloaded and with no long halts.

Vegetation

Jungle throughout. Only clearings are native gardens and flats along GOMINI RIVER covered with bladey grass six feet high.

Track

BALAGA-DUGAMA. Through flat country wet and muddy but mud not more than six inches deep, four shallow fords and one footbridge.

GOMINI RIVER. Ford is difficult to find. It is 150 yds long and four feet deep (river in flood) crossing the river at 145 degrees.

GOMINI RIVER-PIWEEPI. Flat muddy track at least four feet wide. Eight shallow fords and three footbridges.

PIWEEPI-DUABO MIS ION. Narrow track (two feet in places) estimated to rise over 1000 feet in about two miles.

AFVs

The track from PIWEEPI to BALAGA could be used by Lt tanks but there are several obstacles, the main one being the GOMINI RIVER. This would require at least 200 yds of bridge. Several of streams at present crossed by footbridges would be A Tk obstacles until bridged. Except in isolated spots Tks would be unable to leave track.

TRACK 910982-DUGAMA

This track is true to map GILI GILI 3" to 1 mile. It commences on south bank of MAIWARA RIVER half way between two fords. This pt has been blazed. Southern end of track joins track BALAGA-DUABO 20 yds west of DUABO village track. Has been well used but recently jungle growth has obscured odd pts.

Vegetation is light jungle with no open areas. Track forms a satisfactory short cut to DUGAMA for portage parties.

TRACKS 898982 DUGAMA and 893983 DUGAMA

No evidence of the tracks has been found.

TRACK 945983 - TRACK JUNC 926929

Motor track to edge of jungle, thence well defined track four feet wide but narrowing to two feet in places. Fords over MAIWARA RIVER and GOMINI RIVER not over 2½ feet deep. Track is wet and runs through swampy country but would save up to two hours travelling time to DUABO compared with route 945983 BALAGA-DUABO.

TRACK MAIWARA-GIBARA

The following additional infm has been received. Passability. The track is impassable to any veh whatsoever. There are innumerable creeks and long stretches of mud requiring corduroy. There are portions of track although narrow suitable for any veh, but it is split by so many obstacles that a veh would never reach these pts.

From GIBARA RIVER the track junc 004890, the track is covered by 9 to 24 inches of mud. On 17 Sep 42 a sec of lightly loaded men took 38 mins to march less than 1000 yds and this can be taken as a maximum rate for this stretch.

OBSTACLES

MAIWARA RIVER -

OBSTACLES

MAIWARA RIVER. Although falling on 18 Sep was still waist high, and ford was 80' long.

UPPER NIHANHA RIVER. (84942). Bridge requires 4 hrs work by one sec, lengthening northern end to make a satisfactory inf crossing.

UNNAMED CREEK (980935). Single tree bridge, requires hand ropes to make a satisfactory crossing.

NIHA NIHA RIVER. Native ferry takes four men and is in very bad repair. Crossing took 30 mins for 36 men. Not fordable owing to slimy bottom.

GOMINI RIVER. Ford breast high but after rains river floods swamp area on southern bank. Canoe crossing took 1 hr for 56 men despite use of tow line.

GIBARA RIVER. Ferry takes 4 men and is in very bad repair. Crossing took 35 mins for 6 men. Not fordable owing to slimy bottom. This river would be difficult for craft of two foot draft and is closed at mouth by a sand bar only negotiable at flood tide.

Area Junc MAIWARA RIVER-KALOHI CREEK. The country consists of swampy dense jungle thick with mosquitoes. Natives will not live in this area because of danger of malaria. Movement is difficult except on tracks river junc MEDOWA and river junc DONA DONA.

SOUTHERN APPROACHES

MAIWARA RIVER - KALOHI CREEK

The MAIWARA RIVER is navigable to flat bottomed barges similar to Jap M.L.C. as far as its junc with KALOHI CREEK. Inf can advance along both banks.

KALOHI CREEK is not navigable but is fordable anywhere by inf. Inf can approach along both banks but dense jungle along both sides confines approach to immediate banks of creek.

At DONA DONA there is a jungle path leading east to Route 9 near junc Routes 9 and 3. From DONA DONA to HAGITA FORD there is a track passable to jeeps. It is estimated that it would take three hours to bring a coy from the mouth of the MAIWARA RIVER to DONA DONA. Travelling from DONA DONA to HAGITA via track $3/4$ hour.

TRACK GIBARA-MAIWARA

This is good track and would be passable to MT in dry weather and tracked vehs in wet if rivers were bridged at the following pts :- 008958, 985943, 982926, 989918, 994909. At these pts rivers are Tk obstacles and NINA NINA, GOMINI and GIBARA Rivers are not fordable by inf. These rivers including the MAIWARA are navigable to flat bottomed barges.

Shipping by launch to GIBARA and taking track to DUABO which is passable to MT gives a much shorter route to DUABO than via BALAGA.

NORTHERN APPROACHES

Route 978995 (west of HAGITA) - EANEANENE to KALOHI CREEK 972018 - This track is passable to carriers as far as EANEANENE and with a small amount of work such as clearing of logs off pathway could be made passable as far as 2900 yds north of EANEANENE. This is the government track to the north coast. Further recesses north of KALOHI CREEK are being undertaken. ANGAU advises that it takes 5 hours travelling time from the North Coast to HAGITA. From pt 972018 KALOHI CK to HAGITA FORD is passable to tps. The general vegetation is dense but penetrable and there are many paths leading south.

A good foot path leads from North of HAGITA HOUSE through the jungle to Route 1 at point 989002 and could be used as an alternate counter attack route to STRIP 1 if Route 1 was denied.

Man Drain

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE

W.E. 11/12/42

12 Dec 42

PART A - STRENGTH, SURPLUS, REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

| <u>RANK</u> | <u>POSTED STRENGTH</u> | <u>SURPLUS</u> | <u>REINFORCEMENTS</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Brigadier | 1 | | |
| Majors | 1 | | |
| Capt | 2 | | |
| Lieuts | 4 | | |
| | 8 | | |

PART B - OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

MR EWAN

Att for duty - Salvation Army

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK

VX 7562 Capt H G SWEET T O Cease to be seconded as T.O.

PART C - NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|-----------|----------|-----|-------------|
| SX 2889 | Brig | M J | MOTEN | Bde Comd | Yes | |
| QX 6936 | Maj | R A C | MUIR | B M | " | |
| VX 7562 | Capt | H G | SWEET | T O | No | Det 2/5 Bn |
| VX 5519 | Capt | J M | MENZIES | L O | " | Det 2/7 Bn |
| VX 155 | Lieut | J M | PAWSON | L O | " | SCHOOL AUST |
| VX 1129 | Lieut | A M C | HUTCHISON | S C(L) | " | " " |
| VX 5140 | Lieut | A G S | EDGAR | L O | Yes | |
| VX 3707 | Lieut | D A | MURPHY | I O | No | Det 2/5 Bn |

Personnel shown Detached are to cease to be seconded.

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|------------|----------|-----|----------------|
| VX 14040 | Capt | E W | SCOTT | sig O | Yes | |
| VX 1564 | Lieut | A E | BERRISFORD | " | " | |
| VX 44800 | Lieut | R H | STEWART | Gd O | " | |
| VX 41104 | Lieut | W T | SMITH | I O | " | To be seconded |
| QX 4525 | Capt | V X | TUTT | Sup O | " | |
| VX 44612 | Capt | I H | MURPHY | S C | " | To be seconded |
| VX 5174 | Maj | H E L | DUNKLEY | B M(L) | " | To be seconded |
| VX 53272 | Lieut | J R | TOONE | Amen O | " | To be seconded |
| VX 51042 | Lieut | I R | GORDON | L O | No | SCHOOL AUST |
| VX 3805 | Lieut | A R | ROSS | A/T O | Yes | To be seconded |
| VX 74183 | Mr | R R | DREW | Sal Army | " | |
| VX 10226 | Lieut | K L | BROUGHAM | A/S C(L) | " | |
| | Mr | | EWEN | Sal Army | " | |
| | Capt | | BIRD | Dental O | " | |

HQ 17 AUST INF BDEUNIT

12 Dec 42DATE

J. Brougham
.....Capt
S.C. 17 AUST INF BDE

HQ MILNE FORCE
.....
Bde, Div, Area etc w/
which unit is serving

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKSNO 17 AUST INF BDEW E 11/12F/312 Dec 42PART A - STRENGTH, SURPLUS, REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

| <u>DETAIL</u> | <u>POSTED STRENGTH</u> | <u>SURPLUS</u> | <u>REINFORCEMENTS</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| W OI | 1 | | |
| W OII | 1 | | |
| S/sgt | 1 | | |
| sgts | 3 | | |
| Corporals | 5 | | |
| Privates | 33 | | |
| | <u>44</u> | | |

PART B - OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS OR CORPS (ALLOWED W E)

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------|------------|-----|
| A A O C | VX 5108 | W OII | MOODIE | H |
| | VX 3001 | Sgt | ADAMS | E |
| | VX 35152 | Pte | PEDDER | G J |
| A A S C | SX 9708 | L/sgt | RUSE | F D |
| | NX 5461 | Pte | KELTY | V |
| | NX 72095 | Pte | PASSFIELD | V C |
| 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | VX 44865 | L/Cpl | PROPOSCH | W E |
| | VX 12341 | Pte | DORAN | E P |
| | UX 48489 | Pte | BLISH | G L |
| | NX 126090 | Pte | FRY | S E |
| | VX 12377 | Pte | PARTINGTON | P T |
| | VX 53363 | Pte | PERRY | J |
| | VX 59252 | Pte | PETERSEN | W G |
| 2/6 Aust Inf Bn | VX 7424 | Pte | MACHAR | G R |
| | VX 35376 | Pte | MCKENZIE | D |
| 2/7 Aust Inf Bn | VX 44304 | Pte | JEFFES | J H |
| AA H C | VX 7469 | Cpl | SMITH | J J |
| 2/21 Aust Inf Bn | VX 52582 | Pte | HAWKINS | G A |
| K Sec Sigs | 1 sgt 4 Cpls | 31 Cps | 6 Att. | |

OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS (NOT ALLOWED W E)

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | VX 53170 | Pte | BRIMLOW | T E |
| | VX 46456 | Cpl | SHIRLS | A O |
| | VX 53313 | Pte | WHITE | S E |
| | WX 12597 | Pte | MULHALL | K |
| 2/6 Aust Inf Bn | 9 ORs attached as Gd Pl Sec | | | |
| | VX 15041 | Pte | MORRISON | L D |
| | VX 10670 | L/Cpl | CAUSAN | F |
| | VX 5064 | L/sgt | CRAIG | W J G |
| | VX 61742 | A/sgt | COOK | T A |
| | TX 2259 | Pte | DIXON | T P |
| | VX 13694 | Pte | LESLIE | H G |
| 2/7 Aust Inf Bn | 9 ORs attached as Gd Pl Sec | | | |
| | VX 13162 | Pte | APPLEBY | L F |
| | VX 41034 | Pte | ROSS | W E |
| | TX 1496 | Pte | TRIFFITT | B |
| 2/8 Aust Inf Bn | 12 ORs attached as Gd Pl Sec | | | |
| | SX 13526 | Pte | ARGENT | R G |
| | VX 11937 | Pte | BARTLETT | C F |
| | TX 3639 | Pte | FEBBY | A W |
| | VX 5050 | Pte | GRANT | W H |
| 2/2 Aust Fd Amb | - 1 sgt 2 ORs. | | | |

PART C - PARTICULARS OF OTHER RANKS WHOSE RETURN IS REQUESTED

N I L

PART D - DETAILS OF REINFORCEMENTS OR SURPLUS ETC

N I L

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE UNIT

12 Dec 42 DATE

K. Brougham Lieut.
..... Capt
for S.C. 17 AUST INF BDE

HQ MILNE FORCE
.....
Bde Div Area etc with which
unit is serving.

W.D.I.

In lieu of AF W 3008

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

HQ 17 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE

V.O. 11/12F/3

5 Dec 42.

PART A - STRENGTH, SURPLUS, REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

| <u>RANK</u> | <u>POSTED STRENGTH</u> | <u>SURPLUS</u> | <u>REINFORCEMENTS</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Brigadier | 1 | | |
| Majors | 1 | | |
| Captains | 2 | | |
| Lieuts | 4 | | |
| | <u>8</u> | | |

PART B - OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

| | | | | | |
|----------|-------|------|----------|----------------|-----------------|
| VX 3805 | Lieut | A.R. | ROSS | Att for D uty- | 2/6 Aust Inf Bn |
| VX 10226 | " | K.L. | BROUGHAM | " | " |

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK

| | | | | | |
|----------|-------|------|---------|-------------------------------|--|
| VX 51042 | Lieut | I.R. | GORDON | Marched Out for school (Aust) | |
| VX 1111 | Capt | A.P. | CHAPMAN | Ceases to be seconded. | |

PART C - NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------|--------|-----------|----------|--------------------|
| SX 2889 | Brig | M.J. | MOTEN | Bde Comd | Yes |
| OX 6886 | Maj | R.A.C. | MURK | B.M. | " |
| VX 7562 | Capt | H.G. | SWEET | T.O. | " |
| VX 5519 | Capt | J.M. | MENZIES | L.O. | No Det to 2/7 Bn |
| VX 155 | Lieut | J.H. | PAWSON | L.O. | No school (Aust) |
| VX 1129 | Lieut | A.M.C. | MURCHISON | S.C.(L) | No " " |
| VX 5140 | Lieut | A.G.S. | EDGAR | L.O. | Yes |
| VX 3707 | Lieut | D.A. | MCBRIDE | I.O. | No Det MILNE FORCE |

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

| | | | | | |
|----------|-------|--------|------------|-----------|--------------------|
| VX 14010 | Capt | E.W. | SCOTT | sig C | Yes |
| VX 1564 | Lieut | A.E. | BERRISFORD | " | " |
| VX 44800 | Lieut | M.H. | STEWART | Gd C. | " |
| VX 41104 | Lieut | W.T. | SMITH | A/I.O. | " |
| OX 4525 | Capt | V.X. | TUTT | Sup C. | " |
| VX 44612 | Capt | I.H. | MCBRIDE | S.C. | " |
| | Capt | | BIRD | Dent C. | " |
| VX 5174 | Maj | H.E.L. | DUNKLEY | B.M.(L) | " |
| VX 53272 | Lieut | J.R. | TOOME | AMM C | " |
| VX 51042 | Lieut | I.R. | GORDON | L.O. | No Det school Aust |
| VX 74183 | Maj | R.R. | DREW | Vel C | Yes |
| VX 3805 | Lieut | A.R. | ROSS | A/T.C. | " |
| VX 10226 | Lieut | K.L. | BROUGHAM | A/S.C.(L) | " |

HQ. 17. AUSTR. INF. BDE....Unit

5. Dec. 42.....Date

Langford
Capt
 S.C. 17 AUSTR INF BDE
 HQ MILNE FORCE
 Rec. Div. Corps etc with which
 unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS
HQ 17 AUST INF BDE W.E. 11/19/43

5 Dec 43.

PART A - STRENGTH, SURPLUS, OF REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

| <u>DETAIL</u> | <u>POSTED STRENGTH</u> | <u>SURPLUS</u> | <u>REINFORCEMENTS</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| W.O.1 | 1 | | |
| W.O.11 | 1 | | |
| S/sgt | 1 | | |
| Sgt | 2 | | |
| Corporals | 6 | | |
| Privates | 32 | | |
| | <u>43</u> | | |

PART B - OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS (ALLOWED W.E.)

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|------------|------|
| A.A.C.C. | VX 5108 | W.O.11 | HUGHES | H. |
| | VX 3001 | Sgt | ADAMS | R. |
| | VX 3515g | Pte | FEDDER | G.S. |
| A.A.S.C. | SX 9708 | Cpl | RUSE | P.D. |
| | NX 5161 | Pte | KELLY | V. |
| | VX 36027 | Pte | DANIELS | |
| | NX 72095 | Pte | PASSFIELD | W.C. |
| 2/4 Aust Inf Bn | VX 44866 | L/Cpl | PROPOSCH | W.E. |
| | VX 12341 | Pte | DURAN | R.P. |
| | VX 43439 | Pte | BLISS | G.S. |
| | NX 126090 | Pte | FAY | S.E. |
| | VX 12377 | Pte | PARKINGTON | P.E. |
| | VX 53353 | Pte | PERCY | J. |
| | VX 59232 | Pte | PETERSEN | W.C. |
| | VX 12511 | Pte | NICOLL | R. |
| 2/6 Aust Inf Bn | VX 7424 | Pte | MACHAR | G.R. |
| | VX 35376 | Pte | McKENZIE | D. |
| 2/7 Aust Inf Bn | VX 63037 | Pte | CLARK | J.M. |
| | VX 44304 | Pte | JONES | R.B. |
| A.A.M.C. | VX 7469 | Cpl | SMITH | J.F. |
| 2/21 Aust Inf Bn | VX 5358g | Pte | HAWKINS | G.A. |

"K" sec sigs 2 sgts 4 cpls 3g ORs 6 Atts

OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS (NOT ALLOWED W.E.)

| | | | | |
|--|----------|-------|----------|--------|
| A.A.O.C. | VX 7511 | Pte | GREGOR | E. |
| 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | WX 16663 | Pte | KINNANE | K. |
| | VX 53170 | Pte | BRIMLOW | T.S. |
| | VX 46456 | Cpl | SHIELS | A.O. |
| | VX 53313 | Pte | WHITE | S.E. |
| | WX 12597 | Pte | MULHALL | K. |
| 9 ORs attached as Cd Pl sec | | | | |
| 2/6 Aust Inf Bn | VX 15061 | Pte | MORRISON | L.D. |
| | VX 10670 | L/Cpl | CAUSAN | F. |
| | VX 5064 | L/Sgt | CRAIG | W.J.C. |
| | VX 6174g | A/Sgt | COOK | T.A. |
| 10 ORs attached as Cd Pl sec | | | | |
| 2/7 Aust Inf Bn | VX 1316g | Pte | APPLEBY | L.F. |
| | SX 1275 | Cpl | CHURCH | P.A. |
| | VX 41034 | Pte | ROSE | W.E. |
| | TX 1493 | Pte | TRUFFITT | B. |
| 1g ORs attached as Cd Pl Sec | | | | |
| 2/6 Aust Inf Bn | SX 135gB | Pte | ARGENT | R.G. |
| | VX 11937 | Pte | BARTLETT | C.F. |
| | TX 3639 | Pte | FREY | A.W. |
| | VX 5050 | Pte | GRANT | W.H. |
| 2 Aust Dental Unit 1 Sgt 2 ORs attached. | | | | |

PART C - PARTICULARS OF OTHER RANKS WHOSE RETURN IS REQUESTED

N I L

PART D) DETAIL OF REINFORCEMENTS OR SURPLUS ETC

N I L

NO 17 AUST INF BDE UNIT

Law ACR Capt

5 DEC 43 DATE

HQ MILITARY FORCE
Bde, Div, Area etc with which
unit is serving.

SECRET.

COPY NO. _____

5 Dec 42.

17 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN NO. 8.

ATTACK AGAINST AIR-BORNE TPS

2/5 AUST INF BN.

2/6 AUST INF BN.

2/7 AUST INF BN.

Copy to: MILNE FORCE.

1. Extracts from MILNE FORCE Op Instn No. 5 of 19 Aug 42 are quoted hereunder :-

" Intell report indicate possibility of use of paratps by JAFS in NEW GUINEA.

METHOD OF ATTACK

(2) A determined attempt to seize landing strips will form part of any JAP attack on this area. This may include the use of paratps or other air-borne tps.

(3) Such an attack will probably be preceded (or even accompanied) by an intensive bombing and ground-strafting of the perimeter defts of landing strips with the object of destroying or neutralizing A/A gun and inf posns.

(4) Paratps may then be dropped in order to secure the perimeter and thereafter enemy tp-carrying planes may land on the runway or even be crash-landed on partially completed strips or in open spaces near runways with a view to rapid reinfnmt of their paratps.

(5) Paratps may also attempt to destroy Air Force ground installations, port facilities, signal comms, R.D.F. or other wireless stns.

PARATPS

(6) Paratps are most vulnerable while they are landing and just after landing. Their power to do damage increases with every minute they are left unattacked.

OFFENSIVE ACTION

(7) All our tps must be filled with the determination to hunt out paratps and destroy them before they can get hold of their weapons and become organized on the ground. Quick action is absolutely vital and the nearest unit will immediately attack paratps without waiting for orders from higher authority. Special efforts must be made to pick off leaders and to prevent paratps from reaching their hy weapons dropped in separate containers.

(8) In this type of warfare there is no front and no rear and there are no non-combatants. All units and sub-units, incl adm units, must be organized for their own def and must be vigilant all the time. Engr Coys engaged in aerodrome and other constructional work, and all working parties, must have their weapons close by them and be ready to go into action immediately. This applies to all tps at all times.

REPORTING OF PARATPS.

(9) If tp-carrying planes or paratps are sighted, they must be reported immediately by quickest means to this HQ. "

10. Responsibility for landing grounds has been delegated to other Bdes.

11. Each unit will detail and rehearse a party from its pls earmarked as Base Area tps, as a mob anti-paratp patrol.

12. A lookout post will be constructed which will be manned in event of impending, or during, attack on MILNE BAY.

This post need only be high enough to overlook trees, it is NOT necessary to overlook open ground.

13. It is to be noted that paratps may be dropped at dawn and then on until dark.

14. It is NOT proposed that anti-paratp patrols should move far from unit base areas when the mob coys of the unit are absent. Therefore units will watch areas where if paratps were dropped and allowed to organise, a direct threat to unit base areas would be constituted.

Mantovini

ACK.

B.M. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

Time of Signature 1510 hrs.

Issued by Sigs

OFFENSIVE ACTION

(7) All our tps must be filled with the determination to hunt out paratps and destroy them before they can get hold of their weapons and become organized on the ground. Quick action is absolutely vital and the nearest unit will immediately attack paratps without waiting for orders from higher authority. Special efforts must be made to pick off leaders and to prevent paratps from reaching their objectives by crossing in separate containers.

(8) In this type of warfare there is no front and no rear and there are no non-combatants. All units and sub-units, including units, must be organized for their own defence and must be vigilant all the time. Every Coy engaged in a search and other constructional work, and all working parties, must have their weapons close by them and be ready to go into action immediately. This applies to all tps at all times.

REPORTING OF PARATPS

(9) If tp-carrying planes or paratps are sighted, they must be reported immediately by whatever means to this HQ.

WD 1

SECRET

COPY NO 6

4 Dec 42.

17 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN NO.7.

Tech & Adm Units - Def Co-ordination

- 2/5 AUST INF BN.
- 2/7 AUST INF BN.
- 2/8 AUST FD COY. (u/c for this purpose)

Copy to:

H.Q. MILNE FORCE.
2/6 AUST INF BN.

1. 17 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn no.6 is hereby cancelled, and this instn issued in lieu thereof.

2. The following instns have been issued by MILNE FORCE:

(a) The general policy to be adopted is set out in MILNE FORCE Op Instn No.6 of 21 Aug 42 (paras 6(b) and 9). This provides that all Allied Units and Sub-units, incl Adm Units and AAF ground staff, will plan and prepare def localities near the areas in which they normally work, to be manned in the event of their primary tasks being NO longer possible. Bde Comds are responsible for advising and assisting units within their respective operational boundaries.

(b) MILNE FORCE Op Instn No.7 dated 8 Sep (para 5) further provides:

"Bde Comds must impress upon OC's of such units, that, in the event of enemy penetration within the area, they are to fight from those localities until such time as the situation is restored. It must be remembered however that engrs and adm tps are to be allowed to carry on their primary tasks under the comd of their respective heads of services etc as long as possible. This HQ will be notified at once when a Bde Comd assumes active operational control of any such unit."

(c) Air Force ground staffs will NOT be available for ground def roles, so long as it is possible to operate aircraft from either or both aerodromes.

3. Adm and Tech Units vary considerably in tng and eqpt. For example engr units are trained to fight if necessary, as infantry; AA units are well armed and must be regarded as important units in their secondary role of ground defence of aerodromes. All units, however, whatever their nature and degree of tng, must clearly understand that, in the event of enemy penetration of our outer defences, their orders are to fight in the areas assigned to them (normally their bivouac areas) to the end. There can be no withdrawal or surrender. All ranks will be informed of what is expected of them.

4. It cannot be assumed that recent events in the SOLOMONS have removed the possibility of attack on MILNE BAY. The capture of this area with its ready made airfields and installations would largely offset the enemy's reverses in the SOLOMONS. It is to be anticipated that any further attack here will be in much greater strength. On the other hand, if every unit acts in accordance with the principles re-stated in this Instn, we can have every confidence in the outcome.

5. While it is appreciated that many of the adm and tech units are fully occupied, they must at least peg out the posns which they would construct in event of emergency and ensure that all members of their unit are thoroughly familiar with the plan. In addition, digging tools, weapons, amn and reserve rations must be available within the unit area, sufficient for the task.

6. The att Map sets out zones within which Units addressed will be responsible for def co-ordination. Respective Comds of Units addressed are responsible for advising and assisting other units within these zones in planning and preparation of their def localities, and will assume operational comd when ordered by this HQ, in the circumstances already stated. In an emergency, should coms fail, Unit Comds will assume control when they consider it to be essential. Assumption of such control will be signalled as soon as coms permit by immediate message to this HQ or direct to Milne Force.

7. Comds of Units addressed will immediately ascertain what adm and tech units are in their areas delimited.

They will contact those units, and assist to prepare and implement necessary plans for all round def of each.

8. It is understood that adm and tech units have been instructed to co-operate upon the lines set out above.

9. Units will fwd to this HQ by 12 Dec 42, a report stating what steps have been taken to implement this Instn, together with a trace setting out location of adm and tech units in areas of responsibility.

ACK.

1510

Mauluis Maj.

Time of Signature.....hrs.

Issued by.....

B.M., 17 Aust Inf Bde.

"The Comds must impress upon OC's of such units, that, in the event of enemy penetration within the area, they are to fight from those localities until such time as the situation is restored. It must be remembered however that units and adm are to be allowed to carry on their primary tasks under the comd of their respective heads of services etc as long as possible. This HQ will be notified at once when a Comd assumes active operational control of any such unit."

Air Force ground staffs will not be available for ground def roles, so long as it is possible to operate aircraft from either or both aerodromes.

3. Adm and Tech Units vary considerably in tag and eqpt. For example anti tank units are trained to fight if necessary, as infantry; AA units are well armed and must be regarded as important units in their secondary role of ground defence of aerodromes. All units, however, whatever their nature and degree of tag, must clearly understand that, in the event of enemy penetration of our outer defences, their orders are to fight in the area assigned to them (normally their bivouac areas) to the end. There can be no withdrawal or surrender. All ranks will be informed of what is expected of them.

4. It cannot be assumed that recent events in the SOLOMONS have removed the possibility of attack on MILLER BAY. The capture of this area with its ready made airfields and installations would largely offset the enemy's reverses in the SOLOMONS. It is to be anticipated that any further attack here will be in much greater strength. On the other hand, if every unit acts in accordance with the principles stated in this Instn, we can have every confidence in the outcome.

5. While it is appreciated that many of the adm and tech units are fully equipped, they must at least peg out the points which they would construct in event of emergency and ensure that all members of their unit are thoroughly familiar with the plan. In addition, digging tools, weapons, amm and reserve rations must be available within the unit area, sufficient for the task.

SECRET.

K, 203

5- Report Re 4.

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 55
(From 0900 hrs 2 Dec to 0900 hrs 4 Dec)

PART I

Received 4 12 42
Time 1600 hrs
No 19 9/26

OPERATIONS.OWN (iii) AIR.(a) SightingsBUNIN - FAISI area.

2 Dec: 9 destroyers, 1 sloop, 2 tankers, 5 cargo vessels.

IN TRANSIT.

2 Dec: At 1530 hrs 1 destroyer east of JACQUINOT BAY in NEW BRITAIN in posn $05^{\circ} 40' S$, $152^{\circ} 25' E$, course 240, speed 25 knots.

2 Dec: At 1515 hrs 4 destroyers east of NEW BRITAIN in posn $05^{\circ} 45' S$, $153^{\circ} 00' E$, course 60°. These destroyers were apparently the 4 seen heading towards BUNA on 1 Dec.

BUKA PASSAGE.

1 Dec: 1 destroyer, 2 transports. Later left heading N.W.

(b) AttacksBUNA

2 Dec: Early AM B17's, A20's and Beaufighters attacked 4 destroyers (see I Sum 54 and Sightings above) off BUNA. Several explosions were caused, but no hits observed. One of our planes crashed on return, and crew were killed. Later B24's and B17's made further attacks without results. Destroyers returned on N.E. course.

During 1 and 2 Dec BUNA area was strafed and bombed. Numerous fires were started.

A20's report successfully ranging artillery on tree snipers BUNA village.

KANINI:

Bombs dropped on drome early AM 1 Dec.

PART IV Other Fronts.

(a) BUNA

30 Nov. L.O. reported fwd elements of our tps in BUNA village at 1500L.

An American bn on the track SOPUTA - SANANANDA attacked at 0900L supported by mortars and gained ground.

At GO NA fresh Australian tps pushed along the beach to attack from the east. With arty and mortar support they pressed to within 100 yds of GONA village. An attack from the S.E. also gained ground.

1 Dec. On the SOPUTA - SANANANDA track the American thrust was successful. 5 enemy trucks were captured. Pushed fwd to clear intermediate enemy from west of track and adv continued north towards SANANANDA.

Australian tps pushed fwd on the eastern and SE outskirts of GONA village. A bn moving east along the track GONA - SANANANDA cleared 6 enemy mt posns. A pocket of 30 Japs was eliminated. Enemy with lifebelts attempted to swim from the beach.

Three barges sighted offshore at GONA at 0105 L/1 attempted a landing but were driven off.

2 Dec: A pilot stated that an A.L.O. informed him that the Japs in BUNA waved a white flag and our tps entered the village.

(b) KANGA. Enemy thought to be using HOPOI for night dispersal of aircraft from LAE.

ADDENDA.

BUNA:

Dec 1. Attack to reduce new strip - ENDALADERE area continuing.

GONA area one bn astride rd GONA - SANANANDA ref map BUNA 3" 188285 with fwd patrols vicinity creek 188285. Another bn passed through GONA village from the east. Right flank held up by MG north and NW of village. Jap C.P. destroyed and 40 cases medical stores, TSMGs, Bren LMGs American shovels among eqpt captured. Fresh Aust tps arriving POPONDETTA.

Dec 2: American tps mopping up on west bank of creek from hr 266266 to north 266260. Patrols operating across creek. One coy south edge BUNA village.

At GONA enemy now contained in area 450 yds along beach with foremost pb sts approx 200 yds inland.

NOT considered enemy destroyers landed any tps or stores night of 1/2 Dec.

for *the* *use* *of* *the* *Col*
GS MILITARY FORCE.

Distribution: (As per M.F. Int Summary No 54).

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|----|
| COMD | <i>Copied</i> | |
| B.M. | <i>Am</i> | -- |
| B.M.(L) | | -- |
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| GD PL. COMD. | | -- |
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| AMEN.O | | -- |

COTN

Received 7/12/47

5 Count Recd

SECRET
K 207

WPI

Time 1040 hrs
2/19/27 HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 56.
(From 0900 hrs 4 Dec to, 0900 hrs 6 Dec 42.)

Time
hrs
Received

PART I.

OPERATIONS:

OWN (iii) AIR:

BUNA AREA:

- 2 Dec : 1 Zero destroyed and 2 probably damaged. Early AM, 6 Beau fighters attacked barges, 2 barges each filled with 20 JAPS sunk 2 or 3 miles NW of GONA wreck. 2 empty barges probably sunk.
- 3 Dec : Mission area bombed and strafed. One gun blown out of gun pit and personnel hit. Opposition from 5 or 6 Bofors NW runway. BUNA target also bombed by 6 B25s and large fire started North of Mission. AA observed from GONA wreck. Area also dive bombed by 12 P40s. SANANANDA POINT area was attacked. 18 barges were seen West of the POINT, 2 at BUNA POINT. These were strafed.
- 4 Dec : Targets at SANANANDA were attacked by Beau fighters and Bostons. A further report from B24s which attacked destroyers on 1/12 states that one or two direct hits were scored on one vessel.

LAE:

- 4 Dec : B17s sent to attack cruiser reported off BUNA night 3/13 reported NIL sightings, and attacked LAE as alternative target, silencing one M.G. position. One of our A/C failed to return.

KAVIENG

- 5 Dec : Catalinas attacked drome starting fires. Photo interpretation shows 33 planes.

BUKA

- 4 Dec : Reliable report states drome full of damaged planes only, our raids having caused heavy casualties.

ENEMY (ii) SEA:

BUIN -FAISI AREA

- 4 Dec : 1 sloop, 15 destroyers, 5 cargo ships, 2 tankers, 2 submarines, several small vessels.

KAVIENG

- 3 Dec : Shipping apparent 5 vessels incl 1 destroyer and 1 wrecked merchant ship.

PART IV. - OTHER FRONTS.

(a) BUNA

- 1 Dec : No change in new strip - ENDAIADERE area where fighting continues. In the GONA area an Aust bn moving East along the coast captured 70 natives and buried 34 JAPS. Patrols went fwd as far as track and creek junc 195288. Fresh Aust and American tps arrived at POPONDETTA.
- 2 Dec : A slight advance was made along the North edge of the new strip. Nine MG nests made of steel drums filled with sand situated at the West end of the strip were attacked after arty and air preparation and captured. Americans attacked in the BUNA village area after mortar and arty concentrations. The attack was repulsed but some ground was gained.

| | |
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| COMD | |
| B.M. | |
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SECRET
K 207

-2-

3 Dec : Arty/R registering target at 261269 reports our tps occupied BUNA at 1100 L/3. This has NOT yet been reported by ground tps.

Enemy area on GONA beach was reduced frontally by 75 yds by capture of two posts. Estimated 400 enemy killed in this posn. Our casualties here are 100 to date.

Nine large enemy pusher type planes escorted by 14 Zeros dropped objects presumed to be sups by parachute. 120 fell vicinity SANANANDA, 30 near BUNA MISSION and village.

4 Dec : In the GONA area a small pocket of enemy 2 miles East of GONA was cleaned up. Our fwd elements advancing slowly owing to lack of tracks and deep swamps. American tps pushed fwd against the JAP posns West of the track SOPUTA-SANANANDA.

(b) KANGA

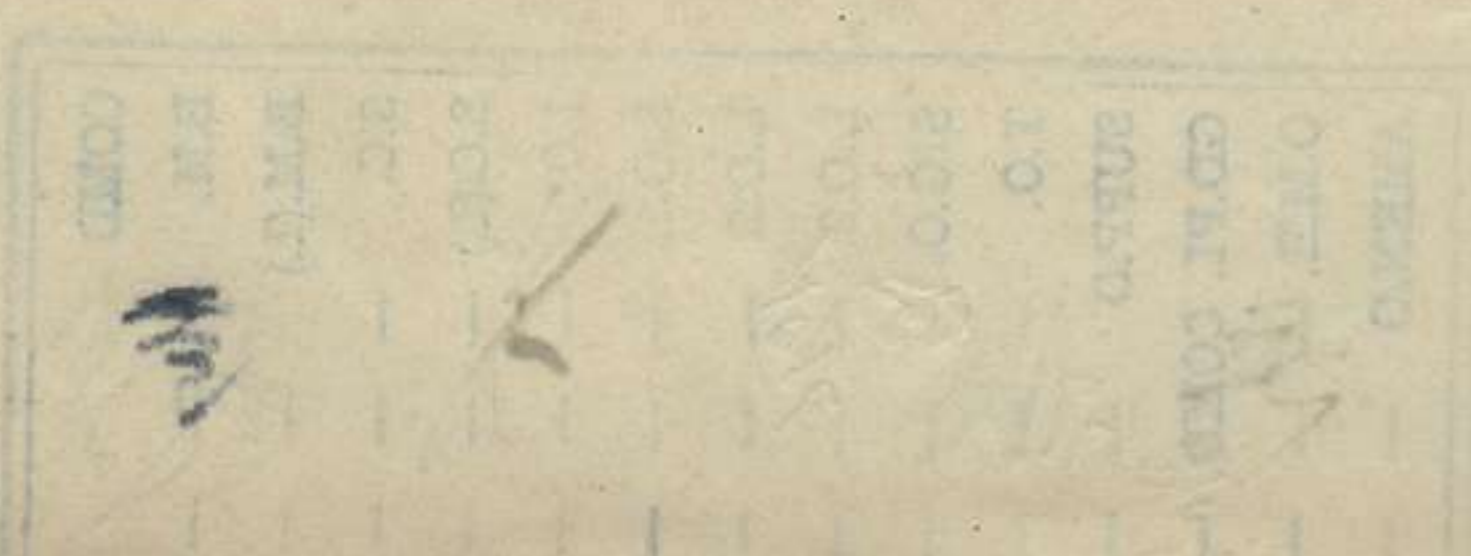
Native reported three vessels with plane escort off MOROBE AM 3 Dec. Came from the SE and left in a Westerly direction. Exactly similar convoy reported night 1/2 Dec.

Natives in the MARKHAM area have gone bush as a result of JAP bombing of native villages. A party of 40 JAPS approached within 800 yds of GUADAGAZAL under cover of mist. They were dispersed by MG fire.

G.S. Milne
Col.
G.S. MILNE FORCE.

Distribution:

As for MILNE FORCE Intell Sum No 55.



HQ MILINE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 57.
(From 0900 hrs 6 Dec to 0900 hrs 8 Dec 42.)

PART I.

OPERATIONS.
OWN (iii) AIR

KAVIENG:

5 Dec : B24s attacked drome. Bombs were dropped on runway and dispersal areas.

RABAU:

6 Dec : Bombs were dropped on drome with unobserved result.

BUNA AREA

5 Dec : 9 B25s attacked MISSION area dropping 26 bombs in target area. Large fire started. Heavy and light AA was encountered. 3 of our A/C were slightly damaged.
5 A20s bombed and strafed SANANANDA area. Results unobserved.

GASMATA:

7 Dec : 1 our A/C attacked strip. Near misses. Bomb landed amongst A/C on drome. Our A/C intercepted by Zeros.

ENEMY (ii) SEA.

RABAU:

5 Dec : Photographic interpretation revealed 3 heavy cruisers, 4 light cruisers, 5 destroyers, 12 merchant vessels and 5 U/I vessels.

6 Dec : Recce revealed at least 38 vessels in harbour incl 6 very large.

GASMATA

7 Dec : Ship anchored off-shore.

ENEMY (iii) AIR:

BUKA PASSAGE

5 Dec : Native report drome being enlarged and prepared for cement runway.

RABAU

5 Dec : Photo interpretation LAKUNAI drome revealed 49 fighters, 1 medium bomber, 2 dive bombers.
On VUNAKANAU drome there were 24 medium bombers ready for striking. 5 flying boats were in SULPHUR CREEK and 5 float planes off MALAGUNA.

GASMATA.

7 Dec : 1 bomber, 8 zeros on strip.

LAE

6 Dec 1830 hrs: 9 fighters and 2 bombers on drome.

PORLOCK HARBOUR

6 Dec 1200 hrs: 1 enemy A/C made recce over area.

1825 hrs: 4 enemy dive bombers attacked our shipping. 1 A/c shot down.

BUNA

7 Dec : 20 enemy bombers with large escort sighted approx 75 miles 1230 hrs/ NNE BUNA heading towards BUNA.

PART IV. OTHER FRONTS.

(a) BUNA-GONA:

4/6 Dec was mainly occupied on the GONA sector in the regrouping of our forces.

4 Dec : A patrol sent out to investigate reports of a party of JAPS near the mouth of the AMBOGO R encountered by LMG and mortar fire. Inflicted by casualties on JAPS.

A/C reported our tps moving North on track 2500 yds from CAPE KILLERTON and groups of our tps on SOPUIA-SANANANDA track 2 miles from beach.

Cond
O.T.N.
WPI

SECRET
K 212

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 58
(From 0800 hrs 3 Dec to 0800 hrs 10 Dec 42).

PART I.

OPERATIONS
OWN (iii) AIR.

BUNA.

7 Dec : A large force of enemy bombers with fighter cover was intercepted over BUNA during the morning. The enemy losses were 5 dive bombers, 6 medium bombers, 7 Zeros. All our A/C returned. Beaufighters and B25s made a concerted bombing and strafing attack but results were not observed.

8 Dec : B25s and A26s attacked BUNA MISSION and CAPE ENDAIADERE. Signs of possible shortage AA gun. ~~REMARKS~~ GONA week again attacked.

LAE.

7 Dec : LAE was successfully bombed and strafed in two attacks. One Zero was destroyed and one dive-bomber probably destroyed.

GASMATA

7 Dec : B17s attacked medium transport. NEEL hits.
8 Dec : Catalinas dropped bombs near NW end runway causing big explosion.

KAVIENG.

6 Dec : During night Catalinas attacked starting several fires.

ST GEORGES CHANNEL.

8 Dec : B17s attacked 6 destroyers South of channel. 1 direct hit was reported on a destroyer left burning. 2 direct hits were scored on another destroyer.

ENEMY (ii) NAVAL.

(sightings)

BUNIN-PAISI

7 Dec : 23 vessels incl 15 destroyers, 2 submarines, 2 tankers, 3 cargo vessels.
8 Dec : 15 or 17 vessels incl 6/8 possible destroyers, 3 tpts (10,000 tons) 5 cargo vessels, 1 poss S/P tender. 3 cargo vessels sunken in harbour.

RABAUL.

7 Dec : At least 50 large vessels.
8 Dec : 32 U/I vessels, 6 destroyers, 1 hy cruiser.

KAVIENG.

7 Dec : 2 U/I ships (1 large)

IN TRANSIT.

8 Dec : 1 prob S/P tender sighted North of NEW BRITAIN in posn 04°25' S, 149°03' E, was shadowed on a Northerly course and was lost at 1400 hrs in posn 02°55' S, 147°45' E, course 330°, speed 25 knots.
6 destroyers South of ST GEORGES CHANNEL at 1105 hrs in posn 05°00' S, 152°55' E, course SW.
At 1530 hrs they were in posn 05°25' S, 152°15' E, course 40°. Shortly afterwards they were attacked (See Own Air).

ENEMY (iii) AIR.

BUNA

7 Dec : A large force of bombers and fighters was intercepted over BUNA and successfully dealt with (See Own (iii) Air).

LAE.

1500 hrs 7 Dec : 9 dive-bombers and 6 Zeros landed on drome.
1100 hrs 8 Dec : 6 fighters patrolling over LAE.

PART IV. OTHER FRONTS.

(a) BUNA-GONA

SECRET
SIG 1

6-7 Dec : No change in disposns around BUNA strip.
Enemy reported using captured arms and automatic weapons from Bren carrier.

No change in disposns in the BUNA village area.

7 Dec : Fresh Aust tps attacking along SOPUTA-SANAWANDA tracks gaining some ground.

A strong patrol was sent to the mouth of the AMBOGO R where JAPS attacked our patrol 6 Dec and attempted to ambush 10 of our tps sent to bring in casualties.

(b) KANGA.

SECRET
SIG 1

JAPS who visited WAIPALI and GUADAGASAL threatened to burn villages if carriers not produced by required time.

SECRET
SIG 1

G.S. Milne
Col.
G.S. MILNE FORCE.

Distribution:

As for MILNE FORCE INTELL SUM NO 57.

SECRET
SIG 1

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SIG 1

SECRET
SIG 1

SECRET
SIG 1

HQ MILNE FORCE
3 Dec 42

SUBJECT: LOCATION STATEMENT UNITS MILNE FORCE AREA

1. Subtended is location of Units in MILNE FORCE AREA as at 2359 hrs ~~02 Nov~~ 42.
2. Reference Maps: MILNE BAY Provisional 2nd Edition 2" to 1 mile. GILI GILI WAIGANI 1" to 1 mile.

It is requested that this HQ be advised immediately of any change of location of units.

3. Please Ack this statement. *B*

for *Col.*
G.S. MILNE FORCE.

Distribution:

| | | |
|---------|-------|-----------------------|
| Copy No | 1 - 2 | N.G. FORCE |
| | 3 | 7 Aust Inf Bde |
| | 4 | 17 Aust Inf Bde |
| | 5 | 18 Aust Inf Bde |
| | 6 | 2/5 Aust Fd Regt |
| | 7 | A Hy Bty |
| | 8 | AADC |
| | 9 | RAE |
| | 10-11 | Sigs |
| | 12 | AASC |
| | 13 | Ord |
| | 14 | Med |
| | 15 | DAPM |
| | 16 | G |
| | 17 | A |
| | 18 | Q |
| | 19 | Base Ops |
| | 20 | RAAF Gurney Field |
| | 21 | 8 Fighter Control |
| | 22 | USA SOS |
| | 23 | 1 Aust Fd Cash Office |
| | 24 | Base Postal Unit M.F. |
| | 25-26 | War Diary |
| | 27 | File - |
| | 28) | |
| | 29) | Spare |
| | 30) | |

Received 12/4
Time 1600 hrs
By 119/14/42

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|--------------|-----|
| COMD | |
| B.M. | --- |
| B.M.(L) | --- |
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| SUPP.O. | --- |
| GD.PI. COMD. | --- |
| O.M.E. | --- |
| AME.O. | --- |

| SERIAL NO | UNIT | LOCATION | REFERENCE MAP. |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| 1. | HQ MILNE FORCE | 973992 | MB Prov 2" to |
| 2. | 2/12 Air Liaison Sec | 993001 | 1 mile 2nd Ed. |
| 3. | 7 Aust Inf Bde Def Pl | 973992 | " |
| 4. | HQ 2/5 Aust Fd Regt | 019008 | " |
| 5. | 9 Bty " | 025005 | " |
| 6. | 10 Bty " | 988988 | " |
| 7. | 55 Bty " | 013005 | " |
| 8. | A Tp 4 Bty 101 Aust A/Tk Regt | 983991 | " |
| 9. | 4 Bty 101 Aust A/Tk Regt | 022007 | " |
| 10. | 3 Bty 2/1 " | 031009 | " |

| SERIAL NO | UNIT | LOCATION | REFERENCE MAP |
|-----------|--|----------|----------------------|
| 11. | A Hy Bty RAA | 064998 | MB Prov 2" to 1 mile |
| 12. | E Hy Bty RAA | 182872 | 2nd Ed. |
| 13. | HQ 35 Aust Hy AA Bty | 008008 | " |
| 14. | 440 Hy AA Gun Station (Class A) | 063997 | " |
| 15. | 441 " | 984009 | " |
| 16. | AA Gp HQ | 081002 | " |
| 17. | AA Ops | 081002 | " |
| 18. | 2/6 Aust Hy AA Bty | 025003 | " |
| 19. | 2/9 Lt AA Bty | 020002 | " |
| 20. | 23 Aust Hy AA Bty | 008009 | " |
| 21. | 235 Aust Lt AA Bty | 017008 | " |
| 22. | Det 2/6 Aust Hy AA W/Shop Sec | 985993 | " |
| 23. | Det Sigs 2/2 Aust Hy AA Regt | 023003 | " |
| 24. | Det 2/2 Aust Hy AA W/Shop Sec | 979993 | " |
| 25. | 2/9 Lt AA Bty W/Shop | 025002 | " |
| 26. | Det 2/3 Aust Lt AA Regt W/S | 050398 | " |
| 27. | HQ RAE MILNE FORCE | 972996 | " |
| 28. | 24 Aust Fd Coy | 084004 | " |
| 29. | 2/4 Aust Fd Coy | 997020 | " |
| 30/ | 2/8 " | 917992 | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 31. | D Coy 2/1 Pnr Bn | 046002 | MB Pro |
| 32. | 5 Sec 1 Bomb Disposal Coy | 046002 | " |
| 33. | Det 2 Sec 2/25 Fd Pk Coy | 957937 | " |
| 34. | Det Fortress Engrs RAE | 064998 | " |
| 35. | Det 2/8 Aust Fd Coy | 943982 | " |
| 36. | Det 2/16 " | 997020 | " |
| 37. | Sigs MILNE FORCE | 972991 | " |
| 38. | HQ Coy Milne Force Sigs | 972992 | " |
| 39. | No 1 Coy " | 972992 | " |
| 40. | HQ No 2 Coy " | 972992 | " |
| 41. | HQ No 3 Coy " | 972992 | " |
| 42. | 292 LAD | 978993 | " |
| 43. | Det H.G. FORCE Sigs | 972993 | " |
| 44. | 'C' Div Sec 2 Aust Air Support Control | 973992 | " |
| 45. | Sigs Medical Switch | 945935 | " |
| 46. | " Centre | 025007 | " |
| 47. | Locality Switch | 946938 | " |
| 48. | Pontoon Wharf Exchange | 047992 | " |
| 49. | HQ AASC MILNE FORCE | 973994 | " |
| 50. | 25 Aust Coy AASC | 966937 | " |
| 51. | 2/6 Aust Coy AASC | 950983 | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 52. | 2/1 Aust Fd Butchery | 016005 | MB Prov |
| 53. | One Sec 2/2 Aust Fd Bakery | 983992 | " |
| 54. | One Sec " | 913935 | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 55. | RIPOD | 944932 | " |
| 56. | 3 Aust Base Supply Depot (Type C) | 973995 | MB Prov |
| 57. | 2/2 Aust Coy AASC | 025993 | " |
| 58. | 10 CCS | 950993 | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 59. | HQ Coy 11 Fd Amb | 909998 | " |
| 60. | 2/5 Aust Fd Amb | 912993 | " |
| 61. | 27 Portable Hospital | 909999 | " |
| 62. | Adv Depot Med Stores | 955933 | " |
| 63. | 2/1 Aust CCS | 945934 | " |
| 64. | HQ B Coys 2/2 Fd Amb | 956928 | " |
| 65. | A Coy 11 Fd Amb ADS | 980990 | MB Prov 2" to |
| 66. | B " | 019005 | 1 mile 2nd Ed. |
| 67. | C Sec 81 Dental Unit | 019005 | " |
| 68. | B " | 045015 | " |
| 69. | 3 AMCU | 019005 | " |
| 70. | A Coy 2/2 Aust Fd Amb | 032006 | " |

| SERIAL NO | UNIT | LOCATION | REFERENCE MAP |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 71. | No 2 Fd Hospital US Army | 958993 | MB Prov 2" to 1mile |
| 72. | 1 Aust Water Transport Gp | 022006 | 2nd Ed |
| 73. | MILNE FORCE Marine Sec | 022006 | " |
| 74. | ANGLU | 022006 | " |
| 75. | 101 2nd Bde Gp Ord W/Shops | 978992 | " |
| 76. | " Fd Pk | 979993 | " |
| 77. | 18 Bde Sec 7 Div Ord W/Shops | 978993 | " |
| 78. | " Fd Pk | 977993 | " |
| 79. | 4Adv Ord Depot No 2 Sub-Depot | 942985 | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 80. | 4 Adv Ord Depot HQ 1&3 " | 973994 | " |
| 81. | 252 Aust LAD | 019008 | MB Prov 2" 1 mile |
| 82. | 10 AAD | 988942 | 2nd Ed. |
| 83. | MILNE FORCE Pro Coy No 1 Camp | 973996 | " |
| 84. | " " No 2 Camp | 024002 | " |
| 85. | 5 Aust Div Pro Coy Sec 5 | 973996 | " |
| 86. | 7 " 5 | 973996 | " |
| 87. | 1 Aust Fd Cash Office | 973994 | " |
| 88. | New Guinea L of C Area Base Postal Unit Milne Force | 973993 | " |
| 89. | 80 Aust Fd Post Office | 025007 | " |
| 90. | Milne Force Transport Pool | 024003 | " |
| 91. | Det No 2 Aust Dock Operating Coy | 036995 | " |
| 92. | Det 2/3 " Operation Coy | 036995 | " |
| 93. | Det 32 Aust Emp Coy | 025983 | " |
| 94. | Det 19 " | 025983 | " |
| 95. | Det 2 Aust Army Salvage Unit | 022007 | " |
| 96. | 2/2 Aust Graves Reg & Enquiry UNIT | 973994 | " |
| 97. | Records Liaison Offr | 975982 | " |
| 98. | Det 2/2 Aust Kit Stores | 973982 | " |
| 99. | Det 22 Labour Coy | 025983 | " |
| 100. | HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde | 027008 | " |
| 101. | J Sec Sigs 5 Div | 027008 | " |
| 102. | 9 Aust Inf Bn | 004984 | " |
| 103. | 25 " | 048003 | " |
| 104. | 61 " | 045015 | " |
| 105. | 241 LAD | 008027 | " |
| 106. | 68 Aust Fd Post Office | 025007 | " |
| 107. | 79 Aust Fd Post Office | 975989 | " |
| 108. | 17 Aust Inf Bde HQ | 983993 | " |
| 109. | 3 Sec Sigs 6 Aust Div | 964993 983993 | " |
| 110. | 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | 964993 964984 | " |
| 111. | 2/6 " | 034011 | " |
| 112. | 2/7 " | 000008 | " |
| 113. | 2/46 LAD | 978994 | " |
| 114. | 24 Aust Fd Post Office | 964993 | " |
| 115. | B Ech 17 Aust Inf Bde | 974993 | " |
| 116. | 18 Aust Inf Bde HQ | 025007 | " |
| 117. | 11 Pl C Coy HQ 6d Bn | 025007 | " |
| 118. | J Sec Sigs 7 Aust Div | 025007 | " |
| 119. | 2/9 Aust Inf Bn | 981992 | " |
| 120. | 2/10 " | HATRACK | " |
| 121. | 2/12 " | DRAKE | " |
| 122. | 2/47 LAD | 977993 | " |
| 123. | 52 Aust Fd Post Office | 773996 | " |
| 124. | B Ech 2/12 Aust Inf Bn | 005006 | " |
| 125. | B Sqn 2/6 Ausn Armd Regt | 998018 998018 | " |
| 126. | Ind Armd Repair Ord Gp | 001015 | " |
| 127. | Milne Force Reception Camp | 025006 | " |
| 128. | 17 Bde (6 Div) Ord Fd Pk | 942985 | " |
| 129. | " W/Shop | 973993 | " |
| 130. | Aust Armd Regt W/Shops | 023002 | " |

Received 19/12/42
Time 1930 hrs
8/9/44

SECRET
Copy No. 4

HQ MILNE FORCE
17 Dec '42.

SUBJECT: LOCATION STATEMENT UNITS MILNE FORCE AREA.

1. Subtended is location of Units in MILNE FORCE AREA as at 2359 hrs 15 Dec '42.
 2. Reference Maps: MILNE BAY Provisional 2nd Edition 2" to 1 m. GILI GILI WAIGANI 1" to 1 milne.
- It is requested that this HQ be advised immediately of any change of location of units.
3. Please Ack this statement.

L. G. S. Milne
Col
G.S. MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:-

| | | |
|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1 - 2 | N.G. Force. |
| | 3 | 7 Aust Inf Bde |
| | 4 | 17 Aust Inf Bde |
| | 5 | 18 Aust Inf Bde |
| | 6 | 2/5 Aust Fd Regt |
| | 7 | A Hy Bty |
| | 8 | ADC |
| | 9 | R.E |
| | 10-11 | Sigs |
| | 12 | ASC |
| | 13 | Ord |
| | 14 | Med |
| | 15 | DAPH |
| | 16 | G |
| | 17 | A |
| | 18 | Q |
| | 19 | Base Ops |
| | 20 | RAF Gurney Field |
| | 21 | 8 Fighter Control |
| | 22 | USA SOS |
| | 23 | MILNE FORCE Fd Cash Office |
| | 24 | Milne Force Postal Unit |
| | 25-26 | War Diary |
| | 27 | File |
| | 28) | Spares |
| | 29) | |
| | 30) | |

| SERIAL NO | UNIT | LOCATION | REFERENCE MAP |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| 1. | HQ Milne Force | 973992 | MB Prov 2" to 1 mile 2nd Ed. |
| 2. | 2/12 Air Liaison Sec | 993001 | " |
| 3. | 7 Aust Inf Bde Lef Pl | 973992 | " |
| 4. | HQ 2/5 Aust Fd Regt | 019008 | " |
| 5. | 9 Bty 2/5 Aust Fd Regt | 025005 | " |
| 6. | 10 " " " " " | 986988 | " |
| 7. | 55 " " " " " | 013005 | " |
| 8. | 4 Bty 101 Aust A/Tk Regt HQ | 022007 | " |
| 9. | 3 Bty 2/1 Aust A/Tk Regt HQ | 031009 | " |
| 10. | A Hy Bty RA | 064993 | " |
| 11. | E Hy Bty RA | 182872 | " |
| 12. | HQ 33 Aust Hy A. Bty | 008008 | " |

| SERIAL NO. | UNIT | LOCATION | REFERENCE MAP |
|------------|--|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 13. | Inf Gp HQ | 021002 ✓ | MB Prov 2" to 1 mile 2nd Ed. |
| 14. | Inf Ops | 021002 ✓ | " |
| 15. | 2/6 Aust Hy Inf Bty | 023003 ✓ | " |
| 16. | 2/9 Aust Lt Inf Bty | 020002 ✓ | " |
| 17. | 23 Aust Hy Inf Bty Sec | 008009 ✓ | " |
| 18. | 235 Aust Lt Inf Bty | 017008 ✓ | " |
| 19. | Det 2/2 Aust Hy Inf W/Shops | 979993 ✓ | " |
| 20. | Det Sigs 2/2 Aust Hy Inf Regt | 023003 ✓ | " |
| 21. | Det 2/3 Aust Lt Inf Regt W/Shops | 030998 ✓ | " |
| 22. | HQ R&E Milne Force | 972996 ✓ | " |
| 23. | 24 Aust Fd Coy | 034004 ✓ | " |
| 24. | 2/4 " " " | 933027 ✓ | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 25. | 2/3 " " " | 917992 ✓ | " |
| 26. | D Coy 2/1 Pnr Bn | 054995 ✓ | MB Prov 2" to 1 mile |
| 27. | 5 Sec 1 Bomb Disposal Coy | 054995 ✓ | " |
| 28. | Det 2/3 Aust Fd Coy | 943982 ✓ | " |
| 29. | Det 2/16 " " " | 058016 ✓ | " |
| 30. | Det 2 Sec 2/25 Fd Pk Coy | 957987 ✓ | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 31. | Sigs Milne Force | 972991 ✓ | MB Pro |
| 32. | HQ Coy Milne Force Sigs | 972992 ✓ | " |
| 33. | HQ No.1 Coy " " " | 972992 ✓ | " |
| 34. | HQ No.2 " " " | 972992 ✓ | " |
| 35. | HQ No.3 " " " | 972992 ✓ | " |
| 36. | 292 L.A.D. | 973993 ✓ | " |
| 37. | Det N.G. Force Sigs | 972993 ✓ | " |
| 38. | "C" Div Sec 2 Aust Air Support Control | 973992 ✓ | " |
| 39. | Sigs Medical Switch | 945985 ✓ | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 40. | Sigs Centre Switch | 025007 ✓ | MB Pro |
| 41. | Locality Switch | 946988 ✓ | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 42. | Pontoon Wharf Exchange | 047992 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 43. | HQ ASC Milne Force | 973994 ✓ | " |
| 44. | 25 Aust Coy ASC | 964987 ✓ | " |
| 45. | 2/6 " " " | 950995 ✓ 950 983 ✓ | " |
| 46. | 2/1 Aust Fd Butchery | 016005 ✓ | " |
| 47. | One Sec 2/2 Aust Fd Bakery | 983992 ✓ | " |
| 48. | " " " " " " | 913986 ✓ | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 49. | BIPOD | 944981 ✓ | " |
| 50. | 3 Aust Base Supply Depot (Type C) | 973995 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 51. | 2/2 Aust Coy ASC | 025998 ✓ | " |
| 52. | 10 Aust CCS | 950993 ✓ | " |
| 53. | HQ Coy 11 Fd Amb | 909998 ✓ | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 54. | 2/5 Aust Fd Amb | 912998 ✓ | " |
| 55. | 27 Portable Hospital | 909999 ✓ | " |
| 56. | Adv Depot Med Stores | 955988 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 57. | 2/1 Aust CCS | 945984 ✓ | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 58. | HQ B. Coy 2/2 Fd Amb | 956988 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 59. | A Coy 11 Fd Amb ADS | 980990 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 60. | B " " " " " | 019005 ✓ | " |
| 61. | C Sec 31 Dental Unit | 019005 ✓ | " |
| 62. | B " " " " " | 045015 ✓ | " |
| 63. | 3 A.M.C.U. | 019005 ✓ | " |
| 64. | A Coy 2/2 Aust Fd Amb | 032006 ✓ | " |
| 65. | 2/2 A.M.C.U. | 956988 ✓ | " |
| 66. | 2/3 Aust Con Depot | 898984 ✓ 901982 | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 67. | E Coy 2/1 Dental Unit | 004984 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 68. | No. 2 Fd Hosp U.S. Army | 958993 ✓ | " |
| 69. | 1 Aust Water Transport Gp | 043993 ✓ | " |
| 70. | A.M.G.A.U. | 022006 ✓ | " |
| 71. | 101 Ind Bde Gp Ord W/S | 978992 ✓ | " |
| 72. | " " " " " Fd Pk | 970993 ✓ | " |
| 73. | 18 Bde Sec 7 Div Ord W/S | 978993 ✓ | " |

| SERIAL NO. | UNIT | LOCATION | REFERENCE MAP |
|------------|--|----------|------------------------------|
| 74. | 18 Bde Sec 7 Div Ord Fd Pk | 977993 ✓ | MB Prov 2" to 1 mile 2nd Ed. |
| 75. | 4 Adv Ord Depot HQ, 1 & 3 Sub Depot | 973994 ✗ | " |
| 76. | " " " " HQ, No. 4 Sub Depot. | 942985 ✗ | GGW 1" to 1 mile |
| 77. | 252 Aust LAD | 019008 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 78. | 10 LAD | 988942 ✓ | " |
| 79. | Milne Force Pro Coy No. 1 Camp | 973996 ✓ | " |
| 80. | " " " " No. 2 " | 024002 ✓ | " |
| 81. | Milne Force Fd Cash Office | 973994 ✗ | " |
| 82. | New Guinea L of C Area Base | 973993 ✓ | " |
| 83. | Postal Unit Milne Force | 025007 ✓ | " |
| 84. | 60 Aust Fd Post Office | 024003 ✓ | " |
| 85. | Milne Force Transport Pool | 036995 ✓ | " |
| 86. | Det No. 2 Aust Dock Op Coy | 036995 ✓ | " |
| 87. | " 2/3 " " " " | 025993 ✓ | " |
| 88. | 32 Aust Emp Coy | 022007 ✓ | " |
| 89. | Det 2 Aust Army Salvage Unit | | " |
| 90. | 2/2 Aust Graves Reg & Enquiry Unit | 973994 ✓ | " |
| 91. | Records Liaison Offr | 973982 ✓ | " |
| 92. | Det 2/2 Aust Kit Stores | 973982 ✓ | " |
| 93. | 7 Aust Inf Bde HQ | 027008 ✓ | " |
| 94. | J Sec Sigs 5 Aust Div | 027008 ✓ | " |
| 95. | 3 Aust Inf Bn | 004994 ✓ | " |
| 96. | 25 " " " | 043003 ✓ | " |
| 97. | 61 " " " | 053005 ✗ | " |
| 98. | 241 LAD | 025007 ✓ | " |
| 99. | 68 Aust Fd Post Office | 005007 ✗ | " |
| 100. | 79 " " " " | 973982 ✓ | " |
| 101. | 17 Aust Inf Bde HQ | 983993 ✓ | " |
| 102. | K Sec Sigs 6 Aust Div | 981992 ✓ | " |
| 103. | 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | 034011 ✓ | " |
| 104. | 2/6 " " " | 000008 ✓ | " |
| 105. | 2/7 " " " | 974993 ✓ | " |
| 106. | 2/13 LAD | 981992 ✗ | " |
| 107. | 24 Aust Fd Post Office | 974993 ✓ | " |
| 108. | B Ech 17 Aust Inf Bde | 960987 ✗ | " |
| 109. | 18 Aust Inf Bde Rear HQ | 960987 ✗ | " |
| 110. | 11 Pl C. Coy HQ Gd Bn | 960987 ✗ | " |
| 111. | J Sec Sigs 7 Aust Div | Hanson | " |
| 112. | 2/10 Aust Inf Bn | Drake | " |
| 113. | 2/12 " " " | 977993 ✓ | " |
| 114. | 2/17 LAD | 956988 ✗ | " |
| 115. | 52 Aust Fd Post Office | 005006 ✓ | " |
| 116. | B Ech 2/12 Aust Inf Bn | 993024 ✗ | " |
| 117. | B Ech 2/6 Aust Armd Regt | 001015 ✓ | " |
| 118. | Ind Armd Repair Ord Gp | 025006 ✓ | " |
| 119. | Milne Force Reception Camp | 942985 ✓ | GGW 1" to 1 ml |
| 120. | 17 Bde (6 Div) Ord Fd Pk | 973993 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 121. | " " " " W/S | 023002 ✓ | " |
| 122. | Aust Armd Regt W/S | 023003 ✓ | " |
| 123. | HQ Fall River Sub-Base | 029007 ✓ | " |
| 124. | U.S. Base Ord Depot | 047002 ✗ | " |
| 125. | 104 Sep C. Coy, Bty | 005996 ✓ | " |
| 126. | 709 Air Borne Sep C. Coy, Bty | 005012 ✗ | " |
| 127. | 46 Engr Regt Coy E | 021005 ✓ | " |
| 128. | 43 Engr Regt | 021004 ✗ | " |
| 129. | " " " Coy D | 049009 ✓ | " |
| 130. | " " " " E | 026004 ✓ | " |
| 131. | 2 Port HQ Transportation Corps | | " |
| | A Coy 304 Port Bn Transportation Corps | 005009 ✓ | " |

| SERIAL NO. | UNIT | LOCATION | REFERENCE MAP |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 132. | 707 Ord Aviation Sqn | 991015 ✓ | MB Prov |
| 133. | 615 Ordnance Coy | 989017 ✓ | " |
| 134. | 804 Q.M. Coy | 992011 ✓ | " |
| 135. | 1914 Q.M. Coy | 986016 ✓ | " |
| 136. | 3 Fighter Gp HQ | 997007 ✓ | MB Prov 2" to |
| 137. | 35 Fighter Sqn | 000003 ✓ | 1 mile 2nd ED |
| 138. | 36 " " | 001005 ✓ | " |
| 139. | 80 " " | 047017 X | " |
| 140. | Dispersal Bay 35 Sqn | 997005 ✓ | " |
| 141. | " " 36 " | 004003 ✓ | " |
| 142. | " " 80 " | 058014 X | " <i>cannot locate the</i> |
| 143. | 3 Fighter Control Sqn | 989658 ✓ | " |
| 144. | 604 Sig 1 Plotting Pl | 986969 ✓ | " |
| 145. | R.A.F Base Ops | 972001 ✓ | " |
| 146. | " O.B. | 987008 ✓ | " |
| 147. | " Sigs | 973001 ✓ | " |
| 148. | 403 Bombardment Ops Base | 046012 ✓ | " |
| 149. | R.A.F No. 37 Radio Station | 983001 ✓ | " |
| 150. | 15 R.S.U. | 988007 ✓ | " |
| 151. | R.A.F 501 Radio Station | KALAKOPE | " |
| 152. | " 302 " " | EAST CAPE ✓ | " |
| 153. | " 6 Sqn | 989008 ✓ | " |
| 154. | " 100 Sqn | 996023 X | " |
| 155. | " Hospital | 994007 ✓ | " |
| 156. | No. 1 Mobile Torpedo Unit Scc | 991008 ✓ | " |
| 157. | No. 4 Mobile Works Unit | 987009 ✓ | " |
| 158. | R.A.F Marine Scc | 015975 X | " |
| 159. | 813 MP Coy US Army | 035017 X | " |

| | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| COMD | | | |
| B.M. | = | = | = |
| B.M.(L) | = | = | = |
| S.C. | = | = | = |
| S.C.(L) | = | = | = |
| I.O. | = | = | = |
| L.O.1. | = | = | = |
| L.O.2. | = | = | = |
| L.O.3. | = | = | = |
| SIG.O. | = | = | = |
| T.O. | = | = | = |
| SUPP.O | = | = | = |
| GD.PI. CMD. | = | = | = |
| O.M.E. | = | = | = |
| AMEN.O | = | = | = |

MESSAGE FORM

War Diary
Serial No. *No 1*

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS | IN | No. of Groups GR. | OFFICE DATE STAMP |
| | OUT | | |

(ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO ~~25~~ 2/5, 2/6, 2/7 Bns, Pack Tpt, Comd, B.M. B.M.(L) S.C. *War Diary*

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| FROM 17 Bde | Originator's Number 138 | Date 8 | In Reply to Number |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------|------------|-------|-------|------|
| SECRET | (.) | 17 | Bde | OP | Inst |
| No | 10 | supplement | No | 1 | para |
| 3 | (.) | HQ | 29 | Bde | adv |
| party | should | read | 6 | Offrs | 38 |
| Ors | N O T | 2 | Offrs | 32 | Ors |
| (.) | All | informed | | | |

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

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

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

0830

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

[Signature]
SIGNATURE.....

(BELOW THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

| SYSTEM IN | TIME IN | READER | SENDER | SYSTEM OUT | TIME OUT | READER | SENDER | SYSTEM OUT | TIME OUT | READER | SENDER |
|-----------|---------|--------|--------|------------|----------|--------|--------|------------|----------|--------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

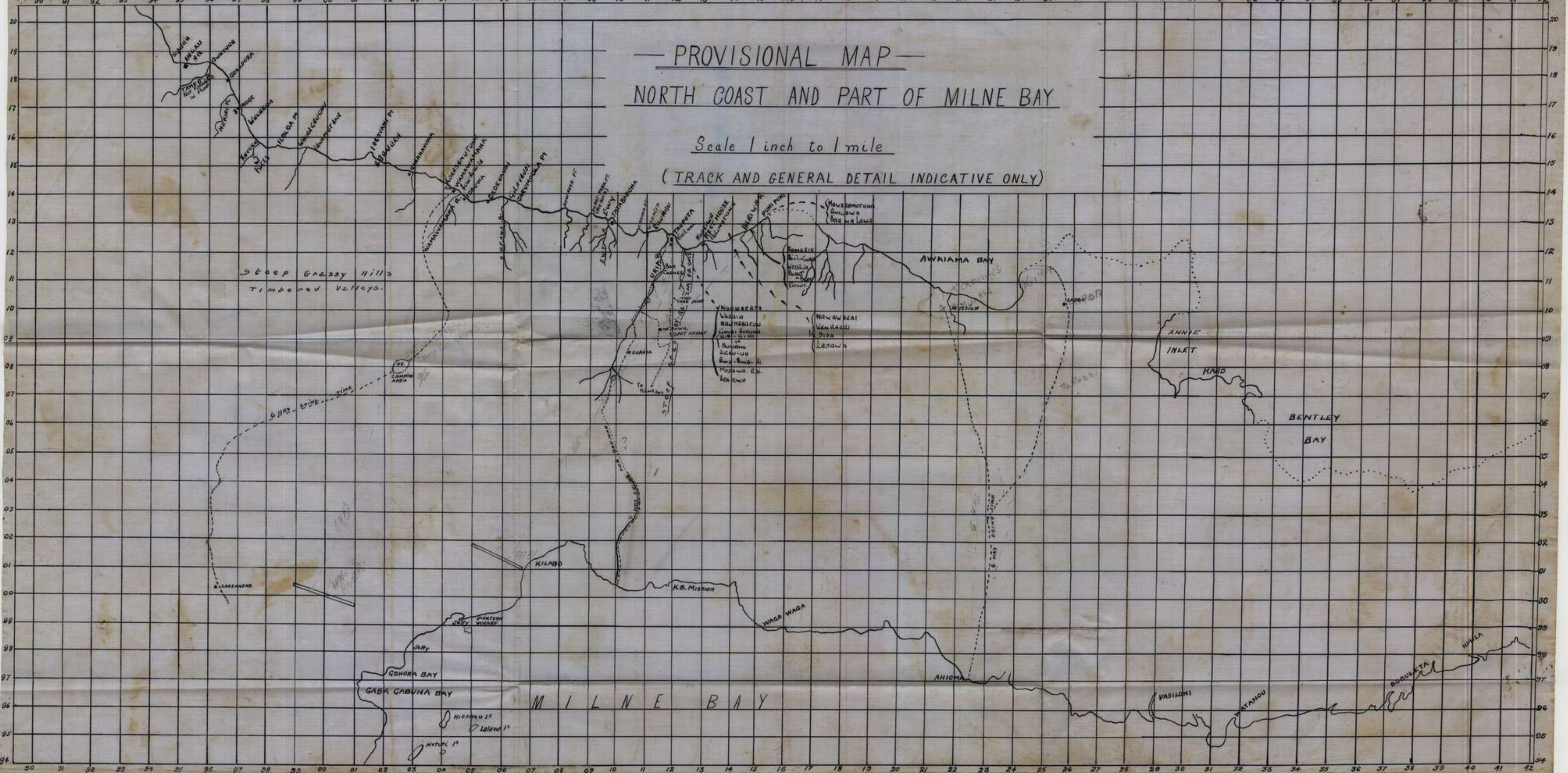
On Her Majesty's Service.

If not delivered within 7 days, return to
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

— PROVISIONAL MAP —
NORTH COAST AND PART OF MILNE BAY

Scale 1 inch to 1 mile

(TRACK AND GENERAL DETAIL INDICATIVE ONLY)



WPI
HmCLOSE FIGHTING SLOWS AIR ACTIVITY

Allied airmen were prevented from giving much support to our troops in the BUNA area because of the close and confused nature of the fighting. Our planes shot up supply dumps and harassed Japanese workmen in isolated areas.

A war correspondent in NEW GUINEA says that the Japanese infantrymen are poor fighters but the Japanese marines are stubborn, cheeky fighters. They formed the backbone of the Japanese attack and were difficult to dislodge.

COMMANDOS AT TIMOR

The first eye-witness account of the gallant struggle being waged against the Japanese in TIMOR by a small band of Commandos has been released. These Commandos have been described as an "amazing band of warriors." They are modern Robin Hoods in the mountain fastnesses of TIMOR and have undergone great hardship to maintain the pocket of resistance against the Japanese. This resistance is of great importance because it hinders a Japanese attack on DARWIN.

It took technicians of the party 59 days to construct a wireless set, capable of transmitting messages. When the first message was sent to DARWIN, it was thought that it was an enemy subterfuge. When identification was established and the needs of the men were made known, quantities of food and supplies were despatched to the men. How these were sent remains a military secret.

RED ARMY'S PROGRESS

The Red Army has made striking progress south-west of STALIN-GRAD. The capture of an important railway town 30 miles from KOTELNIKOVO has been announced by MOSCOW. Towards the DON the Russians have captured an important town and the position of the German forces just between the DON and the VOLGA has become more desperate than ever. The Nazis are using aircraft to try and relieve their troops. Thirty-two more of the huge German transport planes have been shot down.

LITTLE NEWS FROM LIBYA

No further news has been received from LIBYA since it was reported that General Montgomery's forces were in contact with the rearguard of Rommel's forces.

General Giraud has stated that when there is unity with General de Gaulle's followers and others, victory would be assured. He said the fighting in LIBYA would be hard but he was confident about the eventual result.

TWO ENEMY SUPPLY SHIPS SUNK

On Tuesday, United States aircraft sank two enemy supply ships off NEW GEORGIA ISLAND. The Japanese ships were trying to get supplies to their harassed forces on GUADALCANAL. A total of 114 Japanese were killed on GUADALCANAL last Monday for the loss of two American troops.

OTHER ITEMS IN BRIEF

Two waves of American heavy bombers raided enemy shipping in the harbour at RANGOON.

Mr. Harold McMillan has been appointed British representative in NORTH AFRICA. He will be accompanied to ALGIERS by a high official.

In a New Year message, the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) said that the nation would have to take stock of itself and be prepared for a hard road ahead.

W/W

13

17 Aust INF
BDE

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| COMB | --- |
| B.M. | --- |
| D.P.M.(L) | --- |
| S.S.C. | --- |
| S.S.C.(L) | --- |
| I.O. | --- |
| L.Q.1 | --- |
| L.Q.2 | --- |
| L.Q.3 | --- |
| S.G.O. | --- |
| I.O. | --- |
| SUPP.O | --- |
| GD.PI. COMD. | --- |
| O.M.E. | --- |
| AMEN.O | --- |

Received 1/1/43
 Time 1025 hrs
 No

Received 27/12/43

Time 1525

W.D. 1

SECRET: K.230.

HQ 11 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 65
(From 0900 hrs 26 Dec to 0900 hrs 27 Dec)

Part I.

OPERATIONS.

OWN (iii) AIR

Attacks.

- 24 Dec: GASMATA strip bombed three times during the day. Hits on runway and AA posns. 3 Zeros were shot down.
- 24 Dec: A 2000 ton ship at ARAWA was hit by our hy bombers, blew up and sank at 0800 L.
- 25 Dec: Suspected enemy localities west of the AMOGA R strafed.
- 25 Dec: LME 1437 L. Bombs fell near JACOBSEN'S.
- 27 Dec: Our hy bombers attacked shipping in RAMAUL IDR. at 0500L. One ship or fuel dump was observed to explode. Fire was visible for 30 miles.

ENEMY (ii) SEA.

Ship Sightings

- 26 Dec: At 0800 L one cruiser, three destroyers, one medium tpt and one 5000 ton cargo vessel towing a smaller cargo vessel were sighted in ST GEORGE'S CHANNEL heading North. A run was made on cargo vessels and 3 direct hits scored. At 1130L it was reported that a convoy of approx 8 ships was assembling apparently to move South. Posn 05'00 S 152'30 E.

Attacks.

- 27 Dec: NUIA was shelled by suspected enemy submarine at 0300 L.

Part II Other Fronts.

(a)

NUIA strips area.
24 Dec. Aust and American tps again made advance despite strong enemy resistance from dispersal bays and coconut grove at west end of the main strip.

(b)

NUIA Govt sta area.
24 Dec. A fresh U.S. Bn advanced to within 200 yds of the coast between Govt Sta and GIROPA PT, but withdrew in evening to a consolidated line. A U.S. detachment encountered Japs near TARAKHEA (2000 yds INW of NUIA village). Jap attitude was defensive.

25 Dec. Two coys of Americans attacked INE to the coast which was reached and a line was established one coy facing SE the other INW.

(c)

SAILIANDA area.
24 Dec. Our patrols reported Jap earthworks north of our fwd posns. Enemy a/c over area dropped 6 bombs (5 of which failed to explode) and some sups. Our tps digging saps toward enemy posns met Japs digging in the opposite direction. 4 Japs were killed and advantage taken of 40 yds of Jap sap to capture an enemy posn.
25 Dec. Our patrols report country SE and East of our posns is too swampy for movement of large bodies of tps or placing defensive posns.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| COMD | |
| B.M. | |
| B.M.(L) | |
| S.C. | |
| S.C.(L) | |
| I.O. | |
| L.O.1. | |
| L.O.2. | |
| L.O.3. | |
| SIG.O. | |
| T.O. | |
| SUPP.O. | |
| AD.PI. COMD | |
| C.M.E. | |
| EN.O. | |

- (d) KUMUSI R. mouth.
24 Dec. Tac/R observed 12 dispersed huts at DAKUMDARI with well used tracks to coastal track.
25 Dec. Tac/R reported DAKUMDARI appears to be occupied. There are several tents in the vicinity. Three large ships boats were seen near the KUMUSI mouth.
- (e) MIMBARE R mouth.
24 Dec. Patrol reports only 20/30 hungry Japs are left in the DUVIRA CK area. They have a 16 ft launch and a punt and appear to be about to evacuate. No Japs now remain at MIMBA Mission or MAINU.
- (f) KANGA. 24 Dec. Enemy trucks still active on L&E drome. 25 Dec. Trucks appear to be working round North end of L&E drome where an amn dump may be located.
159 RABAU natives escaped from SALAMUA and are now under our control.

PART II

2. ENEMY O of D. LAND.

An extract dated 22 Nov taken from a notebook captured AMBOGA area is as follows :-

"It has been decided that the main strength of the bde will advance immediately to NEW GUINEA."

Units mentioned are as follows:-

Bde HQ
Inf Regt
Engr Unit
Fd Hosp
Bde Com Unit
Fd AA Unit (to be decided later)

Attached units :-

Dty Mtn Arty 38 Regt ? (38 Div?)
Dty 10 Ind Mtn Arty Regt

Remaining units :-

Bde Arty Unit
Bde Tank Unit
Bde AA Unit (undecided)

This force has now been identified as the 21 Ind Mxd Bde commanded by Maj-Gen YAMAGATA.

Pencilled notes captured AMBOGA area and dated 23 Nov indicate that 65 Bde and 21 Ind Mxd Bde had been allotted important operational tasks in DUKA area as follows :-

65 Bde were to capture the airfield at EMO, and when captured the 21 Ind Mxd Bde was to attack DUKA at night. (EMO is considered to be identical with EMO Mission at MENDAROPU, where there is a landing strip in the vicinity. MENDAROPU is approx 25 miles south of DUKA on the coast).

65 Bde has been in the RABAU area for some months and 21 Ind Mxd Bde is reported to have arrived during Nov. It is known that a change of policy and command took place in the NEW GUINEA area towards the end of Nov and that these two bdes were to carry out operations in the DUKA area. The force at AMBOGA landed this area 1/2 Dec but evidence suggests that this was not their destination. It is therefore considered probable that the attack on EMO was to be carried out night 1/2 Dec although a change of plans had apparently necessitated the retention of 65 Bde at RABAU. The landing in the MIMBARE-KUMUSI area on the night 13/14 Dec probably consisted of further elements of 21 Ind Mxd Bde, and as far as is known 65 Bde is still in RABAU and must be regarded as potential reinforcements.

(NGF Int Summary HQ HQ1)

Atkinson
Col.
GS 11 AUS DIV.

HQ 11 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 64.(From 0900 hrs 24 Dec to 0900 hrs 26 Dec 42)

PART I

OPERATIONS.OWN (iii) AIR.Attacks

- 1050L/23 DUNA. Beaufighters strafed enemy posns on southern MANGROVE I, SURIRAI PT, and GURUWA.
- 1145L/23 1500 ton merchant vessel sighted near ARAME, and was attacked; 10 near misses scored. Vessel spun round. Again bombed 1615L. NIL hits. Strike force unable to locate 24 Dec.
- 1700L/23 A 5000 ton tpt anchored off GASMATA runway was attacked and 1 or 2 direct hits scored. A second attack at 1755L left the vessel sinking.
- 1800L/23 CAPE GLOUCESTER Aerodrome bombed. Bombs fell along side of strip.
- 24 Dec: AMDOGA R. to SALAMUA was strafed. 20 Japs in 5 canoes were attacked, considered 18 casualties.
- 25 Dec: Recces.
CAPE GLOUCESTER runway appeared unserviceable.
KAVIENG. 6 vessels observed in harbour.
- 24 Dec: Photo interpretation CAPE GLOUCESTER shows new runway under construction running NW to SE in the vicinity of the old strips.
- 24 Dec: EORENGAU (MAIUS I) aerodrome appeared unserviceable.

ENEMY (ii) SEA.

- 23 Dec: Submarine reported SE of TAGULA ISLAND (LOUISADE Gp)
- 2250L/23 2 small vessels reported enemy E boats machine-gunned our supply ships at HARIKO 4½ miles south of CAPE EIDAIADERE.
- 1659L/25 1 large submarine sighted off WIDE BAY course 210° speed 20 knots. Crash -dived.

ENEMY (iii) AIR.

- 25 Dec: Attacks
KAVIENG. 6 Zeros attempted interception of our reccé A/C. 2 Zeros were shot down and 2 possibly destroyed.
- 23 Dec: Air Sightings.
TROBRIANDS. Natives report persistent flights of Jap a/c over island. 1930L 3 twin engined bombers were sighted flying SE over LUSANCAY.

PART II3. IDENTIFICATIONS.

- (i) Jap army units bear two "code" designations - one related to its place in the "Home" Army organisation and the other is its operational or overseas designation. The "Home" number consists, when translated into English, of a letter and a number. The letter indicates the geographic division of JAPAN from which it is drawn, and the number is the number of its depot within this geographic division e.g. "C 28" means the 28th Depot (NOT Depot Div, merely Depot a Base Depot) in the Central division.

To avoid further confusion the following are ~~sub-divisions~~ of the "Home" area are

| | | |
|----------|----|----------|
| Hokubu | -- | Northern |
| Tobu | -- | Eastern |
| Chubu | -- | Central |
| Seibu | -- | Western |
| Chosen | -- | Korea |
| Takasago | -- | Formosa |

The whole system behind the overseas code names is NOT yet clear.

It seems that the names allotted represent the major formation, whilst the numbers in correct numerical sequence represent the units within the major formation.

With but few exceptions code names are known to represent divisions. A few code names, however, may represent formations greater than a div.

There are many inconsistencies in the numbering, but in spite of these it seems that the basic idea was to allot a block of numbers to a Div sufficient to allow one number to be allotted as follows: - Div; Div Inf; 1st Regt; 2nd Regt; 3rd Regt; Cav; Arty; Engrs; tpt; and a few other special units originally to have followed substantially the above order.

The system appears to have been upset somewhat by the re-organisation of Divs from four to three regt basis.

It seems possible for two different units to have the same "Home" number but it does NOT appear possible that more than one unit can bear the same overseas number.

(HGF I.S. Nos 96 & 97)

Part IV Other Fronts.

23 Dec

(a) DUIL strips area. An Aust bn advanced westwards along the main strip and by 1730L had reached 1000 yds along strip with right flank on SIHEMI creek and fwd elements on a line running north and south. An American bn protected the flank and is now facing south in this role. AA guns at the NW end of the main strip knocked out by our arty fire.

A further advance was made by an Aust bn along the coast to the mouth of SIHEMI CK.

24 Dec. Our tps pushing NW along old strip gained a further 400 yds. Strong enemy resistance from west end of the old strip.

(b) DUIL Govt Sta area.

23 Dec American tps secured a bridgehead across ENTRANCE CK and also hold the bridge from the ENTRANCE CK island to the govt sta area.

24 Dec. American tps with arty support advanced NE from ENTRANCE CK and indications are that the fwd elements reached rd junc SE of Govt Sta and approx 100 yds from the coast. Area is being mopped up.

(c) SAMANINDA area

23 Dec. Contact established with rd blk garrison, and two standing patrols now located between rd block and the fwd elements of our tps NE along track. Slight enemy activity west of the track.

U.S. tps at the rd block were relieved by an Aust bn. Our fwd tps made a slight advance. Rd block now stated to be at rd junc 185265 ref GOIL locality 4 inch.

(d) KUMUSI area. 23 Dec recon A/C sighted 3 apparently serviceable barges at KUREHIDA.

Ref DUIL 4 inch strat. Native reports indicate that a small party of Japs landed by night between KUREHIDA and DANUNATU QD 0936. Some enemy are reported to have been seen at FUFUDA QD 0639 and SEMANI QD 0533. Strength is not known.

(c)

MANDARE area.

22 Dec. Patrol reports Japs are building shelters on the north bank of DUVIRI CK near its junction with the MANDARE R. where two launches are still hidden by day. Our aircraft failed to locate this hiding place owing to overhanging foliage.

Craft, possibly torpedo boat with launches, left DUVIRI CK night 21/22 Dec. Our O.P. suspects wholesale evacuation towards SILLAMUI but may only be change of sites.

(f)

KANGI. Seven groups of explosions ^{were} heard north and east of LE 0811 - 1152L/23. Dense white smoke was observed from a fire near HOPOI.

24 Dec. Abnormal truck activity on LE aerodrome.

A. L. ... / 1st Lt.
1st Lt.
GS 11 MUST DIV.

Distribution:

(As for Milne Force Int Summary No 63)

Received 24/12/42Time 1500 hrsNo 8/99/33HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 63

(From 0900 hrs 23 Dec to 0900 hrs 24 Dec)

PART 1OPERATIONSOWN (iii) AIRattacksAMBOGA

22 Dec; A20's bombed and strafed JAPS occupying area, setting fire to native type huts.

1015 hrs

22 Dec: 1 1000 ton tpt was bombed and strafed near ARAWE. Vessel was left burning.

1205 hrs

22 Dec: 1 1500 ton tpt, heavily camouflaged, was bombed in JACQUINO T BAY. NIL hits.

ENEMY (ii) SEA.

22 Dec:

Submarine sighted 40 m. S.W. CAPE ORFORD, course 45 deg.

23 Dec:

At 0735 hrs 1 merchant vessel of 1000 tons was north of PILELO IS, in posn 06° 12'S, 149° 05'E.

At 0920 hrs 1 destroyer on a northerly course S.E. from NEW IRELAND in posn 05° 35'S, 153° 53'E.

At 0935 hrs 1 8000 ton cargo vessel was in vic BUKA.

KAVIENG:

23 Dec:

At 1000 hrs, 2 tpts, 1 cargo ship, 3 small U/I vessels. Bombs were dropped.

CAPE GLOUCESTER:

22 Dec:

Reliably reported that enemy had made landing and that 50 JAPS were in occupation of the landing ground. Apparently landing was made from 2 warships which left the area AM 17 Dec.

ENEMY (iii) AIR.attacks

22 Dec:

1 B17 on RABAUl recce was attacked by 3 Zeros. 1 Zero was shot down.

23 Dec:

Our recce a/c while over KAVIENG was attacked by 9 Zeros.

General

23 Dec:

1 medium bomber flew south over DAWSON IS at 1008 hrs at 20000 ft.

Part II Enemy O of B LAND.

(i) On the night 1/2 Dec a landing was carried out from four destroyers in the AMBOGA - KUMUSI River area. This force was identified as being 3 Bn 170 Regt and including a Bde HQ. (Records show 170 Regt is part of 107 Bde 104 Div). A PW captured in the AMBOGA area stated that Maj-Gen YAMAGATA and portion only of the 3 Bn had landed. 9 Coy was still at RABAUl and 1 and 2 Bns were at RABAUl and WAKE IS respectively.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|---------|------|---------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------|--------------|--------|-------|
| COMD | B.M. | B.M.(L) | S.C. | S.C.(L) | I.O. | L.O.1. | L.O.2. | L.O.3. | SIG.O. | T.O. | SUPP.O. | GD.PI. COMD. | O.M.E. | AMEXO |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

From this and other relevant infm it is considered that the Jap forces in the MAMBARE - KUMUSI -BULL areas are now controlled by Maj-Gen YAMAGATA commanding an Ind Bde. (Postively identified 21 Dec as 21 Ind Mixed Bde)

- (ii) A Jap diary shows on 29 Nov "talk of the coming of Lt-Gen IMAMURA'S Army to NEW GUINEA". While there is no reason to infer that this talk is anything more than the result of rumour about relief, which must be circulating among Jap troops, the mention of IMAMURA is interesting. Lt-Gen IMAMURA, Hitoshi was under comd of Lt-Gen YAMASHITA during operations in SUMATRA, JAVA and TIMOR, and distinguished himself by his use of AFV's and paratroops in these areas. In May 1942 he was appointed comd of Jap forces in HEI but the designation of this army is not known, although several divisions formerly belonging to SIXTEENTH ARMY were under his comd.

(H.G.F. I.S. Nos 99 and 100)

Part IV Other Fronts.

- (a) BULL strips area. During the night 21/22 Dec a det of an Aust Bn crossed SIHEMI CREEK at (ref map BULL locality 4 inch) 294247. Our losses in this operation were heavy. Hopping up continues in the CAPE ENDALINDERE area. Four barrelled AA guns were observed firing at 277255 NW of main strip and are being destroyed by our arty. Further tents and shelters observed at GIROPA POINT, where ene strength is now estimated at 350.
- (b) BULL govt sta area. 21 Dec our patrol from vicinity of track junc at 263255 advanced northward for 250 yds when it met strong opposition. A strong patrol moved to establish a bridgehead on the west of SIWORI CK. American tps have established a bridgehead east of ENTRANCE CK between 263264 and 263259.
- (c) SLENEJDI track. 21 Dec. No change in dispositions. Reorganisation taking place. Aust tps to relieve and garrison the rd block and protect the lines of comm while American and Aust tps take up the attack. 22 Dec. Jap mountain guns fired intermittently in the early morning. Slight activity was reported in the enemy fwd localities.
- (d) AMDOGA area. 20 dec. 186 RAMBUL natives captured by our patrol. Documents captured in the AMDOGA area postively identifies 170 Inf Regt as part of 21 Ind Mixed Bde, under comd Maj-Gen YAMAGATA.
- (e) KALIGA FORCE. 20 Dec. Natives working for enemy at SALAMMUA are deserting owing to allied bombing. A number passing through our area on the night 19/20 Dec state that 7 native boys have been killed during raids.

D. Speight
Capt. Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

Distribution:
(As for Milne Force Int Summary No 62)

Received 24.1.12.142

K.224

W.D. 1.

Time 1045 hrs

5/19/32

HQ MILITARY FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 62

(From 0900 hrs 21 Dec to 0900 hrs 23 Dec)

PART I

OPERATIONS.

OWI (111) AIR.

attacks.

BUHA:

0630-0615/20L:

3 B25's bombed GIROPA PT. Damage not observed. A 20's also bombed and strafed GIROPA PT. Bombs fell in target area and several fires were started including petrol dumps.

21L:

2 B25's bombed BUHA GOVT STATION. Bombs fell on target area and explosions were heard vicinity station buildings.

LAE:

1910/18L:

2 B24's dropped bombs on drome. Results were unobserved. 2 B25's also bombed drome. Damage not observed.

FINSCHAFEN:

0700/21L:

Our a/c bombed two cargo vessels of 500 tons and 750 tons. Full hits.

1335/21L

Vessels were again bombed, scoring hits on each vessel. The smaller vessel was 100% burning and the larger severely damaged.

OWI (111) AIR.

At 0630 hrs 22L near miss was scored on transport west of GASMATA.

ENEMY (11) SEA.

RUTH - FAISI area
0715/18L

At 2130 hrs 21L two very near misses were scored on a destroyer off CAPN WARDHUT.

(ship sightings)

3 cargo vessels, one tanker, two destroyers. The destroyer from previous report of 12 Dec was damaged. 10 destroyers, one sloop, two submarines, one cargo ship, two tankers.

RABAU:

1530/21L 62 vessels in Ehr incl 16 destroyers, 2 cruisers, 2 S/P tenders, some MVs and tankers. 2225/22L 71 large surface vessels in Ehr.

BUKA.

1129/18L

1900/18L

1 destroyer, 1 tpt arrived from south. Destroyer and tpt departed via west coast.

IN TRANSIT.

At 1620/20L 1 destroyer was approx 40 miles NW of WILLIAMS PENINSULA in posn 04° 10' S 149° 30' E course 80°.

At 1650/20L 1 submarine was approx 60 miles NE of CAPN WARDHUT in posn 04° 30' S 148° 50' E course 80°.

2130/21L 1 destroyer was approx 30 miles NW of CAPN WARDHUT. Attached by our a/c 0226/22L.

1 5000 ton tpt approx 50 miles west of GASMATA, course 270°. Attached by our a/c.

RUTH - FAISI area
0715/18L

At 2130 hrs 21L two very near misses were scored on a destroyer off CAPN WARDHUT.

1530/21L 62 vessels in Ehr incl 16 destroyers, 2 cruisers, 2 S/P tenders, some MVs and tankers.

ENEMY (ALL) AIR

attacks

1430
Between 1300/18 air 5 Lt's attacked by six ZEROS. 1 zero seen to crash into water. 1 seen smoking and falling. Zeros very active.

PONGAI:

1300/18 U/I a/c dropped 5 bombs 300 yards off. No damage observed. 7 or 8 Zeros attached to 2 a/c's attacking enemy ships. 3 Zeros shot down; one damaged.

Air sightings.

1038/20L:

1 twin engine enemy bomber flew south at 5-6000 ft.

(air general)

BUTH-FAISI:

Photos of BATHAI IS 16/12 show fighter strip 75% completed.

NEW GEORGIA:
2240/16L:

Allied a/c attacked BATHAI drome. 2 a/c's in target area. 2 a/c's attacked large destroyer or cruiser scoring one direct hit and 1 close hit. "Japanese Army sources believed to have fighter similar to Mitsubishi bigger engine. Only differences will probably be bigger cowling and improved performance."

COISC MORESBY 21/12

3 IDENTIFICATIONS:

(1) The following information regarding Japanese units and personnel identified in the BUTH-FAISI area is extracted from IGF Intelligence Summaries up to 17 Dec 48.

HANKAI DET: MAJ-GEN HORII, Tomitaro (Also known as "HORII FORCE")

IIF

144 Inf Regt "TATE" 8417 Col YAMAMOTO

| | | |
|--------------|--------|--------------------------|
| 1 Bn | Lt-Col | YAMAMOTO |
| 2 Bn | Major | YAMAMOTO |
| 3 Bn | Lt-Col | KAWADA (Rank 1st Lt Nov) |
| Regt Sig Coy | Capt | YUKO |
| " Gun Coy | | ? |

41 Inf Regt "MATSU" 4 or "OKI" 5169 Col YAZAWA

| | | |
|--------------|--------|--------------|
| 1 Bn | | YAMAMOTO (?) |
| 2 Bn | Lt-Col | YAMAMOTO |
| 3 Bn | Capt | MURASE |
| Regt Sig Coy | | ? |
| " Gun Coy | | ? |

228 Inf Regt "MURAI" 8924 Col BOI, Hiroo

| | | |
|------|-------|-----------|
| 7 Bn | Major | TSUJI |
| 8 Bn | Major | YAMAMOTO |
| 9 Bn | Major | MISHIMIZU |

229 Inf Regt "MURAI" 8925 Col TAMURA, Kaken

| | | |
|------|--|---------|
| 1 Bn | | |
| 2 Bn | | |
| 3 Bn | | MURATSU |

107 Bde HQ: Comd Maj-Gen YAMAGATA

170 Inf Regt:

| | | | |
|------|--------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1 Bn | Lt-Col | IKENAKI | (PARAU P.W.) |
| 2 Bn | ? | | (WAKE IS P.W.) |
| 3 Bn | Maj | IWASIMI | (Portion AMBOGI area) |

NAVAL TFS:

YOKOSUKA No 5 SNEP (Part)

ARTY:

Mtn Arty Bn "TATE" 8420 Lt-Col HOZUMI

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--------|--|
| 1 Bty | ? | | |
| 2 Bty | ? | | |
| 3 Bty | Lieut | TAKAKI | |
| Bn Combat Train | Lieut | KAMADA | |

47 Fd M. Bn "TORI" 8551 Maj FUCHIYAMA

(Parent unit (NOT in NEW GUINEA) 3 Ar. Regt Comd NINUYA)

ENGRS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| 55 Engr Regt | Col | YOKOYAMA | |
| 15 Ind Engr Unit (MOTO 28039) | Lt-Col | ? | TAKAMURA |
| 4 Ind Engr Unit | ? | | |
| 9 Div Bn | Company | Coy | ? |

CAV

KIMIJIMA Cav Det ("TATE" 8418) ?

COMMS

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|----------|--|
| 45 Perm W/T Unit | Lieut | KAMIZUMI | |
| 7 Ind W/T Unit | Lieut | DEZUKA | |
| 28 Ind Telegraph Coy | ? | | |

MED

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------|------|
| "AKIO" Med Unit | "TATE" 8420 | Capt | AKIO |
| Fd Hospital | "TATE" 8426? | ? | |

SUP & TPT.

| | | | |
|--|--------|---------|--|
| 14 Billeting Unit | Capt | BABA | |
| ASC Unit | Lt-Col | TOMITA | |
| 38 Bn Ind MF Coy | ? | | |
| 106 Land Duties Unit (? 7290) | ? | | |
| 120 Land Duties Unit | ? | | |
| 15 Naval Billeting Unit | Maj | FUKUCHI | |
| (incl TAKASAGO Volunteer Unit ("YODO" 4050) and KOREMI Vol Unit) | | | |

(ii)

LAE

82 Guard Unit
SASEBO No 5 SNEP (Two pls) 14 Pnr Unit.

(iii)

SALAMUA

"OKI" Unit of 81 Guard Force
"HATO" Naval Unit (One Coy)

(iv)

SOLOMONS Units believed to be in GUADALCANAL. NOT definite identification.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 Ind Mtn Arty | 28 Ind Engr Regt |
| 9 " " " Bn | 40 Tpt Regt |
| 20 " " " Bn | YOKOSUKA No 5 SNEP (Part) |
| 13 Lt Mortar Bn | KURE No 3 YAKO UNIT |
| 2 Ind A. Tk Pn | 39 Med Unit |
| 4 " " " | 24 Water Sterilisation Unit |

(From NCF Int Summaries)

Part IV Other fronts.

(a) BUIA strips area:

18 Dec: An Aust bn attacked, supported by tanks, along the coast and by 1700 hrs had cleared the CAPE EIDALADERE area and was establishing a line from the east end of the new strip to a point on the coast 600 yds west of CAPE EIDALADERE. A U.S. bn was mopping up the area captured and clearing Jap log emplacements along the coast. An American bn attacked enemy pillboxes along the north side of the new strip. Hy casualties were inflicted by mortar and arty on enemy running from emplacements.

20 Dec. After consolidating during 19 Dec our tps again attacked. Aust tps reached a point on the coast 400 yards west of strip point. American tps cleared the enemy from the whole area north of the new strip and established a line along SIWORI CK to link up with Aust left flank.

21 Dec. A further adv of 300 yds was made along the coast. 100 enemy dead found in area 200 yds square near CAPE EIDALADERE.

(b) BUIA Govt sta area.

18 Dec. Japs patrolling in ENTRANCE CK ISLAND. Our patrol penetrated 500 yds west of SIWORI CK, killed 4 Japs and located a sup dump.

19 Dec. An enemy strong post at rd junc 192265 ref map BUIA one inch was cleared out. Patrols west of SIWORI CK forced to withdraw. Our tps holding ENTRANCE CK IS.

21 Dec. No change in dispositions. Large fires reported vicinity GIROIA PT and westward during 20 Dec. Our patrol along SIWORI CK met Japs who were in very poor condition and NOT aggressive.

(c) SOPUT - SAIMEANDA track

19 Dec. An Aust cav regt attacked along track to SAIMEANDA with arty support. Reached a point 1500 yds NW of rd junc where they were held up. Still 300 yds SW of rd block. Other Aust tps mopped up in rear. Two small Jap pockets still left east and west of rd junc.

21 Dec. After fierce patrol clashes on the night 20/21 Dec our tps pushed fwd past the rd block and captured 2 lorries loaded with amm. Our tps are in close proximity to a probable important supply dump. An Aust bn and a cav regt are exploiting.

(d) AMBOGI area

19 Dec. 196 Japs buried west of GOKI since 17 Dec. Relief of Aust bn complete. Our main body vicinity 135504 (ref map BUIA one inch).

Top/R reported approx 200 Japs carrying boxes moving west near west bank AMBOGI R. mouth. Capt rec equipment this area Nov includes 2 Mills, 18 Mills, 11 grenade dischargers.

20 Dec. Enemy observed carrying stores westwards from NW of AMBOGI R. Captured natives state that there are still about 300 Japs in the AMBOGI R area.

(g) KUMUSI - MAMBARE area.

20 Dec. Our patrols reported definitely NO Japs between KUMUSI and MAMBARE rivers. Reliably reported that a Jap submarine and launch sunk close to shore and two ships sunk outside MAMBARE BAY.

21 Dec. Patrol reports 6 Jap Launches in DIVURA CK (near MLIMBI) concealed during day, moving off NW at night and a small party of Japs at GAURORA.

(f) MILNE FORCE.

Reported that Japs are establishing a new site NE of GUNDIGASAI.

19 Dec. 3 barges went from SILLIMUA to LIE. One went to and returned from BUKUA.

21 Dec. Enemy filling in bomb craters on LIE beach.

(to) [Signature]
Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

Distribution:
(As for Milne Force Int Summary No 61)

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|----|
| COMD | | |
| B.M. | <i>ACU</i> | -- |
| B.M.(L) | <i>I</i> | -- |
| S.C. | <i>[Signature]</i> | -- |
| S.C.(L) | <i>[Signature]</i> | -- |
| I.O. | | -- |
| L.O.1. | | -- |
| L.O.2. | | -- |
| L.O.3. | <i>[Signature]</i> | -- |
| SIG.O. | <i>[Signature]</i> | -- |
| T.O. | <i>[Signature]</i> | -- |
| SUPP.O. | <i>[Signature]</i> | -- |
| GD.PI. COMD. | | -- |
| O.M.E. | <i>[Signature]</i> | -- |
| AMEN.O. | <i>[Signature]</i> | -- |

W.D.I.W

SECRET
K/222

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 61.
(From 0900 hrs 17 Dec to 0900 hrs 21 Dec).

PART I.

OPERATIONS
Own (iii) Air.

(attacks)

BUNA AREA:

- 16 Dec: Mission area attacked by B26's. Black smoke observed coming from Mission. A20's swoop from KUMUSI to MAMBARE strafed barges and shore area 7 miles south of KUMUSI. Beaufighters also strafed MANGROVE IS and SUPIRAI Spit.
- 17 Dec: Beaufighters again strafed MANGROVE IS and SURIRAI SPIT. 3 B26's bombed Govt Station. Direct hits on buildings.
- 18 Dec: B25's made low level nuisance raid on BUNA. A20's bombed and strafed KUREMADA VILLAGE and mouth KUMUSI.
- 19 Dec: BUNA GOVT STA bombed. One heavy explosion one hundred yds south of Station. Two huts west of station full of JAPS well strafed.

LAE:

17 Dec: B25's bombed LAE drone. Damage unobserved.

ENEMY CONVOYS. (See ENEMY (ii) SL.).

Attacks by our a/c carried out throughout night 18 Dec and continued throughout day 19 Dec. Incomplete results include hit on one gun boat and one light cruiser. Several near misses on destroyers and 4 hits on 1 destroyer, now considered sunk. 3 Zeros were shot down and 2 possibly. We lost 1 a/c.

ENEMY (ii) SEA:

Several sightings of enemy shipping were reported on 18 and 19 Dec in the MBP GULF waters. One convoy probably consisting of 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers and 2 tpts was seen in the vicinity of KARLAR ISLAND at 2015 hrs on 18 Dec. 2 destroyers were seen north of FINSCHAFEN early AM 19 Dec.
"Sighting reports of enemy sea forces 18/12 and 19/12 difficult to assess but consider strong possibility that three separate enemy sea forces made landing at WENAK area MADANG and FINSCHAFEN."
... 9 C.G. 19/12.

CAPE GLOUCESTER:

2 warships anchored AM 17 and left at 1045 hrs.

BUNIN-FAISI AREA:

No report since Dec 12 when 20 ships were reported.

BUKA PASSAGE:

No report since Dec 14 when the arrival of a tpt, a destroyer and a gunboat from South was reported.

RABUL:

No report since Dec 11 when 59 ships were sighted by a/c.

ENEMY (iii) AIR:

LAE: 1150 hrs 5 enemy fighters landed and 6 left heading N.E. at
16 Dec. 1235 hrs.
1855 hrs - 4 enemy fighters landed.
18 Dec:

MORESBY:

Raid 94 evening 15 Dec. Explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped. ... engaged and one bomber was probably destroyed. Seven personnel were wounded.

MANICELLA:

An unknown number of a/c circled area at 2245 hrs 18 Dec and then moved north. Bomb explosions were heard to the north at 2255 hrs.

MISILL:

17 Dec: 1 Jap bomber flying north at 1445 hrs.
U/I plane flying south at 1000 hrs.
20 Dec: U/I bomber flying SW at 1045 hrs.
U/I bomber flying SE at 1215 hrs.

U/I planes have been over the D'ENTREE-STE LUX IS during 18, 19, 20 Dec.
An U/I plane was over KIELVA on 18 Dec and again on 20 Dec.

WITH DRONES:

GASLET: On 13 Dec drone appeared to be serviceable.
HOPOL: Drone unserviceable on 14 Dec.
CAPE GLOUCESTER: Drone abandoned and unserviceable on 16 Dec.

PART IV.

OTHER FRONTS.

(a) BULL:

(i) STRIPS area. A slight adv on the right flank on 16 Dec was reported. Arty observed a log and earth barricade 350 yds long and 4 ft high running east and west 250 yds south of CAPE MIDLANDERE. This was later reported from air observation as a built-up rd. The bn on the left of the new strip sent out patrols on 16 Dec to encircle enemy pillboxes around or between strips. Heavy MG fire was encountered and one of our patrols was forced to withdraw.

(ii) BULL Govt Sta Area. Following the occupation of BULL village on 14 Dec pressure was maintained on the Govt Sta Area. An attack on 15 Dec cleared the area west of ENTRANCE CK and 2 MG's were placed across the stream. An enemy counter attack from the Govt Sta on 16 Dec was repulsed with 20 enemy known killed. 1 PW taken 18 Dec. Our arty engaged 20 trucks sighted by recon A/C, destroyed 5.

(b) SOPUT.

SANIMINDA ... Night 13/14 Dec ration party reached rd block held by U.S. tps, 600 yds NE of track junc. An F.O.O. and det of newly arrived Aust tps moved up to rd block on 15 Dec.

19 Dec:

An Aust bn attacked Jap posns East of track, knocking out 2 MG posts and had reached a point on track 500 yds NE of rd junc at 1400 L.
Another bn attacked north from rd junc and was held up after making about 500 yds.

- (c) AMBOGA AREA:
14 Dec: Aust tps made slight progress. A second Aust bn moved up to co-operate.
16 Dec: Further progress was made and a pocket of enemy surrounded. Our tps were in posn to observe all of village occupied by Japs east of AMBOGA R mouth.
17 Dec: A party of 20 Japs attempted to infiltrate into our posns in daylight. 15 were killed. The pocket of Japs was cleaned out and our tps continued to close in on the village. One more strongpost was cleared in the afternoon, enemy casualties incl 2 offrs.
19 Dec: A composite Aust bn began relieving a fwd bn at AMBOGA mouth.
- (d) MMBARE MOUTH:
14 Dec: Our patrol killed 6 Japs West of MMBARE MISSION. No Japs were observed in the mission.
15 Dec: Reliable info indicates approx 250 Japs in MMBARE Area incl some on island in bay. Patrol killed 6 more Japs near GIR.
18 Dec: Patrol killed 2 Japs near GIR R mouth. Doubt if any Japs left in this area. Reliable info that Japs concentrating at MMBARE village. Strength now considered to be less than 250.
- (e) KALGA:
14 Dec: Japs sent a large party of LABABIA natives to GUADAGASAL village to capture and bring back carriers to MUBO. 20 GUADAGASAL natives captured and held in village on night 14/15 Dec. Our fighting patrol entered GUADAGASAL at first light on 15 Dec and released 19 natives. Pro-Japanese RAUUL and LABABIA natives escaped taking one GUADAGASAL native.
16 Dec: O.P. reports continuous flashes of light observed on SALAMUA Isthmus.
17 Dec: Two warships observed anch red off CAPE GLOUCESTER left towards KAVIENL at 1045/L. Landing suspected.

(S) York...
Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:-

As for Milne Force Intelligence Summary No. 60.

HQ MILNE FORCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 60
(From 0900 hrs 14 Dec to 0900 hrs 17 Dec)

PART 1

(attacks)

OPERATIONS.
OWN (iii) AIR.

BUNA area

13 Dec: A20's bombed and strafed CAPE KILLERTON area at 1030 hrs. Results were unobserved.
B 25's bombed BUNA MISSION. Results not observed.

MAMBARE BAY area.

Early on 14 Dec. 5 warships which attempted to land tps and supplies were attacked by our bombers. One destroyer received 3 direct hits. A number of barges were sunk and many tps killed. During day our planes bombed and strafed barges and supplies. The warships were attacked during 14 Dec. Several near misses were scored.

ST GEORGES CHANNEL.

13 Dec: An enemy destroyer was attacked by B 17's, a near miss being scored.

NEW GEORGIA.

11 Dec: SOUPAC a/c attacked 11 destroyers scoring hits on 6.

ENEMY (ii) SEA.

IN TRANSIT

13 - 14 Dec: 5 warships which included at least 2 cruisers were seen about 60 miles NNW of KARKAR IS course 160 deg at 1215 hrs 13 Dec. At approx 0200 hrs 14 Dec the force was in vic mouth of MAMBARE RIVER. Early PM it was off GASMATA.
16 Dec: A convoy of 2 cargo vessels, 2 tankers, 1 destroyer was sighted by our a/c approx 60 miles SE of WIDE BAY in NEW BRITAIN at 1045 hrs.

ENEMY (iii) AIR

attacks

PORT MORESBY.

Air raid 92 at 2553L/13 possibly one enemy plane dropped bombs in the vicinity of WARDS and JACKSON dromes. Nil damage or casualties.
Air raid 93 2057 L/14. Two bombs were dropped. Nil damage or casualties.

SIGHTINGS

14 Dec: An u/i plane which was over GOODENOUGH IS at 0940 hrs circled MILNE BAY and MULLINS HBR area at approx 1000 hrs.
A two engined JAP bomber circled MISIMA IS at 1435 hrs at 5000 ft.
From 1405 hrs 1505 hrs a JAP bomber was over KITAVA.
15 Dec: 1 U/I bomber flew SE over MISIMA at 1110 hrs.
16 Dec: 1 U/I a/c circled MULLINS HARBOUR and flew east along the coast between 1530 and 1600 hrs.
1 U/I a/c flew south over NORMANBY IS at 0930 hrs.

Part IV Other Fronts.

(a) BUNA area.

On the night 12/13 Dec American reconce patrols advanced through swampy terrain to within 400 yds of the rd to BUNA Govt Sta. 10 enemy snipers were killed. 25 pdrs and mortar engaged govt sta but results were not observed. BUNA village completely occupied by American tps at 1000L/14.

(b) SOPUTA - SANANANDA area.

12 Dec. Attempts to take up sups to rd block held by U.S. tps south of SANANANDA were frustrated by enemy action. Two further attempts made on 13 Dec from east and west. Both unsuccessful.

(c) AMBOGA area

13 Dec. Aust tps repulsed two Jap attacks killing 10 incl 1 offr and capturing an LMG. Our tps then continued attack and made slight progress. Captured papers show that three coys of 3 Bn 170 Regt landed between KUMUSI and AMBOGA R from 4 destroyers on night 1/2 Dec and are now in posn at the AMBOGA mouth. Strength about 500. Papers show our attacks inflicted 101 casualties on this force to 11 Dec.

[Handwritten Signature]
1st Lt
GS MILNE FORCE.

Distribution:

(As for Milne Force Int Summary No 59)

LOCATION STATEMENT OF 17 AUST INF BDE & UNITS UNDER COMD
AS AT 2359 HRS 15 DEC 42.

REF MAPS: MILNE BAY (PROV) 2" = 1 Mile (2nd Edition).
SAMARI 1" = 4 miles.
WAIGANI 1" = 1 mile.

| Unit | Map Ref. | Place |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| HQ 17 AUST INF BDE | 983993 | HAGITA HOUSE |
| K Sec Sigs | " | " |
| B-Ech 17 Aust Inf Bde | 974993 | ROUTE 4 |
| 46 Aust L.A.D. | " | " |
| Protection Pl. | " | " |
| ----- | | |
| 2/5 AUST INF BN (less D Coy on Standing Patrol) | 981992 | ROUTE 4 |
| HQ Coy (less 5 Pl) | 980991 | " |
| A Coy HQ | 984992 | " |
| B " " | 983984 | DONA DONA AREA |
| C " " | 978995 | ROUTE 4 |
| 5 Pl. | 976998 | EANEANE TRACK |
| ----- | | |
| 2/6 AUST INF BN | 034011 | ROUTE 8 |
| HQ Coy (less 5 Pl) | 034010 | " |
| A Coy HQ | 028014 | " |
| B " " (less one Sec on Standing Patrol) | 033012 | " |
| C Coy HQ | 056026 | " |
| D " " | 034007 | " |
| 5 Pl. | 950993 | ROUTE 4 |
| ----- | | |
| 2/7 AUST INF BN | 000008 | AREA NO.1 STRIP |
| HQ Coy (less 4 & 5 Pls) | 999007 | " |
| A Coy HQ | 003011 | " |
| B " " | 006006 | " |
| C " " (less one Sec Standing Patrol) | 007006 | " |
| D " " | 994998 | " |
| 5 Pl | 976998 | EANEANE |
| ----- | | |
| STANDING PATROLS - 2/5 AUST INF BN | | |
| D Coy (less 17 Pl) | (R) L 4158 | TAUPOTA VILLAGES |
| 17 Pl D Coy | (R) L 1072 | WEDAU |
| ----- | | |
| STANDING PATROLS - 2/6 AUST INF BN | | |
| One Sec ^A Coy | 027041 | MAPO |
| ----- | | |
| STANDING PATROLS - 2/7 AUST INF BN | | |
| One Sec ^A Coy | 985044 | OP. No 1. |

LOCATION STATEMENT OF 17 AUST INF BDE & UNITS UNDER COMD AS AT 2359 HRS 15 DEC 42.

REP MAPS: 1:50,000 (PROV) 2" = 1 MILE (2nd Edition).

1" = 4 miles.

1" = 1 mile.

| Unit | Map Ref | Place |
|--|---------|-------|
| 4 PL 2/7 AUST INF BN detached operational role | | BUNA |

17 AUST INF BDE COURSES

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| 17 Aust Inf Bde Tng Centre | 973004 | BANEANENE |
| 17 Aust Inf Bde Pack Tpt Course | 968987 | ROUTE 4 |
| 17 Aust Inf Bde D & M Course | 974993 | ROUTE 4 |
| 17 Aust Inf Bde Weapon Tng Course | 982994 | ROUTE 4 |

M. J. ...
Maj.

B.M. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

| | | |
|------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| AREA NO. 1 STRIP | 000000 | 17 AUST INF BN |
| " | 000001 | HQ Coy (Less 4 & 5 Pts) |
| " | 000002 | A Coy HQ |
| " | 000003 | B " " |
| " | 000004 | C " " (Less one Sec Standing Patrol) |
| " | 000005 | D " " |
| " | 000006 | E PL |

STANDING PATROLS - 17 AUST INF BN

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
| TAPOTA VILLAGES | (R) 1 418 | B Coy (Less 17 Pl) |
| WEDAU | (R) 1 1025 | 17 Pl B Coy |

STANDING PATROLS - 17 AUST INF BN

| | | |
|------|--------|---------------|
| WAPU | 022001 | One Sec B Coy |
|------|--------|---------------|

STANDING PATROLS - 17 AUST INF BN

| | | |
|------------|--------|---------------|
| OP. No. 1. | 022004 | One Sec B Coy |
|------------|--------|---------------|

SUMMARY OF NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 27DARLAN'S SUCCESSOR APPOINTED

It has been officially announced from ALGIERS that General GIRAUD has been appointed to succeed Admiral DARLAN as French High Commissioner in NORTH AFRICA. The decision was made at a meeting of the French Imperial Council.

It is not clear whether General Giraud will continue to hold his present position of French Commander in Chief in North Africa. General Giraud said, after his appointment, that he would co-operate entirely with the Forces of General De Gaulle. He maintained that his only aim was victory over the enemies of France. General Giraud is 63 and is one of the most famous of French military leaders.

Just before the meeting of the French Imperial Council, Admiral Darlan was accorded a State Funeral from the ALGIERS cathedral.

JAPANESE IN A DESPERATE POSITION.

The Japanese forces in the BUNA area are fighting a last grim battle as the Allied Forces encircle their positions. A wide enveloping movement makes the plight of the Japanese appear desperate.

Twelve Zeros were encountered by Allied planes yesterday over the BUNA area. Eight were shot down for the loss of three of our own planes.

The ABC War Correspondents says the Allied troops are now closing in on both flanks of the BUNA front.

A party of American sappers digging a trench through "No Mans Land" to the Japanese lines yesterday received a sudden surprise when they encountered four Japanese sappers digging a trench towards the Allied lines. The Americans were the best on the draw and the Japanese were killed. The Americans continued with their trench.

ALLIED SUCCESSES IN NORTH AFRICA

Allied forces in North Africa have had further successes on land, sea and air. General Anderson's 1st Army gained new positions and held them firmly in spite of strong enemy opposition.

After entering SIRTE, the 8th Army continued its pursuit of Rommel's forces towards TRIPOLI. Two enemy merchant ships were sunk off the coast of TUNISIA by a British submarine. The air battle covers a wide area. The RAF is being steadily reinforced.

RED ARMY'S ADVANCE CONTINUES

The Red Army has had further successes in the Middle Don SW of STALINGRAD and on the Central Front. Russian troops have advanced 92 to 125 miles in the Don sector since the offensive started and have captured a total of 56000 prisoners. West and south west of Stalingrad the Soviet Forces have smashed German counter-attacks. In the Central Caucasus, the Russians continue their advance and have captured more localities.

RAID ON SHIPPING AT RABAUL.

On Christmas Day flying fortresses raided RABAUL scoring a direct hit on a large merchant vessel and damaging others. All planes returned safely.

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|------|------|---------|------|---------|-----|-------|-------|-------|--------|------|---------|--------------|--------|---------|
| COMD | B.M. | B.M.(L) | S.C. | S.C.(L) | TO. | L.O.1 | L.O.2 | L.O.3 | S.G.O. | T.O. | SUPP.O. | GD.PI. COMD. | O.M.E. | AMEN.O. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

~~2. Series Rec'd.~~

~~B.M.~~

~~C.T.N.~~

WDI

/GLG

HQ 11 AUST DIV NEWS BULLETIN NO 120 28 Dec 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/28

HEAVY RAID ON RABAU

Aircraft based on Australia made a successful raid on RABAU early on Sunday. One large enemy transport of 15,000 tons was left lying on her side and two medium vessels were left burning. Twelve P 38's made a surprise attack. They shot down 13 enemy fighters and two dive bombers. One P38 was lost, but the pilot is safe.

This was the first attack made by P 38's. They had been in New Guinea for some time but had been used for recce only. Their speed gives them great superiority in the air over Japanese planes. Their usual plan is to wait in the clouds for the Japanese planes, then swoop down suddenly upon them.

Land fighting in the BUNA area is confined to patrol clashes. Small but important gains have been made on the SANANANDA trail. A strong formation of Beaufighters shot up enemy installations on TIMOR.

RED ARMY'S IMPORTANT GAINS

The Russians have made further progress in their drive on the four fronts - West of MOSCOW, Middle Don, SW of STALINGRAD and in the CAUCASUS.

MOSCOW gives news of more localities captured by the Russians. One Red Army unit took 30 of these localities after two days' fighting. The unit killed 3000 Germans and captured another 1500. SW of STALINGRAD the large army built up by the Germans is still on the run. It appears that the Germans have decided to leave their divisions west of STALINGRAD to their fate. In yesterday's fighting, the Russians advanced from six to ten miles. In four days, they have advanced 30 miles.

Inside STALINGRAD, the Russians are fighting with great vigour and have taken more localities in the factory area.

FIGHTING IN TUNISIA

Land fighting in TUNISIA has died down owing to bad weather. Continuous rain has made ground operations almost impossible. But the weather did not prevent Flying Fortresses making strong attacks on BIZERTA and SFAX.

It has been announced that in NORTH AFRICA, 276 enemy planes have been destroyed compared with 114 Allied planes lost. RAF short range fighters have been used in the raids on BIZERTA and TUNIS; American transport planes have been used to bring up men and supplies.

The 8th Army is about 50 miles west of SIRTE.

NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

In CHINA, eight of the 21 Japanese aircraft which raided YUNNAN Province on Xmas Day were shot down.

No Allied activity in BURMA is reported.

HEALTH NOTE - DENGUE

Some personnel have developed Dengue in this area.

It is considered that this disease is being carried by a mosquito called *Cnigeres Obturnas* - a large black mosquito with white triangular patches on its body.

It breeds chiefly in water in old half coconut shells and comes into huts and tents in the afternoon and evening. The necessity for disposing of coconut shells likely to hold water is again stressed.

*LT Toomey
Packman in
A. Sel.*

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| COMD | | |
| B.M. | <i>Ally</i> | --- |
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| GD PT. COMD. | | --- |
| OME | <i>Ally</i> | --- |
| AMERO | | --- |

Ally
Vi

2 bones *Recd.*

/JF

Received 26 / 12 / 43
Time 1045 hrs
No. _____

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 hrs 125-

ASSASSINATION OF ADMIRAL DARLAN

A communique from Allied Headquarters in North Africa reports the assassination yesterday of Admiral Darlan. A young Frenchman armed with a revolver shot Admiral Darlan as he entered his office in ALGIERS. The Admiral died on the way to hospital. His assassin was captured and subjected to questioning. General Eisenhower reports that complete order reigns in ALGIERS notwithstanding general indignation at the outrage. President Roosevelt, commenting on the assassination described it as "Murder of the first degree."

SOLOMONS, NEW BRITAIN, BUNA, SANANANDA.

Heavy Allied bombers attacked and sank a 5000 ton transport at GASMATA, of 15 Zeros attempting to intercept the attack one was shot down and two damaged without loss to the Allied force. American medium bombers attacked and sank one Japanese destroyer off the Solomons. MUNDA in the SOLOMONS has been attacked for the thirteenth time by bombers based on GUADALCANAL.

BUNA - The main Japanese position on the right flank at BUNA has collapsed and the enemy has been driven back to a last line of defence approx. one mile long and from 500 to 600 yds in depth. This enemy strip is protected by pill boxes and a net of trenches and barricades. Fighting is still going on in the SANANANDA sector where, as yet, there is no Allied advance. Allied air successes in the area in the last few days include one destroyer, two cargo ships, and 4 fighter planes, sunk and destroyed.

FURTHER RUSSIAN SUCCESSES.

The Red Army has opened a new offensive in the Central Caucasus and after a few days fighting German resistance in the area has been broken - 3000 Germans have been reported killed as a result of the offensive.

Continuing an offensive begun a week ago in the Middle Don sector, the Russian Army has advanced 13/15 miles in one day capturing 5600 prisoners. Moscow communique reports a Russian advance of 85 miles on the Middle Don front during the last eight days during which 42000 German prisoners were taken. German losses have been heavy in fighting south west of STALINGRAH.

NORTH AFRICA

In TUNIS reports indicate patrol activity only although patrol movements are said to be warming up in anticipation of an attack by the First Army at an early date.

Patrols of the British Eighth Army have made contact with ROMMEL'S forces in the SIRTE region halfway between EL AGHEILA and TRIPOLI.

Recent improvements on the North African fronts have enabled convoys to arrive at MALTA unharmed, an enemy convoy recently attempted to sail east of MALTA but turned back on sighting the Royal Navy.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

In a Christmas Message to Australian troops and Womens' Auxiliaries everywhere, the Prime Minister, Mr Curtin, thanked those "whose courage, determination, and fearless gallantry had kept Australian shores inviolate". Mr Curtin indicated further that supplies would be maintained to enable final victory to be achieved.

RECEIVED
COMM. COMD.
NOV 26 1943
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SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 26DARLAN'S MURDERER CONDEMNED TO DEATH

A message from ALGERIA reveals that Admiral Darlan's murderer has been tried and condemned to death. He will be executed within a couple of hours of this broadcast.

Darlan's assassin was a 20-year-old French youth, whose mother was an Italian. He confessed to the murder, and said he had no accomplices. Darlan's body lies in state in the ALGIERS Cathedral. A requiem mass will be held in the Cathedral and will be attended by high officials.

Vichy radio attacked Darlan almost as viciously as the Berlin radio .

PERIOD OF CALM AT BUNA

General MacArthur's communique to-day reports a period of calm in the BUNA fighting. A war correspondent, however, states that Allied forces strongly attacked the enemy on the west side of BUNA and scored further successes.

On the eastern flank there is also a calm while ~~the~~ our forces rest and re-form. The Japanese will be hard to dislodge from their positions north-west of the old airfield. As the enemy is outnumbered, it is expected a victory for the Allied forces will be only a matter of time.

RED ARMY CONTINUES TO ADVANCE

MOSCOW has announced that the Russians have taken the initiative SW of ST. LINGRAD and have advanced 15 miles at great cost to the enemy. The Nazis assembled three tank divisions and infantry columns for a counter attack. They succeeded at first but the Red Army gradually pushed them back.

In yesterday's fighting, 9000 Nazi troops were killed. The Russians destroyed 268 planes, 300 tanks and 160 guns.

The Red Army developed a drive in the CAUCASUS and made a steady advance. Twelve localities were captured. In the DON sector, 7500 prisoners were taken making a total of 49,000 prisoners captured since the offensive began. On the Central front the Russians took an enemy strong point and smashed a German counter attack.

ROMMEL STILL IN FLIGHT

Rommel is still speeding towards TRIPOLI. The 8th Army is making rapid progress. It is reported that the Axis Powers are using every means possible to get men and supplies into TUNISIA. They are using gliders to transport troops.

SUCCESSFUL RAID ON MUNDA

From WASHINGTON it is announced that another successful raid was made on MUNDA. Aircraft based on GUADALCANAL bombed and strafed the airfield at MUNDA. Fourteen Japanese planes were shot down in combat and another 10 destroyed on the ground. All the American planes returned safely.

GIRL TAKEN BY SHARK

A 16-year-old girl was attacked and killed by a shark in Middle Harbour to-day. The girl, whose name was Miss Birch, was only knee-deep in water when she was attacked. Her father and brother are prisoners of war in Japan and she arrived in Australia only a short time ago from HONG KONG.

Received 27/12/42
Time 1100 hrs
No

BARBARA'S MURDER CONDEMNED TO DEATH

A message from LAHIA reveals that Admiral Darlan's murderer has been tried and condemned to death. He will be executed within a couple of hours of this broadcast.

Darlan's assassin was a 30-year-old French youth, whose mother was an Italian. He confessed to the murder, and said he had no accomplices. Darlan's body lies in state in the ALIENS' CEMETERY. A requiem mass will be held in the Cathedral and will be attended by his relatives.

PERIOD OF CALM AT BUNIA

General MacArthur's command has today reports a period of calm in the BUNIA fighting. A war correspondent, however, states that Allied forces strongly attacked Japanese on the west side of BUNIA and scored further successes.

On the eastern flank, the Japanese forces have been driven back and are now in a position to attack the Allied forces. It is expected a victory for the Allied forces will be only a matter of time.

NO JAP ADVANCE IN ADVANCE

NOBON has announced that the Japanese have taken the village of ST. LAURENCE and are now in a position to attack the Allied forces. The Japanese are reported to have captured a number of Allied soldiers and are now in a position to attack the Allied forces.

In yesterday's fighting, 3000 Japanese troops were killed. The Allied forces lost 250 troops and 150 guns.

The Japanese are reported to have captured a number of Allied soldiers and are now in a position to attack the Allied forces. The Japanese are reported to have captured a number of Allied soldiers and are now in a position to attack the Allied forces.

ROOKIE STILL IN FIGHT

A rookie soldier is still in the fight. He is reported to have captured a number of Japanese soldiers and is now in a position to attack the Japanese forces.

SUCCESSFUL RAID ON BUNIA

A successful raid on BUNIA was carried out by the Allied forces. The raid was reported to have resulted in the capture of a number of Japanese soldiers and the destruction of a number of Japanese weapons.

A 16-year-old girl was reported to have captured a number of Japanese soldiers and is now in a position to attack the Japanese forces.

17
Aunt Sig Bdr
(17)

O.T.N
1

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|-----------------|-----|-----|
| COMD | --- | --- |
| B.M. | --- | --- |
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| S.C. | --- | --- |
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| SUPP.O | --- | --- |
| GD.PI. COMD. | --- | --- |
| O.M.E. | --- | --- |

CHRISTMAS NUMBER

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 116

25 DECEMBER 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 hrs/24

TO-MORROW IS CHRISTMAS DAY ! But it is a different and unusual CHRISTMAS this year. The keynote is austerity. Christmas advertisements have been cut out entirely ; shops have been short-staffed. The fighting forces are at their battle stations and civilians feel they should spend a quiet and thankful Christmas at home. Australians feel safer now than they did a year ago but they realise there is still a long way to go. It will be a subdued Christmas on the home front.

H.M.A.S. ARMIDALE SUNK

The H.M.A.S. ARMIDALE was sunk 250 miles off DARWIN after being attacked by Japanese bombers and torpedo planes. The sinking of the vessel was announced in a communique issued from General MacArthur's Headquarters to-day.

The ship was heavily attacked and one bomber and one fighter were brought down by the ship's guns before the Armidale sank. Thirty-three have been rescued out of a crew of 183 Officers and men. The others are now presumed to be lost. Another Australian naval ship, which went to the rescue of the men in life boats, was also attacked from the air.

The Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) has expressed his sympathy with the relatives of the men who have been lost. He said the Armidale went down fighting. She was the first Australian mine sweeper sunk. She was constructed in Australia.

JAPANESE IN DESPERATE POSITION

The position of the Japanese in the BUNA area can now be described as desperate. The enemy's losses have been heavy. Allied troops made no further gains in the sector yesterday. The enemy forces are fighting back desperately. The column moving down the SANANDA trail has made good progress. The enemy is using mountain guns. Allied aircraft continued their attacks on Japanese positions. Supply dumps in coconut groves and barges were shot up.

Three American Generals have been wounded in action at BUNA.

RED ARMY'S ADVANCE CONTINUES

In spite of severe weather, the Red Army continues to press on. Russian forces advanced another 15 miles in the Middle Don sector. Yesterday 8000 Germans were killed and 16,400 Germans captured. The Germans are retreating in disorder at many points. German newspapers find it hard to hide the seriousness of the position. The Russians have captured 143 tanks, 1800 guns, 3000 machine guns and 6000 horses and destroyed 85 Axis planes and 120 tanks.

ROMMEL'S FLIGHT TOWARDS TRIPOLI

Rommel's "advance" towards TRIPOLI, as the Germans describe it, continues at full speed. Yesterday the British troops were 50 miles west of SIRTE. As the Axis forces near TRIPOLI, Rommel is depending on mines and rains to delay the 8th Army. Severe patrol fighting is in progress in TUNISIA. To the south, French forces have been in close contact with the enemy.

2-10

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Copy |

/over

REVIEW OF WORLD EVENTS - 31 AUGUST - 25 DECEMBER 1942

The capture of KOKODA by Australian troops, the complete rout of Rommel's Army in the Western Desert, the major American Naval victory in the SOLOMONS and the determined Russian winter offensive are highlights of the events of a world at war in the past four months. A lull has followed the storm in recent weeks but the Allies maintain the initiative on all fronts.

The advance of the Australian troops in the OWEN STANLEY RANGE began late in September and on 2 Oct our troops recaptured a village 60 miles from PORT MORESBY. The Japanese were driven from the KOKODA GAP on 19 Oct and the Australians made slow, steady progress towards KOKODA. On 3 Nov the fall of KOKODA was announced, described by the Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) as "an important step in the defence of Australia." The capture was made three months after the Japanese landed troops at BUNA and advanced on KOKODA. The Japanese rallied on Nov 5 but Australian bayonets drove them on. The landing of American troops in NEW GUINEA and their advance on BUNA was revealed on 8 Nov. The occupation of OIVI by Australians and the pursuit of the Japanese to the KUMUSI RIVER took place on 12 Nov. Australian troops advancing eastward drove the enemy from WAIROPI on 18 Nov and on 24 Nov our troops entered GONA. Several attempts by the enemy to land troops at BUNA were frustrated. The Japanese Navy suffered heavy losses off BUNA. The complete occupation of GONA was announced by the Prime Minister on 10 Dec and by 25 Dec the Japanese forces were squeezed into a narrow beach-head at BUNA. Allied forces are hammering strong enemy defences.

The smashing of the Japanese armada which tried to gain control of the SOLOMONS on 17 Nov was described as a major victory. The enemy lost 23 ships and many troops drowned. American ground forces captured a number of Japanese positions and maintained the initiative on GUADALCANAL.

American troops, supported by British naval and air forces, broke into French North and West Africa on 8 Nov. ALGIERS was captured and the French swung over in support of the Allies. The Axis forces in the Western Desert were in full retreat by 10 Nov. The retreat developed into a rout. EL AGHEILA was captured on 14 Dec and Rommel was in full flight towards TRIPOLI.

Three German divisions surrendered to the Russians on 25 Nov and the great Russian offensive swept on. German forces numbering 300,000 to 400,000 before STALINGRAD were in a perilous position. Despite German counter attacks, Russians maintained initiative and on 20 Dec the Red Army struck again in the DON sector.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 Nov : French resistance at CASABLANCA ceases. American troops enter ORAN.
German troops march into unoccupied France.
- 12 Nov : Announced that the transport and landing of American troops in NORTH AFRICA was greatest amphibious feat in history. Number of vessels in convoy was 500. They were accompanied by 360 warships.
- 26 Nov : Germans in danger of being enveloped not only before STALINGRAD but in the whole of the DON bend.
- 28 Nov : French fleet scuttled in the harbour of TOULON.
- 30 Nov : German auxiliary vessel scuttled off the coast of Australia.
- 4 Dec : Nine more Japanese ships sunk off the SOLOMONS.
- 8 Dec : Launching of the battleship, NEW JERSEY, the largest battleship ever constructed.

MILNE BAY OPERATIONS 25 AUG - 6 SEP 42

Just before midday 25 Aug, GOC MILNE FORCE was informed that a force of two (2) transports, escorted by seven (7) warships, had been sighted 120 miles north of MILNE BAY heading south. The two R.A.A.F. Fighter Squadrons then here, plus three Hudsons, immediately went out to attack and the troops of MILNE FORCE were placed in a position of readiness to repel any attack. Our planes attacked the enemy three times that afternoon, probably sinking one ship. In spite of this, the enemy landed his troops on the night 25/26 near LILIHOA, six (6) miles east of RABI.

The first onslaught was met by militia troops who inflicted heavy casualties and stopped the enemy east of KB Mission.

From then on the action can be divided into two phases. From 26 to 31 Aug, fighting swayed from K B Mission to No 3 Strip and back again, several bitter actions being fought. The enemy had landed two tanks which caused some trouble but were eventually bogged near RABI and put out of use.

From 1 Sep to 7 Sep is a story of resolute pushing forward by troops in the face of a stubborn enemy. Our troops, as they pushed forward along the northern coast of the Bay, had to mop up the jungle on either side of the track and had to leave small garrisons at every strategic point to cover their lines of communication.

Eventually, on the night 5/6 Sep, the enemy realised he was beaten and evacuated his troops by destroyer.

The weather for the week preceding 25 Aug had been nothing but heavy rain, which continued throughout the action. No vehicles could proceed near or east of No 3 Strip and all supplies of food and amm had to be man-handled through heavy mud. All wounded, also, had to be evacuated in this manner, although after 1 Sep 42 a limited number of small boats was used in ferrying ammunition and food to K B Mission and further forward bringing back wounded who were attended to near GILI GILI Jetty. The roads were so bad at this time that it sometimes took several hours to get the wounded back from the jetty to HIGITA.

Our Air Force played a most prominent part. From dawn to dusk each day, taking off from a water-logged strip, they sought and strafed the enemy. The enemy's most unhappy position in regard to supplies was undoubtedly caused by the severe strafing his dumps and troops received on the morning of 26 Aug and afterwards. Sqn-Ldr TURNBULL, after whom the No 3 Strip is now named, was their only casualty. He crashed while attacking an enemy tank.

A feature of the action was the almost nightly visitation by enemy warships. Most afternoons, R.A.A.F. would report sighting of enemy warships heading towards MILNE BAY and each night proof was received of their visit. Prisoners of War and documents captured have since proved that these warships landed reinforcements and supplies and took off wounded. The only lasting record of their visits is the vessel now lying at Ponta Wharf - sunk on the night 6/7 Sep.

It is estimated that approx 1600 JAPS were landed in the original force, reinforced later by a further 600. Of these, at least 1000 were killed and a further 100 since. Possibly 450 were taken off and a further 50, at the outside, escaped to BUNA. Nine prisoners of war were taken.

26 DECEMBER 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 hrs ±25.ASSASSINATION OF ADMIRAL DARLAN

A communique from Allied Headquarters in North Africa reports the assassination yesterday of Admiral Darlan. A young Frenchman armed with a revolver shot Admiral Darlan as he entered his office in ALGIERS. The Admiral died on the way to hospital. His assassin was captured and subjected to questioning. General Eisenhower reports that complete order reigns in ALGIERS notwithstanding general indignation at the outrage. President Roosevelt, commenting on the assassination described it as "Murder of the first degree."

SOLOMONS, NEW BRITAIN, BUNA, SAMANANDA.

Heavy Allied bombers attacked and sank a 5000 ton transport at GASMATA, of 15 Zeros attempting to intercept the attack one was shot down and two damaged without loss to the Allied force. American medium bombers attacked and sank one Japanese destroyer off the Solomons. MUNDA in the SOLOMONS has been attacked for the thirteenth time by bombers based on GUADALCANAL.

BUNA - The main Japanese position on the right flank at BUNA has collapsed and the enemy has been driven back to a last line of defence approx. one mile long and from 500 to 600 yds in depth. This enemy strip is protected by pill boxes and a net of trenches and barricades. Fighting is still going on in the SAMANANDA sector where, as yet, there is no Allied advance. Allied air successes in the area in the last few days include one destroyer, two cargo ships, and 4 fighter planes, sunk and destroyed.

FURTHER RUSSIAN SUCCESSES.

The Red Army has opened a new offensive in the Central Caucasus and after a few days fighting German resistance in the area has been broken - 3000 Germans have been reported killed as a result of the offensive.

Continuing an offensive begun a week ago in the Middle Don sector, the Russian Army has advanced 13/15 miles in one day capturing 5600 prisoners. Moscow communique reports a Russian advance of 85 miles on the Middle Don front during the last eight days during which 42000 German prisoners were taken.

German losses have been heavy in fighting south west of STALINGRAD.

NORTH AFRICA

In TUNIS reports indicate patrol activity only although patrol movements are said to be warming up in anticipation of an attack by the First Army at an early date.

Patrols of the British Eighth Army have made contact with ROMMEL's forces in the SIRTE region halfway between EL AGHEILA and TRIPOLI.

Recent improvements on the North African fronts have enabled convoys to arrive at MALTA unmolested, an enemy convoy recently attempted to sail east of MALTA but turned back on sighting the Royal Navy.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

In a Christmas Message to Australian troops and Womens' Auxiliaries everywhere, the Prime Minister, Mr Curtin, thanked those "whose courage, determination, and fearless gallantry had kept Australian shores inviolate"..... Mr Curtin indicated further that supplies would be maintained to enable final victory to be achieved.

/GLG

Received _____ / _____ / _____
Time _____ hrs

WPI

MILNE FORCE NEW BULLETIN NO 115th 22 Dec 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEW BULLETIN 1900/22

ENEMY RESISTANCE AT BUNA

Progress of the Allied troops in BUNA is being slowed up by the desperate enemy resistance. General MacArthur's Headquarters' communique states that our troops are steadily moving in although the enemy is well entrenched. Tanks and mortars are battering against the Japanese positions. Our men have rebuilt a bridge destroyed by the Japanese.

The ABC war Correspondent says that mopping up is going on in some sectors. Allied aircraft are continuing to give the land troops strong support. There has been no activity in the neighbourhood of GONA for some time.

One enemy plane appeared over PORT MORESBY early this morning but did not drop any bombs.

RED ARMY'S OFFENSIVE CONTINUES

The Germans have not been able to hold the Red Army's offensive in the middle DON at any point. The Russians captured a large number of localities yesterday including some large towns. In last Monday's fighting, 20000 Germans were captured and 7000 killed.

BERLIN has reacted again to the weight of the Russian offensive. The Russians are launching one wave of tanks after another against the Axis lines.

The Russians have beaten back a number of German counter-attacks. Soviet guerrilla forces are operating at the rear of the Germans on the Volga sector.

8TH ARMY PURSUING ROMMEL

The vanguard of the 8th Army is pressing close to the rear of Rommel's forces 150 miles west of EL AGHEILA. Ground fighting in LIBYA is confined to small activity.

The ABC London correspondent states that there are no indications from LIBYA that Rommel will make a stand shortly.

In TUNISIA both sides are preparing as quickly as possible for the big action bound to come soon. Some of the Germans fighting in TUNISIA are straight from the Russian front.

US AIRCRAFT RAID ALEUTIANS

United States bombers and fighters made a combined attack on a Japanese base in the ALEUTIANS.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) has sent Christmas greeting to Sir Thomas Blamey and the troops under his command. Mr. Forde said the achievements of the troops in NEW GUINEA had aroused the admiration of all Australians. Mr. Forde also sent a message to the troops of the 9th Division in the MIDDLE EAST.

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| COMD | |
| B.M. | |
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| A.M.E.N.O. | |

/GLG

2 Copies Received

Received 24/12/42

Time 1100 hrs

WDI

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| AMEN.O | O.M.F. | G.D.P.I. COMD. | SUPP.O | T.O. | S.G.O. | L.O.3. | L.O.2. | L.O.1. | T.O. | S.C.I. | B.M.(L) | B.M. | COMD |
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MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 114 22 Dec 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/22

STEADY PROGRESS BY ALLIES AT BUNA

Steady progress is being made by the Allies in their attack on the main Japanese positions at BUNA. The attack is supported by tanks, artillery and aircraft. The troops over-ran a number of enemy strongpoints.

A War Correspondent says that the defensive system of the Japanese cannot cover more than three square miles. Allied forces are closing in on the enemy at SANANANDA. The enemy defences there are just as effective as those at BUNA and the enemy will be hard to dislodge.

The communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters reports a successful attack by Flying Fortresses on two cargo vessels in the harbour at FINSCHAVEN. Several direct hits were scored. The stern of one vessel was blown off and the other was left in flames.

RED ARMY CONTINUES PROGRESS

The latest Soviet communique states that the Soviet offensive in the Central Don continues to make progress. The Germans are retreating in disorder. The Russians have advanced another 20 miles and have taken much booty and many prisoners. Some of the Soviet units have advanced 100 miles since the offensive began six days ago. The Germans are being thrown back in the middle Don along a front of 100 miles.

For the first six days the Russians have advanced through frightful gales and snow storms. Air activity is increasing in intensity now the blizzards have cleared. On the Southern front, the Germans have attempted to help the German Legion trapped between the the Don and the Volga.

The German military experts have not concealed the gravity of the position on the Southern front and have told the German people some unpleasant realities.

Berlin admits that the Russian pressure is still increasing.

8th ARMY'S PROGRESS

Rommel's forces are being chased by the 8th Army along the road to TRIPOLI. The Axis forces are reported to be at a point 120 miles from TRIPOLI.

There has been no further news of the activity of the 1st Army since the receipt of news of the "beating off" of enemy raids on defensive positions.

SECOND RAID ON CALCUTTA

CALCUTTA had its second raid in 24 hours last night. A small number of enemy planes came over, causing slight damage.

NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

Laval has returned to Paris after seeing Hitler.

In BURMA, British and Indian troops continue their advance southward.

The R. F. made raids on German towns last night. No details are available.

H Q 17 Bde

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| AMEN.O | --- |

1x10

17 AUST INF BDE HEADQUARTERS

ROUTINE ORDERS

For

H.O. and att Personnel, Dets
and Bde Courses

By

Maj R.A.C. MUIR, 17 AUST INF BDE.

No. 4/42.

In the field.

31 Dec 42

23. PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FROM NATIVE SOURCES.

To enable continuity of supply and even distribution of native grown fruit and vegetables, ALL purchases will in future be made by ANGAU.

The practice of individuals buying such produce from native or any other sources will cease forthwith. In this regard it is pointed out that trading in Army rations is an offence, consequently any person who exchanges issue foodstuffs for fruit or vegetables is liable to a heavy penalty.

The single exception to the foregoing will be spotting stations which are allowed an issue of tobacco for the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables.

24. DRESS.

(1) This order will apply during the present war, and "Standing Orders for Dress, 1935" are to the necessary extent modified accordingly.

(2) The following Order of Dress will not be worn by Other Ranks:-
Order of Dress No.1 - Full dress.

(3) Officers and other ranks will not wear cap covers (with service dress) or spurs (except in connection with horsed mounted duty).

(4) Anklets, web, or gaiters, S.D., will be worn when on leave by other ranks to whom they have been issued.

(5) Uniform will be worn by members of the A.M.F. on full time duty whenever they are in public. This provision need not apply, however, while members are participating in sport.

(6) The following orders and instructions are cancelled:-

(i) G.R.O. A.115/1942.

(ii) All instructions issued prior to this order relating to the occasions on which uniform will be worn.

25. USE OF UNAUTHORIZED AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES.

(1) The use of locally improvised forms of ammunition or stores containing explosive matter for training purposes is strictly forbidden.

(2) Ammunition stores which may be employed for the training of troops are restricted to the following:-

(a) Stores of War Office design which are included in the relevant sections of the Priced Vocabulary of Stores.

(b) Approved stores of local design which have been authorized for issue in G.R.Os. or L.H.C. correspondence.

26. NUMERAL PRONUNCIATION.

With effect from 1 January 1943, the use of the existing numeral pronunciation will be discontinued and the following will be adopted:-

| | | | |
|-------|-----|---|----------|
| One | (1) | - | Wun |
| Two | (2) | - | Too |
| Three | (3) | - | Thuh-ree |
| Four | (4) | - | Fo-war |
| Five | (5) | - | Fi-yiv |
| Six | (6) | - | Six |
| Seven | (7) | - | Seven |
| Eight | (8) | - | Ate |
| Nine | (9) | - | Hiner |
| Zero | (0) | - | Zero |

27. POWERS OF SENTRIES AND GUARDS.

(1) Regulation 8A of the National Security (General) Regulations (Statutory Rules 1942, No.374) provides that, without derogating from or restricting the existing powers or rights of sentries and guards, a military sentry or guard stationed or posted at, on, in, or in the neighborhood or vicinity of, any prohibited place, protected area, controlled area, or any premises used by the Commonwealth, or used for defence purposes or for essential services, or any vehicle, vessel or aircraft used by the Commonwealth, or any enclosed wharf or picking-up place, or any merchant vessel lying in port, or any road, pathway or waterway, specified in an order by the Minister, which passes through or near a prohibited place or work of defence, may be armed, and may -

- (i) use his weapons against, or otherwise attack, any person who, in disregard of a warning given by a sentry or guard, approaches, enters, leaves, or passes over or in the vicinity or neighborhood of, or attempts to approach, enter leave or pass over or in the vicinity or neighborhood of, that place, area, premises, vehicle, vessel, aircraft, wharf, picking-up place, road, pathway, or waterway, or who, after being arrested for so doing, escapes; and
- (ii) use his weapons against, or otherwise attack, any person attacking him or who is reasonably suspected of being about to attack him.

(2) There are, however, certain principles which must guide all sentries and guards in the execution of their duty as such, and in the exercise of the right to resort to arms.

(3) These principles are:-

- (a) Sentries and guards will be ordered to take any action required to ensure the safety of their posts or to defeat the activities of enemy, or suspected enemy, agents.
- (b) If necessary, they will fire upon or otherwise attack any persons threatening the safety of their posts or engaging in hostile actions.
- (c) Before firing upon any person, the sentry will, except in an urgent case of self-defence, challenge that person to "Halt". If that person does not halt, the sentry should challenge him again with "Halt or I fire". If he does not halt, and no other means are available for stopping him - as for example, by calling on the rest of the guard - it is the duty of the sentry to shoot.
- (d) The sentry will use his intelligence and sense of responsibility in choosing whether he will shoot or not, and he must be careful not to allow any suspected

27. POWERS OF SENTRIES AND GUARDS. (Contd)

(3)(d) (Contd)

person to approach so close that he can be rushed and overpowered.

(e) Guards of enemy prisoners of war. An enemy prisoner of war attempting to escape may be fired upon, but a previous summons to surrender will be given if possible.

(f) Guards of members of the forces in custody. The use of weapons to prevent the escape of a prisoner (other than an enemy and except as provided in para.1(i) is unlawful unless -

(i) the prisoner has committed a felony and cannot otherwise be re-arrested; or

(ii) it is necessary for self defence, and no more force is used than is reasonable in the circumstances.

The offences which constitute a felony are indicated on pages 146-151 of the M.M.L. (Australian edition).

(g) If a prisoner resorts to violence, force may be met by force to the extent reasonably necessary, and the escort may call for help from passers-by.

(4) General. Orders for guards and sentries will be framed in conformity with the above and guards and sentries will be suitably instructed as to their powers and duties.

28. PROMOTION - ALTERATION TO PAYBOOK.

No alteration of a pay book consequent upon promotion may be made in anticipation of promulgation in unit Part II Orders.

29. RELINQUISHMENT OF ACTING WARRANT OR NON-COMMISSIONED RANK.

If an acting W.O. or N.C.O. is returned to his unit from X List or transferred from another unit he must be absorbed within W.E. or his acting appointment must be terminated.

30. PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO A HEADQUARTERS.

Acting rank only will be conferred on the case of promotion of personnel "attached" to a headquarters establishment.

31. DANGEROUS ENCLOSURES IN PARCELS FORWARDED BY POST.

(1) A fire aboard a ship carrying valuable supplies, including explosives, was caused recently by spontaneous combustion of wax matches included in mails for Army personnel.

(2) All members of the forces will be instructed to request their relatives and friends not to forward wax matches or charged petrol lighters to them through the post. The dangers as stated above will be explained to troops.

(3) Franking officers will delete any request for wax matches or charged petrol lighters from letters.

32. DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS.

Damage to or removal of buildings is strictly forbidden. Severe disciplinary action will be taken against all personnel disobeying this instruction.

33. MOSQUITO AND FLY CONTROL.

The issue of fly sprays ("Flit" guns) to units on a scale of 10 per cent of strength has been approved. The fly sprays will be a bulk Ordnance provision: distribution to units, together with the necessary liquid, will be made by the A.A.S.C.

34. USE OF SERVICE AMMUNITION FOR DRILL PURPOSES.

(1) The use of live service ammunition for drill purposes is not permitted. Such use with cartridges, Q.F. H.E. 40-mm., is particularly dangerous, as the fuze can be easily damaged and prematures close to or in the bore of the gun may be caused.

(2) Suitable drill 40-mm. cartridges will be made available for training purposes.

J.H.D. Mulby Maj.

B.M.(L) 17 Aust Inf Bde.

28. PROMOTION - ALTERATION TO PAYBOOK.

29. REINFORCEMENT OF ACTING WARRANT OR NON-COMMISSIONED RANK.

30. PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO A HEADQUARTERS.

31. DANGEROUS ENCLOSURES IN PARCELS FORWARDED BY POST.

32. DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS.

19 Bds

WPI

LOCATION STATEMENT - 7 AUST INF BDE GP

as at 2359 hrs L/3 Dec 42

Ref Map MILNE BAY Prov 2" No 2

Received 2 11/2/42

Received 2 11/2/42

Time 21/9/42 hrs

Time 1020 hrs

JA

JA 8/9/42

| Unit | Location | Map Ref |
|------------------------|------------------|---------|
| H.Q. 7 Aust Inf Bde | Route 10 | 027008 |
| 241 L.A.D. | " 10 | 026007 |
| 9 Bn H.Q. and H.Q. Coy | " 3 | 004984 |
| A Coy H.Q. | " 9 | 993966 |
| B " " | " 3 | 999984 |
| C " " | " 3 | 024983 |
| D " " | " 9 | 006972 |
| E " " | " 3 | 003962 |
| 12 Pl B Coy | WAGA WAGA | 080292 |
| 25 Bn H.Q. | Route 5 | 048003 |
| H.Q. Coy H.Q. | " 5 | 046003 |
| A Coy H.Q. | " 2 | 048997 |
| B " " | " 6 | 054999 |
| C " " | " 3 | 033993 |
| D " " | " 17 | 067005 |
| E " " | " 5 | 049004 |
| 8 Pl A Coy | LAULAU IS | 047989 |
| 61 Bn H.Q. | Route 12 | 045015 |
| H.Q. Coy H.Q. | " 12 | 048012 |
| A Coy H.Q. | RABI RD | 066015 |
| B " " | " " | 070015 |
| C " " | " " | 085019 |
| D " " | NORTH NO 3 STRIP | 058016 |
| E " " | Route 12 | 043016 |
| 1 Sec C Coy | K.B. MISSION | 113005 |
| 4 Bty 101 A/Tk Regt | | |
| B.H.Q. | Route 11 | 022007 |
| Bty H.Q. | " 3 | 004984 |
| Gun B 1 | " 9 | 005967 |
| B 2 | " 3 | 009978 |
| B 3 | " 3 | 008977 |
| B 4 | " 9 | 006971 |
| C Tp H.Q. | " 11 | 022007 |
| Gun C 1 | " 3 | 029989 |
| C 2 | " 2 | 035992 |
| C 3 | " 1 | 039994 |
| C 4 | " 1 | 032997 |
| D Tp H.Q. | " 11 | 022007 |
| Gun D 1 | " 1 | 026001 |
| D 2 | " 2 | 036002 |
| D 3 | " 1 | 016005 |
| D 4 | " 3 | 004983 |
| 3 Bty 2/1 A/Tk Regt | | |
| B.H.Q. | Route 10 | 031009 |
| I Tp H.Q. | RABI RD | 070013 |
| Gun I 1 | " " | 088018 |
| I 2 | " " | 082020 |
| I 3 | " " | 075016 |
| I 4 | " " | 065014 |
| K Tp H.Q. | Route 12 | 044014 |
| Gun K 1 | " 12 | 045002 |
| K 2 | " 12 | 046016 |
| K 3 | " 5 | 054007 |
| K 4 | No 3 STRIP | 051017 |
| L Tp H.Q. | Route 2 | 047003 |
| Gun L 1 | " 5 | 054006 |
| L 2 | DISPERSAL BAY | 063003 |
| L 3 | Route 2 | 048004 |
| L 4 | " 2 | 048998 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------|-------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|---------|------|---------|------|------|
| AMENO | OME | GDPI | SUPPO | TO | SIG | LO2 | LO1 | IO | S.C.(E) | S.C. | B.M.(L) | B.M. | COMD |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

26 Dec 42. *WDI*

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde AIF WE 11/12/3

Part A. - STRENGTH, SURPLUS REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

| Detail | Posted Strength | Surplus to Est. | WE | Reinfts Required. |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| WO's Class 1 | 1 | | 1 | |
| WO's Class 11 | 2 | | 2 | |
| S/Sgt | 1 | | 1 | |
| Sgt | 4 | | 5 | 1 |
| Cpls | 6 | | 7 | 1 |
| Ptes | 40 | | 53 | 13 |
| Total | <u>54</u> | | <u>69</u> | <u>15</u> |

Part B. - OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS (ALLOWED WE)

VX53363 Pte PERRY J 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
 VX46546 A/Sgt SHEILS A O 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
 WK15575 Pte WADDELL 2/6 Aust Inf Bn
 VX5820 Pte DWYER A G 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

Other Ranks Attached From Other Corps Not Allowed WE

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| VX15061 Pte MORRISON L W 2/6 Aust Inf Bn | VX35366 L/Cpl PAHL A B 2/6 |
| VX5064 I/Sgt CRAIG W J G 2/6 Aust Inf Bn | VX3433 Pte McEONALD E A E 2/6 |
| VX13162 Pte APPLEBY L F 2/7 Aust Inf Bn | VX41561 Pte DESARD J G 2/6 |
| VX50323 Pte WILSON G R Sal Army | VX33014 PtemCOOK F H 2/6 |
| N45987 Pte CONNORS D G 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | TX3775 Pte MORGAN W F C 2/6 |
| VX13105 Pte WOLLEY C R 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | VX27615 Pte CONDUIT P E 2/6 |
| VX4286 Cpl ROADLEY R 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | SX13884 Pte CROCKER C L 2/6 |
| VX4315 Pte IVEY A R 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | NX85036 Pte PEACOCK A W 2/6 |
| WX12705 Pte BURNS T L 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | QX36046 Pte GIBSON E W G 2/6 |
| VX35961 Pte PERRY R 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | VX33822 Cpl WEBSTER J V 2/7 |
| VX39969 Pte JENKINS W 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | NX11793 Pte CLARKE A 2/7 |
| QX3607 Pte MURPHY J J 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | NX296306 Pte FERRIS G G 2/7 |
| NX51576 Pte ALDRED M F J 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | NX100816 Pte MOIR W 2/7 |
| VX52340 Pte GAY R E 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | NX86166 Pte COSTELLO J M 2/7 |
| N266059 Pte SMITH EL 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | NX86184 Pte McBRIDE J C 2/7 |
| 1 Sgt 2 ORS 2 Aust Dental Unit. | NX17182 Pte BURNS R K 2/7 |
| | NX115180 Pte SMITH C H 2/7 |
| | QX26836 Pte GURR B P 2/7 |

PART C. - PARTICULARS OF OTHER RANKS WHOSE RETURN IS REQUESTED

VX5902 Cpl MILROY F 2/1 Aust C C S.

PART D - DETAILS OF SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS ETC.

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde
Unit

26 Dec 42.
Date

Danger

 17 Aust Inf Bde Capt.
 S.C. 17th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 HQ MILNE FORCE.

Part.A. - STRENGTH. SURPLUS. REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

| <u>Rank</u> | <u>Posted Strength</u> | <u>All WE</u> | <u>Surplus Reinforcements.</u> | |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Brigadier | 1 | 1 | | |
| Majors | | 2 | | 2 |
| Cpts | 2 (incls T/Maj) | 5 | | 3 |
| Lieuts | 9 (incls T/Cpts) | 6 | 3 | |
| Padres. | 3 | 3 | | |
| | <u>15</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>5</u> |

Part B.- OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

VX44612 Capt I H McBRIDE Marched in from 2/2 Aust Fd Amb

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

NIL

Part.C.- NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS.

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|-----|---------------------|
| SX2889 | Brig M J MOTEN | Bde Comd | Yes | |
| QX6936 | T/Maj R A C MUIR | EM | Yes | |
| VX5174 | T/Maj H E L DUNKLEY | EM (L)/ | Yes | |
| VX44612 | T/Capt I H McBRIDE | SC | Yes | |
| VX10226 | Lieut K L BROUGHAM | SC (L) | Yes | |
| VX41104 | Lieut W T SMITH | IO | Yes | |
| VX3805 | Lieut A R ROSS | TO | Yes | |
| VX1129 | Lieut A M C HUTCHISON | SC (L) | No | Det School Aust |
| VX51042 | Lieut I R GORDON | LO | No | det School Aust |
| VX5140 | Lieut A G S EDGAR | LO | Yes | |
| VX53272 | Lieut J R TOONE | Amen O | Yes | |
| | Chap. B GALLOWAY | Pres. | No | Det 2/5 Aust Inf Bn |
| | Chap T FIRTH | C of E | No | Det 2/6 Aust Inf Bn |
| | Chap E B PHILLIPS | R C | No | Det 2/9 Aust Inf Bn |
| VX4525 | T/Capt V X TUTT | Sup O | Yes | |

OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|-----|-----------------|
| VX44800 | Lieut R H STEWART | Protection Pl Offr | Yes | 2/5 Aust Inf Bn |
| VX19730 | Capt H M BIRD | Dent O | " | 2/2 Aust Fd Amb |
| | Mr EWEN | Sal Army | " | " |

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde

..... Unit

John J. R. ...
 17 Aust Inf Bde Capt.
 S.C. 17th Aust. Inf. Bde.

26 Dec 42.

..... Date of despatch.

HQ 11 Aust Div

 BDE, DIV Area etc with which
 unit is serving.

LOCATION STATEMENT OF 17 AUST INF BDE & UNITS UNDER COMD
AS AT 2359 HRS 15 DEC 42.

Ref MAPS: MILNE BAY (PROV) 2" = 1 mile (2nd Edition).
SAMARI 1" = 4 miles.
WAIGANI 1" = 1 mile.

| Unit | Map Ref. | Place |
|--|------------|------------------|
| HQ 17 AUST INF BDE | 983993 | HAGITA HOUSE |
| K Sec Sigs | " | " |
| B Ech 17 Aust Inf Bde | 974993 | ROUTE 4 |
| 2/46 Aust L.A.D. | " | " |
| Protection Pl. | " | " |
| ===== | | |
| 2/5 AUST INF BN (less D Coy on Standing Patrol) | 981992 | ROUTE 4 |
| Hq Coy (less 5 Pl) | 980991 | " |
| A Coy Hq | 984992 | " |
| B " " | 983984 | DONA DONA AREA |
| C " " | 978995 | ROUTE 4 |
| 5 Pl | 976998 | EANEANE TRACK |
| ===== | | |
| 2/6 AUST INF BN | 034011 | ROUTE 8 |
| Hq Coy (less 5 Pl) | 034010 | " |
| A Coy Hq | 028014 | " |
| B " " (Less one Sec on Standing Patrol) | 033012 | " |
| C " " | 056026 | " |
| D " " | 034007 | ROUTE 8 |
| 5 Pl | 950993 | ROUTE 4 |
| ===== | | |
| 2/7 AUST INF BN | 000008 | AREA No.1 STRIP |
| Hq Coy (Less 4 & 5 Pls) | 999007 | " |
| A Coy Hq | 003011 | " |
| B " " | 006006 | " |
| C " " (Less one Sec on Standing Patrol) | 007006 | " |
| D " " | 994998 | " |
| 5 Pl | 976998 | EANEANE |
| ===== | | |
| STANDING PATROLS - 2/5 AUST INF BN | | |
| D Coy (less 17 Pl) | (R) L 4150 | TAUPOPA VILLAGES |
| 17 Pl D Coy | (R) L 1072 | WEDAU |
| ===== | | |
| STANDING PATROLS - 2/6 AUST INF BN | | |
| One Sec B Coy | 027041 | MAPO |
| ===== | | |
| STANDING PATROLS - 2/7 AUST INF BN | | |
| One Sec C Coy | 985044 | O.P. No.1 |
| ===== | | |
| 4 Pl 2/7 AUST INF BN detached operational role | | BUNA |

FILE NO 2/11/14
 10/11/14

STATEMENT OF 17 AUST INF BDE COURSES
 AS AT 30th SEP 44

(continued) -2-
 17 AUST INF BDE COURSES

17 AUST INF BDE COURSES

| Unit | Map Ref. | Place |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| 17 Aust Inf Bde Tng Centre | 973004 | EANEANE |
| 17 Aust Inf Bde Paek Tpt School | 968987 | ROUTE 4 |
| 17 Aust Inf Bde D & M Course | 974993 | ROUTE 4 |
| 17 Aust Inf Bde Weapon Tng Course | 982994 | ROUTE 4 |

[Signature]
 Maj.
 B.M. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

[Signature]
 Dist 1st

2 Comd Hqs

CHRISTMAS NUMBER

*Comd +
1 OTN*

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 116

25 DECEMBER 1942

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900 hrs/24

TO-MORROW IS CHRISTMAS DAY ! But it is a different and unusual CHRISTMAS this year. The keynote is austerity. Christmas advertisements have been cut out entirely ; shops have been short-staffed. The fighting forces are at their battle stations and civilians feel they should spend a quiet and thankful Christmas at home. Australians feel safer now than they did a year ago but they realise there is still a long way to go. It will be a subdued Christmas on the home front.

H.M.A.S. ARMIDALE SUNK

The H.M.A.S. ARMIDALE was sunk 250 miles off DARWIN after being attacked by Japanese bombers and torpedo planes. The sinking of the vessel was announced in a communique issued from General MacArthur's Headquarters to-day.

The ship was heavily attacked and one bomber and one fighter were brought down by the ship's guns before the Armidale sank. Thirty-three have been rescued out of a crew of 183 Officers and men. The others are now presumed to be lost. Another Australian naval ship, which went to the rescue of the men in life boats, was also attacked from the air.

The Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) has expressed his sympathy with the relatives of the men who have been lost. He said the Armidale went down fighting. She was the first Australian mine sweeper sunk. She was constructed in Australia.

JAPANESE IN DESPERATE POSITION

The position of the Japanese in the BUNA area can now be described as desperate. The enemy's losses have been heavy. Allied troops made no further gains in the sector yesterday. The enemy forces are fighting back desperately. The column moving down the SANLANDA trail has made good progress. The enemy is using mountain guns. Allied aircraft continued their attacks on Japanese positions. Supply dumps in coconut groves and barges were shot up.

Three American Generals have been wounded in action at BUNA.

RED ARMY'S ADVANCE CONTINUES

In spite of severe weather, the Red Army continues to press on. Russian forces advanced another 15 miles in the Middle Don sector. Yesterday 8000 Germans were killed and 16,400 Germans captured. The Germans are retreating in disorder at many points. German newspapers find it hard to hide the seriousness of the position. The Russians have captured 143 tanks, 1800 guns, 3000 machine guns and 6000 horses and destroyed 85 Axis planes and 120 tanks.

ROMMEL'S FLIGHT TOWARDS TRIPOLI

Rommel's "advance" towards TRIPOLI, as the Germans describe it, continues at full speed. Yesterday the British troops were 50 miles west of SIRTE. As the Axis forces near TRIPOLI, Rommel is depending on mines and rains to delay the 8th Army. Severe patrol fighting is in progress in TUNISIA. To the south, French forces have been in close contact with the enemy.

/over

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|-------|----|--------|------|------|
| AMENO | ONE | GDP | SUPPO | T.O. | SIG.O. | L.O.S. | L.O.2 | L.O.1 | L.O. | SC(L) | SC | B.M.F. | B.M. | COMD |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

REVIEW OF WORLD EVENTS - 31 AUGUST - 25 DECEMBER 1942

The capture of KOKODA by Australian troops, the complete rout of Rommel's Army in the Western Desert, the major American Naval victory in the SOLOMONS and the determined Russian winter offensive are highlights of the events of a world at war in the past four months. A lull has followed the storm in recent weeks but the Allies maintain the initiative on all fronts.

The advance of the Australian troops in the OWEN STANLEY RANGE began late in September and on 2 Oct our troops recaptured a village 60 miles from PORT MORESBY. The Japanese were driven from the KOKODA GAP on 19 Oct and the Australians made slow, steady progress towards KOKODA. On 3 Nov the fall of KOKODA was announced, described by the Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) as "an important step in the defence of Australia." The capture was made three months after the Japanese landed troops at BUNA and advanced on KOKODA. The Japanese rallied on Nov 5 but Australian bayonets drove them on. The landing of American troops in NEW GUINEA and their advance on BUNA was revealed on 8 Nov. The occupation of OIVI by Australians and the pursuit of the Japanese to the KUMUSI RIVER took place on 12 Nov. Australian troops advancing eastward drove the enemy from WAIROPI on 18 Nov and on 24 Nov our troops entered GONA. Several attempts by the enemy to land troops at BUNA were frustrated. The Japanese Navy suffered heavy losses off BUNA. The complete occupation of GONA was announced by the Prime Minister on 10 Dec and by 25 Dec the Japanese forces were squeezed into a narrow beach-head at BUNA. Allied forces are hammering strong enemy defences.

The smashing of the Japanese armada which tried to gain control of the SOLOMONS on 17 Nov was described as a major victory. The enemy lost 23 ships and many troops drowned. American ground forces captured a number of Japanese positions and maintained the initiative on GUADALCANAL.

American troops, supported by British naval and air forces, broke into French North and West Africa on 8 Nov. ALGIERS was captured and the French swung over in support of the Allies. The Axis forces in the Western Desert were in full retreat by 10 Nov. The retreat developed into a rout. EL AGHEILA was captured on 14 Dec and Rommel was in full flight towards TRIPOLI.

Three German divisions surrendered to the Russians on 25 Nov and the great Russian offensive swept on. German forces numbering 300,000 to 400,000 before STALINGRAD were in a perilous position. Despite German counter attacks, Russians maintained initiative and on 20 Dec the Red Army struck again in the DON sector.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 Nov : French resistance at CASABLANCA ceases. American troops enter ORAN.
German troops march into unoccupied France.
- 12 Nov : Announced that the transport and landing of American troops in NORTH AFRICA was greatest amphibious feat in history. Number of vessels in convoy was 500. They were accompanied by 360 warships.
- 26 Nov : Germans in danger of being enveloped not only before STALINGRAD but in the whole of the DON bend.
- 28 Nov : French fleet scuttled in the harbour of TOULON.
- 30 Nov : German auxiliary vessel scuttled off the coast of Australia.
- 4 Dec : Nine more Japanese ships sunk off the SOLOMONS.
- 8 Dec : Launching of the battleship, NEW JERSEY, the largest battleship ever constructed.

MILNE BAY OPERATIONS 25 AUG - 6 SEP 42

Just before midday 25 Aug, GOC MILNE FORCE was informed that a force of two (2) transports, escorted by seven (7) warships, had been sighted 120 miles north of MILNE BAY heading south. The two R.A.A.F. Fighter Squadrons then here, plus three Hudsons, immediately went out to attack and the troops of MILNE FORCE were placed in a position of readiness to repel any attack. Our planes attacked the enemy three times that afternoon, probably sinking one ship. In spite of this, the enemy landed his troops on the night 25/26 near LILIHOA, six (6) miles east of RABI.

The first onslaught was met by militia troops who inflicted heavy casualties and stopped the enemy east of KB Mission.

From then on the action can be divided into two phases. From 26 to 31 Aug, fighting swung from K B Mission to No 3 Strip and back again, several bitter actions being fought. The enemy had landed two tanks which caused some trouble but were eventually bogged near RABI and put out of use.

From 1 Sep to 7 Sep is a story of resolute pushing forward by troops in the face of a stubborn enemy. Our troops, as they pushed forward along the northern coast of the Bay, had to mop up the jungle on either side of the track and had to leave small garrisons at every strategic point to cover their lines of communication.

Eventually, on the night 5/6 Sep, the enemy realised he was beaten and evacuated his troops by destroyer.

The weather for the week preceding 25 Aug had been nothing but heavy rain, which continued throughout the action. No vehicles could proceed near or east of No 3 Strip and all supplies of food and amm had to be man-handled through heavy mud. All wounded, also, had to be evacuated in this manner, although after 1 Sep 42 a limited number of small boats was used in ferrying ammunition and food to K B Mission and further forward bringing back wounded who were attended to near GILI GILI Jetty. The roads were so bad at this time that it sometimes took several hours to get the wounded back from the jetty to HIGITA.

Our Air Force played a most prominent part. From dawn to dusk each day, taking off from a water-logged strip, they sought and strafed the enemy. The enemy's most unhappy position in regard to supplies was undoubtedly caused by the severe strafing his dumps and troops received on the morning of 26 Aug and afterwards. Sqn-Ldr TURNBULL, after whom the No 3 Strip is now named, was their only casualty. He crashed while attacking an enemy tank.

A feature of the action was the almost nightly visitation by enemy warships. Most afternoons, R.A.A.F. would report sighting of enemy warships heading towards MILNE BAY and each night proof was received of their visit. Prisoners of War and documents captured have since proved that these warships landed reinforcements and supplies and took off wounded. The only lasting record of their visits is the vessel now lying at Ponta n Wharf - sunk on the night 6/7 Sep.

It is estimated that approx 1600 JAPS were landed in the original force, reinforced later by a further 600. Of these, at least 1000 were killed and a further 100 since. Possibly 450 were taken off and a further 50, at the outside, escaped to BUNA. Nine prisoners of war were taken.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

PHONES: B 3688
B 3689
B 5082

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE CANTEENS SERVICE

Please address all communications to
"THE CONTROLLER"
CANTEENS BOARD OF QUEENSLAND
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"NORCANTEEN"

CANTEENS BOARD
OF
QUEENSLAND

494-498 QUEEN STREET
(PETRIE BIGHT)
BRISBANE

1st December, '42

Bugader m. J. notes.

Sir,

I wish to express my thanks for your thoughtful letter of appreciation.

Having billeted numerous divisions of the Army, I can truthfully say that the men of the 17th Brigade are among the finest with whom I have come in contact.

Their appreciation of anything done for them was gratifying & their behaviour was outstanding.

I cannot speak too highly of them, & in saying this, I am also speaking for the people who have entertained them.

I have only one regret that their stay here was so short, and we are looking forward to their return.

Sincerely yours,
Doreen Peckering

2 Harcourt Ave
Caulfield S.E. 8.
8th Dec 1942.

Brigadier Moton

Dear Sir

On behalf of the Seventh Battalion Association I thank you for your telegram of good wishes on the eve of our Annual Reunion.

Your Brigade was represented thereat by Brig. Savage and Lieut Webb.

There was always a strong feeling of friendship between members of all the Battalions of the old Brigades. We sincerely hope that this good feeling exists between members of your Brigade.

We are looking forward to the time when, free from your great responsibilities, you will be able to join us in social life as one of our leaders.

The old Sevenths send Christmas Greetings to you, your officers & men.

Yours truly

Gerald Holling, President.

I7 AUST INF BDE SWIMMING CARNIVAL - 26 DEC 42.

COMMITTEE: H.Q. I7 AUST INF BDE - Lieut EDGAR
L/Cpl PROPOSCH
2/5 AUST INF Bn - Lieut GERR
Sgt HARRISON
2/6 AUST INF Bn - Lieut BOURKE
Sgt DOYLE
2/7 AUST INF Bn - Major Picken
Sgt JAMIESON

ORGANISERS: Lieut TOONE
Sgt CHURCH

ANNOUNCER : Lieut URQHART

STARTER : Lieut EDGAR

CALL STEWARDS : WO. JENNER
WO. WOODCOCK

JUDGES : Capt DUELL
Capt WALKER
Lieut WALTERS

MARSHAL : WO. BYRON

RESULT STEWARDS : Sgt STEVENS
Sgt JAMIESON

RACE STEWARDS : Pte COX A/J.
Sgt TOLAN
Cpl NEIL

REFEREE : Lieut BROUGHAN STEWART

DIVING JUDGES : Lieut EDGAR
Lieut HILL
Sgt DOYLE

MEDICAL OFFICER Capt McPHERSON

STARTING TIME 1300 hrs.

POINTS FOR EVENTS : 5 - 3 - 2.

TEAMS RACE POINTS : 10 - 6 - 4.

6

E V E N T S

FREESTYLE : 70 yds. 4 entrants each unit. 4 to a heat.
Winner of each heat to appear in final

BREASTSTROKE : 70 yds. do.

BACKSTROKE : 35 yds. do.

NOVELTY RESCUE RACE : SWIMMERS and NON SWIMMERS 4 of each from each unit.

FREESTYLE FINALS :

DIVING : Standing plain.)

Running plain.)

Back dive.)

Own selection.)

2 competitors from each unit.

BREASTSTROKE FINALS :

NOVELTY EVENT : 35 yds. LIGHTED CIGARETTE RACE/ 2 from each unit.

BACKSTROKE FINALS :

NOVELTY COSTUME : No limit. non-competitors.

MEDLEY RELAY : 35 yds Breaststroke. 35 yds Backstroke. 35 yds Freestyle.
1 team each unit.

WDI

H.Q. 17 AUST INF BDE.
Ref No. : G6/29/L
23 Dec 42.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

17 AUST INF BDE JUNIOR LDRS COURSE.

No.2.

Ref 17 Aust Inf Bde G6/29 of 28 Nov 42.

1. LOCATION: (Ref Map MILNE BAY PROVISIONAL 2" = 1 mile.)
The Course is located at 973005.
2. DURATION: Course will commence on Saturday 9 Jan 43 and will conclude on Saturday 23 Jan 43.
3. NOMINAL ROLLS: Nominal rolls to be submitted to HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde by Wednesday 6 Jan 43.
4. ASSEMBLY: Students will report to School S.M. at SCHOOL HQ not later than 1500 hrs Friday 8 Jan 43.
The following is to be brought:

Rifle and all eqpt
Personal gear
Pencils and Notebooks
3 Slashers per Bn.

A guide will be stationed at junc of Route 4 and tracks at 976997. Guide will wear white armband. Units are informed that the track to the school is not passable to two-wheel drive vehicles.
5. RATIONS: Students will bring unconsumed portion of week's rations to and incl Wednesday 13 Jan 43.
6. MEDICAL: QUININE tablets for consumption to and incl Friday 15 Jan 43 will be brought by all students.
7. ADMINISTRATION: Students attending will come under Course HQ for rations and administration. Canteen and Comforts Fund distribution will be made under Course arrangements.
8. DISPERSAL: Unit tpt will arrive at Course HQ by 1400 hrs 23 Jan 43 for return of students to units.

DISTRIBUTION:

2/8 Aust Fd Coy
2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2/6 Aust Inf Bn
2/7 Aust Inf Bn
C.I. 17 Aust Inf Bde Tng Centre.
Instrs" " " " " (5)
War Diary (2)
File
Spares (4).

H. D. Dunkley
Maj.
for B.M. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

SUBJECT: LOCATION STATEMENT UNITS
MILNE FORCE AREA.

File Copy
NPI
SECRET.

COPY NO 4

H.Q. 17 AUST INF BDE.

Ref No. : 6/0/14/14.

5 Dec 42.

1. Subtended is location of Units in MILNE FORCE AREA as at 2359 hrs 30 Nov 42.
2. Ref Maps : MILNE BAY Provisional 2nd Edition 2" = 1 mile.
GI. I GILI WAIGANI 1" = 1 mile.
3. It is requested that this HQ be advised immediately of any change of location of Units.
4. Please Ack this statement.

Maj.

B.M. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
2 2/6 Aust Inf Bn
3 2/7 Aust Inf Bn
4 K Sec Sigs.
5 B Ech 17 Aust Inf Bde.
6 File.

| SERIAL NO. | UNIT | LOCATION | REF. MAP |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| 1 | Hq Milne Force | 973992 | MB Prov 2"=1 mile |
| 2 | 2/12 Air Liaison Sec | 993001 | 2nd Ed. |
| 3 | 7 Aust Inf Bde Def Pl | 973992 | " |
| 4 | HQ 2/5 Aust Fd Regt | 019008 | " |
| 5 | 9 Bty 2/5 Aust Fd Regt | 025005 | " |
| 6 | 10 " " | 988988 | " |
| 7 | 55 " " | 013005 | " |
| 8 | A Tp 4 Bty 101 Aust A/Tk Regt | 983991 | " |
| 9 | 4 Bty 101 Aust A/Tk Regt | 022007 | " |
| 10 | 3 Bty 2/1 | 031009 | " |
| 11 | A Hy Bty RAA | 064998 | " |
| 12 | E Hy Bty RAA | 182872 | " |
| 13 | HQ 33 Aust Hy AA Bty | 008008 | " |
| 14 | 440 Hy AA Gun Station (Class A) | 063997 | " |
| 15 | 441 " " | 984009 | " |
| 16 | AA Gp HQ | 021002 | " |
| 17 | AA Cps | 021002 | " |
| 18 | 2/6 Aust Hy AA Bty | 023003 | " |
| 19 | 2/9 Lt AA Bty | 020002 | " |
| 20 | 23 Aust Hy AA Bty | 008009 | " |
| 21 | 235 Aust Lt AA Bty | 017008 | " |
| 22 | Det 2/6 Aust Hy AA W/Shops Sec | 983993 | " |
| 23 | Det Sigs 2/2 Aust Hy AA Regt | 023003 | " |
| 24 | Det 2/2 Aust Hy AA W/Shops Sec | 979993 | " |
| 25 | 2/9 Lt AA Bty w/shops | 023002 | " |
| 26 | Det 2/3 Aust Lt AA Regt w/s. | 030998 | " |
| 27 | Hq RAE Milne Force | 972996 | " |
| 28 | 24 Aust Fd Coy | 034004 | " |
| 29 | 2/4 Aust Fd Coy | 997020 | " |
| 30 | 2/3 Aust Fd Coy | 917992 | GGW 1"=1 mile |
| 31 | D Coy 2/1 Pnr Bn | 046002 | MB Pro. |
| 32 | 5 Sec 1 Bomb Disposal Coy | 046002 | " |
| 33 | Det 2 Sec 2/25 Fd Park Coy | 957987 | " |
| 34 | Det Fortress Engrs RAE | 064998 | " |
| 35 | Det 2/3 Aust Fd Coy | 943982 | " |
| 36 | Det 2/16 Aust Fd Coy | 927020 | " |
| 37 | Sigs Milne Force | 972991 | " |

| SERIAL NO. | UNIT | LOCATION | REF. MAP |
|------------|---|----------|-------------------|
| 38 | HQ Coy Milne Force Sigs | 972992 | MB Prov. |
| 39 | No 1 Coy " | 972992 | " |
| 40 | HQ No 2 Coy " | 972992 | " |
| 41 | HQ No 3 " " | 972992 | " |
| 42 | 292 L.A.D. | 978993 | " |
| 43 | Det N. Guinea Force Sigs | 972993 | " |
| 44 | "C" Div Sec 2 Aust Air Support Control | 973992 | " |
| 45 | Sigs Medical Switch | 945985 | " |
| 46 | Sig Centre | 025007 | " |
| 47 | Locality Switch | 946988 | " |
| 48 | Pontoon Wharf Exchange | 047992 | " |
| 49 | HQ AASC Milne Force | 973994 | " |
| 50 | 25 Aust Coy AASC | 966987 | " |
| 51 | 2/6 Aust Coy AASC | 950983 | GGW 1"= 1 mile |
| 52 | 5/1 Aust Fd Butchery | 016005 | MB Prov. |
| 53 | 1 Sec 2/2 Aust Fd Bakery | 983992 | " |
| 54 | 1 Sec 2/2 " | 913985 | GGW 1"=1 mile. |
| 55 | BIPOD | 944982 | " |
| 56 | 3 Aust Base Supply Depot (Type C) | 973995 | MB Prov. |
| 57 | 2/2 Aust Coy AASC | 025998 | " |
| 58 | 10 CCS | 950993 | GGW 1"= 1 mile. |
| 59 | HQ Coy 11 Fd Amb | 909998 | " |
| 60 | 2/5 Aust Fd Amb | 912998 | " |
| 61 | 27 Portable Hospital | 909999 | " |
| 62 | Adv Depot Med Stores | 955988 | " |
| 63 | 2/1 Aust CCS | 945984 | " |
| 64 | HQ B Coys 2/2 Fd Amb | 956988 | " |
| 65 | A Coy 11 Fd Amb ADS | 980990 | MB Prov 2"=1 mile |
| 66 | B Coy " | 019005 | 2nd Ed. |
| 67 | C Sec 81 Dental Unit | 019005 | " |
| 68 | B Sec " | 045015 | " |
| 69 | 8 ANCU | 019005 | " |
| 70 | A Coy 2/2 Aust Fd Amb | 032006 | " |
| 71 | No 2 Fd Hospital U.S. Army | 958993 | " |
| 72 | 1 Aust Water Tpt Gp | 022006 | " |
| 73 | Milne Force Marine Sec | 022006 | " |
| 74 | ANGAU | 022006 | " |
| 75 | 101 Ind Bde Gp Ord W/Shops | 978992 | " |
| 76 | 101 Ind Bde Gp Ord Fd Pk | 979993 | " |
| 77 | 18 Bde Sec 7 Div Ord W/Shops | 978993 | " |
| 78 | 18 Bde Sec 7 Div Ord Fd Pk | 977993 | " |
| 79 | 4 Adv Ord Depot No 2 Sub-depot | 942985 | GGW 1"=1 mile. |
| 80 | 4 Adv Ord Depot HQ 1 & 3 Depot | 973994 | " |
| 81 | 252 Aust L.A.D. | 019008 | Milne Bay Prov. |
| 82 | 10 AAD | 988942 | 2"=1 mile 2nd Ed. |
| 83 | Milne Force Provost Coy No1 Camp | 973996 | " |
| 84 | " No2 Camp | 024002 | " |
| 85 | 5 Aust Div Pro Coy Sec 3 | 973996 | " |
| 86 | 7 " 5 | 973996 | " |
| 87 | 1 Aust Fd Cash Office | 973994 | " |
| 88 | N.G. L of C Area Base Postal Unit Milne Force | 973993 | " |
| 89 | 80 Aust Fd Post Office | 025007 | " |
| 90 | Milne Force Tpt Pool | 024003 | " |
| 91 | Det No 2 Aust Dock Operating Coy | 036995 | " |
| 92 | Det 2/3 Aust Dock Operation Coy | 036995 | " |
| 93 | Det 32 Aust Emp. Coy | 025983 | " |
| 94 | Det 19 Aust Emp. Coy | 025983 | " |
| 95 | Det 2 Aust Army Salvage Unit | 022007 | " |
| 96 | 2/2 Aust Graves Reg & Enquiry Unit | 973994 | " |
| 97 | Records Liaison Offr | 973982 | " |
| 98 | Det 2/2 Aust Kit Stores | 973982 | " |
| 99 | Det 22 Labour Coy | 025983 | " |
| 100 | HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde | 027008 | " |

| SERIAL NO. | UNIT | LOCATION | REF. MAP |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 101 | J Sec Sigs 5 Div | 027003 | MB Prov 2"=1mile |
| 102 | 9 Aust Inf Bn | 004984 | 2nd Ed. |
| 103 | 25 Aust Inf Bn | 048003 | " |
| 104 | 61 AUST INF BN | 045015 | " |
| ? x 105 | 241 L.A.D. | 026007 | " |
| x 106 | 68 Aust Fd Post Office | 025007 | " |
| x 107 | 79 Aust Fd Post Office | 973989 | " |
| 108 | 17 Aust Inf Bde HQ | 983993 | " |
| 109 | K Sec Sigs 6 Aust Div | 983993 | " |
| 110 | 2/5 Aust Inf Bn | 964986 | " |
| 111 | 2/6 " | 034011 | " |
| 112 | 2/7 2 | 000008 | " |
| x 113 | 2/46 L.A.D. | 978994 | " |
| x 114 | 24 Aust Fd Post Office | 964993 | " |
| x 115 | B Ech 17 Aust Inf Bde | 974993 | " |
| 116 | 18 Aust Inf Bde HQ | 025007 | " |
| 117 | 11 Pl C Coy HQ Gd Bn | 025007 | " |
| x 118 | J Sec Sigs 7 Aust Div | 025007 | " |
| 119 | 2/9 Aust Inf Bn | 981992 | " |
| 120 | 2/10 " | HATRACK | " |
| 121 | 2/12 " | DRAKE | " |
| x 122 | 2/47 L.A.D. | 977993 | " |
| ? x 123 | 52 Aust Fd Post Office | 773996 | " |
| 124 | B Ech 2/12 Aust Inf Bn | 005006 | " |
| 125 | B Sqn 2/6 Aust Armd Regt | 998018 | " |
| 126 | Ind Armd Repair Ord Gp | 220015 001015 | " |
| x 127 | Milne Force Reception Camp | 025006 | " |
| x 128 | 17 Bde (6 Div) Ord Pd Pk | 942985 | " |
| x 129 | 17 Bde (6 Div) Ord W/shops | 978993 | " |
| x 130 | Aust Armd Regt W/shops | 023002 | " |
| x 131 | US Base Ord Depot | 029007 | " |
| x 132 | HQ FALL RIVER Sub-base | 023003 | " |
| 133 | C Bty 104 Gp CA AA Bty | 048002 | " |
| 134 | 709 Airborne Sep CA AA | 005996 | " |
| x 135 | 46 Engr Regt Coy E | 915987 | CGW 1"=1 mile |
| x 136 | 43 " | 021005 | MB Prov. 2"=1mile |
| x 137 | 43 " Coy D | 021004 | 2nd Ed. |
| x 138 | 43 " Coy E | 049009 | " |
| x 139 | 2 Port HQ Transportation Corps | 026004 | " |
| x 140 | A Coy 394 Port Bn Tpt Corps | 005009 | " |
| x 141 | 77 Ord Aviation Sqn | 991015 | " |
| x 142 | 615 Ord Coy | 989017 | " |
| x 143 | 204 QM Coy | 992011 | " |
| x 144 | 1914 QM Coy | 986016 | " |
| x 145 | Det 895 Chem Coy | 991016 | " |
| 146 | 8 Fighter Gp HQ | 997997 | " |
| 147 | 35 Fighter Sqn | 009993 | " |
| 148 | 36 Fighter Sqn | 001995 | " |
| 149 | 80 Fighter Sqn | 014047 047014 | " |
| 150 | Dispersal Bay 35 Sqn | 997995 | " |
| 151 | Dispersal Bay 36 Sqn | 004993 | " |
| 152 | Dispersal Bay 80 Sqn | 005059 | " |
| 153 | 8 Fighter Control Sqn | 986968 | " |
| 154 | 694 Sig 1 Plotting Pl | 986969 | " |
| x 155 | RAAF Base Ops | 972991 | " |
| x 156 | RAAF O.B. | 987988 | " |
| x 157 | RAAF Sigs | 973991 | " |
| 158 | 403 Bombardment Ops Base | 046012 | " |
| x 159 | RAAF No 37 Radio Station | 983991 | " |
| x 160 | 15 R.S.U. | 958997 | " |
| x 161 | RAAF 301 Radio Station | KANAKOPE | " |
| x 162 | RAAF 302 Radio Station | EAST CAPE | " |
| x 163 | RAAF 6 Sqn | 989998 | " |
| x 164 | RAAF 100 Sqn | 100102 | what the fuck was |
| x 165 | RAAF Hospital | 994997 | " |
| x 166 | No 1 Mobile Torpedo Unit | 991998 | " |
| x 167 | 4 Mobile Works Unit | 987998 | " |
| ? x 168 | RAAF Marine Sec | 101976 | " |

25 FD PK

957987

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/21STRONG ALLIED ATTACKS AT BUNA

General MacArthur's Headquarters report sustained attacks on the right flank of the Japanese positions at BUNA. Allied tanks and infantry are moving in under cover of artillery fire. Twenty machine guns were captured. The enemy losses in men were heavy. This is the first time tanks have been used in action in New Guinea. The Japanese defence at BUNA is crumbling.

The Japanese Commander in Chief, ~~Mar. Gen. HOERI~~, has been killed in action. His loss will be a heavy blow to the Japanese. He was an expert on South Sea landings and in the early stages of the battle for New Guinea urged his men to strike a hammer blow at MORESBY. Shortly after this, the Australians made their second crossing of the OWEN STANLEY RANGE and forced the Japanese to retreat to the beach-head at BUNA.

A reconnaissance was made over the area where the Japanese light cruiser was sunk. A wrecked Japanese plane was seen on the water and patches of oil could be seen.

HEAVY GERMAN LOSSES IN RUSSIA

In the first five days of the Russian's new offensive, 28,000 Germans were killed and 13,500 captured. The Russians advanced 20 miles west of the Don yesterday. They are giving the Germans no time to consolidate new defensive positions. The latest Russian drive has proved to be the best yet in planning and execution.

Russian troops on the Central Front have repelled enemy counter attacks. Five battles against enemy tank units are going on south-west of STALINGRAD.

BERLIN says the Russians are gathering their forces for another attack South of RCHEV.

BATTLE FOR TUNISIA

The Allies continue to strengthen their positions in Central Tunisia. There are signs that Mussolini intends to abandon Tripoly, the last fragment of the Italian Colonial Empire. The 8th Army is still pursuing Rommel's fleeing forces. The Germans are more than 200 miles from EL AGHEILA, and half way to TRIPOLY.

BRITISH THRUST INTO BURMA

The British thrust into BURMA is not to be regarded as a major operation but it will strengthen British prestige in India and will help considerably in strengthening India's defences.

CALCUTTA had its first air raid of the war. Enemy raiders dropped bombs over a wide area.

NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

- + The Chinese are putting up a strong resistance to the new Japanese thrust over the Burma border in the YUNNAN Province region.
- + R.A.F. bombers were again over Germany. Nearly 300 fighters took part in raids extending over German territory.
- + It has been known for some time that Hitler has been pressing Franco to help the Axis.
- + The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said the Australian army was approaching maximum strength. The time had arrived for a stock taking of the army organisation. The cost of the war to Australia annually was £450,000,000. Waste and extravagance was not to be allowed. Steps were being taken to get rid of officers who were holding up progress and were creating bottlenecks.

STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

General MacArthur's headquarters report maintained that the right flank of the Japanese positions at Buna, Allied tanks and infantry are moving forward at a steady pace. This is the first time tanks have been used in action in New Guinea. The Japanese defense line is crumbling.

The Japanese Commander in Chief, Gen. KENJI, has been killed in action. His loss will be a heavy blow to the Japanese. An expert on Bougainville landings and in the early stages of the battle for New Guinea urged his men to attack a flank at Moresby. Shortly after this, the Australians made their second crossing of the Owen Stanley Range and forced the Japanese to retreat to the beach-head at Buna.

A reconnaissance was made over the area where the Japanese light aircraft was shot. A wrecked Japanese plane was seen on the water and patches of oil could be seen.

In the first five days of the Russian's new offensive, 20,000 Germans were killed and 15,000 captured. The Russian advanced 30 miles west of the Don yesterday. They are giving the Germans no time to establish new defensive positions. The latest Russian advance has proved to be the best yet in planning and execution.

Russian troops on the Central Front have repelled enemy counter attacks. Three battalions of German tanks are going on south-west.

Another attack south of Moresby. The Japanese are gathering their forces for another attack south of Moresby.

The British major operation will help considerably. The British major operation will help considerably.

The Japanese are again over Germany. Nearly 500 Japanese look past in vain extending over German territory.

The Japanese for the first time had arrived for a week. The Japanese for the first time had arrived for a week.

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| COMD | --- |
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| AMEN.O. | --- |

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NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

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- + R.A.F. bombers were again over Germany. Nearly 300 fighters took part in raids extending over German territory.
- + It has been known for some time that Hitler has been pressing Franco to help the Axis.
- + The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said the Australian army was approaching maximum strength. The time had arrived for a stock taking of the army organisation. The cost of the war to Australia annually was £450,000,000. Waste and extravagance was not to be allowed. Steps were being taken to get rid of officers who were holding up progress and were creating bottlenecks.

HQ 17 BDE
29

ATTACHED AT BUNA

General MacArthur's report stated that on the night of the Japanese positions at BUNA. Allied tanks and artillery were moving in under cover of artillery fire. Twenty machine guns were engaged. The enemy losses in men were heavy. This is the first time tanks have been used in action in New Guinea. The Japanese defence at BUNA is crumbling.

The Japanese Commander in Chief, Gen. Yamashita, has been killed in action. His loss will be a heavy blow to the Japanese. He was an expert on tanks and was the only member of the staff who had been to a tank school in MONSIEUR. Shortly after this, the Australians and their second crossing of the beach after this, the Australians and forced the Japanese to retreat to the beach-head.

A reconnaissance was made over the area where the Japanese light tanks were shot. A wooded Japanese mine was seen on the water and evidence of its use in action.

NAVY CRAFT POSSIBLE IN RUSSIA

In the last five days of the Russian's new offensive, 60,000 Germans were killed and 12,000 captured. The Russian advanced 30 miles west of the Don yesterday. They are giving the Germans no time to reorganize their positions. The Soviet High Command gives no indication as to the best way to proceed.

- AVENUE
- ONE
- GP/1 COND
- SUPP
- LO
- SIG
- LO3
- LO2
- LO1
- TO
- SC(1)
- SC
- BW(1)
- BW
- COND

[Handwritten signature]

BRITISH FOR TUNIS

The Allies continue to strengthen their position. There is a strong possibility of a British offensive in Tunisia. The loss of the last of the Italian Colonial Empire. The Germans are preparing to flee Tunisia. The Germans are from the Tunisian coast to TRIPOLI.

BRITISH IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The British forces in the MIDDLE EAST are not being weakened. The British will continue to strengthen their position in the MIDDLE EAST. The British are holding up progress in the MIDDLE EAST.

THE CHINESE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Chinese are preparing to enter the MIDDLE EAST. The Chinese are holding up progress in the MIDDLE EAST. The Chinese are holding up progress in the MIDDLE EAST.

Received 23/12/42

Time 1100 hrs

WPI

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 111 22 Dec 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 22

STEADY PROGRESS BY ALLIES AT BUNA

Steady progress is being made by the Allies in their attack on the main Japanese positions at BUNA. The attack is supported by tanks, artillery and aircraft. The troops over-ran a number of enemy strongpoints.

A War Correspondent says that the defensive system of the Japanese cannot cover more than three square miles. Allied forces are closing in on the enemy at SANANANDA. The enemy defences there are just as effective as those at BUNA and the enemy will be hard to dislodge.

The communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters reports a successful attack by Flying Fortresses on two cargo vessels in the harbour at FINSCHAVEN. Several direct hits were scored. The stern of one vessel was blown off and the other was left in flames.

RED ARMY CONTINUES PROGRESS

The latest Soviet communique states that the Soviet offensive in the Central Don continues to make progress. The Germans are retreating in disorder. The Russians have advanced another 20 miles and have taken much booty and many prisoners. Some of the Soviet units have advanced 100 miles since the offensive began six days ago. The Germans are being thrown back in the middle Don along a front of 100 miles.

For the first six days the Russians have advanced through frightful gales and snow storms. Air activity is increasing in intensity now the blizzards have cleared. On the Southern front, the Germans have attempted to help the German Legion trapped between the Don and the Volga.

The German military experts have not concealed the gravity of the position on the Southern front and have told the German people some unpleasant realities.

Berlin admits that the Russian pressure is still increasing.

8th ARMY'S PROGRESS

Rommel's forces are being chased by the 8th Army along the road to TRIPOLI. The Axis forces are reported to be at a point 120 miles from TRIPOLI.

There has been no further news of the activity of the 1st Army since the receipt of news of the "beating off" of enemy raids on defensive positions.

SECOND RAID ON CALCUTTA

CALCUTTA had its second raid in 24 hours last night. A small number of enemy planes came over, causing slight damage.

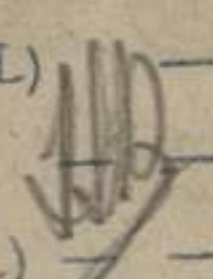
NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

Laval has returned to Paris after seeing Hitler.

In BURMA, British and Indian troops continue their advance southward.

The RAF made raids on German towns last night. No details are available.

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| COMD | | | |
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| GD/PI. COMD. | --- | --- | --- |
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Op Board

WDI

SECRET.
COPY NO 2
1 Dec 42.
File No.: S/G14/01

LOCATION STATEMENT OF 17 AUST INF BDE & UNITS UNDER COMD AS AT 2359 Hrs
30 NOV 42.

REF MAPS MILNE BAY (PROV.) 2" = 1 mile (2nd Edition)
WAIGANI 1" = 1 mile.
SAMARI 1" = 4 miles.

| UNIT. | MAP REF. | PLACE |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------|
| H.Q. 17 Aust Inf Bde | 983993 | HAGITA House |
| K Sec Sigs | " | " " |
| B Ech 17 Aust Inf Bde | 974993 | Route 4 |
| 2/46 Aust L.A.D. | " | " " |
| Protection Pl. | " | " " |

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| 2/5 Aust Inf Bn (less D Coy Stand- ing Patrol) | 964986 | Route 4 |
| H.Q. Coy (less 5 PL) | 964987 | " " |
| A Coy (less 9 PL Standing Patrol) | 962986 | " " |
| B Coy | 964985 | " " |
| C Coy | 962987 | " " |
| 5 PL | 975998 | EANEANE |
| 5 Tp 3 Bty 2/1 Aust A/Tk Regt 031609 | 922987 | Under Comd 2/5 Aust Inf Bn for Admin Duty |

| | | |
|---|--------|---------|
| 2/6 Aust Inf Bn | 034011 | Route 3 |
| HQ Coy | 034010 | " " |
| B Ech | 034014 | " " |
| A Coy | 028014 | " " |
| B Coy - <i>less one sec standing patrol</i> | 033012 | " " |
| C Coy | 056026 | " " |
| D Coy | 034007 | " " |

| | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| 2/7 Aust Inf Bn | 000008 | Area No. 1 Strip |
| HQ Coy (less 4 PL) <i>pioneer pl.</i> | 999007 | " " " " |
| A Coy | 003011 | " " " " |
| B Coy | 006006 | " " " " |
| C Coy (less one Sec. Standing Patrol) | 007006 | " " " " |
| D Coy <i>pioneer pl</i> | 998007 975998 | " " " " EANEANE |

STANDING PATROLS - 2/5 AUST INF BN

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| D Coy (less 17 PL) | TAUPOTA (R) L 4158 | NORTH COAST |
| 17 PL-D Coy | WEDAU (R) L 1072 | NORTH COAST |

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 9 PL H.Q. and one Sec. | 875000 | NOWLA VILLAGE AREA |
| One Sec. 9 PL | 935045 | GWENA GWENA RENA |
| One Sec. 9 PL | 931920 | GOMINI FORD |

STANDING PATROLS - 2/7 AUST INF BN

| | | |
|----------------|--------|-----|
| One Sec. C Coy | 985044 | - - |
|----------------|--------|-----|

4 PL H.Q. Coy 2/7 AUST INF BN det. Operational role.

STANDING PATROLS 2/6 BN

1 sec B. coy.

027041

MARO Maj.
B.M., 17 Aust Inf Bde.

Received 12/12/42

Time 1:00 hrs

/GLG

WDI

MILITARY FORCE NEWS BULLETIN

NO 105

13 DEC 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/15

ENEMY DEAD AT GONA

The fierceness of the battle which ended in the complete occupation of GONA by our troops is indicated in to-day's communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters. So far, 633 enemy troops killed in the final stages of the GONA battle have been buried. Our patrols destroyed a party of refugees west of GONA. In other sectors there has been only desultory fighting.

Both our Air Force and the enemy's were active over the field yesterday, the communique adds. Heavy tropical rains were making all operations difficult.

In addition to the 633 dead, many more enemy dead are scattered on the beach, in the jungle and coconut groves. The number of the enemy dead around GONA shows the stubbornness of their resistance. The Australians are now mopping up in the area and are menacing the Japanese positions at SANANANDA.

Devastating raids were made by our air forces over IAN and SALAMUA. At IAN 500lb bombs were dropped and many burnt and badly damaged planes were seen on the airfield after the raid.

MAJOR LIBYAN BATTLE REPORTED

The LIBYAN battlefront is in the forefront of the news again. There is no confirmation of a German report that General Montgomery has launched a large scale attack on Rommel's forces. It is reported that General Montgomery has struck far to the south with tanks and artillery. This news is not supported from British sources but GAILO announced yesterday that British patrols had pushed on and had encountered Rommel's rearguard.

British paratroops dropped in TUNISIA a week ago have returned to the Allied lines after a hard trek of 80 miles over mountains and through rough country. These paratroops surprised the enemy everywhere. Ten miles from TUNIS, they raided an aerodrome and destroyed six enemy planes. They set fire to stores. In the Mediterranean, British submarines scored hits on Axis ships carrying supplies to LIBYA.

HEAVY GERMAN LOSSES IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW has announced the German losses on the STALINERAD front between November 9 and December 11. They are: 75,000 Germans killed, 19,000 Russians killed, 72,400 Germans captured, 253 transport planes, 279 other aircraft, 543 tanks and 934 guns destroyed. The Russians captured 105 planes, 1510 tanks, 200 guns, 2700 mortars and 20,000,000 rounds of ammunition.

The Russians have consolidated their positions on the Southern and Central fronts.

NEW JAPANESE AIRFIELD

Flying fortresses bombed a new Japanese airfield on NEW GEORGIA ISLAND. Six Zeros were shot down in the Northern Solomons.

CHAOS LIKELY IN ITALY

In Italy, RAF raids may cause chaos later. It is suggested that the present civilian exodus from cities is not large enough yet to lead to the downfall of Mussolini. Many German troops are in Italy.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Lord Gowrie sent a birthday message to the King to-day. 125,000 more subscribers to the Austerity Loan are needed to bring the total to 500,000. The loan closes on Tuesday.

DAILY HEALTH NOTES NO 2

Flies are your worst enemies. Kill them ruthlessly with every
that are JAPANESE ALLIES WITHIN UNLT LINES.

100-51-91
100-51-91
100-51-91

| | | |
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| COMD | | |
| B.M. | <i>107</i> | -- |
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| S.C. | | -- |
| S.C.(L) | | -- |
| I.O. | | -- |
| L.O.1. | | -- |
| L.O.2. | | -- |
| L.O.3. | <i>100</i> | -- |
| S.G.O. | | -- |
| T.O. | | -- |
| SUPP.O | | -- |
| GD.PI. COMD. | | -- |
| O.M.E. | | -- |
| AMEN.O | | -- |

OTN

H.Q. 17 AUST INF BDE.

15 Dec 42.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

17 AUST INF BDE JUNIOR LDRS COURSE.

Ref 17 Aust Inf Bde G6/29 of 28 Nov 42.

1. LOCATION: (Ref Map MILNE BAY PROVISIONAL 2" = 1 mile).

The Course is located at 973005.

2. DURATION: Course will commence on Sunday 20 Dec 42 and will conclude on Tuesday 5 Jan 43. Christmas Day and New Years Day will be observed as holidays.

3. NOMINAL ROLLS: Nominal Rolls to be submitted to HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde by Thursday 17 Dec 42.

4. ASSEMBLY: Students will report to School S.M. at School HQ not later than 1500 hrs Sunday 20 Dec 42. The following is to be brought:

- Rifle and all eqpt
- Personal gear.
- Pencils and Notebooks.
- 3 Slashers per Bn.

A guide will be stationed at juncof Route 4 and Tracks at 976997. Guide will wear white armband. Units are informed that the track to the School is not passable to two-wheel drive vehicles.

5. RATIONS: Students will bring unconsumed portion of week's rations to and incl Wednesday 23 Dec 42.

6. MEDICAL: QUININE tablets for consumption to and incl Friday 25 Dec 42 will be brought by all students.

7. ADMINISTRATION: Students attending will come under Course HQ for rations and administration. Canteen and Comforts Fund distribution will be made under Course arrangements.

8. DISPERSAL: Unit tpt will arrive at Course HQ by 1400 hrs 5 Jan 43 for return of students to units.

H. D. Kley
Maj.

B.M. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2/8 Aust Fd Coy.
- 2/5 Aust Inf Bn.
- 2/6 Aust Inf Bn.
- 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.
- C.I. 17 Aust Inf Bde Tng Centre.
- Instrs " " " " " (5)
- File.
- War Diary (2) ✓

Received...../...../.....

Time.....

No.....

MELBORNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO 103

11 Dec 42

SUMMARY OF ABC NEWS BULLETIN 1900L/ 11

FIERCE FIGHTING AT BUNA

Since the complete occupation of GONA, fierce fighting has been reported in the BUNA area. A counter-attack was made by enemy forces against an American base. The Japanese used familiar methods of attack, shouting and screaming as they advanced, obviously trying to create as much confusion as possible. The Americans stood firm and the attack was repulsed. The Japanese left many dead on the field.

Enemy planes were over the BUNA area yesterday but no attack on our troops was reported. It is assumed that the planes were trying to drop supplies. The complete occupation of GONA was confirmed in a communique issued by General MacArthur's Headquarters to-day.

RED ARMY MAINTAINS INITIATIVE

The Red Army maintains the initiative on both the Central and Southern fronts in spite of fierce German resistance. The enemy is maintaining a strong defence to keep the Russians away from the Germans' second line of defence. NW of STALINGRAD, the Russians beat back more counter attacks and kept up their offensive. In STALINGRAD itself more ground was gained. Advances were made in the Northern factory sector and on the Southern outskirts of the city.

The Germans made a slight advance west of RCHEV but only with heavy loss of men and materials. The Soviet air force has been active along and behind the Central front.

It has been announced that during the past year Britain has sent Russia a large quantity of equipment and materials, including 3000 planes, 4000 tanks and 30,000 vehicles.

8th ARMY PATROLS ACTIVE

Increased activity by 8th Army patrols is reported. Both sides are preparing for a large-scale battle near EL AGHEILA. For the second day in succession, Allied long range fighters have taken heavy toll of the enemy positions.

The RAF striking power in TUNISIA is growing. Referring to the struggle which lies ahead, the London "Times" says: "The task will be harder than it appeared at first."

PERSECUTION OF JEWS

Further details of the persecution of Jews in POLAND have been released. Brutal methods used in recent months make it clear that the Germans are determined to wipe out all the Jews in POLAND. The British Government is certain to condemn the latest atrocities.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON CONSCRIPTION

The House of Representatives debate on the motion of the Prime Minister (Mr. J. Curtin) that the sphere of operations of the militia should be extended was adjourned to-day until not later than January 27. An amendment moved by Mr. Blackburn that Parliament should re-affirm its previous decision not to send the militia outside Australian territories was defeated. All Cabinet Ministers spoke in favour of the Prime Minister's motion. The only member of the Opposition who spoke was Sir Earle Page who said he favoured the extension of the sphere of the militia's operations. In the SENATE, a debate on the war position proceeded all day.

DAILY HEALTH NOTES NO 6

FLIES carry the germs of Dysentery from faeces to your food. Therefore, keep your latrines flyproof and your food protected.

FLIES breed in decaying vegetable matter. Hence the need to burn the food left in tins.

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| COMD | ✓ |
| B.M. | -- -- |
| B.M.(L) | -- -- |
| S.C. | -- -- |
| S.C.(L) | -- -- |
| I.O. | -- -- |
| L.O.1. | -- -- |
| L.O.2. | -- -- |
| L.O.3. | <i>10/12</i> -- |
| SIG.O. | -- -- |
| T.O. | <i>11</i> -- |
| SUPP.O | -- -- |
| GD PI. COMD. | <i>Reg</i> -- |
| O.M.E. | -- -- |
| AMEN.O | <i>11</i> |

ORIGINAL LOG

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

SHEETS DEC 1942

Ref Map MB Prod 2" = 1 m

Sheet No. 155

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC of Time of Event | T O R | Origin No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks, Action Taken |
|---------|----------|--|--------------|----------------------|-------|------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ 92 | 30 | | MAC Coy | 1700 | 1810 | MG 238 | three launches passed WEDAU 1530 hrs heading for CAPE VOGEL @ Sitnor | Ref'd to Force 211/1815/SER 92(A) |
| ✓ 93 | 30 | FORCE 7, 18 BDES 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS | | 1800 | | 210 | SITNOR @ all informed | |
| ✓ 94 | 30 | | 2/5 BN | 1855 | 1924 | 204 | amendment to appendix A 2/5 aust inf bn OP instr number 1 @ task 9 to read support of 9 BN in def role in that sector | shown to BM |
| ✓ 95 | 30 | | MAC Coy | 1850 | 2125 | MG 240 | re MG 238 destination of the launches (BNIARD) (2240 hrs) BANTARDY | 5 count shown to 1.0. (INTERCEPTED) |
| ✓ 96 | 30 | MAC Coy | WIEDAU | 1840 | 2147 | F 85 | trees have been cleared as further extension still required | |
| ✓ 97 | 1 Dec 42 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS WEAPON TRNG COURSE BDE OFFRS | | 0700 | | 201 | password 1800/1 to 1800/2 OLD FAITHFUL | |
| ✓ 98 | 1 | | 2/5 BN | 0700 | 0701 | PHONE | SITNOR | |
| ✓ 99 | 1 | | 2/6 BN | 0640 | 0730 | 201 | SITNOR | |
| ✓ 100 | 1 | | 2/5 BN | 0700 | 0730 | 201 | location statement @ all map WAIKANI 2 in to 1 mile qpt HQ and one sec NOWLA 87500Q one sec WENAGWENARENA 935045 one sec GOMINI FORD 931920 otherwise no change | |
| ✓ 101 | 1 | | 2/7 Bn | 0730 | 0750 | 201 | SITNOR | |
| ✓ 102 | 1 | 2/7 Bn | | 0817 | | 1 | 2/7 Bn will relieve coy 2/9 Bn QUERNEY FD 1000 hrs 3/12 to 1000 5/12 o. arrange details direct. | |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map

MILNE BAY (PROV) 2" = 1 mile 2nd EDITION

Sheet No. 156...

"SECRET"

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC of Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|-------|--|--------------|----------------------|--------|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 103 | 1 Dec | | MAC COY | 0800/1 | 0809/1 | 1 | SITNOR O Sitnor | |
| 104 | 1 | MILNE FORCE 7 -18 BDES 2/5 2/6 2/7 Bns | | 0845 | | 202 | SITNOR O all informed | |
| 105 | 1 | | 2/7 Bn | 0900 | 0959 | 202 | Ref map MB prov 2 inches to 1 mile second edition O BN HQ 000008 A Coy 003011 B Coy 006006 C Coy 007006 D Coy 998007 HQ Coy less carrier pl 999007 carrier pl on operational role one sec C coy at 985044 O Locat at as at 2400 hrs 30 Nov. | |
| 106 | 1 | | 2/6 BN | 0909 | 0959 | 202 | Locat at O Ref map MB (prov) 2" = 1 mile O BN HQ 034011 A Coy 028014 B Coy 033012 C Coy 056026 D Coy 034007 HQ Coy 034010 B Echelon 034014 | |
| 107 | 1 | MAC Coy | WEDA U | 0845 | 1007 | F88 | Proceeding with widening the present strip 3 three drums of ketosene required | |
| 108 | 1 | WEDA U | MAC Coy | 0940 | 1150 | 2 | Advise dimensions clearing each end 1140 yds strip O is bulldozed indispensable | |
| 109 | 1 | | Milne Force | 0900 | 1315 | I276 | Return of official cameras make size and type to be made this HQ by 1200 hrs 5 Dec all informed | |
| 110 | 1 | | Mac Coy | 1300 | 1345 | 5 | SITNOR | |
| 111 | 1 | | 2/5 BN | | 1545 | | 2/5 rang to say that Password had not been received | enquiries being made |
| 112 | 1 | 2/5 BN | | 1550 | | 203 | password 1800/1 to 1800/2 OLD FAITHFUL | |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map MB Prov 2" = 1 mile

Ref

Sheet No. 157

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks, Action Taken |
|---------|-------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|--|---|
| ✓ 113 | 1 Dec | | Mac Coy | 1435 | 1602 | 6 | Work on strip commenced to-day. Will take three weeks to complete. Bulldozers and graders required to level 10ft bank across 110 yds by 100 yds. Three draught horses required for tractor. | Rptd to Force HQ 20/1 Pan/Am as Mac Coy's return to do this work with material available here. |
| ✓ 114 | 1 | | Mac Coy | 1535 | 1625 | 7 | Ref out 4/1 should include ref you 1/30 | |
| ✓ 115 | 1 | | 2/5 Bn | | 1625 | | SITNOR (By Phone) | |
| ✓ 116 | 1 | | 2/6 | 1700 | 1735 | 204 | SITNOR | |
| ✓ 117 | 1 | | MILNE FORCE | 1537 | 1735 | 01610 | Ref regt comd school course number 3 @ vacancies for which MAJ NORRIS G and MAJ GEARD CJ nominated not now available | Copy to BM (L) MAJ GEARD FROM 18 BDE Mta 2/6 Bn |
| ✓ 118 | 1 | | 2/7 Bn | 1700 | 1735 | 203 | ref map MB 2 inch 1 mile 2 pls D day moved out 2 day exercise in area 9704 otherwise SITNOR | |
| ✓ 119 | 1 | OC MAC Coy | RMO WIEDAU | 1400 | 1735 | F 91 | watch TENSEN ADKIN McCAULIFFE SUTTON and allow rest @ give suppressive quinine only @ PATTERSON to rest and dowers twice daily and hot water bottle for chest @ report all temperatures tomorrow same time and sooner if worried | INTERCEPTED |
| ✓ 120 | 1 | | MAC Coy | | | | JAP landing barge towing small dinghy and whale boat passing TAUPOTA 1610 hrs heading west | Rptd to FORCE message marked IMPORTANT 206/1735/SER 120(A) |
| ✓ 121 | 1 | | MAC Coy | 1700 | 1756 | 9 | Sitrep @ Sitnor | |

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map MB Prov 2nd - 1st

Sheet No. 158

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC of Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks | Action Taken |
|---------|-------|---|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|---|---------|--------------|
| ✓ 122 | 1 Dec | Mac Coy | | 1555 | | M18 | Regimental Seniority is CAMERON DAVIS TAYLOR in that order | | |
| ✓ 123 | 1 | Milne Force 7+18 Bde 2/5 2/6 2/4 Bns | | 1825 | | 207 | Sitrep @ ref map MB prov No 2 @ two pls D Coy 2/4 AUST INF BN moved out on two day exercise in area 9704 otherwise NORMAL @ all informed | | |
| ✓ 124 | 1 | 2/4 BN | | 1818 | | 52 | FORCE advises vacancy for school Maj NORRIS NOT now available | | |
| ✓ 125 | 1 | | 7 Bde | 1805 | 1929 | I154 | SITNOR | | |
| ✓ 126 | 1 | | Milne Force | 2055 | 2125 | 01615 | Ref AHIOMA patrol @ Permission granted send pl to AHIOMA @ not exceed two days absence @ No water lpt available @ Please pl carry out task on foot @ Advise dates | | |
| ✓ 127 | 1 | | Milne Force | 2150 | 2230 | 01618 | Confirming various telephone conversations @ Period of relief 2/4 bn coy at No 1 Strip 1600 hrs 3 Dec to 1600 hrs 5 Dec | | |
| ✓ 128 | 2 DEC | | 2/5 BN | | 0400 | | SITNOR (By phone) | | |
| ✓ 129 | 2 | 2/5 2/4 2/7 Bns H.Q. 17 Bde W.T. School | | 0723 | | 201 | password 1800/2 1800/3 ALL WOOD | | |
| ✓ 130 | 2 | | 2/7 BN | 0700 | 0730 | 201 | SITNOR | | |
| ✓ 131 | 2 | | 2/6 BN | 0640 | 0730 | 201 | Sitnor | | |
| ✓ 132 | 2 | Force, pltd 7+18 Bdes 2/5 2/6, 2/7 Bns | | 0745 | | 202 | sitnor @ all informed | | |

[Handwritten signatures and initials in the right margin, including 'JH', 'AK', 'Rings', and others.]

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC of Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|--|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|--|---|
| ✓ 133 | 2 | | MAC Coy. | 0800 | 0855 | 1. | Jap. barge no one arrived WEDAU 2045/1 for repairs @ situation | returned to cipher for query. |
| ✓ 134 | 2 | FORCE. H.Q. | | 0850 | - | 57 | 17 Bde. will be conducting Dg M course no. 3 in bde. "B" Ech, from 8/15 Dec. @ same staff & vacancies as previously | |
| ✓ 133 | 2 | (CORRECTED VERSION) | MAC Coy. | 0800 | 0900 | 1. | Jap. barge NOONE arrived WEDAU 2045/1 for repairs @ situation | advised B.M.(L) FORCE.H.Q. |
| ✓ 135 | 2 | FORCE. H.Q. | | 0904 | - | 203 | Jap. barge NOONE arrived WEDAU 2045 hrs. 1 Dec. for repairs | |
| ✓ 136 | 2. | | 2/7 Bn. | 1015 | 1020 | 202 | ref. map M.B. prov. 2" to 1" ML. 2ND. EDITION. @ 10 and 11 pls. B. Coy 2/7 Bn. moved out on two day exercise to take place between DONNAWRA VILLAGE ref. 002023 and MAPO ref. 027041 | rptd. to force. advised B.M. marked on B.M.(L) map. |
| ✓ 137 | 2. | FORCE. H.Q. Ntd. 7, 18 BDES, 2/5, 2/6 Bns. | | 1040 | - | 204. | ref. map. Milne Bay prov. 2" to 1" ML. 2ND. EDIT. @ 10 and 11 pls. B. Coy. 2/7 Bn. moved out on 2 day exercise in area 002023 to 027041 at 1000 hrs. today | |
| ✓ 138 | 2. | | MAC Coy. | 0950 | 1055 | 2. | ref. letter left. Scott ref. sketches @ awaiting instns @ needed urgently H.B. pencils, message pads, writing inks. | I.O. for action |

Handwritten notes and signatures in the bottom right corner, including initials and the word "Action".

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map

MILNE BAY prev. 2" to 1:40,000 2ND EDITION

SECRET

Sheet No. 160

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 139 ✓ | 2 | MAC Coy. | — | 1145 | — | 205 | W. TARGET SKETCHES & these are required in addition to other sketches & they are used to assist pilots in bombing & am despatching gear requirements by next boat | |
| 140 ✓ | 2. | | MAC Coy. | 1300 | 1330 | 4. | JAP. barge left WEDAU 1135 hrs. for WANIGELA @ 1300 | copy to B.M.(L) rpld force HQ. |
| 141 ✓ | 2. | 2/5, 2/6, 2/7 Rus. | — | 1312 | — | 52. | 2" mortar range 031018 in 2/6. hr. area suspended until further notice | |
| 142 ✓ | 2. | FORCE HQ. | — | 1200 | 1320 | I 280 | ref. our I. 286 & also require name rank, no. official unit photographer all informed | B.M.(L) for action |
| 143 ✓ | 2. | 2/5, 2/6, 2/7 Rus. | — | 1330. | — | 53. | ref. our 51 of 1 FORCE unit also require name, rank and no. of official photographer | |
| 144 ✓ | 2. | Force. | — | 1340 | — | 206 | JAP. barge MOONE left WEDAU at 1135 hrs. for WANIGELA. | |
| 145 ✓ | 2. | Force HQ. | — | 1348 | — | 54. | approval requested ATK rifle range in 2/5. hr. area firing point 938996, line of fire 90° G. target area ridge 939003 & sentries and flags all advised of approval. | |

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO. or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. | Action Taken |
|---------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|--|----------|--------------|
| 146 ✓ | 2. | force | | 1358 | - | 55 | request issue of three copies each of report on OPS. MILNE BAY, 7 hde and ditto 18 hde for distribution to bus. | | |
| 147 ✓ | 2. | MAC Coy | | 1535 | - | 56. | patrol 1 & 12 from 24 fd. being expected TAUPOTA 5 dec. & probable stay over night 5 dec. & please foster | | |
| - ✓ | 2 | | Sigs. | 1444 | - | - | AIR RAID "RED" | | |
| - ✓ | 2 | | Sigs. | 1501 | - | - | ALL CLEAR. | | |
| - ✓ | 2 | | 2/6. Bn | 1530 | - | PHONE | after repeated enquiries as to damage caused by bombs that fell in their area, during above air raid, 2/6. bn traced grid reference to fd. firing range and found that the "bombs" were bursts of 2" mortar smoke bombs. These bursts were seen by two American planes on on patrol who, mistaking the bursts for those of aerial bombs, radioed the air-raid signal to their ground station. | | |

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Ref Map MILNE BAY 2" No. 2.

SECRET

Sheet No. 165

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC of Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks | Action Taken |
|---------|------|--|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|--|--------------------------|--------------|
| 148 ✓ | 2 | 7 Bde. | | 1600 | - | 3 | pl. 2/5 bn. U/C LT WALTERS bivouacs K.B. mission night 3/4. Dec. @ moves ATHIOMA 4 dec. returns K.B. mission evening 5 dec @ movement fwd. TURNBULL AERODROME on foot. | | |
| 149 ✓ | 2. | PACK TPT. Sch. aptd 2/5 bn. for LIEUT WALTERS. | - | 1330 | - | 173 | pack tpt sch. will supply det. (2 packhorses) to 2/5 bn ATHIOMA patrol to carry stores from RV TURNBULL AERODROME to K.B. mission and will return when this completed @ det. ready to move morning 3 dec. @ det. comd. will report to LIEUT. WALTERS 2/5 bn. for orders 1900 hrs. ack. | Filed in "A. & Q" office | |
| 150 ✓ | 2. | | MILNE FORCE | 1522 | 1640 | 1625 | N. L.H.Q. school of 2 course 51 and your G. 5/22 of 2 Dec. @ have fwded substitution to N.G. FORCE. | | |
| 151 ✓ | 2 | | 2/5 Bw. | 1707 | 1707 | Phone | SIT MOR. Re from 3 Dec. 37 RADIO STATION will be included in list of addressees for password. | | |

17 AUGST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map

MILNE BAY 2" 2ND EDITION

SECRET

Sheet No. 163

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|---|---------------------------|
| 152 ✓ | 2 | | 2/7 BN | 1701 | 1750 | 203 | 2 pls D Coy returned from 2 day exercise @ one sec D Coy relieved see (B) Coy at OP ref map MB Prov 2 inch to 1 mile 985044 otherwise Sitnor | (B) Coy should read C Coy |
| 153 ✓ | 2 | | 2/6 BN | 1750 | 1808 | 205 | Sitrep & Sitnor | |
| 154 ✓ | 2 | | MAC Coy | 1700 | 1815 | 5 | Sitrep & Sitnor | |
| 155 ✓ | 2 | FORCE, 74 RBOS, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7 Bns. | — | 1838 | — | 206 | sitrep @ ref. map MB. pro. NO. 2. @ two pls. D. Coy. 2/7 bn. returned from two day exercise @ see C. Coy 2/7 bn. Standing patrol 985044 relieved by sec. D. Coy 2/7 bn. otherwise NORMAL @ all informed | |
| 156 ✓ | 2 | | 7 Bde. | 1730 | 2021 | I.156 | SITREP @ SITNOR. | |
| 157 ✓ | 2 | | 18 Bde | 1940 | 2021 | Q.815 | ref. M.B. G.196 @ carrier LP2A NO. 16535 may be drawn from hind POWER OC. 18 Bde res. carrier gp. near 2/47 L.A.D. when required | B.M. (advised) |
| 158 ✓ | 2 | 18 Bde | — | 2115 | — | 207 | ref. Q.815 @ acts and thanks | |
| 159 ✓ | 2 | | MAC Coy. | 2015 | 2220 | 7 | steady light observed NORTH TAUPOTA 2000 hrs gradually disappearing thought to be moving up to force NORTH of have you knowledge of shipping movement in this area. | I.O. informed |

17 AUGUST 1943

OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map

MILNE BAY. (PRO) 2" to 1 ML. 2ND EDITION

SECRET

Sheet No. 164

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC of Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks | Action Taken |
|---------|------|--|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|--|---------|----------------|
| 160 ✓ | 2 | Force H.Q. | — | 2225 | — | 207 | Steady light observed north TAUPOTA 2000 hrs gradually disappearing & thought to be moving north. | | |
| 161 ✓ | 3 | | 2/6. Bw. | 0645 | 0705 | 201. | SITNOR. | | |
| — ✓ | 3 | | 2/5. Bw. | 0650 | — | Phone. | SITNOR. | | |
| 162 ✓ | 3 | 2/5, 2/6, 2/7 BNS. 17 BDE. W/TMC. SGT, BDE. OFFERS. 37 RADIO STA. | — | 0715 | — | 201 | password from 1800 L/3 to 1800 L/4 will be "LIBELLOUS" & ack. | | |
| 163 ✓ | 3 | FORCE H.Q. nptd 7, 18, BDES, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7 BNS. | — | 0740 | — | 202 | SITNOR & all informed. | | |
| 164 ✓ | 3 | | 2/7 Bw. | 0710 | 0737 | 201 | SITNOR | | |
| 165 ✓ | 3 | | MAC COY | 0800/3 | 0843 | 1 | WEDAU observed stationary light at 2100 L/2 bearing north 02130 hrs disappeared & sitnor | | |
| 166 ✓ | 3 | | 2/7 Bn | 0837 | 0847 | 176 | Request usl ranges following dates & kille 7-8 dec & firing 9-10 dec | | copy to BM(L) |
| 167 ✓ | 3 | | 2/5 Bn | 0903 | 0945 | 201 | No official camera with unit CVX387 CAPT PEARSON A.M. Official photographs of ZEISSIKRON 2 1/2 ty 3 1/2 focusing FPA or lilats not brought to HQ. Vell orders. All cameras & will send for camera if permission granted | | one copy BM(L) |
| 168 ✓ | 3 | MAC COY | | 0940 | | 3 | MCGEOCH reported could extend WEDAU strip with men and material available & if you can NOT do this limit length to 1000 yds & NO extra mach inry available & Keosene coming dist boat | | |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

f Map
MILNE BAY (PROV) 1" = 1 mile 2nd EDITION

"SECRET"

Sheet No. 1105.....

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------|----------|--|-----------------------|
| 169 | 3 | | 2/5 Bn | 0945 | 1010 | 202 | Lieut WALTERS V.N. and composite pl left this H.Q. at 0930 hrs for special patrol | one copy (BM(L)) |
| 170 | 3 | | 2/6 Bn | 0930 | 1010 | 202 | R of map MILNE BAY second edition two inches to one mile O MAPS patrol reports three inch mortar bomb exploded 150 yds NE of camp approx 028 042 at 1705 hrs on 2 Dec O 2/9 Bn had use of 2/6 Bn mortar range on 2 Dec O left unit lines 1730 hrs | one copy (BM(L)) |
| 171 | 3 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 Bns | | 1200 | | 51 | up tng and details with TANKS O an off of O Amnd Rgt will be in 2/5 and 2/7 Bn area 1700 hrs on 5 Dec for mess and lecture all offis 1730 hrs O one off 2/6 Bn 1700 7 Dec O demo with tanks and inf pl on 8 Dec 2/7 Bn with full day 10 Dec exercises 2/7 Bn O same on 12 Dec and 14 Dec for 2/6 Bn O BM will contact units re exercises | |
| 172 | 3 | | MACCOY | 1300/3 | 1331 | 5 | Sitrep O Sitrep | |
| 173 | 3 | Lieut Walters K.B. Humin | | 1445 | | 203 | wait for 4 natives along track looking for you. They claim have killed 2 JAPS near M.A. area. You will verify this at Phoenix. Ret. | |
| 174 | 3 | | 2/7 Bn | 1425 | 1535 | 177 | R of nominations BDE EDUC STAFF O nil action | one copy BM(L) |
| 175 | 3 | | Lt Walters 2/5 Bn | 1530 | 1600 | - | Received your message O will verify natives claims | one copy BM(L) |
| 176 | 3 | MACCOY | WEDA U (INTERCEPT) | 1350/3 | 1600 | F104 | impossible to lengthen strip further O am looking for new sight | copy to (BM(L)) |

AB
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map

MILNE BAY (PROV) 2"=1 mile 2nd EDITION

"SECRET"

Sheet No. 166

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------|------------|---|--|
| 177 | 3 | | 2/5 Bn | 1040 | | PHONE | Sitnor | |
| 178 | 3 | | 2/6 BN | 1715 | 1745 | 204 | Sitrep @ Sitnor | |
| 179 | 3 | | 2/7 BN | 1705 | 1745 | 202 | ref map MB prov 2 inches to one mile @ 10 and 11 pls B Coy returned from 2 day exercise @ B Coy by relieved D Coy 2/9 bn ref 994998 at 1645 hrs @ Sitnor | ref'd to Force 7, 18 BDES 2/5 2/6 2/7 hrs shown to BDES |
| 180 | 3 | | MAE coy | 1700 | 1809 | 8 | Sitrep @ Sitnor | |
| 181 | 3 | FORCE 7, 18 BDES 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS | | | | 204 | Sitrep @ ref map MB prov No 2 @ 10 and 11 pls B Coy 2/7 bn returned from two day exercise @ B Coy 2/7 bn relieved D Coy 2/9 Bn aerodrome defence 1645 hrs otherwise NORMAL @ all informed | <i>[Handwritten signature]</i> |
| 182 | 3 | | 2/7 Bn | | | PHONE 2030 | ADJt 2/7 Bn advises that HQ Engineer (AMERICAN) report 3 flares SE of their posn @ flares too far away to distinguish color. | advised force per phone. |
| 183 | 3 | | 2/6 Bn | 1945 | 2015 | 205 | 24 Hd Coy patrol to TAUPOTA 4 deco strength 14 departs unit lines 0730 hrs @ due return unit lines 2000 hrs 6 Dec @ route unknown guide being supplied ANGAU @ MAPO patrol informed | Report to Force 7-18 Bdes 2/5 2/7 Bns 205/3 1838 MAC COY 206/3 |
| 184 | 3 | | 2/9 Bn | 1630 | 2015 | | EXERCISE MESSAGE @ code names exercise 4-5 @ A COY AXE B COY BOB @ COY COD D COY DOE HQ COY HAT Bn HQ BOS 17 Bde INK | one copy BM <i>[Handwritten signature]</i> |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map

MILNE BAY (PRO) 2" = 1 mile

"SECRET"

Sheet No. 107.....

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|--|----------------|----------------------|-------|----------|--|--|
| 185 ✓ | 3 | | 2/6 Bn | 2100 | 2230 | 131 | ack | In reply to No 175/3 |
| 186 ✓ | 3 | | 2/5 Bn | 2207 | 2230 | 3 | ack | " " " " 175/3 |
| 187 ✓ | 3 | | MILNE FORCE | 2115 | 2230 | 01639 | 2/5 FO REGT continuing shooting 4 Dec same target and same targets as 1 to 3 Dec all informed | one copy BM(L) Mile to 2/5 |
| 188 ✓ | 3 | | 1 AUST INF BDE | 2140 | 2230 | 1158 | 20 pl E Coy 61 Bn will conduct range practice PAB1 range 0830-1000 hrs 1/4 @ SITNOR | one copy BM(L) 2/6 2/7 Bns informed |
| 189 ✓ | 4 | | 2/5 Bn | 0900 | | PHONE | Sitrep B Coy moved out on EXERCISE 0430/4 Dec. exact time of B Coy following by message. | |
| 190 ✓ | 4 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS BDE W.T. School BDE OFFERS 37 RADIO STATION | | 0700 | | 201 | password from 1800/4 1800/5 is LABEL | |
| 191 ✓ | 4 | | 2/6 Bn | 0845 | 0805 | 201 | SITREP @ SITNOR | |
| 192 ✓ | 4 | | 2/7 Bn | 0715 | 0805 | 201 | SITNOR | |
| 193 ✓ | 4 | | 2/6 Bn | 0815 | 0825 | 202 | ref our message 205/3 @ ANGAN advise route of patrol ROUTE 8 MAPO TAUPOTA | FORCE 7 18 BDES 2/5 2/7 BNS 206/0930 SPR 193(A) MAC Coy 207/0935 193(B) |
| 194 ✓ | 4 | FORCE 7 18 BDES 2/5 2/6 2/7 Bn | | 0825 | | 205 | Sitrep @ B Coy 2/5 Bn moved out on exercise at 0430/4 Dec @ taking part in 2/9 Bn exercise otherwise NORMAL @ all informed | |
| 196 ✓ | 4 | | MAC COY | 0800 | 0930 | 1 | Sitrep @ Sitna | |

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks, Action Taken |
|---------|------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| 197 ✓ | 4 | | 2/7 BN | 1205 | 1310 | 179 | ref pack tpt Mch @ nominations for course No 4 as follows @ SX 5606 Sgt BELL ML VX 24016 Sign TUCKER W VX 51237 Mte BENDING V | copy to BM (C) |
| 198 ✓ | 4 | | MAC coy | 1300 | 1325 | 2 | Sitrep @ Sitnor | |
| 199 ✓ | 4 | | 2/7 BN | 1410 | 1445 | 180 | nominations for D and M course no 3 @ SX 13015 (Ptd) CHESSON VX 53820 DWYER VX 52533 HEMMING VX 56478 MARTIN VX 12492 MILSON WX 14168 CONNELLY VX 70492 CPL WHITFIELD. | |
| 200 ✓ | 4 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 Bns | | 1510 | | 51 | following names have been submitted panel instructions LHO schools @ 2/5 LT SAMSON SGT TURNER H/SGT MILES WO 2 WARD H/sgt HOY @ 2/6 LT BIRKE LT LAVER SGT BUSBRIDGE CPL WEINBERG @ 2/7 CAPT CRAMP CAPT BARR LT CAPUANO SGT BIRRELL SGT BELL | |
| 201 ✓ | 4 | | A.A.D.C. | 1430 | 1625 | AA99 | 709 sep CA A/A lty will get full joint 50 calibre A/A gun from TORN BELL from 0900 hrs to 1100 hrs from 5 Dec to 11 Dec inclusive @ bearing 95° to 190° angle 45° @ all informed | will to 2/5 2/6 2/7 Bns 208/4 |
| 202 ✓ | 4 | | 2/5 Bn | 1645 | 1710 | 203 | Sitnor | AMC |
| 203 ✓ | 4 | | 2/6 BN | 1800 | 1815 | 205 | Sitrep @ Sitna | |
| 204 ✓ | 4 | | MAC coy | 1700 | 1815 | 7 | Sitrep @ Sitna | |
| 205 ✓ | 4 | | 2/7 BN | 1705 | 1815 | 203 | Pioneer pl moved out to 17 Bde for construction work @ Sitnor | |
| 206 ✓ | 4 | FORCE 1, 18 BDES 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS | | 1950 | | 209 | Sitrep @ ref map MB prov No 2 @ pioneer pl 2/7 Aust INF BN moved to EAT EANENE area 975998 on construction work otherwise NORMAL @ all informed | |

MILNE BAY (PROV)

Ref Map 2"=1MILE No 2

17 AUST INF BDE OPERATIONS DIARY

"SECRET" Sheet No. 169.....

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks, Action Taken |
|---------|------|--|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 207 | 4 | | 7 BDE | 1930 | 2015 | I 159 | SITREP 1800 hrs @ SITNOR | |
| 208 | 4 | MAC coy | | | | | FORCE have requested naval authorities accordingly @ will advise you results later | \$-w reply to MAC coy MG 237/30 Nov |
| 209 | 4 | | MILNE FORCE | 2100 | 2315 | I 289 | commencing to see safe hand mail closes MILNE FORCE HQ office 0900 hrs daily all informed | J. M. / it |
| 210 | 5 | | SIGS | | 0408 | PHONE | AIR RAIDAL RED | |
| | | | SIGS | | 0438 | PHONE | ALL CLEAR | |
| 211 | 5 | | 2/5 BN | 0645 | 0700 | PHONE | Strep @ NORMAL | |
| 212 | 5 | | 2/6 BN | 0630 | 0715 | 201 | SIREP @ SITNOR | |
| 213 | 5 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS BDE OFFERS WEAPON TNG COURSE RAAF No 37 RADIO STA | | 0700 | | 201 | password 1800/5 to 1800/6 TELEGRAM | |
| 214 | 5 | | 2/7 BN | 0715 | 0742 | 201 | SITNOR | AL 1946 |
| 215 | 5 | MILNE FORCE 7-18 Bdes 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS | | 0815 | | 202 | SITNOR all informed | |
| 216 | 5 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 Bns | | 0825 | | 51 | lecture programme now as follows @ THANK SAT 5 Dec 2/5 Bn @ Sun 6 Dec 2/7 MON 7 Dec 2/6 @ ARTY 12 Dec 2/6 @ SUN 13 Dec 2/7 @ MEN 14 Dec 2/5 Bn @ @ffs will report units 1700 hrs for mess then give lecture BLACKBOARD required | |

Ref Map

MILNE BAY (PROV) 2" = 1 mile 2nd EDITION

"SECRET"

Sheet No... 170...

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|-------|---|--------------|----------------------|---------------|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 217 ✓ | 5 Dec | | MAC Coy | 1920 4 Dec | 0905 5 Dec | 9 | 24 Fd Coy patrol less three ORs arrived TAUPOTA 1915 hrs @ 3 ORs turned back should report unit lines by 1600 hrs | |
| 218 ✓ | 5 | Milne Force 7-18 Bdes 2/5 2/6 2/7 bno | | 0925 | | 203 | 24 Fd Coy patrol arrived TAUPOTA 1915/4 @ all informed | |
| 219 ✓ | 5 | | MAC Coy | 0800 | 0925 | 1 | Sitrep @ Sitnot | |
| 220 ✓ | 5 | | 2/7 BN | 0900 | 0940 | 146 | Nil return (In reply to 53/2) | |
| 221 ✓ | 5 | Force HQ | | 1005 | | 52 | Ref official photographers @ 2/6 Bn VX3377 Capt AM PEARSON NO camera @ permission requested living camera from Australia @ 2/6 Bn VX4509 Sgt Stan VW Camera PURMA SPECIAL size 127 and Kodak 8mm Cine Model 25 no 3280 @ HQ 17 Bde Bsq MOTEN KODAK Retina F35 36 mm @ 2/7 Bn nil return | |
| 222 ✓ | 5 | | 2/6 Bn | 0950 | 1035 | 124 | Request use of rifle range area 032021 as follows 7 8 10 11 14 Dec @ Ref map MB from 2 in = 1 mile | |
| 223 ✓ | 5 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 Bns Mtd FORCE | | 1155 | | 53 | 17 AUST INF BDE weapon trg course No 2 concludes 1100 hrs 8 Dec @ COURSE 3 assemblies 1600 hrs 9 Dec new location 973004 north EANEANE village @ noon rolls by 1200 hrs 8 Dec. | |
| 224 ✓ | 5 | | MAC Coy | 1300 | 1335 | 3 | Sitrep @ Sitnot | |
| 225 ✓ | 5 | | 2/6 Bn | 1350 | 1430 | 132 | Ref track for course no 4 @ desire substitute VX35349 Cpl SELKRIE R.N. for Cpl BAIRD evacuated CCS | |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map Milne Bay Prov
2 1/2 = 1 mile

Sheet No. 141.....

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|----------|---|--|
| ✓ 224 | 5 | | 2/5 BN | 1645 | | | Sitrep @ | |
| ✓ 227 | 5 | | 2/7 BN | 1705 | 1721 | 20 | relief of B Coy completed by D Coy 2/9 out inf hls and B Coy returned to lines 1700 hls @ Sitrep | reptd for Sitrep |
| ✓ 228 | 5 | | 2/6 BN | 1700 | 1721 | 203 | Sitrep @ Sitrep | |
| ✓ 229 | 5 | FORCE 7 18 BDES 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS | | 1740 | | 204 | Sitrep @ Mil. Map MB prov No 2 @ D Coy 2/9 bn relieved B Coy 2/7 in AERODROME defence 994 998 @ B Coy 2/7 bn returned to ooc ooc otherwise NORMAL @ all informed | |
| ✓ 230 | 5 | | MAC COY | 1700 | 1845 | 5 | Sitrep @ Sitrep | |
| ✓ 231 | 5 | | 2/5 Bn. | 1800 | 1800 | - | VX 21013 Pte Hemphill RD replacing Pte Holmes who has been sent to hls | By phone |
| ✓ 232 | 5 | | MAC Coy | 1900 | 2016 | 5 | Patrol 24 Sq. Coy staying night at WAMA WAMA NA @ leaving for GILI GILI tomorrow expect to arrive 1900 hrs | Rptd to Milne Force 7 Bde 18 Bde 2/5 2/4 2/7 Bns 205/5 |
| ✓ 233 | 5 | | 7 Bde to SCL (By phone) | 1955 | | | In answer to sig sent out by SCL today. Oaceomb for pik that sent on to Force at 0900 hrs today | |
| ✓ 234 | 5 | | May McLean Mount Control (By phone) | 2010 | | | Full personnel to report to Lyall wharf 0900 hrs 6 Dec: Maj Goble 2/5 2/Sgt Cullen 2/5 Lieut Knight 2/5 Lieut Smith 2/5 Sgt Egan 2/5 Pte Lookely 2/6 Maj Captain 2/4 and Pte Jones 2/4. All personnel to assemble LYALL WHARF 0900 ready to embark | ABR McLean Pur Warmed @ |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map Milne Bay Prov
2" = 1 mile

Sheet No. 172...

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOC or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------------|------|-------------|--|----------------------|-------|----------|---|--|
| ✓ 234 Cont | 5 | | | | | | All personnel to assemble off the wharf | Ev Acfto warned |
| ✓ 235 | 5 | | Lieut Walters Patrol (By phone) | | 2015 | | Patrol Lieut Walters rang from K.B. Mission @ Provisional report @ Confirmed killing of 2 Japs by natives and found 1 more body @ Leaving K.B. 0900/6 Arrive No 3 Strip at approx 1500/6 @ No Japs contacted by patrol | |
| ✓ 236 | 5 | | 2/7 (By phone) | | 2020 | | Lieut Jackson of Docho Cont Gp rang 2/7 HQ + advised them that one box carrier parts addressed Lieut Ferguson O/C car pl was at their depot and awaited delivery | ADOS informed ADOS will see that they are fwded |
| ✓ 237 | 5 | | Lieut Becham Force HQ (By phone) | | 2030 | | 1 Colonel 6 ORs moving to Wedau to report at GIL GIL wharf at 0800/6 to go aboard MACLAREN KING @ with personnel three 44 gal drums persons to be loaded off WEDAU Most important they be there at 0800 | Jprw |
| ✓ 238 | 5 | | Q2 (By phone) | | 2105 | | Names of personnel to attend Pack Sgt School to be forwarded this HQ morning 6 Dec | Jprw Jprw Jprw |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map *Madne Bay Prov*
2" = 1 mile

Sheet No. *173*.....

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|-------------|----------------|----------------------|-------|----------|---|--|
| ✓ 239 | 5 | | 2/6 Bn | 2024 | 2130 | 133 | VX5083 Sgt GRANT L.G. promoted A/Lieut | |
| ✓ 240 | 5 | | 7 Bde | 2115 | 2130 | I160 | SITREP to 1800 L/S @ Sitnet | |
| ✓ 241 | 5 | | 2/6 Bn | 2140 | 2140 | Phone | Officer to replace Lieut. PALMER is MC MATHIAS. Ch. he will report to BML(U) at 0945 hr (approx) 6 Dec. | |
| ✓ 242 | 5 | | 2/5 Bn adit | | | Phone | Advised CO of revised arrangements of Mac Coy @ CO. has cancelled arrangements for himself, relieving off and batman @ it now stands. 4 ORs, mail and canteen stores previously advised. Will see details of stores through on Fullerphone. | |
| ✓ 243 | 5 | | 2/5 Bn | 2245 | 2310 | 3 | Following for TAUPOTA @ Personnel VX1524 MATHEWS G.A. WX15190 MEABEN T.F. VX40897 HURD N.R. VX3301 CUMMINGS all privates stores 1/2 cart canteen stores 1000 lbs mail | |
| ✓ 244 | 5 | MAC Coy | | 2316 | | 206 | FTD MACLAREN KING now 0800/6 NOT 7 Dec @ personnel 17 Bde 1 Offr sign 1 OR. 2/5 Bn 4 OR @ stores @ WEDAU 1 wireless set 6 drums, kerosene @ TAUPOTA 1 battery charger mail canteen stores @ SICK will be evacuated on return trip | <i>W. J. King</i> <i>AB</i> <i>W. J. King</i> <i>AB</i> <i>W. J. King</i> <i>AB</i> |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map *Melne Bay Prov*
2" = 1 mile

Sheet No. *176*.....

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO of Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks, Action Taken |
|---------|-------|---|--------------|----------------------|--------|----------|--|-----------------------|
| ✓ 245 | 6 DEC | | 2/6 | | 0655 | phone | SITNOR | |
| ✓ | | | 2/5 | | 0654 | phone | B Coy returned to lines @ SITNOR | |
| ✓ 246 | 6 Dec | | 2/7 | 0715 | 0810 | 201 | Sitnor | |
| ✓ 247 | 6 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 17 Aust W Trng School RAAF No 37 | | 0700 | | 201 | Password from 1800/6 to 1800/7 Dec LATELY | |
| ✓ 248 | 6 | | M.A.C Coy | 0800 | 0825 | 1 | Did petrol go on boat @ Sitnor | to se fraction |
| ✓ 249 | 8 | | 2/5 low | 2245/5 | 0830/6 | 3 | following for TAUPOTA @ personell VX. 1524 MATHEWS G.A. WX. 15190 MEABEN T.F. VX 40897 HARD W.R. VX. 3301 CUMMINGS W all privates stores 1/2 cut. canteen stores 1000 lbs mail. | to se |
| ✓ 250 | 6 | FORCE HQ. 7 18 Bde 2/5 2/6 2/7 Bns | | 0840 | | 202 | Sitnor B Coy 2/5 Bn returned to UNIT lines @ Sitnor. | |
| ✓ 251 | 6 | FORCE H.Q. | | 0917 | | 51 | Approval requested range practice @ 964992 rifle 7 Dec FORCE Cnd pl @ 8 Dec W/Trng bourse 9/10 Dec Pro Coy 11 Dec 2/6 AAST @ 032021 rifle 7/8 Dec AA Gp 9/12 Dec 2/6 Bns @ 007018 rifle 7/8 Dec AA Gp 9/11 Dec 2/9 Bns 12/13 Dec 2/7 Bns @ 997030 field firing 9/10 Dec 2/7 Bns. | |

1910
210
[Signatures]

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map Milne Bay Prov
2" = 1 Mile

Sheet No. 175.....

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO of Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|---|------------------------------|
| 252 ✓ | 6 | M.A.C. Coy | | 1020 | | 181 | In reply to 1/6 (C) gas red spirit 10 gallons | |
| 253 ✓ | 6 | | 2/5 bn | 1106 | 1134 | 201 | 10 pl A Coy returned from special patrol 1105 hrs | Shown to BML Force advised. |
| 254 ✓ | 6 | | MILNE Force | 1130 | 1300 | 0 1666 | Ref paratps unit (C) necessary if you substitute for Vx. 57512 Sgt DRAKE (C) suggest a cpl (C) Medical boards finish 8 Dec (C) required name by 1200 hrs L/7 | Shown to BM (C) |
| 255 ✓ | 6 | | MAC. Coy | 1300 | 1500 | 2 | Sitrep (C) Sitnor. | |
| 256 ✓ | 6 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 bns. | | 1200 | | 182 | Conversion or temporary rank (C) promotions recently approved Milne Force may be considered (C) When submitting quote Milne Force signal No and add quote awaiting promulgation unquote | |
| 257 ✓ | 6 | | WEDAU | 1500 | 1643 | F122 | Please arrange with ANGAU to send mission mail and all stores on boat leaving Dec 7. | |
| 258 ✓ | 6 | | 2/5 bn | | 1640 | Phone | Sitnor. | |
| 259 ✓ | 6 | | 2/6 BN | 1700 | 1740 | 204 | SITREP (C) SITNOR | |
| 260 ✓ | 6 | | 2/6 BN | 1701 | 1740 | 205 | patrol report (C) MAPO patrol mil report | |
| 261 ✓ | 6 | | 2/7 BN | 1701 | 1740 | 201 | Sitnor | |
| 262 ✓ | 6 | | MILNE FORCE | 1600 | 1745 | I196 | commencing 7 Dec safe hand mail for NIG FORCE and AUST class SIG OFFICE Milne Force at 0845 hrs DAILY all informed | Brig informed copy to BM (C) |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map Milne Bay Prov.
2" = 1 Mile

Sheet No. 176

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO or Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|--|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------|--|--|
| ✓ 263 | 6 | | MAC Coy | 1700 | 1809 | 4 | Sitrep @ Sitnor. | |
| ✓ 264 | 6 | FORCE HQ 7 18 Bdes 2/5 2/6 2/7 bn | | 1745 | | 203 | Sitnor @ All informed | |
| ✓ 265 | 6 | FORCE HQ | | 1850 | | 204 | 10 pl A Coy 2/5 bn returned from special patrol 1105 hrs today. | |
| ✓ | 6 | | 24 Fd Coy | 1900 | | Phone | Patrol reported in at 1900 hrs. | |
| ✓ 266 | 6 | MILNE FORCE 7 BDE 18 BDE 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS | | 1945 | | 205 | 24 fd Coy patrol from TAUPOTA reported in 1900/6 @ All informed. | |
| ✓ 267 | 6 | | MAC Coy | 1935 | 2035 | 5 | MCLAREN KING arrived TAUPOTA 1800 hrs left for WEDAU 1900 hrs | reptd to FORCE |
| ✓ 268 | 6 | MILNE FORCE | | 2040 | | 206 | Serial 267 reptd. | |
| ✓ 269 | 6 | | MOVT CONTROL | 2130 | 2130 | Phone | Pte LORD, R.A. 2/7 bn to report 611-611 jctg at 0530 hrs 7 Dec to proceed to TOWNSVILLE by flying boat @ report to P.O. SMITH, RAAF. | 2/7 Bn advised 2135 per phone. None |
| ✓ 270 | 6 | | MILNE FORCE | 2008 | 2209 | 01672 | In reply to 51/6 @ range practises approved | |
| ✓ | 7 | | 2/5 bn | 0700 | 0700 | Phone | Sitnor | |
| ✓ 271 | 7 | | 2/6 bn | 0645 | 0728 | 201 | Sitnor | |
| ✓ 272 | 7 | | 2/7 bn | 0715 | 0728 | 201 | Sitnor | |

17 AUST INF BDE
OPERATIONS DIARY

Ref Map

MILNE BAY (PROV) 2" = 1 mile 2nd EDITION

"SECRET"

Sheet No. 177...

| Ser No. | Date | Outwards to | Inwards from | TOO of Time of Event | T O R | Orig No. | Summary of Message or Event | Remarks. Action Taken |
|---------|------|---|---------------|----------------------|-------|----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 273 ✓ | 7 | 2/5/2/6 2/7 BNS 17 Bde W.T. Schl All Bde Offices RAAF 37 Radio Station | | 0700 | | 201 | password from 1800/7 to 1800/8 LEGAL | |
| 274 ✓ | 7 | Milne Force 7-18 Bdes 2/59/6 2/7 BNS | | 0735 | | 202 | Sitnao 0 all informed | |
| 275 ✓ | 7 | | TAUST INF BDE | 0758 | 0900 | 1161 | SITREP to 1800 hrs L/7 SITNOR | |
| 276 ✓ | 7 | | MACCOY | 0800/7 | 0920 | 1 | MCLAREN KING arrived WEDAU 2220 hrs 0 WEDAU report remains of JAP marine found by natives five miles south of HIOGE apparently killed 0 Sitnao. | one copy BM(L) filed to FORCE 205/7 |
| 277 ✓ | 7 | | 2/6 Bn | 0912 | 0930 | 203 | Patrol report 0 MAPO patrol nil report | |
| 278 ✓ | 7 | | MILNE FORCE | 1045/7 | 1137 | 01680 | 100 Sqn RAAF require 2/12 Bn night range 0900/1200 8, 10, 12, dlc 0 Please arrange direct | one copy BM(L) |
| 279 ✓ | 7 | 2/5 2/6 2/7 BNS BM(L) | | 1150/47 | | | please advise urgently number personnel requiring blood grouping | 129/7 |
| 280 ✓ | 7 | MACCOY | | 1130 | | 1 | intercepted message WEDAU to TAUPOTA 0315 hrs 0 Dec reporting arrival MCLAREN KING 2220 hrs 0 your message same matter received here 0833 hrs 0 essential you pass on info other than normal sitrep immediately 0 please watch this | |

[Handwritten signatures and notes in the right margin, including 'one copy BM(L) filed to FORCE 205/7', '129/7', and various initials.]