

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

Item number: 8/3/11

2/11 Infantry Battalion
November 1939 - July 1940

November 1939 to July 1940.

This document was found during
a survey of obsolete unit records
conducted in Sydney, 1951-53. As
no war diary covering the period
marked above had previously been
submitted, this copy has been
accepted and registered as an
ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 BN. A.I.F.

Date and Time.—From NOV 4th 1939 To NOV 8th 1939.

Place	Date 1939	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references, Appendices, Diaries, &c
Perth	Nov 4	0900	Advance Party (60 strong) leave Perth arrive Northam 1215.	
Northam	5		Advance Party start to prepare camp, very little of which is complete. Architect & Foremen very helpful. First stores taken over from Ordnance and issued to temporary quartermasters as & when company storerooms completed by builders.	
Perth ..	6		Advance Party continue to prepare camp & take over stores.	
Perth	7		Selection of Recruits Subiaso Drill Hall. Artillery take first pick. Large numbers state occupation as Truck Driver (unemployed). This appears to be only non-reserved occupation. Most of these taken by artillery. We are at a disadvantage in not knowing whether we have horse or motor transport.	
Northam.	8		First Draft leave Perth 015, arrive Northam 1305 march to camp. Majority had had a good send off. Weather showery. Balance of day swearing in and settling into huts.	

2/11 AUST. INF. BN.

Nov. 4 - 8, 1939.

Advance party (60 strong) arrive Northam 12/5 4/11/39. Very little prepared -- Architect and foreman very helpful. Stores taken over from Ordnance by Camp Q.M.

Recruits arrive ex Subiaco Drill Hall, a large number giving occupation as truck driver unemployed -- this seems to be the only non-reserved occupation.

Large numbers taken by Artillery -- we do not know if we are to have motor transport so can't complain. The first batch 1305 march into camp and all units help in swearing in.

NOTE

The November, 1939/October, 1940 war diary of the 2/11th Battalion was returned from Western Command with the page containing the first entries missing. Attempts to locate this missing page for the period 4th to 8th November, 1939- were unsuccessful. The President of the association, Mr. E. MacLeod, forwarded a copy of a precis of the diary entries for the period (see above) and this is being included in the diary folder as the only account held for this particular period. The precis had been previously prepared by Lieut.-Colonel H.M. Binks during an extraction and preparation of material of this nature.

E. Coady
Keeper of the Written Records.

10/7/62

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army I
(a)

Unit 2/11 BN. A.I.F.

Date and Time.—From NOV 9 1939 To NOV 13th 1939

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Northam	Nov 9 th		Further drafts arrive from S. West. Elementary Training and P.T commences. March to Bunlong Pool for swim helps to break in new boots. Strength now 19 Officers 393 O.R's	
	10 th		Geraldton + 9 th Southern Drafts arrive. Strength now 20 Officers 515 O.R's. Temporary NCO's appointed. First Dental Examination	
	11 th		G.O.C Western Command paid informal visit and had tea. ^{Kalgoorlie} Kalgoorlie, Kojonup, Midland + Eastern Line Drafts arrive and are dentally examined. Previous drafts get 2nd Medical Exam. Several rejected. 1st Reorganisation into 4 platoons of 3 sections each. We experiment with drill in 3's. Strength 20 officers 706 O.R's	
	12 th		R.A.P. unveiled and further medical examinations	
	13 th		Outbreak of german Measles causes restrictions on leave to Northam; Measles at first thought to be Scarlet fever. Isolation Depot in Camp Detention Hut - which is most comfortable building in camp. Outbreak + consequent restrictions in many ways a blessing in disguise.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit _____

Date and Time.—From NOV 14 1939 To NOV 16 1939

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NORTHAM	1939 NOV 14		Rifles delivered by Ordnance & distributed to COY's. Companies have to improvise training stores (Targets, aiming rests etc) many ingenious inventions, but none very effective. We get first taste of "Equipment Starvation" also 1st TAB inoculation. Time table arranged to prevent waste of time standing in queue.	
	NOV 15		Men get Rifles and 1st pay. Pay arrangements, allotments, signatures take up most of day. Bde Commander (Brig Morshead) arrives and sees Bn for the first time, has discussion with C.O about Dress, Comforts, Band, Equipment, Typewriters, V.P. Relations with Western Command, New Organisation, Eastern States & many other things including WET CANTEENS	
	NOV 16		Bde Commander sees Bn working, then leave for Perth with C.O.; who returns that night. Ration Board established Strength now 20 Officers & 425 O.R's	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Bn

Date and Time.—From NOV 14/15 1939 To NOV 22 1939.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Northam	NOV 17th		Quarantine Restrictions lightened. Strength now 20 Officers & 424 O.R's Officers & Sgts messes go dry except to entertain official guests. Search parties organised to find necessary guests. This work shared with Artillery	
"	18		Blue Light Depot unveiled.	
"	19		Camp opened to visitors from 2-5pm and special trains from Perth. Afternoon tea supplied by Coy. Mr Gave & Mr Hearty of Sportsmens Council for War Funds visited camp & promised to donate bathing V's, medicine balls & gloves for boxing.	
	20		Engineers complete construction of Camp Cricket pitch	
	21		2nd T.A.B. Inoculation. Civilian Staff (Cooks) leave camp and we are self-supporting.	
	22		Training continues. 16th Bn lend us 1 Vickers Gun & 1 Bann & Stroud, which are used for preparing 2 O.R's chosen for M.G course at Randwick.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 BN

Date and Time.—From NOV 23 1939 To NOV 26 1939

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Perth / Northam. Northam	1939 Nov 23		Further recruiting at Subiaco. C.O. confers with HQ re move to East. Only orders received are a 2nd hand telephone message stating that we are to go in 2 ships at an interval of 1 week and are ENTITLED to 4 days PRECONCENTRATION LEAVE, but no free rail passes.	
	Nov 24		Pay Day. News goes round camp like wild fire that we are moving. CO talked to BN and explained arrangements for leave & move.	
	25		HQ, C & D go on leave. Rifles are stored also equipment A & B Coy continue training, rifle exercises, aiming & visual training & marching. All ranks are in good physical condition and present a very different picture to that of 3 weeks before.	
	26		Camp seems deserted with so many on leave	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 2/11 BN.

Date and Time.—From 27th Nov 1939 To 30 Nov 1939

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
PERTH/NORTHAM.	Nov 27		Final Selection of Recruits at Subiaco (including 2 shorthand typists) S.D uniforms issued in camp.	
	28		Coys on leave return to Northam and receive S.D uniforms. great shortage of variety in sizes. Fitting very bad in number of cases and impossible to equip some men. Final Drafts from Perth + 9 th Southern arrive. Third TAB inoculation. Strength now 20 officers + 499 O.R's	
	29		all ranks make rolls. Militia clothing returned All Equipment returned by those leaving. Rifles repacked (at this stage every man in the unit was fully equipped with Rifle + load Equipment)	
	30		498 all ranks Embarked Katoomba leaving Northam about 0645 — all aboard 1100 — sailed 1200 hrs. 2 officers left by Transcontinental Rly for Command + Staff School + 3 officers and 2 O.R's also left for SA School Randwick. 2 i.c. remained at Northam as O.C. Details	

D.3435/5.39.—C.4783.

appendix I notes on issue of equipment
 " II notes on Training
 " III C.O.'s notes for the month

November 1959

Appendix 1. Notes on Equipment
Stores etc

1. During first week in November
requests were made out for
 - (a) Camp Equipment
 - (b) 1st Issue Clothing & necessaries
 - (c) Training Stores
2. Since no scale of training stores
was in existence only such training
stores as could be made available by
GOC Western Command were requested
for & these included
 - Rifles
 - Bayonets
 - Equipment WE
 - Dummies
3. The issue of camp equipment was
satisfactory except in the case of tables
& forms. Owing to holding of concurrent
militia camps there was a deficiency
of these items in the district and
the position was rectified before the
end of the month.
4. No issue of clothing & necessaries was
received complete but except in the
case of uniform S.D. it was
received in sufficient quantities
to equip troops as they arrived
in camp. The slow receipt of

Uniform 517. occasioned much anxiety & work. Troops were obliged to proceed on pre-concentration leave in working dress but the majority were clothed prior to embarkation for New South Wales. In the case of the Katoomba contingent consignments were received on the ship at Adelaide & Melbourne & the position on disembarkation was satisfactory. The Duntroon contingent, with one or two exceptions only, received full first first issues prior to leaving W.A. The completion of odd personnel, mainly outsize, was a troublesome task extending over several months.

5. Prior to leaving Northam it was apparent that the quality of boots generally was unsatisfactory & even before leaving Northam a large proportion of the men had badly worn soles.
6. All training shoes were handed back to Ordnance Western Command prior to leaving W.A.

November 1939

Appendix 2 - Training

1. These notes deal with the most important side of unit preparation for war & to have full value it is necessary that they be full, frank, & accurate. From the unit aspect there was throughout the whole of the training period in Chuskaha an obvious lack of policy & direction in training matters and a consequent serious waste of time, effort & money. The errors made may well be repeated unless attention is drawn to them in notes such as these & this consideration demands freedom of expression which at times amounts to strong criticism of higher direction.
2. There was not at the outset any set plan whereby the training of a force such as Octus Div could be commenced. It is extremely doubtful if such a plan would have been of the slightest use in any case. Adherence to any training plan is possible only if adequate training stores are available. A deficiency was never available during November. Furthermore a serious deficiency of instructors prevented squadting on a sub unit basis.
3. The collection of the battalion at Northam occupied approximately one week. Most of the men had had no previous military service. Initially the ~~necessity~~ work of organisation, organising & equipping

took priority over all other activities. This work was impeded by

(a) slowness of Ordnance deliveries of clothing & necessaries

(b) final medical examinations which were conducted in camp

(c) TAB inoculations which occupied some time & resulted in many cases in short periods of partial incapacity

Training in the first fortnight was therefore limited to close order work without arms to enable men to move in formed bodies & to act in a disciplined manner

4. By about 20 Nov rifles & equipment WE were received on loan from Western Command and it was possible to extend training to include arms drill & elementary firing & aiming instruction. The latter instruction was hindered by the absence of the normal training stones. Furthermore the continuance of inoculations, dental & medical examinations caused continual interruptions in training. An extensive outbreak of measles also occurred at this time.

5. By the last week in November it was known that the battalion was to continue its training in Eastern Command & that prior to being sent away every man was to be granted three days pre concentration leave to enable him to visit his home. The unsettling effect of short periods of general leave was for the first time experienced. Training therefore came abruptly to a close on November 26th when troops went on leave and was not

recommenced until the battalion settled down again at Laeta.

6. The end of the month saw about 60% of the battalion at sea & the remainder awaiting embarkation on a later boat. Despite delays & the many obstacles encountered a very considerable amount of work had been done. The troops were accustomed to being in the ranks & could march reasonably well. The battalion organisation was operating & satisfactorily answered the test of breaking camp & embarking. Company officers were finding their feet. There was definite evidence of a growing esprit de corps & discipline. The troops showed a readiness to accept discipline & the standard they had already attained was sufficiently high to draw favourable comment on their journey east. There was a grave shortage of Officers which ~~was~~ and training needs to be still further embarrassed by the selection of a number of Officers to attend the Cluff's Command School & the Small Arms School. Such action at such a time is most unwise. All Officers showed promise of justifying their selection. The problem of obtaining N.C.O.'s was probably the most serious of all. Many ex militia N.C.O.'s had a degree of knowledge but little capacity for leadership. Many men without previous service were natural leaders but had no military knowledge. No satisfactory progress in the solution of this problem was to be made for a considerable time.

C.Os. Notes for November 1939.

Annexure "A" contains my diary notes for the period prior to the embodiment of the Bn. I was given more or less a free hand in the selection of officers but difficulties arose owing to the fact that four authorities had to be dealt with viz. Western Command, 18 Inf. Bde., 6 Div., and Army H.Q.

When the Bde. Commander visited us on 15. Nov. he told me that from what he had seen the standard of the officers picked for 2/11 Bn. was well above the average.

It will take a little time to run in. Half the officers have served with me in the Militia and the others possibly feel a little strange and out of it but I am hoping this will soon pass.

The men are beginning to look more like soldiers. Nearly every draft arrived in Camp with a large percentage of men drunk and they did not look their best for some days. Hard exercise, good food and regular meals work wonders.

Some of the preliminary medical examinations must have been very haphazard as a number of men were rejected at the second examination in Camp. This caused a lot of bother as some had given up regular jobs to enlist.

*Robert
W. W.*

"A"

Appendix III to War Diary 2/11 Bn. for Nov 39.
C. O.'s DIARY FOR PERIOD PRIOR TO

FORMATION OF BATTALION.

- ROTTNEST
Saturday
14. Oct. 40. Major Walsh D.A.A.G. Western Command telephoned at 1230 hours that he had received a telegram from Brigadier Morshead commanding 18th Inf. Bde. to say that I had been recommended for command of 2/11 Bn. A.I.F. and requesting me to submit recommendations for appointment of officers to him care of Eastern Command, and to include recommendation for a staff corps adjutant or alternatively for a militia adjutant. Major Walsh instructed me to return to Perth at once from Rottneest and stated that applications from officers for appointment to A.I.F. would be made available for my inspection forthwith.
- I pointed out that I could not hand over command of 16th Bn. and Rottneest close defence without some instructions as to my successor and that I did not think I could get away until tomorrow afternoon if I was to give all necessary information to my successor. Subsequently rang Major Thomas, A.Q. Western Command and he agreed that it would be better for me to remain at Rottneest until tomorrow afternoon's boat.
- Telephoned Col. Pain, G.S.O. Western Command and he instructed me to hand over 16th to my second-in-command Major J.E. Lloyd M.C.
- Have rather mixed feelings over leaving 16th to command an unknown quantity. Telegraphed Brigadier Morshead that I was returning to Perth and would go into question of officers when I got there.
- Sunday.
15. Oct. 40. Left 16th Bn. and returned by boat to Perth.
- PERTH
Monday
16. Oct. 40. Reported to D.A.A.G., Western Command and obtained applications from officers desiring appointment to A.I.F. Had long conversation with Major R.K. Anderson who desires to command support company. Subsequently discussed position with Col. Pain who thinks Anderson could be spared. Telegraphed Brigade Commander - see Appendix A. Received telegram from Brigade Commander that he was doubtful whether Anderson could be spared to command support company but that he might be approved as second-in-command, but to nominate second choice for 2 I/C and requesting particulars regarding officers recommended.
- Tuesday
17. Oct. 40. Telegraphed Brigade Commander that I would welcome Anderson as second-in-command. Team-Building - a difficult but most important task. Have spent the last two days interviewing people who have offered their services and others that I would like to have. Generally speaking the militia officers have held back waiting to see who was appointed to command the infantry battalion from Western Australia. Have written with biographies and telegraphed to Brigade Commander nominating officers to fill all vacancies except two. (App. B.)
- The majority of the officers nominated come from 16th Bn. which makes things easier for me but I am afraid may give rise to doubts in the minds of people who do not know local conditions. Most of the people offering who have not been selected are over the ages mentioned in recent broadcast.
- Particularly is this so in the case of subalterns. I have proposed filling six vacancies by appointment from ranks of 16th Bn., this after consultation with G.S.O. & A.Q. I look like being weak as regards Company Commanders and these will have to be trained.
- I am afraid that there will be some heart burning over my selection but in making appointments one must be ruthless and it is not the least use my taking anyone on whom I have no confidence.
- Wednesday
18. to
Friday
20. Oct. 40. Much coming and going trying to find out when recruiting is to start and when Northam camp will be ready for occupation. I did not bargain for so much delay or I would not have been in such a hurry to hand over command of 16th. For the last three days I Have been kicking my heels around Perth to very little effect.

- (contd.) It is a most exasperating business wanting to push on with something and finding that nearly everyone else's attitude is that there is plenty of time and that it is no use trying to go ahead too quickly. Visited NORTHAM Camp with Anderson and afterwards went to see C.O.O. regarding clothing and equipment. Gave G.S.O. list of training stores required.
- Saturday
21. Oct. 40. The first repercussion to my selection of officers viz. a telegram from Brigade Commander who says he feels concerned at the disparity of representation between 16th and other Battalions. Long telegram to him in reply pointing out that I had taken everybody offering from other Bns. that I thought was suitable and that I had also tried to get other officers who had not applied to broaden representation. This latter remark applies particularly to Hands of 25th (M.G.) Regt. and Lee Steere of 10th Light Horse.
- Monday
23. Oct. 40. Recruiting started today. A long and tedious business. The physical standard of those accepted is, of course, high but generally speaking there do not seem to be enough young people volunteering and there is a notable absence of representatives of the University and Public School class. The Artillery and Engineers are skimming the cream.
- Tuesday
24. Oct. 40. Am having a lot of trouble with the man power people. Smith-Ryan has been claimed and is not prepared to do anything to obtain his release so I am not worrying further about him. Vallve is also in trouble and I have spoken to the Vice-Chancellor of the University but I do not think it is likely to do much good.
Recruiting from the militia took place today and although the numbers offering are disappointing, the quality seems fair. I had to put myself down as "unemployed" to get past the man-power representative.
- Thursday
26. Oct. 40. Metropolitan recruiting finished today and 293 people, apart from officers have been accepted for the Battalion. The Field Battery and other odd units are complete so that future enlistments should come to us. There are quite a number of unemployed and they are very anxious to get into camp where they will be housed, fed, and receive some pay; but present indications are that the Bn. will not assemble in camp until somewhere about the 8th or 9th of Nov.
The recruiting propaganda has fallen very flat - particularly amongst the Militia. The popular idea is that the 2nd A.I.F. will be kept as a "Mobile Force" for home defence and not sent overseas. It would have helped if the names of the officers selected could have been announced before recruiting started. As it is no one knows who is going.
- Friday
27. Oct. 40. Long discussion with the C.O.O. about clothing. He is worrying because he cannot provide first issue as laid down in the orders for A.I.F. In particular he has no flannel shirts or long woollen underpants. I told him that if he could provide one set of working dress we could start and pointed out that nobody would be in the least likely to wear long woollen underpants or flannel shirts at this time of the year.
Received telegram from Brigade Major asking reason for my proposal for delay going into camp until 8th or 10th November. Telegram in reply that the camp would not be ready until 4th, Ordnance short of clothing and the country recruiting not starting until next week and that the dates were not mine but those fixed by Western Command and that I was ready and anxious to start as soon as possible.
- Saturday 28th &
Sunday 29th Oct. 40. At Rottneest completing handing over of 16th Bn. to my successor.
- Tuesday
31. Oct. 40. Received letter from Brigade Major enclosing copy list of officers recommended by Brigade Commander for appointment and saying that it was intended that Bn. should proceed to New South Wales for training and that camp was being constructed at Lochinvar. Telegraphed to Brigade Major pointing out discrepancies between list of officers as forwarded by Brigade Commander and recommendations made by me. (App. C.)

Wednesday
1. Nov. 40. Received letter from Brigade Commander who is satisfied with my explanations regarding appointment of officers but is worrying because we are not getting to camp until 8th - 10th November.

Thursday
2. Nov. 40. An awful mix up over officers. Army Headquarters has telegraphed to Western Command list of officers recommended excluding a number whose names were sent on but including others who have withdrawn or been claimed by Man Power Board. Had long conference with A people after which they telegraphed Army and I telegraphed Brigade Commander.

Received telegram from 6 Div. regarding dates of camp and which suggested that they thought I was delaying going into camp. Telegraphed reply.

Received letter from Western Command that I was appointed to command all units of 6 Div. raised in the State.

Friday
3. Nov. 40. Clearing up preparatory to proceeding to Northam tomorrow with advance party. Have selected for advance party only people that I know as their principal duties will be to take over camp equipment, blankets etc. and form the nucleus of Coy. Q.M. Stores.

Major Anderson has been approved and posted to 2/11 Bn. but is being retained by Western Command for time being as D.A.Q.M.G.

Am having a lot of trouble over Sweeny my Q.M. but on the assumption that he will eventually be approved I am taking him with me to Northam. In fact I cannot get on without him as there is no one else available to act as Q.M.

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

Paid 254 L-1-2



No Telegrams
on Sundays
a

BRIGADIER MORSHEAD,
EASTERN COMMAND,
SYDNEY.

"A"

THERE IS NO SUITABLE STAFF CORPS MAN AVAILABLE HERE FOR ADJUTANT BUT MAJOR ANDERSON STAFF CORPS DAQMG AN OUTSTANDING OFFICER IS VERY ANXIOUS TO COMMAND MY SUPPORT COMPANY AND I SHOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE HIM STOP HAVE TELEPHONED PAIN GSO UNOFFICIALLY AND HE THINKS ANDERSON COULD BE SPARED AND WOULD BE MORE VALUABLE THERE THAN ON Q WORK STOP WITH ANDERSON AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN EARLY STAGES I WOULD BE QUITE SATISFIED WITH MY PRESENT MILITIA ADJUTANT GRIEVE WHO IS YOUNG ACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT OR ANOTHER MILITIA OFFICER STOP PAIN SUGGESTS THAT IF YOU APPROVE YOU MAKE EARLY REPRESENTATIONS TO ARMY TO RELEASE ANDERSON FROM PRESENT JOB BUT BEFORE YOU DO SO I HAD BETTER MAKE FORMAL APPROACH TO GOC HERE SO PLEASE TELEGRAPH YOUR DECISION ON THIS POINT STOP EXPECT TO TAKE WITH ME FROM 16TH BATTALION A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF THE OFFICERS NCOS AND MEN TO BE RECRUITED FROM MILITIA THAN FROM ANY OTHER EXISTING UNIT ~~SO~~ THE BATTALION WILL HAVE MUCH CLOSER ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE SIXTEENTH THAN THE ELEVENTH STOP IN VIEW OF THIS WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR NUMBER TO BE CHANGED FROM SECOND ELEVENTH TO SECOND SIXTEENTH STOP THINK CHANGE JUSTIFIED ON PRINCIPLE STATED WHICH SUBMIT HAS MUCH TO COMMEND IT. STOP EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO TELEGRAPH FULL LIST OF PROPOSED OFFICERS ^{TUESDAY} TOMORROW STOP DO YOU WISH TO KNOW ANYTHING PARTICULAR ABOUT THEM IF SO WIRE SUITABLE HEADINGS STOP ARE YOU ISSUING DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING TRAINING IN EARLY STAGES. Louch

"B"

BRIGADIER MORSHEAD,
EASTERN COMMAND,
SYDNEY.

REFERRING	MY	LETTER	SEVENTEENTH	AFTER
CONSULTATION	ANDERSON	SANDOVER	FOLLOWING	RECOMMENDATIONS
SUBMITTED	IN	ORDER	PROPOSED	REGIMENTAL
SENIORITY	STOP	ALL	16	BN
UNLESS	OTHERWISE	STATED	STOP	MAJORS
ANDERSON	ARK	STAFF	CORPS	SANDOVER
RL	HEAGNEY	BS	28	BN
STOP	CAPTAINS	BUNTINE	MA	EGAN
EW	II	BN	HONNER	R
II	BN	AINSLIE	RI	VALLVE
JH	BINKS	HM	SWEENEY	CH
AIC	QUARTERMASTER	GRIEVE	BR	ADJUTANT
STOP	LIEUTENANTS	HORLEY	RJ	28
BN	JACKSON	DAC	II	BN
SMITH	RYAN	AR	II	BN
Mc CASKILL	DM	28	BN	SHANAHAN
PM	44	BN	GOOD	SH
GOOK	WW	MAITLAND	JA	BEDELLS
TC	BEDELLS	JG	CHAPMAN	VP
II	BN	STOP	FOR	FIRST
APPOINTMENT	McROBBIE	CHRISTIAN	NAMES	ARTHUR
FORREST	DEVITT	HT	ROYCE	GE
ALLNUTT	NLL	MURRAY	JD	CHRISTIAN
NAMES	FOUR	LAST	MENTIONED	IN
MY	LETTER	STOP	THIS	LEAVES THREE
VACANCIES	ONE	FOR	SIG	OFFICER
NOT	YET	SELECTED	ONE	FOR
GOOD	OFFICER	STATIONED	IN	COUNTRY
WHO	CANNOT	YET	SAY	WHETHER

(BRIGADIER MORSHEAD
EASTERN COMMAND,
SYDNEY.)

- 2 -

AVAILABLE	AND	ONE	WHICH	I
SUGGEST	BE	LEFT	TO	BE
FILLED	FROM	RANKS	AFTER	BN
FORMED	LOUCH .			

PERTH.
19/10/39
LB

315

13/12

LETTERGRAM.

Brigadier MORSEHEAD

EASTERN COMMAND
SYDNEY



Reference Dawkins letter 25th and enclosure just received step
 NORRIS and McKinnen were mentioned as under consideration in my
 letter 17th but not in my subsequent telegram 19th step
 McKINNON not prepared volunteer at present and must be deleted.
 step NORRIS was again mentioned my telegram 24th and presume
 you wish him to be included but he is junior to HEAGNEY and
 should remain so step Please reconsider SWEENEY in light of
 remarks my letters 26th and 27th he was medically examined by
 DDMS personally and passed fit step SMITHRYAN see my letter 26th
 deleting him from list step Cannot understand rearrangement order
 of seniority MAITLAND AINSLIE VALVE EGAN HONNER is this intended
 step Would like to add WOOD SE 16 Bn to list he is keen fit and has
 manpower clearance and would do for Signaller Intelligence officer
 if you think I should take one of the other candidates mentioned
 my letter 24th for Sig Officer on which point I should like
 directions step interviewed manpower officer regarding VALVE
 without success and VALVE has now withdrawn application to enlist
 step Have had another talk BUNTINE who would still like to go now
 out feels his present duty is to Hale School that it would do no
 good to press matter and that if need arises he will be allowed
 to go later step Although a good officer and his enlistment would
 have been an example to others I do not think a case could be made
 out for saying he is more valuable as a soldier than a civilian
 step He has not been medically examined or signed attestation papers
 so matter is not properly before manpower board who have only been
 approached ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ in anticipation so it would seem I cannot
 do anything further and his name will have to be deleted LOUCH

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion AIF Date and Time.—From 1/12/39 To 7/12/39

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
(i) NORTHAM WEST AUS	1. 12. 39		(i) A & B Companies & remainder H.Q. Wing go on 3 days pre-concentration leave.	
(ii) GREAT AUS BIGHT	"		(ii) C.O. - H.Q. Wing, C & D Companies aboard Katoomba - weather calm - R.M.O. & LT Birks succumb. Training, 1000-1200. and 1400-1600 hrs daily - P.T. & Lectures. Black out restrictions.	
(iii) "	2. 12. 39		(iii) as for 1/12/39.	
(i) "	3. 12. 39		(i) as above	
(ii) "			(ii) as above and Church Parade to Finley Ship's Captain.	
(i) "	4. 12. 39		(i) Return from leave - embarkation preparations.	
(ii) adelaide		1700	(ii) Katoomba arrives Pt adelaide - met by D.P.A.G. (Maj Kearnan) Southern Command - who enjoyed the C.O.'s hospitality. ^{to the full} the full day at his Pt Adelaide H.Q. Shore leave granted from 1830 to 2000. Depart 2400 into strong south westerly. Adelaide people expected our arrival in morning and they elaborate preparations for entertainment. Unfortunately were in vain.	
(i) "	5. 12. 39		(i) embarkation preparations	
(ii) at sea			(ii) weather rougher - all officers except C.O. and adjutant (who was tired & had 2 hours sleep) seasick.	
(i) "	6. 12. 39		(i) as for 5/12/39	
(ii) melbourne			(ii) arrive melbourne & G.O.C. A.I.F. came aboard. Shore leave 1500-2100 hrs (last man 2300 hrs). Received S.D. jackets 60, trousers 35. Advance Party of 27 under LT Sweeney disembarked & caught Sydney express at 1700 hrs.	
(i) Fremantle	7. 12. 39		(i) 2 1/2 C, A & B Coys, balance H.Q. Wing and A.G.H. details embark M.V. Duntrouan and sailed 1200 hrs. Daily training as on Katoomba & concerts 1900-2030 hrs. (Weather calm.	
(ii) at sea			(ii) calm weather and daily training.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion AIF

Date and Time.—From 8/12/39 To 11/12/39

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
(i) at sea (ii) Sydney	8.12.39	1700 2000	(i) Daily training (ii) Arrive Sydney — following our wire from Melbourne advising times & in full accordance with measures of security — Eastern Command unaware our arrival till some time later. Eventually enter Sydney station after march through back streets under cover of darkness, muffled tread etc — distance 2 miles. (vide march Northam — Fremantle in same time — distance 70 miles)	
(i) at sea (ii) Rutherford	9.12.39	0200	(i) as above (ii) Arrive Rutherford Racecourse — detrain & march 1 mile to camp (2 miles E of E. Maitland). Tents erected. Very good work done by P.M. & advance party in face of difficulties created by previous militia occupants. Coffee etc, blankets & blankets issued. Officers Volley Ball game & the C.O. goes over the top at dawn.	
(i) at sea (ii) Rutherford	10.12.39		(i) as above and Church Parades (ii) Cleaning & settling into camp continued. Flies heat and dust canteens under private management. Shortage of officers (School etc) with subalterns doing duties of Brigade orderly officer. Camp in quarantine due to outbreak in 3rd of Warrigals & no leave. Continuation elementary & individual training.	
(i) Adelaide (ii) Rutherford	11.12.39		(i) Duntroon party arrive PE Adelaide — General leave 1200 — 2000 hrs and sailed at 2200 hrs. (ii) Elementary & individual training continued. Bde orders the officers to wear shirts, in lieu "glorious" jackets, detachable collars, which may be opened in hot weather (two studs for front). — all tops to be covered at all times.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/4 Battalion AIF Date and Time.—From 12/12/39 To 15/12/39

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
(i) at sea (ii) Rutherford	12.12.39		(i) Training as usual. (ii) Elementary & individual training. T/Cpl V. Saws leaves for overseas base.	
(i) Melbourne (ii) Rutherford	13.12.39		(i) Duntroon party arrives Melbourne — general leave 1200-2000 hrs. A.G.H. details leave ship and also LT TC. Bedells to proceed to course overseas. G.O.C. AIF inspects troops. (ii) Training as above. Canteen declared "black" & picketed by Queenslanders & Tasmanians. Letter received from Wellington & McEachern Pty Ltd regarding good behaviour of troops on Katoomba	
(i) at sea (ii) Rutherford	14.12.39		(i) Training as above. (ii) Draw limbers, cookers and 24 horses — no breast line (in store at camp but 3rd requisition through Ordnance required) for heel ropes etc. Circular received re capabilities of anti tank ^{weapons.}	
GRETA	15.12.39	1230	(i) Duntroon party arrive Sydney and at 1500 entrain, arriving Greta 1930 hrs & march to camp. (ii) Move by march route with Transport (horse & M/T) to Greta Camp (10 miles). Refreshments at Lockinvar Convent much appreciated. LT W. Gook and 56 O.R.s left behind with 2/1 M.G. Bn under new organisation. New Battalion organisation operates viz Bn HQ, HQ Coy & 4 Rifle Companies. HQ Coy unwieldy — 289 plus Bn HQ for discipline & administration (339). Greta amenities (defunct coal mining town) — 1 Hotel, no professional prostitutes, canteen still under private management. Weller sanitary system for officers, drainage arrangements incomplete. "atmosphere of unrest & rioting in town".	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion AIF

Date and Time.—From 16/12/39 To 27/12/39

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GRETA	16.12.39		Battalion once again reunited — 20 officers and 742 O.A. (balance at schools). New hatted camp — old pine, masonite & asbestos roofing. Individual training.	
"	17.12.39		Leave to Greta, Maitland and Newcastle.	
"	18.12.39		Elementary & individual training continued during month with section & Platoon patrols, reconnaissance & reports, difficulty of doing training without any rifles or equipment.	
"	19.12.39		Rifles now coming forward.	
"	20.12.39		Erection of miniature rifle range — 10 targets.	
"	21.12.39		Letter from Melbourne SS Co Ltd. regarding good behaviour of troops on Smitrovac & thanking them for presentation of Russian coffee won suitably inscribed.	
"	22.12.39		Preparations re Xmas leave — extensive	
"	23.12.39		Xmas leave commences — most leave by special trains for Sydney. Approximately 200 men left in camp. "CO. & 2/11C in heavy fear & trepidation of local riots"	
"	24.12.39		Xmas leave — balance swam in Kennock baths — CO. & 2/11C search for the Greta riots.	
"	25.12.39		All ranks had Xmas dinner together — miniature range popular. Special invitation to homes in Newcastle.	
"	26.12.39		General leave to Newcastle.	
"	27.12.39		Training continues — Vaccination carried out. Junior Readers Course under Maj Anderson & A.I.C. Instructors commences.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion AIF

Date and Time.—From 28/12/39 To 31/12/39

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Greta	28.12.39		A.S.A. practices at E. Maitland, Singleton &	
"	29.12.39		Cessnock — extremely scattered & very difficult of supervision. Preparations New Year Leave.	
"	30.12.39		New Year's leave commences — special trains to Sydney & Newcastle.	
	31.12.39		New Year's leave.	
			Appendix I notes on issue of equipment	
			" II notes on training	
			" III CO's notes for the month	
			" IV notes on voyage and flight 2/4 Bn Perth to Sydney 7/15 Dec 1939.	

December 1939

Appendix 1. Notes on Equipment
Stores etc

1. Battalion advanced party under the D.M. Lieut H. Sweeney disembarked SS Katoomba Melbourne on 6 Dec & proceeded direct by train to Ruthersford to draw camp stores and take over camp site. Camp site was taken over as left by a militia battalion which had moved out some days previously. Camp buildings comprising kitchens, mess huts, latrines, showers, store rooms were in a filthy condition & swarming with flies. The cooking utensils taken over were as landed in by the preceding unit & were very dirty. The condition of the camp & utensils required heavy & continuous fatigue. The camp layout was incomplete & unsatisfactory. There was insufficient accommodation in kitchens, ablutions, showers & stores. Conditions necessitated the heaviest demands being made on the advanced party to complete the camp in time to receive the main body on 2. The main body (less 2 corps) arrived in camp towards midnight on 8/9 Dec, received issues & a meal & bedded down. 3. The main body moved from Ruthersford by route march to Tuba on 14th Dec.

All camp equipment was transported from Rutherford to Yuku by M.T.

4. On the evening of 15 Dec the Dunbar party arrived, received partial issues & were bedded down.
5. The only training equipment received during month of December was a consignment of rifles & equipment WE which arrived on or about 20th. This plus two vehicles loaned from a local militia unit constituted the sole training equipment available to the unit during December & early January.
5. No vehicles were available for training purposes during this month but two AAAC 30 cwt trucks were received on loan from the Brigade pool & these, on or about 18th Dec & these, augmented from time to time by vehicles from the same source, performed internal unit transport duties.
6. Training facilities were augmented by the construction by unit labour of landscape targets, miniature targets with frames and a 30^x range.

December 1939

Appendix 2. Training

1. Whatever reasons existed for the transferring of WA troops to Eastern States it must be realised that training was most seriously retarded by the move. Approximately a fortnight was consumed in pre-concentration leave and actual travelling. The rifles & equipment used at Northam were handed back & it was a month before men were to handle rifles again. Furthermore the psychological effect of the discontinuance of training almost at the moment it had seriously commenced was most damaging. This plus the general leave granted over the Christmas & New Year periods coupled with a complete absence of training equipment ^{with certain reservations} caused the waste of the whole month of December as a training period.

2. The issue of rifles, equipment & ammunition during the period 20/22 Dec extended training possibilities at a time when every expedient to train & interest men without arms or equipment had been exhausted. Training had been carried out at Ruthvenford under adverse conditions of heat, dust, flies & inadequate accommodation. Training at Perth had been carried out under rather better conditions but with intensifying difficulties in the way of usefully utilising time. Delivery of arms was followed by instructions to commence

the firing of annual courses (Table ^{Table} A ~~20~~ - rifle).

The wisdom of this procedure is gravely in doubt. Firstly the troops had received less than a weeks instruction after the issue of rifles in W.P.F. The value of the courses was largely wasted owing to the inadequacy of previous instruction. The proportion of repetitions was inordinately high. The general standard of shooting was low. Whilst ample space appeared to exist for the firing of practices on improvised ranges troops were required to travel to Bessbrook (distant 16 miles 48 targets) East Mulland (distant 10 miles, eight targets) Lurgan (distant 14 miles 4 targets) & Newcastle (distant 42 miles, 40 targets). Difficulties notwithstanding the ~~troops~~^{ben} during the last days of December & the first week in January succeeded in completing the great majority in Table A P 1

3. A 30^x range constructed on 20 Dec was used extensively over the holidays & up to the time the battalion left Greta. It provided eight targets & was adjacent to the camp. The value obtained from this range was very great & pointed strongly to the great value which could have been obtained on an improvised range close to the camp.
4. A 10 day NCO Course was held commencing on 27 Dec under the direction of the 2nd Co. At this time the Bn was fortunate to have the services of eight instructors AIC newly graduated from C.T.D. Whilst these instructors lacked experience their assistance was very valuable. The course served to commence the

to commence the military education of prospective NCO's & permitted of a rough classification of their capabilities as leaders. Selections from candidates who attended this class ~~enabled~~ ^{facilitated} a ~~free~~ selection by company commanders and a nucleus of temporary NCO's was established throughout all companies.

5. Up to this stage all training had been severely handicapped by lack of text books but during the second half of December books commenced slowly to come to hand. There was however marked lack of co ordination between the provision of books & the provision of equipment. For example rifles were the first arms issued & pamphlets dealing with rifle training were about the last to be received; L.A. handbooks were amongst the first received & Lewis guns themselves were amongst the last of the equipment issued.

C.Os. notes for the month.

This has been an exasperating month. Lack of equipment rendered progressive training impossible and the men got bored.

Rutherford Camp was the last word in discomfort. Greta is better but the wind blows day and night from every point of the compass and the dust makes life miserable. Sore eyes and throats are the normal thing.

The A.I.F. seems to have lost all perspective in the matter of leave. A Bn. staff has time for little else than selling grain tickets, chartering buses, and arranging "Cooks" Tours. Constant leave is very unsettling and I am afraid that later on when leave cannot be granted the chickens will come home to roost. The men and even the officers talk about leave incessantly.

I think that Eastern Command have the wrong idea altogether as to what should be done for the entertainment of the troops. The camps should be made comfortable instead of driving men away into adjoining towns for their amusement. Wherever possible there should be (a) a wet canteen (b) a picture theatre (c) a large room where table tennis, darts etc. could be played (d) a writing room (e) a swimming pool (f) a sports ground and (g) several concrete half cricket pitches for practice.

There is only one hotel at Greta and it is not very far from the camp so that the men can get a pot of beer after parade when they want it. We send a picquet in every night. The publican is a very poor fish and is frightened of the troops. So is the local policeman. They tremble with fear if a few men sit in the corner of the bar with a pot of beer each and sing. Actually there has been no trouble at all.

There is a new and very expensive system of grease traps installed at Greta Camp which is a complete waste of money because it would not work. After trying everything we now run the kitchen waste through ordinary grease traps first, and everybody is happy. The conduct of the troops during the move from Western Australia was excellent. They are getting better but lack of equipment for training and all this leave is very unsettling.

The Stationery service provided has been most unsatisfactory. Ordinary plain paper has been almost unprocurable and C.O. and Coy. Commanders have had to buy supplies out of their own pockets. Bn. orders have been typed on Y.M.C.A. paper. The typewriter position is even worse. If I had not taken a typewriter from my own office the Bn. would have had none.

In desperation one day Major Anderson and I went to H.Q. Eastern Command and begged paper from every Staff Officer we knew.

W. M. Anderson

W. M. Anderson

Appendix IV

Notes on voyage 2nd flight 2/11 Bm
Perth to Sydney 7/15 Dec 39

1. Afternoon & evening 6 Dec 39

Returned all camp equipment except one blanket per man & kitchen equipment of one kitchen
A & B keep address on arrangements for morning & on disciplinary requirements on journey.

2. 7 Dec 39

Reveille 0700 hours. Return Blankets & clean up huts.
Breakfast. March to bathhouse & entrance 0700 hours.
Discipline good. No absentees.
Embarkation 1000 hours. Time of embarkation approximately 25 minutes.
Duntroon sails 1200 hours, weather calm, afternoon spent in staking down.

3. 8 Dec 39

Shipboard routine commences; training hours 1000 to 1200 & 1400 to 1600. Blackout restrictions at nightfall. Medium swell and approx 20% sea rich. Arrange for nightly concerts on jethees.

4. 9 & 10 Dec 39

Normal routine. Swell moderates & sea sickness abates. Cases German measles reported on 9 Dec. None serious. TAB inoculations on both days. Address by on evening of 10 Dec on discipline whilst on leave.

5. 11 Dec 39

Duntroon arrives Pt Adelaide 1200 hours. Train provided for journey to Adelaide. Adelaide citizens provide afternoon tea at buffet. Conduct of by exemplary. All return to ship within period of leave. Ship sails 2200 hours.

6. 12 Dec 39

At sea. Shipboard routine. Moderate swell

of about 10% seasick.

7.

13 Dec 39

Arrive Melbourne 1200 hours. Weather fine & hot.
General Blamey visits ship on arrival & inspects
troops on deck. Complimentary regarding physique.
Melbourne ignores those who return to ship bored.
Some are slightly exhilarated but not disorderly.
Ship sails 2200 hours. No absentees.

8. 14 Dec 39

At sea. Sea calm, weather fine. Blamey defeat
A at Luzon.

9. 15 Dec 39

Arrive Sydney 1200 hours & march to Lydney
station. Meet Major France & handbag.
Luncheon served. Major France suggests
keeping troops on platform for one &
a half hour. Proceed to general leave until
1430. All troops return by time stated & embark.
Train leaves Sydney 1500 hours arrives
Sydney 2130 hours. March to camp & report
habitation.

10. General

Throughout journey conduct of troops was
excellent and drew favourable comment on
ship & from authorities at Adelaide & Melbourne.
Treatment of troops by ship was most
generous & very much appreciated. Troops
spontaneously expressed desire to make
presentation to the ship & made collection.
An engraved coffee urn was presented to
ship.

Anderson Major
2/c 2/11 B. A. P.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion Date and Time.—From 1 JAN 1940 To 9 JAN 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GRETA	JAN. 1940			
"	1 M		Strength 20 Officers 740 Other Ranks	
"	2 T		Annual Small Arms Practices fired on Rifle Ranges as far away as Newcastle. Individual training for month.	
"	3 W		A. S. A. Practices continued on Rifle Ranges.	
"		0515	O.T.C. Course at Central Training Depot, Liverpool, commences. Transport Officer leaves for Sydney to take over Motor Transport at Showgrounds.	
"	4 T		T.O. takes over 2 15cwt Vans and 3 30cwt trucks. Preparation for Divisional Commander's Inspection.	
"	5 F		T.O. returns to Greta with 2 15cwt vans and 3 30cwt trucks.	
"	6 S		Visit of Lieut. Gen Blamey. Inspection of and address to 2/10 and 2/11 Bns. followed by march past and visits to sub-units in training areas.	
"	7 S		Strength 20 Officers 740 Other Ranks	
"	8 M		Bren Course commences at Small Arms School Randwick - attended by Lieut. Binks	
"			Lieut. Grieve and Lieut. Horley attend course at Command and Staff School, Sydney.	
"			Battalion Junior Leaders' Course, Greta, finishes	
"	9 T		Individual Training continues. Lists issued to coys. showing new vocabulary rates for S.D. uniform etc. as at 22/12/39 - to be adhered to in charging for losses through pay books.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion

Date and Time.—From 10 JAN 1940 To 16 JAN 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GRETA	JAN 1940 10 W	1150	Advance Party - Lieut. Chapman and 20 O/Ranks left for Ingleburn. March through Newcastle by detachments from A.I.F. units in Rutherford area - including 7 officers and 160 other ranks from 2/11 Bn. Acute shortage of stationery - Routine Orders issued on Y.M.C.A. paper and other unofficial stationery	
"	11 W		Report on course at Eastern Command Training School Marellan - six members from 2/11 Bn.	
"	12 F		Horses returned to Hunter Valley Remount Depot - C.O. addresses Bn. on move to Ingleburn Completion of mural in Officers' Mess. Subject - Chain of Supply, Rutherford-Greta area. Structural alterations by Pioneers. Artists - George R.A. and Mulgrave A.R.A.	Breast line and horse troughs arrive from Ordnance. App V photo of mural.
GRETA - INGLEBURN	13 S		Report from Army School of P.T. and R.T. - Pte Stoneham 75% Bn. moves from Greta to Ingleburn - transport by road, remainder by train, arriving 1400 hrs. Band instruments received	
INGLEBURN	14 S		Settling into new camp. Not as comfortable as Greta. No Wellas. Insufficient showers.	
"	15 M		Strength 20 Officers 740 O/Ranks	
"	16 T			

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion

Date and Time.—From 17 JAN 1940 To 28 JAN 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	JAN 1940			
INGLEBURN	17	W	Bren Course, Randwick Small Arms School, finishes — Lieut Binns highest marks. S. A. Course (to 26 JAN) — T/Sgt Sneddon, T/Cpl Griffith Lecture by Bde. Legal Officer — Col. Simpson and Capt. Head-gwen in form of dialogue.	
"	18	T		
"	19	F		
"	20	S	Horse Transport Course, Narellan, commences (to 2 FEB) T/Cpl. E. Dennerby 51%	
"	21	S		
"	22	M	Strength 20 Officers 739 O/Ranks Section Training during week	
"	23	T	C.O. and 2.I.C. paid a visit to Ordnance.	C.O.'s report attached appendix IV
"	24	W		
"	25	T	Manning charts compiled for all. Boys.	
"	26	F		
"	27	S		
"	28	S	Second Bren Course finishes	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion

Date and Time.—From 29 JAN 1940 To 3 FEB 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	JAN 1940			
INGLEBURN	29	M	Strength 26 Officers 733 Other Ranks Rifle Practices Anzac Range during week	
"	30	T		
"	31	W		
	FEB 1940			
"	1	T	Gas Course commences (1-5 FEB) - 5 men from 2/11 Bn	
"	2	F		
"	3	S	E.C.T. Course reports on school 20 Jan to 2 Feb to hand - 9 members from 2/11 Bn	
			Appendix I notes on issue of equipment	
			" II notes on Training	
			" III CO's notes for month	
			" IV C.O.'s report on ordnance	
			" V Photo of moral situation	

January 1940

Appendix 1. Notes on Equipment.
Stores etc

1. The first issue of training stores in 1940 ~~was~~ comprised of 2 15 cwt vans & 3 30 cwt trucks which were taken over by Lt Marshall in Sydney & arrived at Greta on 4 Jan 40. No further stores of any kind were received at Greta.
2. Advanced party moving from Greta to Longburn on 10 Jan 40 proceeded to take over lines vacated by 2/11 Bn 16th Div Inf Bde. Lines & kitchens in bad condition. Advanced party also drew camp equipment.
3. Main body, leaving rear party under Capt H Lweeney, moved to Longburn on 12 Jan, stores were issued to coys & men bedded down. Rear party hunched over Greta camp & camp stores & joined battalion on 14 Jan.
4. Main requirements in stores on arrival at Longburn were
 - (a) second issues clothing & necessaries
 - (b) replacement of worn out boots
 - (c) war equipment other than rifles, equipment & ammunition received at Greta.

5. The whole procedure in obtaining the stores set out in para 4 was slow haphazard & vexatious in the extreme. In general, stores on requisition could only be obtained by personal canvas of advance officers and storemen. Stores were received in small quantities & it was noted that there was an absolute lack of system or policy in the fulfilling of requirements. Every day vehicles reported to Ordnance Depots & frequently returned empty or with fractional loads. The time wasted in journeying to & from Ordnance depots was enormous. Under the circumstances unit store accountability was made most difficult & training was seriously affected through paucity of training equipment. Meanwhile men with worn out boots were forced to parade in sand shoes (gifts from W.A.) and carpet slippers. These conditions although gradually improving persisted throughout the month of January.

6. By the end of the only ^{additional} training stores received were

Buss AT Rifles	- 2
Bren guns	- 2
Vickers guns	- 2 (no spare parts)
Lewis guns	- approx 1 per Coy
Engineer stores	- for wiring, digging & signalling

January 1940

Appendix II. Notes on Training

1. The training cadre for aspirant NCOs commenced in December was completed during the first week in January. Approximately fifty candidates completed the course & reports were forwarded to companies with the object of assisting company officers to make selections for appointment as temporary NCOs.
2. On Jan 4 the T.O. returned from Sydney with 2 15 cwt vans & 3 30 cwt trucks. This enabled T.O. to commence training a nucleus of drivers.
3. The ballalon moved to Ingleburn on 13 Jan. A proportion of required instructional equipment had been taken over by the Advanced Party prior to its arrival & band instruments were immediately available for issue. The band commenced immediately to practice.
4. The training areas at Ingleburn were of varying quality but in themselves quite satisfactory. They were however too far away from camp ~~and~~ ^{which} emphasised the weakness of grouping a large number of units in a small area. The training aspect should be considered in selecting camp sites. The average distance to training areas at Ingleburn camp was about one mile. A unit carrying out morning afternoon &

night parades in one day was forced to march six miles & so sacrifice two hours or approximately 30% of the training time available. Furthermore a considerable proportion of the energy of the troops was wasted in unskillful footslogging. The futility of such an arrangement requires little comment. Had the battalion been able to pursue its training at Northam as a single unit this unfortunate experience could have been avoided.

5. During the second half of January training and wear equipment began to come in slowly but hardly in sufficient quantities to enable the scope of training to be extended to any very great extent. Training was therefore limited to -

- (a) individual training including aiming & firing, instruction, digging & wiring, field craft by day & night, annual courses.
- (b) section training - ground & formations, section in attack & defence, protection, patrols by day & by night.
- (c) specialist training was still held up owing to lack of equipment.
- (d) a cooking course was held in Unit kitchens. The standard of cooking remained satisfactory.

Appendix 3 to 2/11 Bn. War Diary for January 1940.

C.O.'s notes for the month.

We have inherited the 16th Bde's legacy of leave - general leave every week-end and night leave most days. The train and bus arrangements are chaotic. The worst feature of Ingleburn Camp is the distance from the nearest hotel. Liverpool is the most disgustingly squalid town I have ever been in. All supporters of the dry canteen should be compelled to go there on a Sunday afternoon and see the backdoor trade in bottled beer, and the drunken soldiers lying where they fell.

The 16th Bde. must have been a lot of cut-throats judging by the number of receptacles for razor blades. On a rough count there are four boxes for razor blades to every shower. Apparently the people of New South Wales do not bath much, as the shower accommodation is quite inadequate.

I have attached to the Diary a copy of my report to 18 Bde. regarding Ordnance. I would not have bothered except that this report attained the dignity of a State paper - being circulated amongst Cabinet.

The troops think very little of Sydney and they hate the Sydney beer - though they drink enough of it. They wonder why they were brought over here - and so do I.

Shand

L. G.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion AIF

Date and Time.—From 1/2/40 To 10/2/40

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
INGLEBURN	1. 2. 40		Individual, section and platoon training during month, also A.S.P. course. Anti Gas course (1st 5th)	
"	2. 2. 40		Commences, 5 men.	
"	3. 2. 40		Eastern Command T.C. — reports on school 20 Jan — 27 Feb to hand — 9 men.	
"	4. 2. 40			
"	5. 2. 40		Battalion strength: — 26 Officers & 729 O.Rs	
"	6. 2. 40		Anzac Range — A.S.P. Courses during rest of week	
"	7. 2. 40		" " "	
	8. 2. 40		Platoon exercises commence — umpired by Coy Cmdr and other senior officers.	
	9. 2. 40		Audit Committee formed re Canteen, Officers' & Sergeants' mess accounts.	
	10. 2. 40		Findings of Court martial proceedings (Pte Dowdell) arrive, disclosing expiry of sentence 2 days ago.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion Date and Time.—From 11/2/40 To 20/2/40

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
INGLEBURN	11.2.40		Report received No 6 E.C. Inf Course - 5 certificates	
			" " " 2 " " M.M.G. - Certificate T/Sgt Bayly	
	12.2.40		Strength Bn - 26 officers 723 O.R.	
	13.2.40		Humid weather continues & heavy mosquito bombardment.	
	14.2.40	0915	1st Reinforcements arrive from Wa. - a table. LT B.D. Bensford with party. Lt McClashill appointed O.C. same. A.I.C. instructors allotted for training same.	
	17.2.40		Report E.C.T.S. No 7 Inf commences - finishes 1/3/40. - Certificates - T/Sgt Lancaster T/cpls Brownrigg Kilpatrick, Thomas. Leave as usual - 1200 hrs to 0100 or 2300 18/2/40	
	19.2.40		Strength 27 officers 801 O.Rs. - Rehearsal for visit of Governor General.	
	20.2.40		Battalion selected for inspection at work by Gov- General in morning. Afternoon - march past H.E. in sides. Camp open to visitors. Trouble with K.M.G. mechanism (broken parts etc)	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion

Date and Time.—From 21/2/40 To 29/2/40

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
INGLEBURN	21.2.40		Platoon exercises	
	22.2.40		Company exercises	
	23.2.40		" " Lecture by Maj Gen Westcott	
			A/C.G.S. on Palestine to C.O.'s, 2/11 Co. Adjts & I.O.s., C.O. entertaining the General to privately at dinner. First "conventional sign" removed from camp.	
	24.2.40		Company exercise. Weekend leave as usual.	
	25.2.40		New Coy E. Hut opened. Names of outsizes uniforms submitted—Maj Anderson, Capt Morris, Chaplain McConchie, Capt Sweeney.	
	26.2.40		Strength:—27 Officers. 797 O.R.s.	
	27.2.40		C.O., 2/11 Co, Adjutant witness Artillery exercise Greenhills. M/T & driving course (to 8/3/40)—Roseberry Racecourse commences of all qualified (9 drivers).	
	28.2.40		Lack of preliminary advice re preliminary leave leave to which everyone ultimately became entitled.	
	29.2.40			

Appendix I notes on issue of equipment
 " II " training.
 " III Co.'s notes for the month.

February 1940

Appendix 1. Notes on Equipment
Stores etc

1. The month of February was from the equipment aspect one of unparalleled achievement for in less than thirty days ^{of in the fourth month of its existence} the unit received almost up to 85% of its war equipment. Under mobilization plans units were to be raised & equipped within a week but here as in other matters comparisons are regarded as odious. Bearing such a record of achievement in mind it was a matter for great regret that five days after drawing its final items the unit was required to commence marching ~~to~~ ^{from} Alsbach.

2. By the end of February the situation was substantially improved. Complete personal issues had been received & passed to the troops. Training equipment now included the following additional items

Lewis guns -	up to 1 per section
(with stores)	
Vickers guns -	complete except for
(with equipment)	items of indirect
	& night firing, gear
Signal stores -	complete incl PW
	& 50% U.S
Transport -	9 additional vehicles
	(portion of WE)
Mortars 3" -	2 complete

2

Pistols - complete issue

Tools - about 85%

Expire - complete
Shoes

February 1940

Appendix II. Notes on training

1. The month of February ~~proved~~ showed a steady improvement in all branches of training. This was primarily due to
 - (a) a steady receipt of new equipment
 - (b) no leave periods & satisfactory training conditions.
2. During the month the battalion completed Tables A Part II Tables M Part 10 II & Table L. Excellent shooting facilities were available on Abasco Range. Sufficient transport was available to enable the longest journey to & from the range to be undertaken expeditiously.
3. The Carrier Battalion carried out a course on Green Hill Field Firing Range & practised fire direction & control with ball ammunition.
4. Sufficient signal equipment arrived for the Signal Section to commence serious signal training. Unfortunately much of the equipment received was P.W. & some was U.S.
5. Mortars 3in were received & the mortar pl showed marked improvement in keenness & performance.
6. A full complement of Lewis guns was received & training was carried out on this weapon in lieu of the Bren. A few Bren guns were received. A proportion of AMLC personnel & members of rifle

7. The absence of carriers, company vehicles & two inch mortars handicapped platoon training. Taken weapons were improvised but the improvisation of taken vehicles to carry them was beyond the ingenuity of the unit. Equipment which bears vitally on the tactical handling of units must be available in order that full value from training may be obtained. This & similar experiences emphasize that any scheme of mobilisation aiming at the mobilisation of man power & leaving the provision of equipment to a distant future is fundamentally & dangerously unsound. The procedure ~~could~~ should properly be reversed.
8. During the month of February a series of platoon tactical exercises were undertaken in a ~~small~~ number of widely separated localities. The exercises included the action of a platoon in (a) advanced guard (b) protection (c) defence of a river crossing (d) establishment of a bridgehead (e) attack (f) withdrawal. Every platoon completed the whole series & each exercise was supervised by a selected officer. Good value was obtained & a wide range of ability in leadership & tactical handling on the part of platoon leaders was disclosed.
9. An exercise in outpost duties involving a rifle company and a section of MM Co's was also carried out. Concurrently patrol exercises by personnel of 190 Coy were staged. The patrols endeavoured by night to locate the defenders posts

to penetrate between them. On one occasion only was this successfully performed.

10. With the delivery of M.T. a very great impetus was given to training of drivers. Considerable mileages were covered by day & by night & a rapid gain in proficiency was apparent. Troops of all arms were practised in embussing & debussing & a considerable amount of troop movement by M.T. was carried out.

11. A series of TFWTS for Officers arranged & carried out by B.M. 18 Aus Inf Bde was enjoyed by all participants.

12. A series of Company exercises were held in the area lying between GEORGE'S RIVER & the Camp. Rifle Companies worked in pairs - one on an advance & the other as a rearguard. Timings were so arranged that contact was usually made some 10-15 minutes before the rearguard position was due to be vacated. After each exercise the corps reversed roles. 30 cwt trucks were used for ft & crew trucks & all rifle company equipment (taken in care of light mortars) were carried.

Despite the almost insuperable difficulties of improvising an adequate umpiring organisation the exercises were most useful in that they brought out the difficulties of control & emphasised the need for keeping a reserve concentrated & in the hand of the commander.

The use of Amulins also gave much food for thought.

Appendix II

2/11 Bn. TRAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERIOD 5 - 20 FEB.

1. Lewis Gun practice Table 1.

Allotment of Targets at Anzac Range.

Tues. 6 Feb.	A Coy	(8 targets.)
Wed. 7 Feb.	D Coy	do
Thur. 8 Feb.	B Coy	do
Fri. 9 Feb.	C Coy	do

In carrying out these practices four or six guns only will be used, the others being continuously 'serviced' so as to be available if stoppages on the firing guns appear likely to hold up the practices. The number of guns to be used will depend upon the number of competent instructors available in each Coy.

2. Rifle Platoon Training.

Twelve platoon exercises have been set, and each platoon will carry out these exercises during the period 8 - 20 Feb; in accordance with the Time Table issued separately. The exercises are as follows:

No. of exercise	Scope	Area references to Liverpool Chart unless otherwise stated	Probable Duration
1	Platoon acting as vanguard to a Bn. moving from Ingleburn Station in a N.E.W. direction.	8500 8501	2½ hours.
2.	Fighting patrol sent out from Bridge at 862012 to dislodge enemy occupying WHITE HOUSE 874009.	8600 8700 8701	3 hours
3	Platoon with MT (2 trucks) sent to seize and report on River crossing at 913034.	GLENFIELD	3 hours
4	Organisation of Platoon defensive position on line of CURRAN CREEK astride bridge at 862012 against enemy (with A.F.V.s) advancing from S.E.	8601	3 hours.

No. of exercise	SCOPE	Area reference to Liverpool Chart unless otherwise stated	Probable Duration.
5	Platoon acting as covering party to demolition squad R.E. sent to destroy weir.	887985 CAMDEN sheet	3 hours
6	Assembly movement and forming up of platoon for night attack	8501 8801	2 hours
7	Platoon disengaging from contact with enemy withdrawing by day from defensive position INGLEBURN station to camp.	8600 8501	2½ hours
8	Platoon with MT (2 trucks) sent to establish Bridge head at MENANGLE.	7586 CAMDEN sheet	3½ hours
9	Battle drill including packing and unpacking of Platoon truck.		3 hours
10	Cross-country march, River reconnaissance and section reports (3) CURRAN CREEK and GEORGE'S RIVER	889025 to 912026	5½ hours
11	Cross-country march, road reconnaissance and report.	8104 8204 8305 8305	3½ hours
12	Fire control practices with harmonised sights.	25 yards range 865015	3 hours

3. Section Leading and Weapon Training.

Gaps in the training period not covered by platoon exercises will be filled in by Weapon Training and Section Leading. Coys will submit syllabuses.

4. H. Q. Coy.

Carrier group, Mortars, Sigs. and Intelligence will continue specialist training. C.C. H.Q. Coy will submit syllabus.

4. (continued.)

Transport and A.A.L.M.G. Platoons will be trained in the Lewis gun, wiring, and Field works including construction of concertina wire and road blocks. Wiring material will be available to H. Q. Coy on Mon. 8 Feb. and Tues. 9 Feb.

5. NIGHT Work.

Each sub-unit will work on two nights per week. So far as this training is not covered by platoon exercises arranged by Bn. H.Q. Coys will submit programmes. Wiring must be done on one night, and Section post and sentry routine (I.S.L. Sec 79 and 80) on another.

6. Anti-Gas Training.

The Div. Gas Officer is going to lecture to the 2/11 and 2/12 Bns. on Wednesday 7 Feb. at 1100 hrs. Coys (less D Coy details at Anzac Range) will march to the open-air theatre (855025) arriving there by 1045 hours, form up, and sit down, as directed by Adjutant.

7. Compliments during training.

When a visiting or inspecting officer approaches any squad during training hours, the instructor will give the command "Stand Fast", Salute, and ask if he may carry on with the lesson. It is not necessary for the squad under instruction to be called to attention.

8. Smoking during training.

It must be taken as an inflexible rule that nobody smokes during training periods (other than tactical exercises) except between 10 minutes to the clock hours and the clock hour. During tactical exercises the troops may smoke, if the progress of the exercise is held up for any reason, or when the director of the exercise gives permission, but not at other times. On no account will troops ever be permitted to smoke on the march.

9. March to and from training area.

Till further orders troops will march to and from the training area six (6) abreast; and officers and N.C.O.s will exercise constant supervision to see that men cover off from front to rear, and keep lateral dressing. About 30% of the men habitually look down at the ground when marching, instead of keeping their heads up; which usually means also that they hunch their shoulders. For a unit that has been in constant training for nearly three months the marching generally is not good. If officers merely walk at the head of the column they cannot see all the faults above mentioned, which are obvious to the onlooker. Marches must therefore be treated as part of the training, and constant supervision exercised.

9. March to and from training area (continued.)

This instruction does not apply to other marches, as to which the instructions on page 1 of Army Training memorandum 24 (issued to all officers) will apply.

10. Attendance at Training Parades.

Too many men are employed on administrative work during parade hours. Able bodied fatigue men must be reduced in number to the minimum necessary to provide well-cooked and properly served meals on time, and safeguard Coy stores.

All officers' batmen (unless actually detailed for duty in the Officers' mess) will attend all parades (except the early morning administration parade) as a matter of course. No officer may send his batman, or anybody else, to town during training hours, without the written approval of En. H. Q.

11. Maps.

An issue of Liverpool sheets 1" - 1 mile) is being made on the basis of one per rifle platoon.

12. Bayonet Training.

Attention is directed to page 26 of Army Training memorandum 25. Shooting from the hip (without ammunition) will now be introduced into training. There is no particular difficulty about this, as it was frequently done in the last war, though never taught. The thing to remember is that you only get one shot.

13. Training area.

From 4 Feb. onwards the Bn. Training area will be between the Camp and Ingleburn. A tracing has been issued to Coys.

2/11 Bn. PLATOON EXERCISES TRAINING PERIOD 8-20 FEB 1940

	THURS 8			FRI 9			SAT 10			MON 12			TUES 13			WED 14			THURS 15			FRI 16			SAT 17			MON 19			TUES 20				
	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E	M	A	E		
A. 7	1	7		2	8								4	10		5	11			12	6	9							3						
8	2	8		3	9								5	11			12	6	7	1	10							4							
9	3	9		4	10									12	6	7	1	8	2	11							5								
B. 10				5	11					7	11					8	2	9	3	12	4								6	1	10				
11				11	12					8	6A					9	3	10	4	1	5							7			2				
12				7	1					9	11					10	4	11	5	2							8			3	12	6A			
C. 13	4	10								11	11		7	1					12	6A	3	8							9			5	2		
14	5	11								11	6	8	2							1	7	4	9						10			12	3		
15	12	6								1	11		9	3					2	8	5	10							11			7	4		
D. 16	7	1		8	2					3			10	4		11	5					12										9	6		
17	8	2		9	3					4			11	5		12	6A					7	1									10			
18	9	3		10	4					5			12	6A	1	7					8	2									11				

Appendix II

Appendix 3 to 2/11 Bn. War Diary for February 1930.

C.O.'s notes for the month.

We have really done some training this month when we weren't taking leave in Sydney or thinking about pre-embarkation leave in Western Australia.

The 1st Reinforcements were a poor lot. Half of them left the train in South Australia so that they arrived in two batches. I had them all medically examined on arrival and a big percentage were boarded out as unfit. Most of these were obviously over age and should never have been allowed to enlist.

Where are the University and Public School boys? - apparently they are too proud or high-brow nowadays to enlist and fight as ordinary soldiers. It was very different in the 1st A.I.F. Of course it is difficult for anyone to realise that the country has been at war for nearly six months - nothing ever seems to happen - except leave.

The Governor-General's inspection and march past was a flop - ~~one~~ noone turned out to watch and the troops felt that the people of N.S.W. were not interested in them. Of course they were not, but it was much less trouble than marching through Sydney.

Blundell

2/11

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Mar 1940 To 4 Mar 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Ingleburn.	1 Mar 1940		<p>The 9 prospective officers who had been undergoing training at the C. T. D. Liverpool since 5th Jan 1940 completed their courses. Satisfactory reports were received in regard to all personnel from the Bn.</p> <p>The 7th Infantry course conducted by E. C. T. S. concluded today.</p>	
	2 Mar 1940		<p>C. T. D. personnel returned & rejoined respective Coy's. Week end leave granted to all members of Bn not on duty from 1200 hrs.</p>	
	3 Mar 1940		<p>The usual Church Parades were held.</p>	
	4 Mar 1940		<p>Bn strength is now 27 officers & 786 of ranks. Preparations commenced for the 1st Bn exercise lasting 3 1/2 days & involving movement of Bn from Ingleburn</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Bn

Date and Time.—From 4 Mar 1940 To 7 Mar 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			via Trenangle (14 miles) to Douglas Park (21 miles) Water supply main problem.	
	5 Mar 1940			
	6 Mar 1940	0830.	With exception of certain details from H.P. Coy under Capt Egan who remained in camp. The Bn moved to Trenangle (14 miles) Assault bridging constructed by A+B Coys. Adv. Gd. exercise practiced by C. & D Coys. Enemy represented by F.A.L.M.G. Pl. on M.T.	
		1400.	Bn. practice launching & use of assault boats	
		1930.	Inter Pl. recess to map reference - Page 15 bottles beer	
	7 Mar 1940	0830	A+B Coys move as adv. gd. to Douglas Park (7 miles) C & D Coys practice launching & use of assault boats & construction of assault bridging.	
		1400	C & D Coys move to Douglas Park.	
		1730.	Talk by CO on move to West End & pre-embarkation leave.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Bn. Date and Time.—From 7 Mar 1940 To 12 Mar 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	7 th Mar 1940	1900.	Outposts established + occupied by each PI for 2 hours. Signal communications established throughout Bn.	
	8 th Mar 1940	0800.	Bn withdraws by 2 parallel roads to triangle fighting rearguard action whole way. Enemy represented by H.A.L.M.B. PI. on M.T. Brigadier interested spectator of exercise.	
		1900.	Details left in camp arrive triangle - Camp concert assisted by beer purchased by mess under Coy arrangements. M.T. course concluded.	
	9 th Mar 1940	0800.	Bn returns to camp. Leave granted from 1200 hrs.	
	10 th Mar 1940		Usual church parade held. Leave granted from 1000 hrs.	
	11 th Mar 1940		Arrangement made for the return of all L.M.B. trophies Bren guns (3) A.T. rifles (3) + all signal equipment with consequent dislocation of training.	
	12 th Mar 1940		Return of above equipment commenced. All advanced training necessarily discontinued.	

D.3485/5.39.—C.4783.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Bn.

Date and Time.—From 13th Mar 1940 To 17 Mar 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	13 th Mar 1940		S.A.A. courses partly completed.	
	14 th Mar 1940		S.A.A. courses completed. Orders issued for move by Bn to Western Australia by boat and 3 kais.	
	15 th Mar 1940		Returns of equipment completed. - Further talk by C.O. on move to W. A. and explanation given that composition of boat + kais parties decided by place of residence and that consequent splitting of Coy + other units therefore inevitable.	
	16 th Mar 1940	1130	Boat party (including C.O. + 2 i.c.) for Dunoon marched out. O.C. camp. Maj. Sandover.	
		1300.	Boat party embarked at Ingleburn.	
		1700.	Boat party sailed from Sydney.	
	17 th Mar 1940	0700.	1 st kais party under Maj. Sandover (which included advance party for Claremont) embarked at Ingleburn.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Bn.

Date and Time.—From 18th Mar 1940. To 25 Mar 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Ingleburn.	18 Mar 1940		The Bn strength is now 27 officers + 779 of ranks.	
Adelaide		1300	1st tram party arrives Adelaide	
		1800	" " " leaves "	
Melbourne		1400	Boat party arrived Melbourne	
		1500	Leave granted to 2200 hrs.	
Melbourne	19 Mar 1940	0900	Leave granted to Boat party to 1500 hrs.	
		1800	Boat party left Melbourne. No absences.	
Perth	21st Mar 1940	0700	1st tram party arrived Perth. Adv. party under way. Handover proceeded Claremont showgrounds.	
Adelaide.		0800	Boat party arrived Adelaide. Leave granted from 0900 to 1630 hrs.	
Adelaide.		2200	Boat party sailed	
Ingleburn	22 Mar 1940		2nd tram party under Capt Morris departed.	
Fremantle.	25 Mar 1940		Boat party arrived Fremantle by Dunoon under CO.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Bn

Date and Time.—From 26th Mar 1940 To 31 Mar 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Perth.	26 Mar 1940		2nd train party under Capt Harris arrived Perth.	
	27 Mar 1940		3rd train party under Capt. Banks arrived Perth.	
Blaremont Showgrounds.	27 th Mar to		Advance party under Maj. Sandover prepare Blaremont Showgrounds for the remainder of Bn which	
	31 st Mar.		was on pre embarkation leave. Bn very scattered and neighbouring country quite unsuited to any form of advanced training. Proximity of Perth + Fremantle obvious disadvantage	
			Appendix I Notes on Stores	
			" II Notes on Training	
			" III C.O.'s notes for month	
			" IV C.O.'s diary 15/24 March 1940	

Appendix 1

Notes on Equipment

March 1940

1. As previously reported the position in regard to equipment was becoming satisfactory by the end of February. At that time a large proportion of the war equipment had been drawn and various training facilities in the way of obstacle courses, bayonet galleries & a 20 & 30 range had been constructed. At this time news was received that the battalion would take six days leave in WA prior to departure overseas. This entailed virtual disbandment of the unit for the period of 3-4 weeks.
2. Instructions received at this stage required the return of all vehicles, signal & C.O. equipment & other linen items prior to proceeding on leave & this was completed by 13 Mar. When the unit reassembled at Claremont early in April it was to find itself stuffed to a rifle & bayonet standard & incapable of movement on effective training.
3. ~~ADOS~~ ADOS Eastern Command & other "Q" Staff Officers expressed appreciation & conditions of stores returned by the battalion.
4. The work of Pioneer Section & personnel of A.M. has resulted in effective crating of all stores for transfer with unit to WA & the passing of stores England to ship & ship to England was accomplished without trouble.

March 1940

Appendix 2. Training

1. The only training activity of note undertaken in March was a ~~combined~~ tactical exercise undertaken between INGLEBURN - CAMPBELLTOWN - MENANGLE - DOUGLAS PARK. The exercise covered the following subjects:
 - (a) combined march & MT movements
 - (b) advanced guards
 - (c) crossing a river by assault bridge & boats
 - (d) outposts by night
 - (e) withdrawal
2. Whilst the exercises were primarily for the training of company officers some degree of co-ordination was required to provide tactical training for signals & intelligence. The exercises lasted four days. They aroused very great enthusiasm & provided valuable training.
3. Apart from this exercise the ~~other~~ month of March was from the training aspect wasted. Return of war equipment & administrative activity preceded the return of the battalion to W.A. for pre-embarkation leave & by the 1st of the month useful training had virtually ceased & was not to be recommenced seriously until the unit reassembled in Palestine.

Appendix 3 to 2/11 Bn. War Diary March 1940.

C.O.'s notes for the month.

A week of good training - a week messing about and returning equipment - the trip to W.A. - and leave. A month's work.

The men behaved very well during the moves by ship and rail. Hardly any breakages, no disorder, and nobody left behind except sick in hospital.

I am very worried about our move overseas as I hear we are to go on a regular British Army troopship which was supposed to go to the ship-breakers two years ago, and that she will be packed with men like sardines. Have written two letters to Bde. Commander asking him to do what he can to make things reasonably comfortable for the men.

W. H. H.

W. H. H.

Appendix IV

C. O.'s DIARY FROM 15TH to 24TH MARCH 1940.

- Friday
15. Mar. 40. War equipment was sent in by truck to No. 4 Wharf Darling Harbour and checked into ship with representative of shipping Company.
- Saturday
16. Mar. 40. Officers' baggage, mess gear, sergeants' mess gear, and orderly room boxes sent to Darling Harbour by M.T. also kit bags and packs. Engineer's party for ship together with details from 10th Bn. and Div. Sigs. proceeded to ship by road. 2/11 Bn. party by train from Ingleburn to Sydney thence by march to the wharf. At 1430 hrs. embarkation commenced and was completed as fast as the ship's staff could allot men to cabins. War equipment loaded into ship's baggage room by wharf labourers. Checked on board by Q.M. and staff. At 1600 hrs. Brigade Commander and B.M. arrived and looked over the accommodation. Ship sailed soon after 1700 hours.
- Sunday
17. Mar. 40. Calm day, very hot and oppressive during the morning. Church parade conducted by Chaplain after which men played games. At 1530 hrs. the ship ran into a damp fog which persisted for the rest of the day and night. It was particularly dense during the night and the fog horn was sounded continuously.
- Monday
18. Mar. 40. Ship arrived off ^{Pt Pirie} heads at 0900 hrs. but the fog was so dense that no further progress could be made until about 1100 hrs. when the weather cleared. When the ship attempted to turn in the river with only two tugs, the wind caught her and she was blown along side the coal wharf on the left bank of the Yarra. Two more tugs were requisitioned and the ship was then turned and berthed about 1500 hrs. E.S.O. and A.P.M. Southern Command, came on board accompanied by two representatives of movements Branch on the H.Q. No instructions to stop troops going on general leave till 2330 hrs. C. O. called on Col. Rowell 6th Div., to discuss provision for training in Western Command and on D.A.A.G. to ascertain position regarding first appointments and promotions sent some weeks ago. All except 5 men returned from leave on time. 4 were late but 1 failed to return next day.
- Tuesday
19. Mar. 40. General leave until 1530 hrs. to all except those who overstayed leave yesterday or were confined to ship for other reasons. C. O. called at Army Headquarters and on G.O.C. Southern Command. All troops returned from leave including the man who was missing last night and the ship sailed at 1800 hours.
- Wednesday
20. Mar. 40. A rough day - ship pitching badly. Very few people at breakfast and it was decided to abandon any idea of training parades. The conditions improved during the day and most people were about in the evening.
- Thursday
21. Mar. 40. Arrived Pt. Adelaide at 0830 hrs. D.A.A.G. met ship and gave necessary information regarding trains which were provided free of cost by the State Government, and lunch to which troops were invited by Cheer-Up Society. Arranged with ship to put forwarded dinner hours till 1730 hrs. and for special train to leave at 1655 hrs. C.O. called on District Commandant. All men returned from leave and the ship sailed late in the evening. C.O. wrote letters of thanks to Premier of South Australia and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide for the hospitality extended to the troops. The Cheer-Up Society is also providing free meals for the train parties at Adelaide and Pt. Pirie. The kindness of the people of Adelaide in this respect shows out in marked contrast to the complete indifference of the citizens of Melbourne who on neither of the two occasions when the troops have been passing through have offered them even a cup of tea.
- Friday
22. Mar. 40. A fine day and the training parades ordered. The troops are divided into three parts and have $\frac{3}{4}$ hour periods during the morning and afternoon - one period is listening to a lecture, another doing P.T. on the promenade deck and the third playing games on the boat deck. The lectures arranged deal with "First aid to the wounded" by M.O., "Elementary Tactics" with sand table by Major Anderson, "Mines and Booby Traps" by Lt. Dawson 2/3 Fd. Coy. and C.O. on Palestine. Church parade held this morning by Padre, being Good Friday.

Saturday Training programme continued - fine weather - rifle inspection and
23. Mar. 40. cleaning carried out as a drill on deck - pictures in the evening.

Sunday Easter Day - Church Parade in the morning. There is no R.C. Padre
24. Mar. 40. but Major Heagney has been conducting services for R.C. personnel.
No training parades this morning but usual programme continued in
the afternoon. A heavy swell and ship pitching which has caused
a certain amount of sea sickness.

Leave passes prepared for issue and arrangements made
to pay troops tomorrow. Engineers instead of sticking to the
programme have brought on the ship a number of people who propose
to take their leave in country towns and require leave passes
accordingly. O. C. engineer party when questioned stated that it
was necessary to adjust arrangements because the army programme
did not take into account that it was necessary to send N.C.Os with
train parties. This confirms the Bn's own experience and shows
how futile it is for higher authority to try and make detailed
arrangements which should properly be left to the unit which has
to carry out the move.

Blund

W.R.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Inf Bn.

Date and Time.—From

1 Apr 40 To

6 Apr 1940.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
PERTH	1 Apr.		3 rd Train party arrives from INGLEBURN.	
CLAREMONT	"	1600	Boat party (M.V. "Duntroon") finish pre-embarkation	
"	"	"	leave and report at CLAREMONT SHOW GROUNDS.	
"	"	"	Commencement labelling of baggage etc up to embarkation	
"	2 Apr		Issue of dental cards finalized. Replacement issues etc carried out.	
"	3 Apr		March route + M/T. CLAREMONT to ROCKINGHAM for bivouac exercises	
ROCKINGHAM	4 Apr		bay Exercises and construction of sand table models.	
"	5 Apr.		bay Exercises Swimming parade SAFETY BAY. Night exercise — Night march and attack	
"	6 Apr.		Return by march route + M/T. ROCKINGHAM to CLAREMONT.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Inf Bn.

Date and Time.—From 7 Apr. 1940 To 15 Apr. 1940.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CLAREMONT	7 Apr.	1515	Inspection by Major General Duxant G.O.C. Western Command. March post. Battalion "At Home."	
	8 Apr.		S.A. Courses & Field Firing SWANBOURNE RIFLE RANGE Reece Beach Defence. Bay training	
	9 Apr		do.	
	10 "		do Final Dental examinations	
	11 "		do do	
	12 ..		do R.M.O.'s Inspections. Report from Army School P+R Ing. course No. 3 - 5 members.	
	13/14 Apr		General W/E. leave	
	15 Apr		15 Personnel for O.T.C GUILDFORD transferred to A.I.F details & marched out. Tactical exercise SAFETY BAY B+C Coys. Other Coys Id. firing + S.A. Courses SWANBOURNE RIFLE RANGE	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 15 Apr 40 To 20 Apr 40

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CLAREMONT	15 Apr.	1530	Official "Security" film (4 mins) screened at battleside Picture Theatre. Also <u>interesting</u> programme (56 mins) including "Ferdinand the Bull" + newsreel of 16 Bde Group arrival in Palestine.	
	16 Apr		b.o. evacuated to hospital. Officers ratted his kit Tactical Exercise SAFETY BAY. A + D Coys Other Coys In firing + SA Courses SWANBOURNE R/RANGE + Coy. trg.	
	17 Apr.		March through PERTH	
	18		Checking Emb. rolls. Issue Emb. tickets etc.	
	19		Preparation breakfasting camp. Muster parades Emb. Rehearsal.	
FREMANTLE	20		Embarked Y3. 2/11 th 855 all ranks (incl. 39 officers) Other details 349 all ranks (incl 11 nurses) Training on voyage — P.T. lectures. Numerous fatigues & duties. Limited deck space.	20/30 April vide Appendix IV

D.3485/5.39.—C.4783.

Appendix II notes on training (sand table exercises)
 III Co.'s notes for month
 IV Diaries of O.C. Troops — H.M.T. Y3

1. 26. April. RECONNOITRING PATROL. (1 Sgt. & 6 men)
Capt. Horley, Lieuts. Shanahan, Allnutt, and Fleay.

2. 27. April. Defensive Fire Plan with special reference M.M.G's.
Capts. Binks and Grieve, Lieuts. Bayly and Bayliss.

3. 28. April (a) Ammunition Supply in the Field.
Capt. Jackson, Lieuts. Maitland, Chapman and Murray.

(b) ~~Exercise~~ Evacuation of Casualties.
Capt. Ryan, Capt. Honner, Capt. McCaskill, Lieut. Roberts.

4. 29th April. USE OF CARRIERS. (a) With van guard.
(b) With rear guard.

Capt. Egan, Lieuts. Bedells, Royce, and Greenway.

5. 30th April. (a) Mortar Detachment in Withdrawal.
(b) Mortar Ranging.

Capt. Norris, Lieuts. McRobbie, Darling, and Thomas.

(c) Use of A.A.L.G. Platoon during movement of a Bn.
with complete transport by day.

(d) Use of A.A.L.G. at rest.

Major Heagney, Lieuts. Beresford, Scott, and Johnson.

6. 1st May. Signal Communications during a Bde. night attack.
Major Sandover, Capt. Ainslie, Lieuts. Wood and Dowling.

7. 2nd May. Ration Supply in the Field.
Capt. Sweeny Lieuts. Devitt, Webster and Wild.

Appendix 3 to 2/11 Bn. War Diary April 1940.

C.O.'s notes for the month.

The move to Rockingham to bring people to earth after the trip over from N.S.W. and leave was a great success. The nights were cold but everyone seemed to enjoy the training. We had our first experience with Fowler stoves which worked very well.

The "At Home" and inspection by G.O.C. Western Command was a great success. He told the men the 2/11 Bn. had the reputation of being one the best Bns. in A.I.F. - which pleased them. I think he is right. It is difficult to view one's own Bn. in proper perspective and impartially, but I am beginning to feel that it is a good Bn. It is certainly better trained - in spite of all difficulties - than the 1st/11th was prior to Gallipoli.

I did not see the March through Perth as I was in hospital - but I believe it aroused much enthusiasum.

The "rattling" of my kit mentioned in the diary refers to my ancient felt hat - an heirloom for which I had a great affection. The officers pinched it hoping I would get a new one and look more up-to-date but I now have an even more disreputable second-hand one - the only one the Q.M. could produce on the ship.

I have kept full diary notes of the trip on the transport.

Blundell
over.

Appendix IV

H. M. T. Y3. - DIARY OF O. C. TROOPS.

1941

- April 8th Embarkation Officer Western Command reported. Said that he had made preliminary inspection of ship and I arranged to go down with ship's adjutant on Wednesday morning and look over vessel myself.
- 10th Visited ship with Embarkation Officer, Staff Captain Q Western Command, a Naval Officer and ship's adjutant. Shown over by Mate and Troops Officer. Accommodation poor, and troop decks, latrines etc. in dirty condition. Accommodation obviously insufficient for number proposed to be put on board. Very little deck space. Position regarding messing unsatisfactory. Army Headquarters has supplied table of quantities and Australian menu to ship's agents. Ship cannot supply meals in accordance with menu and purser states that the best he can do is to get as near to it as possible. Canteen position also unsatisfactory. Ship apparently has right to conduct canteen and keep profits. They say prices will be fixed by Canteen Board. Later discussed medical aspect with D.D.M.S. Western Command who has already seen ship and made adverse report. Asked him to look particularly into the fresh water question and also pointed out lack of facilities for exercise and training.
Wrote personal note to G.O.C. Western Command asking him to have a look at the ship himself.
- 12th Visited ship with G.O.C. Western Command who summed up position by saying that a good deal had been done to make the officers comfortable but nothing at all had been done for the men. He subsequently sent long lettergram to Army Headquarters suggesting that no more than 1000 troops be put on ship, and followed this up with a strong letter.
- 15th Various visits paid to ship by ship's quartermaster and adjutant. Quartermaster discovered that galley facilities will not permit tea to be served at meals when there is soup or stew. Navy have undertaken to supply extra copper for making tea. Very long list of duties supplied by Troops officer to adjutant. It would seem that the troops do nearly everything but navigate the ship and fire the boilers. This is not in itself a bad thing as it creates employment but I hope the Australian Government realises the position and is not paying too much for the charter. G.O.C.'s representations to Army Headquarters of no avail because although Q.M.G. sympathetic, apparently the Navy has the last say as to whether a ship is fitted to convey troops.
- 19th to
19th It seems very doubtful whether a Naval Officer is the person best qualified to judge. In our case a Naval Officer called Smith, who has apparently recently come to Western Australia, is the snag. He has taken exception to the Army's comments on what he regards as his particular affair and is digging in firmly behind a lot of regulations which no one else knows anything about. Discussed with G.O.C. the question of paying for shortages. I have been caught on this before. I asked the Troops officer what claim the ship would make in respect to lost blankets and he said 8/- per blanket. The G.O.C. and I inspected the blankets which are mostly worn out, thread bare articles worth nearer 8d. than 8/-. Asked G.O.C. to arrange for Ordnance to inspect blankets so that the value could be established in case of any claims later. War equipment and stores loaded during the week. The Embarkation Staff made an awful fuss about this and took ever so long over it. Actually we had no more to load than when we left Sydney and it was all done then without any bother in a very short time.
- 20th Embarkation. Total number 1204 all ranks. All men on board and "Final Inspection" (which is a complete farce as it is obviously too late then to do anything to remedy any major defects) was finished by 1100 hrs. The ship sailed at 1210 hrs. and anchored shortly afterwards in Gage Roads. A miserable lunch was provided for the men - no bread or tea and nothing substituted for them. Explanation; that there were no fatigue men to help the baker or the cooks, who have been doing nothing for weeks. 2/11 Bn. embarked 10 short of war establishment. One man was A.W.L. and the other 9 vacancies are accounted for

1
April 10th
contd.

by the fact that 15 N.C.Os. were left behind to train as officers for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Reinforcements and there were no men at the Recruit Training Depot who were equipped and had had pre-embarkation leave to take their places. The man who was A.W.L. was a quiet inoffensive person who had never been in any trouble since the Bn. was formed, but apparently his nerve failed at the last moment.

Some discussion as to whether engineer corporals are entitled to mess and berth as sergeants. Will ask about this later as I think some Staff Officer from 6th Div. will come on board when the balance of the convoy arrives tomorrow. Cool night and most people slept below trying out the novelty of sleeping in a hammock. Very much doubt whether this will last long as my experience is that after two or three nights, most people or at any rate those who are tall, give up and sleep on the floor. Rifles and equipment stowed away in armoury and hold. I asked for rifle racks on troop decks so that rifles would be available for training but nothing done.

21st Parade at emergency stations. Apparently when British troops are travelling only the officers actually on duty parade with the men in an emergency and all other officers congregate in the music room. This does not fit in at all with my ideas and I have given instructions that in future all officers will be with their men at emergency stations. The captain's inspection is a very ritualistic affair and takes a long time. An inspection at a stated time every day when everything has been cleaned up and polished ready for it, seems almost useless. Unless one goes down to the troop decks at meal times and during the night when the men are asleep or going to bed, it is impossible to form any appreciation of the real circumstances under which they live. Some slight opposition on the part of the Troops officer to the use of public rooms for lectures. Nobody has ever told me what the terms of the charter of the ship are and I have no idea what I can insist upon and how much the Master of the ship can withhold. Apparently when carrying British Troops, no training is ever done, and the men just move from the troop decks to the well decks and back again - these being the only parts of the ship to which they are admitted. Have told the Troops officer that I propose to use the whole of the promenade deck for physical training, the boat deck for lectures, (the structure of it does not permit its being used for physical jerks) and the various 2nd and 3rd Class music rooms, etc. for lectures, and he can break the news to the Master. If there is any objection I will take the matter up with Division.

Other ships of the convoy in Fremantle, fuelling and men on leave.

Embarkation rolls prepared by Records Office although guaranteed turned out not to be accurate as they take no account of recent promotions of officers and sergeants. I have had an argument with the Embarkation Staff Officer, who has tried to make me sign the embarkation roll as it stands, and says that the Records position is the only one that counts. This is, of course, ridiculous because there are 3 officers entitled to cabin accommodation and to dine in the 1st Class saloon, who are shown on the roll as N.C.Os., and a number of sergeants who are shown as corporals or privates and unless I qualify my certificate there will be trouble over the messing roll as supplied to the ship. I have therefore, signed the embarkation state subject to qualification and attached another state showing what the real position is.

At about 2030 hours a launch came off from the shore following signal from "Ramillies" to take off a man called Piesse on the ground that his wife had had an accident and wanted to see him. Interviewed Piesse who stated that this was only a ruse on the part of his wife to try and get him back, that he had no intention of going to see her, and that he was actually in the process of arranging a divorce from her. Sent message back to say, that ruse suspected and that unless independent enquiries were made and leave arranged with 6th Div., the man could not be permitted ashore.

1940

April 22nd.

Staff Officer Western Command arrived with further correspondence regarding Piesse, including letter from G.O.C. 6th Div. that he had received a telephone message from wife's doctor and that he approved of the man being sent ashore. Meanwhile however, "A" Branch Western Command and also the civil police had been making enquiries and discovered that there was nothing in the story, so that evidently the telephone message to the G.O.C. was also faked. Man refused to go ashore in any event, so no action was taken. Convoy sailed 1500 hours. Everything very matter of fact and P. T. parades not interrupted. Weather very calm but one or two people seasick. A good many more were homesick. The black out restrictions make things very unpleasant at night. Troop decks get very stuffy and it is dull not being able to smoke or arrange any entertainments on deck.

23rd Visited troop decks between 0100 hours and 0200 hrs. Very stuffy. Further discrepancies in embarkation return owing to promotions of N.C.Os. in odd units not previously discovered. General check made by ship's adjutant with all sub-unit commanders and reconciliation state drawn up. Allotment of deck space for training issued to units. This permits of every man getting 20 minutes P. T. morning and afternoon and in addition 5 minutes running around the promenade deck in the latter part of the morning. All available space in other parts of the ship is allotted for lectures.

25th Anzac Day. "Sydney" dressed with flags sailed past convoy in early morning and later "Ramillies" did the same. In the evening I spoke to the officers on the subject of Anzac Day. Not the usual type of address but pointing out the lost opportunities and lives thrown away on the first day through bad leading. Issued programme for sandtable exercises for officers for period up to Colombo. 2/11 Bn. officers will use the table in the evenings and other officers on board will go through the same exercises the following day. We have built a large sandtable in the 1st Class Library and it is possible to seat 35 people around it. Unfortunately however, if the exercise takes place after dark the room gets frightfully stuffy as there is no ventilation when the port holes are closed.

26th Emergency stations drill today instead of the usual inspection. The thing that would be most worth doing, viz. lowering a boat, is omitted. The ship's routine provides for two men armed with rifles and bayonets to stand by the falls of each life boat. I cross-examined the Troops officer as to the reason for this display of force and although he was non-committal, apparently their purpose is to prevent the native crew from panicking and to prod them with bayonets to encourage them to stick to their job. One would almost like to see this carried into execution for the purpose of testing its efficiency. The meals so far have been fair but the pudding provided today for the men was un-eatable. I directed the quartermaster to make enquiries from our own cooks and found that it was simply flour and water without any baking powder, and that is exactly what it looked like. No one ate it.

27th Very bad breakfast. Supposed to be grilled sausages but the sausages were fried and turned out to be some highly seasoned foodstuffs taken on at Marseilles the last time the ship was there. I tackled the purser myself and he said the sausages were West Australian but the cooks were emphatic that they were French sausages. I ate one of the sausages myself. It did not taste particularly nasty but the smell was horrible and it was not properly cooked. I took it to the S.M.O. who said the meat was edible and he thought that the taint came from bad fat in which the sausages had been fried. The hospital nurses were of the same opinion. Master has given instructions that no more of these sausages are to be served to the troops. The following wind which has persisted ever since we left Fremantle has made things very uncomfortable. The temperatures every-where on the ship are high and the atmosphere on the troop decks is foul. A lot of the men are out of sorts and nerves are on edge as a result of boredom and uncomfortable living conditions.

1940. When I inspected the breakfast this morning, somemen from the odd
 April 27th units on board made offensive remarks and so I called a parade of
 Contd. the troops on board other than 2/11 Bn. and addressed them on the
 subject of making the best of uncomfortable conditions. Arranged
 with the ship to put hoses on deck so that men could hose each other
 down. The ~~shower~~ showers are right along side the engine room
 and very steamy. People complain that they are hotter after a
 shower than before it.

The convoy has been zigzagging today but this has not
 relieved the position to any extent. If they would only turn about
 and sail into the wind for half an hour, the foul air on the troop
 decks should all be blown out. When running before the wind, the
 wind-chutes are useless.

28th Church parades. Very badly organised. We had a Church of England
 parade on the for'ard well deck for 2/11 Bn., one combined C. of E.
 and Presbyterian parade on the well deck aft, and R.C. parade in the
 3rd Class saloon. With no Coy. or unit parade grounds to assemble
 the men on, there was a good deal of delay in getting people into
 position and general lack of organisation. Assembled all officers
 at 1000 hrs. and talked to them regarding the necessity for looking
 ahead and arranging things properly for their commands, and also
 laid down in detail the procedure for the future when church parades
 are ordered. "Sydney" left today being replaced by a French cruiser.

29th Last night it rained a little and the wind changed to the north which
 has made conditions very much better. This afternoon there was a
 "tripe" strike. Two messes from the 2/3rd Fd. Coy. announced that
 they did not eat tripe which was on the menu for tea and requested
 something to be substituted. I ordered an inspection of the tripe
 by the M.O. who pronounced it satisfactory. The O.C. Engineer
 Detachment accompanied him and I directed the former to deal with
 the matter himself. The two messes did not draw their tripe but
 the curious sequel is that when I went around the mess tables nearly
 everyone else said it was the best tea they had had since coming on
 board. This is an example of the trivial sort of bother which is
 constantly cropping up when the weather conditions are bad and men
 are livery.

30th A heavy downpour in the early hours of the morning which wet the bed
 clothes of nearly all the men sleeping on deck. Pandemonium on the
 troop decks below ~~and~~ they arrived down there with their wet bedding
 and tried to find a place to sleep. Fortunately today has been
 mostly fine, although there have been one or two showers, and it has
 been possible to dry the blankets. The breakfast today was sausages
 again and although nearly all of the meat came from Fremantle the
 purser managed to introduce a few more of his French sausages which
 led to a further crop of complaints. I have had a heart to heart
 talk to the Master about this and he has had the purser on the mat.
 I don't think we will get any more French sausages.

Shand

W.M.

appendix IV
~~Page 5~~

1940.
May 1st

Worked out detailed arrangements for Colombo leave including changing of money and talked to Details on board other than 2/11 Bn.

2nd

Talked to 2/11 Bn. on Colombo leave. Afternoon spent getting hats and web equipment up from store.

3rd

Arrived at Colombo 1040 hours. Convoy not expected until tomorrow and no organisation ready to cope with leave today. However arrangements were hurriedly improvised. An officer sent ashore to change Australian money into rupees and he returned to the ship and money distributed before troops began to disembark between 1400 and 1500 hrs. Time when men to return from leave was extended into hours of darkness owing to the fact that tugs were unable to cope with the numbers in accordance with the timetable arranged, and it was then very difficult to control the position.

Attended a party at the Naval Commander-in-Chief's house at which I paid my respects to Divisional Commander, whom I have not met before. Subsequently conference of O.C. Troopships at Galle Face Hotel at which the Divisional Commander was to be present, but he went off to another appointment and left proceedings in hands of D.A.G.M.G. Discussion regarding leave tomorrow. G.O.C. was not favourable and had stipulated that in any event no man who had overstayed leave or occasioned any trouble today should be allowed ashore again but left matter to discretion of C.Os. Everything was very vague and I left the conference under the impression that on the majority of ships, leave would be restricted to men who had not been ashore today and others who had some special reasons, and that in accordance with the Divisional Commander's original idea the troops remaining on board would be exercised in ship's life boats. Returned to ship and discussed position with senior officers who were all against the granting of general leave tomorrow.

One man brought aboard under escort charged with hitting a Victorian picquet on the head with a bottle. A reinforcement who joined on the day before leaving Fremantle.

4th

Leave granted to men who were unable to get away yesterday and to any people who had any special reasons for having to go ashore. Arranged with ship for life boats to be lowered and timetable drawn up for exercises. At 1100 hrs. the Naval Commander in Chief sent a message to ship to say that all leave was stopped and this was followed not so long after by another signal to say that there would be general leave until 2330 hours. All this was very confusing and as the contents of the signal messages were disclosed to the troops by ship's personnel the men began to get very dissatisfied particularly as nearly every other transport appeared to have granted 100% leave. Sent Major Anderson ashore to find out what all these messages from the Navy meant and he visited Embarkation staff who said that they knew nothing whatever about them.

Addressed troops regarding leave and explained position to them. Made arrangements for changing rupees back to Australian money.

5th

A good many men overstayed leave but nearly all were on board by 2300 hrs. and the last man turned up at 0130 hrs. Convoy sailed at 0430 hours. Church parades went much better today. Held an orderly room this afternoon at which I disposed of all people who were late back from Colombo leave. 86 all told. I drew up a schedule of punishments based on time overstayed and applied it to everyone on ship. Some of the men from odd units were quite indignant at being punished for merely being a few hours late. Apparently this sort of thing has never been checked before with some units. The tomatoes served for the men's tea tonight were largely uneatable. They had been taken on board at Colombo in cases, some were over ripe, a few were eatable, but the large proportion were green and hard.

1940.

May 6th.

Conference with the Captain and purser regarding food matters generally. The whole trouble about this ship is that it has not sufficient refrigeration space. Everything in the refrigerator smells of everything else in the refrigerator and there is no room for storing fruit or bulky food. We examined the position regarding the tomatoes and went through the menu for the rest of the week in detail to ascertain if there would be any difficulty in sticking to it. This menu provides for four issues of fresh fruit and after that there will be no more. I am very angry about this because we brought on board 100 cases of apples and the arrangement with the purser was that we would issue all the fruit until Colombo and that he would provide for four issues of fruit ^{per week} after that. He now says blandly that he could not get any fruit at Colombo and consequently the only fruit that the ship will issue to the men on board is 30 cases of apples shipped in Fremantle. Suggested to the captain that he might enquire from the "Strathaird" if they had any spare fruit as they have refrigerator cargo space, and he promised to send a message. Went into the lime juice question and found that there ~~was~~ sufficient on board for four issues, which the S.M.O. considers will be enough. He is keeping this until the fresh fruit and vegetables are finished.

The ship's canteen ran out of Australian beer today and could only offer English beer at 6d. more per bottle than the men had been paying and they have declared this beer black. There has been great trouble over hammocks. The practice of the ship is to store all hammocks in the hammock room every morning and to issue them out at 6 o'clock at night. But the difficulty about this, is that there is such keen competition to get a place to sleep on deck that the issue of hammocks in the evening now resembles a free fight more than anything else. Have drawn up a fresh set of regulations to try and make things run smoother. Reports of theiving amongst the troops. Master tells me that his request to Y4 for fruit has been refused as they have none to spare. Altogether one of the most depressing days I have ever gone through.

7th Discussed with Master, plan for getting permission to use beer shipped for use of canteens in Palestine and although this beer is consigned on Bill of Lading in the ordinary way the Master has consented to our using it provided 6th Div. approves. Drafted message to 6th Div. requesting approval which signal officer was to send himself. So many people read the messages passing to and fro in the convoy that it is difficult to keep matters from becoming public property. I do not want the men to know anything about the beer on board unless we can use it, as this will only make them more discontented. I have therefore asked 6th Div. not to reply in clear, unless they approve my suggestion.

Today we dropped so far behind the rest of the convoy that it was not until late in the afternoon when the other ships had waited to enable us to catch up that my message regarding the beer could be sent. The trouble is that we have got a very poor crew and they cannot get as much speed out of the ship as the Commodore of the convoy thinks they should.

The new regulations about hammocks have made things work considerably better. Boxing on the aft well deck after tea. This is the third or fourth time we have arranged exhibition bouts and they are always popular but the trouble is that very few of the men can see what is happening unless they climb all over the spars, life boats, deck houses and anywhere else they can stand or hang on. This is all contrary to the ship's regulations, but fortunately the Master is broad-minded and he and I keep away and hope for the best.

8th 6th Div. replied this morning approving of my proposal to sell canteen beer. The matter requires a good deal of organising as we have to arrange with the ship to vacate the beer room and to let us get at the cargo and also to provide us with small change as they have all the money. I have put Major Anderson on with the Ship's Adjutant and baggage officer to organise. The ship's people generally are not inclined to be helpful but the Master is playing well and I think everything should be fixed by tomorrow. This afternoon we put up a greasy pole with some mattresses underneath and this has kept a large

1940.
May 8th
contd.

number of people amused for several hours. The grease is soft soap and the competitors become very dirty but they do not seem to mind it. Anything that will keep the men amused is worth while at the present stage. We have had one or two concerts in the early evening lately after dark and two of the nursing sisters have gone down and sung through the microphone - which is very popular.

9th Arrangements for opening the canteen this afternoon are complete and this morning I talked to all the troops and explained the position to them. The weather is a bit cooler but everybody is very bored and fed up with the lack of exercise and monotony. I think the prospect of the canteen re-opening has cheered them up a bit.

It is at times like this that you find out which is a good unit and which is not. The better disciplined units remain cheerful under adversity but the odds and sods grumble persistently and become more miserable every day. A cheerful bloke is worth ever so much to a unit particularly if he can make humorous remarks and keep other people amused. Everyone is being paid 10/- this afternoon so that the canteen should do a good trade tonight.

10th Canteen yesterday a great success. Two men unpacking cases and 2 officers handling the money. Struck an exact balance afterwards. We have had water restrictions ever since leaving Colombo but someone has now discovered where the tap is and how to turn it on. Have had to put extra guards on.

Officers report that thieving is rife - hats - towels - singlets - eating utensils - money:- in fact anything that can be picked up. A bad business, but nothing can be done unless the men themselves put it down. Men are getting slack in other ways too - had to start fines for smoking on deck during black out. This is rather hard in some cases as the man who calculates the period is not very good at his job. You can very often see the horizon fifteen or twenty minutes before the black out ends officially.

The Captain came to me this morning looking very serious to say that Germany had invaded Holland and Belgium. I was quite worried at first; I thought he was going to say the ship had run out of jam.

11th I have been concerned over the fruit position. Some days ago the Master at my suggestion sent a signal to the Y4 to ask if they could give us any fresh fruit and green vegetables at Aden. The ship replied that it was impossible. Today I had a message from Brigadier Savage saying that he would try and get us some fruit at Aden and I sent a message telling him that after tonight we would have no fruit or fresh vegetables on the ship.

12th Arrived Aden at dawn and anchored outside the harbour. When all the other ships in the convoy had been moored we went into the harbour. Pilot brought on board order from the Air Force setting out conditions of leave. Subsequently got signal from Y4 that no leave until further instructed. S.M.O. went ashore to get some essential drugs. Major Anderson went over to Y4 to try and get some fruit. A.C.F. Commissioner came on board and said he could not give us any fruit but would give us some cases of lemon juice and would make available £50. for cigarettes. This very welcome, though fruit would have been much better. In view of political situation, convoy ordered to sail at noon. Ship unable to get any vegetables or fruit and no time to get ice which is usually taken on board here to cool drinks during passage of Red Sea. Master sent for me and stated Navy took very serious view of the situation and that prospect of Italy entering war made passage of Red Sea dangerous. Escort reinforced by two destroyers, convoy escort ship and "Liverpool" with Admiral on board.

Aden Air Force responsible for air protection until relieved by Port Sedan who would in turn hand over to Egyptian Station. Said that Navy desire all water tight bulkheads closed

1940.
May 12th
contd.

but that he had objected on the grounds that this would make the living conditions extremely uncomfortable and Navy had grudgingly agreed to leave matter to his discretion. He threw responsibility on to me and after consideration I decided to leave bulkhead doors open and place an officer at each during hours of darkness. Arranged to mount all Vickers Guns available for anti-aircraft defence. Major Anderson experimented with mounting and found that by using the ship's rail it was possible to obtain a satisfactory mounting for A. A. work. In the late afternoon I addressed the troops - Details after and later the 11th Bn. on the forward well deck. Everybody very excited, so much so that they forgot to grumble about their tea. Passed through the entrance to Red Sea at 1040 hrs. For some reason a little before this the Ramillies decided to give a fireworks exhibition and sent up some star shells which amused everybody except the nurses who were sitting in the music room and thought that a battle had started. They kept very cool. Some decided to wash and iron their clothes during the night in order to keep busy.

- 13th Cleared decks before dawn and mounted the anti-aircraft Vickers Guns. Nothing happened. A Dull day; bitter complaints from the gunners that they got all excited for nothing. Have not told anyone that the real danger area will not be reached until tomorrow afternoon. Having told everybody what to do and what to wear in case of emergency, I have preferred to let people think that the real danger spot was the straits which we passed through last night.
- 14th It has been remarkably cool for the Red Sea. Yesterday was windless and the ship made a breeze of 12 knots which kept the troop decks aired. Today there has been a slight headwind. We passed Massawa in the late afternoon but saw nothing of the Italian Naval or Air Forces Based there. There was a haze on the sea and observation was poor. Aden Air Force had one plane overhead most of the day.
- 15th Another pleasant day. Got permission to fire Vickers Guns this afternoon and tested out the A.A. mountings which were found to be quite satisfactory. We fired to starboard but the Navy showed a great lack of confidence in our skill. The "Unsociable", as we have termed the destroyer which plays about on the starboard beam, promptly increased speed and got well in front of us and the Ramillies reduced speed and got right behind us. Vickers gunners very slighted. With the tension over people inclined to let themselves go a bit.
- 16th Nearing the end of the journey. Withdrawing ship's stores and packing. Pay today. I stuck rigidly to the Divisional Commanders order of one bottle per man but we could have sold very much more in the canteen. We pulled up the sandtable today and the Master, as soon as he found the floor was clear announced his intention of having a dance in the evening. I never suspected him of being a dancing fan but evidently from his remarks my sandtable has deprived him of his main exercise and enjoyment during a trip. We are due at Suez at dawn and the ship's adjutant and I have been trying to balance canteen accounts, pay, count cash, and complete reports etc. with a dance going on overhead and the gramophone making an infernal noise.
- 17th Arrived Suez at dawn and anchored. Col. Eather, 6 Div. Sigs., came on board to travel up the canal and give me the local picture. He brought on board disembarkation orders and a stack of papers which required reading. Spent the morning with him in my cabin. The ship moved from Suez during the morning and anchored with the remaining ships of the convoy in the Bitter Lake. Three transports go on tonight. We remain here until tomorrow night and disembark last. The only time anybody has thought of putting us anywhere but last was at Aden when we led the convoy out through the channel preceded by a mine sweeper. Possibly we were bait on that occasion. Discussed disembarkation arrangements with ship's adjutant and Major Anderson. There is one advantage in being last and that is we have got plenty of time. Spoke to the officers during the afternoon and gave them the general picture of what is going to happen. Everybody feeling end of the voyageish and unfortunately the ship's crew peddled some bad gin which caused a bit of trouble amongst the men.

1940.
May 17th
contd.

Very bad day with a khasim blowing. The water was so rough that we were unable to swim which was rather disappointing as I thought that would give everyone some exercise and keep them amused.

18th As a result of last night's performance, have closed the sergeant's mess and canteen, and also officers mess to confirm. Fortunately, the weather today is better and although there is still a fair wind blowing it has been possible for anyone who desired to do so to swim. A number of hardy people swam over 400 or 500 yards to the "Duneyira" but the prospect of boarders evidently alarmed the occupants because they rapidly hauled up their gangway and left our people nothing to hang on to, rest, except a rope which they also hauled up as soon as the last man let go. Went through embarkation orders in detail with all troops on board and the arrangements should work smoothly. The worst catch is that our war equipment and heavy baggage has to go on to Port Said and be unloaded there. I suppose someone will have remembered that this will deprive us of our cooking gear and that something will be provided for us at the other end.

We are to camp at Gaza Road and are the nearest unit to Div. H.Q., which may or may not be an advantage. Chief Paymaster and Records Officer, Lt. Col. T.V. Taylor, who seems to have advanced from captain to lieutenant colonel in record time, arrived on board. Explained canteen arrangements to Col. Moore and handed over cash to him. He is a member of the Canteens Board. Seemed very helpful. I forgot to mention previously that cigarette tobacco ran out in the ship's canteen the day after we left Aden and that we had to set up a tobacco shop with stocks provided from the cargo consigned to Canteens Palestine, as well as a public house.

The only shortages on the ship were two blankets and a hammock which blew overboard when bed clothing was being dried after a storm early in the trip. I admitted the loss but refused to pay the amount demanded by the ship and there the matter rests. With the news such as it is I should never hear anything more about the matter, but I dare-say ~~at~~ the critical stage of some operation next year I shall get a peremptory order to pay the 32/- myself, this being the amount involved. Most people went to bed early in order to get a few hours sleep.

19th We were due to arrive at Kantara at 0200 hours but for some reason the "Duneyira" took longer to unload than was expected and we did not berth alongside the pontoons until 0310 hrs. Disembarkation proceeded without a hitch and although first train was 20 minutes late, the second train got away to time which was good work considering the late start. The men were given a meal by the N.A.A.F.I. at 0400 hrs. or thereabouts of sausages and mash which was quite reasonable. Some person without any imagination whatever provided a meal for the officers consisting of tepid soup, luke warm roast beef and roast potatoes. The most peculiar food I have ever tried to eat at that time of the day. Some boiled eggs or bacon would have been very welcome.

The first train arrived at Gaza Road Kilo 89 on time and guides from the 2/3rd Bn. were waiting to lead the Coys. to their lines. Col. England also met the train and motored me over the area before the troops arrived. A platoon of the 2/3rd Bn. has been here for some days putting up tents, drawing the camp equipment which is in this part of the world "accommodation stores" and generally getting the place ready for us. They had a meal ready for the men on arrival - Australian Bully Beef and potatoes-which was very welcome. I am afraid we are going to have a lot of trouble with the cooking as our appliances consist of some oil-burning Sawyer Stoves which are working very badly, a minimum number of dixies, two Aldershot ovens which have to be erected and one field kitchen. Wood is very scarce. The tents are EPI pattern and are very comfortable. Every man gets three deal boards on 2 trestles to sleep on, plus mattress and two blankets in addition to the one brought from the ship. Latrines and showers have been erected and generally conditions, apart from the cooking, are much better than I expected.

1940
May 20th

Bacon for breakfast. This always causes trouble as 2 ozs of bacon looks so very little when cooked. When the Bn. is in running order and the cooks have saved potatoes, onions or tomatoes to go with the bacon, it looks much better. We have got four hired vehicles - 2 cars and 2 ramshackle 30 cwt. trucks.

Johnson

MO

Appendix V

18th May 1940

Saturday

DAILY ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1 No. 25.

By Lt.Col. T. S. Louch M.C.

O.C. Troops H.I.T. Y 3.

1. Disembarkation and Entraining.

Commencing at 0200 hrs. 19. May, troops will disembark at Kantara and entrain at Kantara East Railway Station in accordance with attached table. There will be two trains. The first train will accommodate the 2/11 Bn. (less rear party) and sick, L.A.D. Detachment and Padre O'Callaghan. The remaining units and detachments (less stretcher cases and hospital personnel detailed by S.M.O.) will proceed by the second train.

2. Tea on 18. May will be at the usual hour. Immediately thereafter messing gear will be cleaned and returned under the supervision of the messing officer who will issue instructions to mess orderlies.

3. Preparation of Kit. at 1900 hrs. all troops will parade at their troop decks. They will change into service dress and pack all their gear. Great coats will be carried in the pack and may be worn until disembarkation. Mess tins and eating utensils will also be carried in the pack or haversack where readily accessible. Blankets and waterproof sheets will be stowed in the kit bag. On completion of packing kit bags (sea and universal) and web equipment will be stacked on the mess tables. Rifles will be placed in a convenient position to mess tables. Men may sleep fully dressed and in their greatcoats (if they so desire) until 0130 hrs. 19. May.

4. Dress for Disembarkation all ranks. Service dress, hats, gaiters, web equipment (if issued). Water bottles will be filled. 20 rounds of S.A.A. to be carried by all men who have been issued with rifles. Respirators to be worn slung.

5. Ship's Duties will dismount at 1900 hrs. to enable the packing of equipment and placing on mess tables, to be carried out by all ranks. At 2000 hrs. No. Platoon "B" Coy. under Lt. P.M. Shanahan will mount as ship's picquet, leaving their kits on mess tables under a small guard. Ship's Adjutant will issue separate instructions to O.C. Picquet. Men on picquet not actually being employed may sleep on the promenade deck where space will be reserved for them by ship's police.

6. Reveille will be at 0130 hrs. 19. May and all troops will at once proceed to their messes and sit down, keep quiet and await orders.
Order of Disembarkation.

2/11 Bn.)	
44 L. A. D.)	1st Train
Padre O'Callaghan)	

Personnel proceeding by 2nd Train as ordered by O.C. Train Major B.S. Heagney 2/11 Bn.

7. Procedure on Disembarkation 2nd Train Party.

(a) Disembarkation will be carried out as directed by disembarkation officer Major R.L. Sandover. Officers will join their men on the troop decks and await instructions to disembark. On receipt of instructions, the unit or detachment concerned will proceed in single file, men carrying both kitbags, rifle and all their other gear etc. following the guide to the starboard gangway, on the landing stage and then to forming up area some 200 yds. away where each unit or detachment will be halted. Men will place their gear, rifles and equipment etc. on the ground and await further orders. On no account must units and detachments become mixed up. Men will remove their messing gear from haversacks or packs and when the order is given follow guides to messing area where breakfast ration will be drawn and eaten at tables until ordered to move. Arrangements will be made for the washing of eating utensils and thereafter units will move to the ration store

18/5/40.

where a train ration will be issued to each man. Following this units and detachments will return to the place where they left their luggage. During the absence of main parties at the breakfast place, O.C. Detachments must arrange for guard to be left to watch the baggage and equipment.

After the departure of the first train, the second train will be marshalled at the railway platform and troops will move over and entrain as directed by entraining officer. Entraining officer - Lieut. Allan 2/1 Con. Depot.

8. Baggage. Officer's light baggage will be carried from the ship to forming up area and thence to the train. Each officer will take this gear with him in the train and be responsible for it.

If possible men's kitbags will be taken into the carriages with them, but if this proves impracticable universal kitbags will be allotted into the baggage van. The greatest care must be taken to see that kitbags of all men in one detachment are kept together and not mixed with the luggage of other detachments, as this will lead to confusion at intermediate destinations.

O/C 2/1 Con. Depot will send back a party of 2 P.C.Os. and 10 men to report to Major Sandover at ship's gangway to carry the rifles and kits of hospital patients proceeding by train.

Officer's heavy baggage and all unit equipment, if any, not in the hold will be moved to the ship's baggage room prior to 1800 hrs. on 18. May.

On no account must baggage or equipment be left at any time without a suitable guard as thieving is rife and in Palestine Command the loss of a rifle or ammunition by any soldier is an offence for which he must be tried by court-martial.

9. Sick. Stretcher cases with Nursing Sisters and any other medical personnel considered nursing by S.M.O. will remain on ship and proceed to PORT SAID. Walking sick will entrain with 2/2 A.G.H. and detrain at GAZA.

[Signature]
Capt.
Ship's Adjt., H.M.F. Y3.

T R A I N T A B L E.

Serial No. of Trains and Compositions.	Units or Detachments	Depart KANTARA EAST	Destination	Detrain at	Time of Arrival at Detrain- ing Station	Method of reaching destination from Detrain- ing Station
		hrs.			hrs.	
I 2 Firsts (66) 9 Thirds (695) 1 Third (50) 1 Third (55)	2/11 Bn. (less sick and rear party) L. A. D. Details Chaplain O'Callaghan	0500	HOLMES LINES KILO 89	KILO 89	1105	Walk.
J 2 Firsts (65)	H. Q. Overseas Base	0630	Jerusalem	HAJDAL	1355	M. T.
3 Seconds (162) 1 Large 3rd. (63) 1 Third (50)	Details 6 Div. Bro. Coy	"	Bridges Lines Deir Suneid	DEIR SUNEID	1235	Walk.
1 Van for Luggage	Details Sigs.	"	Squires Lines KILO 89	Kilo 89	1205	"
	Details 2/3 Fd. Coy.	"	Bridges Lines DEIR SUNEID	DEIR SUNEID	1235	"
	Details 2/1 H.Q. Bn.	"	Heane Lines KILO 89	Kilo 89	1205	"
	Details 6 Div. Petrol Coy.	"	BARBARA		1315	"
	1 Con. Depot 2 Spec. Dental Unit 2/2/Aus. Gen. Hospital Walking Sick Y.M.C.A.	"	GAZA RIIGE	GAZA	1145	M. T.

TIME TABLE.

Train	Entraining	Depart	Arrive	Arr & Dep	Arr & Dep	Arr & Dep	Arr & Dep	Arr & Dep
placed on platform	to complete by	KANTARA East	and Depart GAZA	Kilo.70	DEIR	BEIT JIRGA	BARBARA	MAJDAL
GAZA RD.				SUNEID	CAMP			
				CAMP				
<u>FIRST DAY.</u>								
"A"	2345	0045	0100	0730/0745		0815/0900		
"B"	0115	0215	0230	0815/0850	0915/0930		0945/1010	
"C"	0315	0445	0500	1045/1100		1120/1200		
"D"	0515	0615	0630	1145/1200	1220/1240	1245/1300		1315/1335m
"E"	0715	0845	0900	1445/1500		1530/1615		
"F"	0915	1015	1030	1545/1600		1640/1715	1725/1740	
<u>SECOND DAY.</u>								
"G"	2345	0045	0100	0645/0700				0730/0800
"H"	0115	0215	0230	0815/0830		0905/0945		
"I"	0315	0445	0500	1045/1100	1105/1145			
"J"	0515	0615	0630	1145/1200	1205/1220	1235/1300	1315/1330	1335/1345

- Note re baggage:-
- (i) Sea kitbags accompany other ranks in coaches. Universal kitbags to be loaded in baggage vans.
 - (ii) In order to avoid delay at the various halts in the case of trains carrying units or parties for different destinations, it is essential for M.C. KANTARA to ensure that baggage is not mixed - and that the baggage required first out of the train is readily accessible. R.T.O. at KANTARA will instruct baggage representatives from each unit to enter the baggage van at GAZA (and if necessary travel in it to the next stop) to make sure that baggage is sorted.

SECRET.

MC/P.356/4

APPENDIX "A"

(In lieu of Entrainment Table "A")

Rail Move of 2 A.I.F. 2nd Convoy, KANTARA to GAZA-MAJDAL Area.
(For Time Table, See reverse)

Ex Ship	Serial	Unit or Party	Personnel		Train.	Detrain at
			Os.	ORs.		
FIRST DAY.						
Y.4.	143	7 Bn.	40	803	A ϕ	BEIT JIRGA.
	134	H.Q. 6 Div. *	11	97	B	GAZA
	135	H.Q. 6 Div. Arty.	4	20	B	DEIR SUNEID
	136	H.Q. 6 Div. Engrs.	2	31	B	DEIR SUNEID
	138(a)	Dets. 6 Div Prov. Coy.	-	9	B	DEIR SUNEID
	139(a)	Cmdr. 17 Inf Bde, Bde Maj & batmen *	2	2	E	GAZA (for BEIT JIRGA)
	148	6 Div Pet Coy.	5	231	B	BARBARA
	170	A.I.L. Sec.	1	6	E	GAZA
	191	3 Spec Dental Unit	1	4	B	GAZA
	195	2 A.G.H.	25	200	B	GAZA
	1	Chaplain	1	-	B	GAZA
	2	A.C.F.	1	-	B	GAZA
	3	Off. Photographer	1	-	B	GAZA
(ϕ O.Rs. in this train travel in goods wagons and must be warned of the danger of sliding doors slamming shut owing to train motion.)						
* Cmdrs. and senior Staff Officers by air).						
Y.2	141	6 Bn.	40	813	C	BEIT JIRGA
	133	H.Q. O/S Base.	7	84	D	MAJDAL
	133	6 Div. Prov. Coy.	1	53	D	DEIR SUNEID
	139	HQ. 17 Inf Bde.	5	63	D	BEIT JIRGA
	143(b)	Dets. 8 Bn.	2	40	D	MAJDAL
	150	46 L.A.D.	1	11	D	DEIR SUNEID
	156	1/C.C.S.	11	95	D	GAZA
	4	Chaplain	1	-	D	BEIT JIRGA
	5	Salvation Army	1	-	D	BEIT JIRGA
	140(a)	5 Bn. (1 O.R.)	-	1	D	BEIT JIRGA
Y.1	140	5 Bn	30	799	E	BEIT JIRGA
	137	2 Fd Amb.	12	250	F	BEIT JIRGA
	144	2 Fd Coy	8	248	F	BEIT JIRGA
	196	Inf & Gen Base Depot	7	60	F	BARBARA
	6	Chaplain	1	-	F	BEIT JIRGA
	7	Y.M.C.A.	1	-	F	BEIT JIRGA
SECOND DAY.						
Y.5	143(a)	8 Bn	38	771	G	MAJDAL
	149	40 L.A.D.	-	10	H	GAZA (for Kilo.70).
	153	2 Fd Regt	29	594	H	BEIT JIRGA
	192	4 Spec Dental Unit	1	3	H	GAZA
	9	Chaplain	3	-	H	BEIT JIRGA
	9	Surgeon	1	-	H	BEIT JIRGA
	10	A.C.F.	1	-	H	BEIT JIRGA
Y.3	175	11 Bn	40	823	I	Kilo.70, GAZA ROAD
	133(a)	Dets HQ. O/S Base	2	8	J	MAJDAL
	133(b)	Dets 6 Div Pro. Coy.	-	16	J	DEIR SUNEID
	145	Dets 6 Div Sigs	1	31	J	Kilo.70, GAZA ROAD
	148(a)	Dets 6 Div Pet Coy	2	52	J	BARBARA
	177	Sec. 3 Fd Coy	1	68	J	DEIR SUNEID
	186	Dets 2/1 M.G. Bn	2	67	J	Kilo.70, GAZA ROAD
	187	1 Conv. Depo	7	40	J	GAZA
	193	5 Spec. Dental Unit	1	4	J	GAZA
	195(a)	Med. Dets. 2 A.G.H.	7	29	J	GAZA
	11	Chaplains	2	-	J	GAZA
	12	Y.M.C.A.	1	-	J	GAZA

/Time-Table.....

TRAINS, KANTARA to GAZA-MAJDAL on two consecutive days in May, 1940.Composition & Marshalled Order.FIRST DAY.

Train "A". 40 officers and 803 other ranks.

GAZA & BEIT JIRGA (Stock not required again).

(Ex Y.4) 2 First/Second Compos. 40 offr's & 42 WO's or NCOs.
38 Wooden box vans @ 20 per van. (761 other ranks).
2 box vans for baggage.
1 Goods brake.

=====
Train "B" 48 offr's and 600 other ranks.

(Ex Y.4) GAZA, DEIR SUNEID & BARBARA (turns MAJDAL)

2 Firsts. 48 officers and 10 W.Os.
3 Seconds. 168 O.Rs. @ 56 per coach.
2 Large Thirds. 150 O.Rs. @ 75 per coach.
4 Small Thirds. 216 O.Rs. @ 54 per coach.
1 Third/Brake. 56 O.Rs. and baggage.
1 Perishables Van. For Baggage (At rear, not front of train, in all cases).

=====
Train "C" 40 officers and 813 other ranks.

(Ex Y.2) GAZA & BEIT JIRGA (Blocks back to DEIR SUNEID)

2 Firsts. 40 offr's., & 25 W.Os. or N.C.Os.
9 Large Thirds. 684 O.Rs. @ 76 per coach.
1 Small Third. 50 other ranks.
1 Third/Brake. 54 other ranks and baggage.
1 Perishables van. For baggage.

=====
Train "D". 29 officers and 347 other ranks.

(Ex Y.2) GAZA, DEIR SUNEID, BEIT JIRGA & MAJDAL.

2 Firsts. 29 offr's., and 37 W.Os. or N.C.Os.
3 Seconds. 180 other ranks @ 60 per coach.
1 Large Third. 75 other ranks.
1 Third/Brake. 55 other ranks and baggage.
1 Perishables van. For baggage.

=====
Train "E" 30 officers and 799 other ranks.

(Ex Y.1) GAZA & BEIT JIRGA (Blocks back to DEIR SUNEID)

2 Firsts. 30 officers & 42 W.Os or N.C.Os.
9 Large Thirds. 702 O.Rs. @ 78 per coach.
1 Third/Brake. 55 other ranks and baggage.
1 Perishables van. For baggage.

/Train "F"....

Train "F" 26 officers and 558 other ranks

(Ex Y.1) GAZA, BEIT JIRGA & BARBARA (turns MAJDAL)

1 First. 26 officers.
2 First/Second Compos. 98 other ranks.
2 Large thirds. 160 other ranks.
3 Small Thirds. 180 other ranks.
2 Third/Brake. 120 other ranks and baggage.
1 Perishables Van. For baggage.

=====

SECOND DAY

Train "G" 38 officers and 771 other ranks.

(Ex Y.5) GAZA and MAJDAL.

2 Firsts. 38 offr. & 32 W.Os. or N.C.Os.
9 Large Thirds. 684 O.Rs. @ 76 per coach.
1 Third/Brake. 55 other ranks and baggage.
1 Perishables van. For baggage.
(Same as Train "E").

=====

Train "H" 35 officers and 607 other ranks.

(Ex Y.5) GAZA and BEIT JIRGA.

1 First.)
1 1st/2nd Compo.) 35 offr. & 30 W.Os. or NCOs.
4 Large thirds. 260 O.Rs. @ 65 per coach.
6 Small thirds. 270 O.Rs. @ 45 per coach.
1 3rd/Brake Compo. 47 O.R.s and baggage.
1 Perishables van. For baggage.
(Stock taken from trains "B" and "F")

=====

Train "I" 40 officers and 823 other ranks.

(EX Y.3) GAZA and Kilo.70 GAZA RD.

2 Firsts. 40 offr. & 25 W.Os or NCOs.
9 Large thirds. 693 O.Rs. @ 77 per coach.
1 Small third. 50 O.Rs.
1 Third/Brake. 55 O.Rs. and baggage.
1 Perishables van for baggage.
(Same as Train "C").

=====

Train "J" 26 officers and 315 other ranks.

(EX Y.3) GAZA, Kilo.70 GAZA RD., DEIR SUNEID, BARBARA & MAJDAL

2 Firsts. 26 offr., & 40 W.Os. or N.C.Os.
3 Seconds. 162 O.Rs. @ 54 per coach.
1 Large third. 63 other ranks.
1 Third/Brake. 50 other ranks and baggage.
1 Perishables van. For baggage.
(Same as Train "D").

=====

NOTES:- (i) All 1st class coaches to be Birmingham.
/Small All/thirds to be Midland.
All 1/2 Compos to be Metropolitan.

(ii) All entrainment will take place at the platform at KANTARA EAST station.

15/5/40.

GENERAL. The 27 day trip has been extremely uncomfortable for the troops on H.M.T. Y3. The transport is old, slow, without many conveniences, badly ventilated and undoubtedly overcrowded. Absolute inadequacy of exercise and amusement space has rendered it impossible to keep the men in desirable condition and spirits. Physical training has perforce been limited to small groups of men at a time - about 20 minutes each, morning and evening. Deck games are out of the question. Lectures and concerts have been conducted in the 2nd. Class Dining Room and the 3rd. Class Music Room, both of which have a maximum capacity of 100 i.e. 8% of troops ~~aboard~~ aboard. Following winds, heat, high humidity and "blackout" restrictions, have, of course, made matters worse. The average temperature in the troop-decks and hospital for the first week of the voyage was 90° - 94°F. Paucity of showerbaths and washbasin provision, and absence of a swimming bath of any kind, contributed to the universal "prickly heat".

HEALTH. Health of the troops has been most surprisingly good. The maximum of hospital patients on any one day was about 35. The great majority were respiratory inflammations. These conditions were bound to appear, where troops are crowded in hammocks with very little distance between heads, and consequent spread by droplet "infection".

FOOD. Food has been of average initial good quality. But most inadequate refrigeration, and cold storage accommodation has caused much wastage and spoiling in the later stages. Meat and bread have been good. Vegetables of good quality at first. Large quantities of tomatoes and potatoes were rejected later. Stocks of carrots and beetroot fermented, chiefly because they were stored aboard with green tops unremoved. Fruit (fresh) was not renewed at Colombo or Aden and had to be replaced by issues of lime juice and raw onions last week.

The men were unable to obtain cold drinks - warm water and warm beer are not palatable in the Tropics. During one portion of the trip, fresh water restrictions were in force. The Canteen, early, ran out of beer and tobacco - inadequate supplies of which were obtained subsequently when the O.C. Troops was permitted to use stocks consigned to canteens in Palestine.

All rations were carefully watched by O.C. Troops and all food complaints investigated thoroughly. In this matter the Ship's Staff co-operated in every possible way.

HYGIENE & SANITATION. Hygiene and sanitation under the existing conditions were maintained very well. The daily Ship's Inspection was most thorough, throughout.

CLOTHING. Clothing of troops was unsuitable, viz. working dress slacks; only a percentage possessed "shorts".

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Hospital accommodation proved ample, but very hot and badly ventilated. The R.A.P. or Medical Inspection Room for Sick Parades, was a veritable "Black Hole of Calcutta". The Nursing Sisters and M.O's worked there under appalling conditions.

An Operating Theatre and a Dental Surgery were successfully improvised from the original Female and Officers' Special Wards. A Prophylactic Depot was available in the Isolation Quarters under the "Stern Gun". Infectious cases were accommodated in the "T.B. Ward". Considerable trouble was experienced in working the ship's "dressing-sterilizer."

Ice-chest accommodation in hospital for sera, vaccines, and invalid foods and drinks was most inadequate.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

The medical equipment provided was excellent with a few omissions. Temperature charts, towels, kidney dishes, medicine glasses, dispensing measures, and urine testing apparatus were omitted. The supplies of thermometers, S.V.M. plastine, adhesive strapping,

Coramine, Calamine Lotion, inhalants and hypodermic needles were soon exhausted. Extra supplies of some of these articles were obtained from the R.A.F. Hospital at Aden. A good microscope was rendered ineffective by the omission of an oil immersion lens.

Overalls or gowns for use of A.A.M.C. personnel in hospital or R.A.P. would have been a boon. A primus stove, small kettle and saucepan would have been invaluable to the nursing staff in preparation of invalid foods and drinks.

Hospital stationery e.g. A. & D. Book, Sick Reports etc. were improvised.

A Syllabus of Lectures was delivered - for Nursing Sisters on Tropical Diseases - for Medical Orderlies - and troops on Hygiene etc.

The Nursing Sisters did most excellent work in very strange and uncomfortable conditions. The work of the A.A.M.C. personnel aboard was satisfactory in every way.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Recommendations for any future trips of H.M.T. Y3:-

- (1) Renewal of fresh fruits and vegetables at each port of call - oranges, apples, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, beetroot, etc.
- (2) As an alternative to (1), that a ship in the Convoy with large cold storage capacity, should carry such fruits and vegetables for transfer to the other ships, at ports of call.
- (3) Adequate supplies of beer and tobacco
- (4) Installation of a swimming tank.
- (5) Issue of "shorts" to all troops.
- (6) Improvisation of some method whereby each soldier can obtain cold drinks.
- (7) Limitation of troops aboard to a maximum of 950.
- (8) During hot weather the Convoy should steam into the wind for quarter of an hour in the evening to ventilate the troop decks and improve sleeping conditions.

(Sgd.) J. H. STUBBE, Major

S.M.O. / H.M.T. Y 3.

LEAVE AT COLOMBO.

The present indications are that daylight shore leave will be granted at Colombo during part of the ship's stay in port. The ultimate decision regarding leave rests with the G.O.C. Ceylon Command and any leave given will be subject to such restrictions and orders as he may make. Assuming however, that leave is granted the following is a forecast of the arrangements.

1. There are no wharves at Colombo and ships have to tie up to buoys in the harbour. The conveyance of troops from ship to shore and return will be by means of tugs. There are 7 tugs with an average carrying capacity of about 160 persons. It is unlikely that all the troops in the convoy will be allowed ashore at the same time.
2. There is only a small passenger landing jetty which is double-decked. The lower deck only will be used by troops. On arrival of a tug at the jetty, troops will disembark and proceed through the Customs Shed to Wharf Road where they will fall in in threes. From the jetty troops will march under a guide to one or other of three points - Echelon Barracks, Rifle Green or Calle Face. The actual point for this ship will be indicated later. On reaching this point troops will be dismissed and will be given the opportunity of proceeding under their own arrangements to look at the town or do shopping. Prior to breaking off they will be told of the time for reassembly which will be at the point where they were dismissed. Leave passes will not be issued. Officer in charge of dismissal and reassembly - Capt. D.A.C. Jackson.
3. The wet canteen in Echelon Barracks will be open to troops, and sergeants may visit the R.E. Sergeants Mess which is also in the Barracks. Wet canteens and buffet bars will also be established at dismissal points. Troops must realise that the hotels in Colombo are accustomed to catering only for wealthy tourists and drinks, cigarettes and meals are very expensive. Souvenirs and the usual type of articles bought by tourists, can be purchased at varying prices, but nearly everything in the shops comes from either Birmingham or Japan. In the British shops prices are fixed, but native dealers will usually ask an exorbitant price to begin with and expect to be talked down into taking much less.

4. The ship will supply a piquet for duty for Colombo during the leave period.

Detail of Piquet - O.C. Major R.L. Sandover.
2/11 Bn. Lieut. Murray and Roberts.
 C.S.M. Watson.
 Sgt.
 3 Cpls. and 10 men.
2/3 Fd. Coy. Lt. Dawson.
 1 N.C.O. and 4 men.
2/1 M.G. Bn. 1 N.C.O. and 4 men.

This will provide two reliefs, provided the period of leave is sufficiently long. If the period of leave is too short, arrangements will be made for the members of the piquet to have some little time off to do shopping. The piquet will be divided into two patrols and a small standing piquet under an officer at the dismissing point.

The duty of patrols will be to help men on leave by advice, to prevent unsoldierly conduct, and to take back and hand over to the piquet at his own dismissing point any man whose leave should be obviously curtailed in the interests of the reputation of the A.I.F. The duty of the standing piquets at the dismissing point will be to guard and to return to his own ship as soon as possible any man handed over to them for custody.

5. The dress for piquet and personnel proceeding on leave will be as follows:-
 - (a) Piquets. Belt and side arms. Service dress, (jacket and trousers) Hats turned down.
 - (b) Leave Parties. Officers. Khaki drill (if available) and hats turned down.
Other Ranks. Service dress, (jackets and trousers) Hats turned down.

6. Ship Duties in Port. The following essential duties will be maintained on board ship during the whole time in port. If possible reliefs will be arranged to enable all men (except those sick in hospital) to visit the shore.

7. Lt. Allnutt and Lt. Bedells will take charge of the ships gangway during the actual time when men are being transferred from the ship to tugs. They will see that men disembark in subunits and will count the actual numbers of (i) officers (ii) nurses and (iii) other ranks, disembarking for leave as they pass down the gangway. They will notify ships adjutant who will render disembarkation return to the Embarkation Staff Officer.

8. Invalids to be landed for treatment in shore hospital. S.M.O. will notify ships adjutant before arrival in port if any sick have to be landed at Colombo. Separate instructions will then be issued.

9. Disembarkation for Leave. When the allotment of tugs has been notified by G.O.C. Ceylon, a timetable for disembarkation will be issued. Details and subunits will parade separately and be marched in orderly manner down the gangway. As far as possible Coys. and subunits will not be broken up as this will tend to confuse and delay the changing of money if this has to take place at the dismissing point. It is unlikely that disembarkation for leave will begin until at least two hours after arrival in port as the tugs will be required to tow coal, oil, and water barges to the transports before starting to deal with leave parties.

10. Roll Call. A muster parade and roll call will be held by every unit on the ship immediately troops have returned from leave and the names of any absentees reported to the ships adjutant.

11. The currency of Ceylon is rupees and cents. The exchange rate varies from day to day and until the transport actually arrives in Colombo, the current rate of exchange will not be known. It is probable that one Australian £. will be worth about 11 rupees. The changing of money with private money changers usually involves a considerable loss and if it is left to individuals to try and convert Australian money into rupees through the local banks, there will be considerable delay and confusion. The following procedure is at present under consideration and will possibly be adopted.

Before arrival at Colombo each man will sign an acquittance roll for £1. Australian. This £ will not actually be paid over to him but will be retained by O.C. Troops. As soon as possible after the arrival of the ship in Colombo Harbour, an officer will be sent ashore to one of the banks to convert the ships pay from Australian £1. notes into Ceylon currency. This officer will either return to the ship and pay over to the men before they proceed on shore the equivalent as nearly as possible in rupees of the Australian £, or else he will proceed to the dismissing point (i.e. the point to which the troops are marched from the landing jetty) and pay the men before they are dismissed.

At the conclusion of the leave men may return any Ceylon money still in their possession and an officer will be sent ashore to convert this into Australian currency, after which the equivalent in Australian currency will be handed back to the man.

It will not be possible to deal in fractions of a penny, and men must understand that there will probably be some small balance left in the hands of O.C. Troops. This will be handed over to the ship's Sports Officer to spend for the benefit of all the troops on the ship.

The above procedure will be comparatively simple if the exchange rate of the rupee is 1/9d. or some fraction under this sum, as then each man can be given 11 rupees subsequently he will receive a few pence to make up the difference between the 11 rupees and the £1.

The ships staff have only one desire and that is to make the best arrangements possible from the point of view of the men and it is thought that it will be better to adopt the course suggested rather than to have each man to change his own money.

If however, men think they can do better themselves or regard the proposed arrangements with suspicion, the scheme outlined above will be modified or abandoned. Unit Detail Commanders will notify the Ship's office by noon on Wednesday if their men understand the above proposals and desire them to be carried into effect.

12. General.

- (a) All other ranks must be warned to obey orders given to them by any officer or N.C.O. irrespective of unit.
- (b) Troops will be warned to drink only in Army messes, canteens or hotels. Native drinks or drinks purchased at street stalls or on unauthorised premises are injurious to health.
- (c) It is highly dangerous to consort with native prostitutes.
- (d) Rickshas drawn by coolies are used commonly as a means of conveyance in the city. It is not the custom of the country for white troops to fraternise with native coolies and if troops ride in rickshas, they must do so without any display of larikism. It is said that other Australian Troops have caused difficulties by overloading rickshas and also by pulling them around the town themselves. Such manifestations of high spirits are not understood in Eastern countries, and it is the correct and proper thing for Australian soldiers to behave as the white inhabitants normally do.
- (e) Night leave or permission to disembark and re-embark under private arrangements will not be granted.
- (f) There are three cinema theatres which will probably be open allday. The cost of admission is 1 rupee (about 1/9d.)
- (g) Bathing in the sea at Colombo is absolutely forbidden owing to the danger from undercurrents and sharks.

13. Message from G.O.C.

The G.O.C. 6 Div. has directed that the following message be conveyed to all troops before arrival at Colombo:-

"The granting of all leave at Colombo depends primarily upon the requirements of the Navy. Subject to these every effort will be made to give the maximum daylight leave. The reputation of the A.I.F. will be in the hands of those on leave, and will depend on their soldierly bearing and commonsense. A high standard of behaviour will ensure the privilege of shore leave to later convoys.

Officers and N.C.Os must remember that their responsibility for supervision is not restricted to their own units."

4th May 1940

The Secretary,
Military Board,
Army Headquarters,
MELBOURNE.....VIC.

I have the honour to submit a preliminary report on the voyage of H.M.T. Y3 as far as Colombo.

(a) Embarkation.

The troops embarked at Fremantle on the morning of Saturday 20th April. Total number -

59 Officers
11 Nurses
10 Warrant Officers
66 Sergeants
69 Corporals
<u>989 Other Ranks</u>

Total ... 1204

The above numbers agree in total with the embarkation roll but there are variations in the numbers of officers and sergeants due to late promotions which had not gone through Records.

(b) Departure.

The ship left the wharf at 1210 hours on 20th April and anchored in Gage Roads shortly afterwards. The convoy sailed from Fremantle at 1500 hrs. on Monday 22nd April.

(c) The convoy arrived at Colombo on the 3rd May in the forenoon. The leave arrangements were chaotic. I will deal with this matter in my final report.

(d) There is nothing particular to report so far regarding the health of the troops. A full report with statistics will be included in my final report on the voyage.

(e) Training.

Owing to the very limited deck space, it is difficult to carry out any systematic training. This is one of the greatest drawbacks to the ship as a transport for troops. Approximately 400 men per day are employed on ship's duties which also interferes with training. This number seems ridiculous, but as it is so difficult to find anything for the men to do, it is better to employ them as sentries, sweepers etc.

Every man gets two periods of about 20 minutes each of physical training per day - one in the early morning and one in the afternoon, and in the latter part of the morning after the Captain's inspection every man gets 5 minutes of running around the deck. At other times, lectures are carried out wherever it is possible to collect any number of men together.

A large sandtable has been erected in the 1st Class Library and sandtable exercises are held each evening for officers of the 2/11 Bn. and each morning for the other officers on the ship. At other times this sandtable is used for exercises for N.C.Os. and specialists.

There is no place on the ship where a medicine ball can be used, and there are practically no facilities for recreational games.

A small boxing ring can be erected on the Well Deck Aft, but very few people can look on unless they climb all over the deck houses and sit on life boats, spars etc. which is contrary to the ship's regulations, though these are not insisted upon too rigidly.

The practice of the ship is to place all rifles in the armoury aft, which is inaccessible, so that no arms drill or rifle training can be carried out. Similarly web equipment is stored in the hold and not available during the trip.

Except as regards the officers who are receiving very valuable training with the sandtable, it must be realised that the duration of the voyage is almost a complete blank as regards training. The most that can be done is to try and keep the men as physically fit, and employed, as usefully as possible for most of the day.

- (f) Discipline.)
 - (g) Personnel.)
 - (h) Casualties.)
- Nothing special to report at this stage.

(i) Messing Facilities.

The cooking facilities are not good. The ship supplies 3 cooks and the rest of the cooking is done by troops. The galley is extremely hot; the temperature is often over 120 degrees. The food is on the whole good but the refrigeration space on the ship is limited and the meat has a refrigerator taste. The atmosphere on the troop decks where the meals have to be eaten is uncomfortable and this leads to complaints regarding messing which are very often uncalled for.

One meal at which highly seasoned sausages were served led to a general chorus of complaints. The meat in the sausages was good but Australians do not like food to which they are unaccustomed.

- (j) Pay.)
 - (k) Losses.)
- Will be dealt with in final report.

(l) Horses. Nil.

(m) Fresh water supply.

This has worked out better than I expected. The ship carries 1400 tons of water for all purposes including engine room, and the supply was sufficient for the 11 days' trip, without imposing restrictions. There is no proper provision for the supply of cold drinking water. The refrigeration plant of the ship is incapable of manufacturing ice and it is not possible for the men to procure a really cold drink. This matter should receive consideration before the ship is used again for the transport of troops in hot weather.

(n) Ships arrangements generally.

The vessel is an old regular British Army Transport. The disparity between the saloon accommodation provided for the officers and sergeants, and the troop deck accommodation for the men, is so great as to cause embarrassment to those occupying the better accommodation. I should be much happier myself if I lived on a troop deck and shared the hardships of the men.

The troops live in a constant state of discomfort when there is a following wind. For the first 7 days there was a following wind blowing at almost the exact pace at which the ship was travelling. The wind chutes in such circumstances were of little value and the atmosphere on the troop decks was hot and foul. The discomfort might have been mitigated if the convoy had steamed into the wind for half an hour each day, which I believe is ~~usually~~ ^{commonly} done.

On the 29th April (a typical day) the temperatures as taken by the Ship's Staff were as follows:-

Air	88 degrees
Galley	123 "
Troop decks and cabins	varying from 90 to 94 "

While the ship is undoubtedly capable of carrying the number of troops now on board in an emergency, I consider that only in an emergency should so many be carried. With 900 men on board with a few alterations the conditions could be made very much more comfortable.

The black out at night increases the discomfort. There is no saloon or other covered space where the men can be collected together in the evenings for concerts or other entertainments. This makes life very dull at nights.

The fact that other troops in the same convoy are travelling in greater comfort, and that troops in other convoys have travelled in luxury does not make the position easier. On the whole the men have put up with their discomfort with cheerfulness but tempers get a little frayed - particularly when there is a meal which they do not like - and considerable tact is sometimes necessary.

(o) Sanitary Arrangements.

The bathing facilities are poor. The showers which are of course salt are right along side the engine room and the place is invariably steamy. The men complain that they are hotter after a shower than before. Some prefer to hose each other down on the deck, and hoses are left there for that purpose by the ship. Possibly some of the "family" cabins could be gutted and turned into bathrooms and latrines of a more comfortable description.

(p) Co-ordination with Master of Vessel.

The relations between the troops and the crew of the ship have been very satisfactory. The captain is a North Countryman who speaks his mind, and he and I understand each other's point of view and get on very well together.

He is prepared to do all he can to fit in with the convenience of the troops. The present staff of the ship had had no previous experience in transporting Australian troops and were a bit apprehensive at first.

The ship has evolved an elaborate routine which has been carried out with British Troops over many years and although it absorbs in duties a very large number of men daily, for the reasons above stated, I thought it advisable to follow the ship's wishes in the matter of duties.

The troop officer is very capable and he and the ship's adjutant have also get on well together, which has made for smooth running. I do not think that the ship's staff could have done anything more than they have done to make things comfortable, with the facilities at their disposal.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|-----------------------|
| (q) | Recreation, amusements, etc. |) | Will be dealt with in |
| (r) | Religious services, Chaplain, Y.M.C.A. |) | final report. |

(s) Weather Conditions.

The following breeze which lasted for the first seven days of the trip made life very unpleasant for everyone on board. Since then the weather has been showery which interferes with sleeping on deck and consequently adds to the discomfort of the troop decks at night. The effect of unfavourable weather on troops is to make them livery and they are prone to grumble, listen to idle rumours, and criticise conditions generally. The better disciplined units are invariably happier and when conditions are bad it is easy to tell which is a good unit and which is not.

When the weather is very bad, there is a marked tendency to make uncomplimentary remarks about officers generally, and particularly about those who were responsible for putting so many troops on this ship without more regard for their comfort. Officers get inundated with complaints, many trivial and some imaginary - particularly from the odd units.

Catch-words and phrases easily spread. Within 10 minutes on one hot morning I was told by an engineer on the aft well deck that he felt he had been so badly treated that he would give up "fighting for Democracy", and by a despatch rider from my own Bn. on the forward well deck that he had strayed by accident into the officers quarters and was so disgusted when he saw how they lived in comparison with his own circumstances, that "fighting for Democracy" no longer appealed to him and he wanted his discharge.

During the last war I travelled on the "Ascanius" with the first convoy in the ranks from Fremantle to Alexandria. Subsequently I lived on the "Suffolk" in Lemnos Harbour for a number of weeks prior to the Landing. I am therefore able to appreciate the men's point of view. I must say in fairness that the accommodation for the men is better on this ship than on either of those I mentioned, but I still do not think that it is good enough for a long hot weather journey.

It is certainly a great pity to coop up men who have been trained to a high pitch of physical perfection on a ship where they cannot get sufficient exercise or training to keep their form. The remedy is to carry fewer men. Khaki shorts and shirts should be issued for the trip, if only to be worn at Colombo. The D. D. uniform is much too hot for wear on leave in that port.

(t) Canteen.

The system whereby the ship owner sells beer and other goods to the troops at a profit should be scrapped and a more satisfactory system adopted. In my opinion goods should be sold at practically cost or else the profits should go to the men. The beer purchased at Fremantle free of excise costs the ship 6½d. a bottle and they sell it at 10d., which in my opinion represents an excessive profit. The beer as sold is luke-warm. There is no provision for cooling it.

While on the same topic Australian beer costing 6½d. per bottle is sold in the officers mess at 7½d. per glass. I understand the charges were fixed by the Australian Canteen Board. If this is so they have made a very poor job of their work.

(u) General.

Army Headquarters sent a table of food quantities and a standard menu to the ships agents. On seeing these the purser of this ship said that the galley facilities were such that he could not conform to the menu but would get as near to it as he could. This is not very satisfactory. The present position is that I do not know what the men are entitled to get, and I have no means of checking the quantities. Actually there has always been plenty of food but the whole business seems very haphazard.

Incidentally I do not know any of the terms of the ship's charter. Normally on this ship troops do not use the public rooms for lectures or classes and if the master had raised any objection to my doing so I should not have known whether I was entitled to insist on the accommodation being made available or not.

With fewer troops on board there would be more room on the troop decks and it might then be possible to provide on each deck

(a) rifle racks

(b) pegs on which to hang the S.D. uniforms which get terribly creased when stuffed into kit bags and

(c) accommodation for web equipment.

This would assist training and make for greater comfort.

Lt.-Col.
Officer Commanding Troops, "Y 3".

app 1 & 2
originals to be
attached to April 1940
previously sent in.

Appendix 1
April 1940

Notes on Equipment

1. The battalion assembled at Catterment from 1 Apr onwards and was not in possession of any training equipment & was deficient in some equipment withdrawn in Lydney. This drastically limited possibilities for carrying out useful training.
2. Without equipment and situated in a camp in the suburban area the position of the battalion in regard to training would have been hopeless but for the loan of a utility ~~truck~~^{van} and a varying number of trucks (averaging 12) from Western Command. The loan of these trucks was most welcome as it enabled the unit to carry out the Rockingham manoeuvre wherein excellent training was performed.
3. D.A.D.O.S Western Command refused to issue Officers Mess Tents for reasons stating that authority was for issue to units in Cheshire only. Delay in obtaining AIFC authority prevented purchase of the messes, equipment until one or two days before embarkation & faulty packing was to have serious results later.
4. The scale of training stores for transports was ludicrously disproportionate to space & facilities available & was amended on C.O.'s recommendation to the file attached.

Appendix 2

April 1940

Notes on Training

1. As in previous months the amount of useful training carried out was almost in direct relation to the amount of training equipment and war equipment available. As mentioned in Appendix 1 this month was saved from absolute sterility by the loan of transport by the Western Command.
2. A four day exercise was undertaken at Rockingham. The work carried out included
 - (a) First day - combined MT & march movement covering $27\frac{1}{2}$ miles & occupying (including all halts about seven hours).
 - (b) Second day - company vanguard exercises on the ROCKINGHAM-SAFETY BAY ROAD. These exercises were ~~not~~ very successful. The country was very deceptive & the principal lessons brought out were
 - (i) the danger of premature deployment
 - (ii) the difficulties of control
 - (c) Third day & night - peace for night attack & night attack.
During the day every company spent about three hours constructing sand tables by platoons of the town & camp areas. Results mostly excellent. A good way of teaching map reading.
 - (d) Fourth day - return to camp.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2113
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion A.I.F. Date and Time.—From 1 May 1940 To 21 May 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
PALESTINE				
Kilo 89	1/5/40	to 19/5/40	H.M.T. Y3 - covered by diary O.C. Troops	Appendix IV
	20. 5. 40		<p>Yesterday Sgt V. Daws rejoined Bn - LT T.C. Redells still instructor at P.R.T.D. Sarafand.</p> <p>Organisation of Camp under new conditions & difficulties. Officer's guard mount - strength 1 platoon - 'prowler' system instituted. In absence chains & padlocks - each tent piqueted.</p> <p>A Coy detailed as unloading party W.E. 2nd Convoy at Gaza Str. Camp invaded by contractors and prospective Arab & Jewish employees.</p> <p>Sgt Interpreter attached to Bn.</p> <p>C.O. Camp, Comd of Kilo 89. Route marches. Checking of issues.</p>	
	21. 5. 40		<p>Platoons marching - issue 1 set shorts shirts socks. Maj Sandover & I.O. to Sarafand re fitting 1937 web equipment (22000 sets to arrive shortly) and Ordnance indenting.</p> <p>T/Pl Moore leaves for M.E. Weapon training course (till 8/6/40)</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion A.I.F.

Date and Time.—From 22 May 1940 To 27 May 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Kilo 89	22.5.40		<p>Baggage party return from Pt Said — officers' heavy baggage arrives minus a few articles. Re-centralisation of administration of subsidiary activities to relieve Bn H.Q. — Messing, Postal, Theatre, Leave, Bathing, Sporting, Canteen, Native workmen, Sanitation, Compensation.</p> <p>Formation of Bde at Kilo 89 composed 2/4 2/8 & 2/11 Bns Camp Comd LTCol Mitchell (2/8) B. M. Maj J.E. Barrett 2/11 H.Q. Bn personnel go to Bde H.Q. & 2/11 to assist striking & returning their tents etc. Learn 3rd Convoy incl 18 Bde diverted.</p>	
	23.5.40		<p>Bn W. & heavy baggage arrives. H.Q. Coy striking in G. Bn tents.</p>	
	24.5.40		<p>Extra picquets for A.G. H. lines lines.</p>	
	25.5.40		<p>Take over picquet of 2/8 (Rypic) lines from 2/2 Bn.</p>	
	26.5.40		<p>Opening of Officers Club — Gaza and The Dausant, Commencement "Post disembarkation" leave — party 25 to Jerusalem. Trial 3 A.W. Ls (Tel-Aviv) — promptly picked up by M.P.s. — 28 days detention.</p>	
	27.5.40	16.30	<p>P.R.T.D. — 10 officers & 25 O.R.s leave for course (td 7/6/40) LTCol Mitchell becomes Camp Comd Kilo 89. — CO & 2 I/C to Tel-Aviv. 250 leave Tel Aviv — 50 (4 days) Jerusalem. G.O.C. 6 Ans Div meets & addresses all officers Kilo 89.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion A.I.F. Date and Time.—From 28 May To 31 May 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Kilo 89	28.5.40		Leave - 250 Tel-Aviv; 49 Jerusalem (4 days). M.E. Weapon Training School (4 th long course) 1 off 2 O.R.S depart. Chains & locks for rifles issued - tent picquets withdrawn.	
	29.5.40		General training subject to lack of equipment	
	30.5.40			
	31.5.40	2400	Clocks advanced one hour - summer time. Received 22 Bren guns etc from 2/4 Bn.	
				Appendix I notes on issue of equipment " II notes on training " III C.O.'s notes for month " IV Diary O.C. Troops - H.M.T. Y3 " V Bn R.O. for disembarkation & en training " VI Report on voyage by S.M.O. H.M.T. Y3 " VII Orders for leave at Colombo " VIII Report of O.C. Troops H.M.T. Y3 on voyage up to Colombo.

Appendix 1

Notes on Stores, Equipment etc

May 1940

1. Training stores required on voyage were referred to in last month's appendix on this subject. The lessons drawn from the voyage are firstly that it is futile to have a standard list of stores authorized for all types of vessels irrespective of type & secondly that public address equipment ~~is~~ ^{is} invaluable. ~~It was purchased~~. The unit ~~had~~ purchased a public address apparatus from its own funds.
2. On disembarkation the battalion was separated temporarily from its main equipment & the difficulties of messing in the first few days were very great. However the position was rectified when additional stores were made available from Ordnance & main equipment commenced to arrive.
3. No additional war equipment was available to the unit on disembarkation ~~and~~ was any received during the month of May. During this period the only transport available to the unit was two (later one) hired van with Arab drivers & two (later one) motor vans of unimpeachable unreliability. ^{uplifting} was therefore hamstrung.

4. The issue of shorts, shirts & stockings two days after arrival put the troops in good heart & provided them with an excellent uniform. Why this uniform is not issued to military troops in Australia remains one of the major mysteries of military administration.
5. A.N.C.I. appears to have a monopoly in the matter of the sale of extra rations to the troops. COs are not permitted to purchase commodities from extra ration allowance except through A.N.C.I. & A.N.C.I. handle only what they like. Until strong representations were made A.N.C.I. refused to handle fruit. Fortunately fruit was cheap and unit funds were utilised to provide men with much appreciated citrus fruit.
-

Appendix 2.

Johnson Training,

May 1940

1. Period 1/19 May was covered by COs diary of voyage. So far as the men were concerned facilities available permitted little training & therefore every effort was turned to preventing boredom & ensuring the necessary minimum of exercise.
2. The erection of the sand table in the ship's sitting room enabled a series of sand table exercises to be carried out. These included
 - (a) Exercises prepared & conducted by syndicates of company officers
 - (b) Exercises prepared & conducted by 2/3 for the officers
 - (c) A repetition of (a) & (b) above by company officers to NCOs of their coysThe sand table was kept in use from about 9am to 6.30pm daily.
3. On arrival in camp training was limited by administrative requirements & was therefore conducted on a company basis with a view to hardening men up after the voyage & re-asserting discipline. Short route marches were undertaken by all coys and by the end of the month troops were exhibiting something of the form they displayed prior to leaving England.

appendix II


2/11 BN.

Training Instructions - for week ending 16. June 1940.

1. Sunday 16. Jun. Administrative and Church Parades.
Administrative day will be notified later when next leave allotment is published.
2. 2nd Cadre Class for N.C.Os.
The second Bn. Class will be held during this week. Arrangements and allotment as for last week.
3. Syllabus for Rifle Coys.

<u>Weapon Training.</u>	Bren (10 periods of $\frac{3}{4}$ hour)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.
	Rifle (5 periods of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Bayonet (do.)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	2" Mortar if issued (10 periods of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour)	5 "
<u>Drill & Rifle Exercises</u> (5 periods of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour)		2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
<u>Field Works</u> (incl. wiring if wire available)		6 "
<u>Gas Training</u> 2 periods of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.		1 "
<u>Section Training</u> Patrols & Reports (2 periods of $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. each)		3 "
<u>Route Marching</u>		2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
<u>Night exercises</u> Occupation of Bn. defensive position		9 hrs.
4. Syllabus for H.Q. Coy.

(a) Specialist Training (incl. 6 hours on field works)	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.
(b) Drill & Rifle exercises	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
(c) Gas Training	1 "
(d) Route Marching	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
(e) Rifle Training	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
(f) Bayonet Training	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
(g) Night exercise (as for Rifle Coys.)	9 "


 Lt. Col.
 Commanding 2/11 Bn. A.I.F.

Appendix 3.

2/11 Bn. War Diary for May 1940.

C.O's notes for the month.

Our first fortnight in Palestine rather difficult from administrative point of view. Cooking difficult - our "dixies" with war equipment and consequent shortage of gear - oil-burning soyers stoves that almost refuse to work - Aldershot ovens to which we are unaccustomed and insufficient wood to keep them going. Consequence a succession of stews which were very good but monotonous

The beef and vegetables are excellent, but an occasional change to mutton would be welcome. The bacon ration not popular - likewise porridge at first - but the men are getting used to the latter and eating more of it now.

Leave is plentiful and as long as it comes in big chunks - 250 per day - it does not interfere too much with training. The social amenities of Tel Aviv are more popular than the historical associations of Jerusalem. The behaviour of the men has been excellent so the Provost people say. They haven't had to lay a single charge though 10 or 15 men have missed the buses home. They nearly all reported to the Police.

Three reinforcements cleared off to Tel Aviv without leave and another has been arrested at Haifa. All these men joined the day before we sailed and have not yet learnt to behave themselves - they are poor types anyhow and look like causing trouble continuously

Native liquor has been responsible for a bit of drunkenness. The men will try everything once. We had a round-up one night with the co-operation of the civil police and five Arabs were arrested for selling liquor.

The equipment outlook has been pretty dismal but today we are to get 22 Bren guns which is hopeful - even though they have to come from 2/4 Bn. Our only transport is a hired car and a hired truck. This means that our own drivers have nothing to drive which is a pity.

The diversion of 3rd convoy has led to the reorganisation of 19th Bde. - 2/4 Bn., 2/8 Bn. and ourselves. It was inevitable, but is not very popular - amalgamations never are. Each Bn. has been brought up at a different school and has its own ways of doing little things. We are the only unit in the Div. which is not entirely or predominantly from Victoria or New South Wales. Personally I regret very much leaving 18. Bde. after making many pleasant associations there, but as I said above, it is inevitable and we must settle down and make the best of the new arrangement. The Bde. Commander and Staff are due to arrive early next week - I believe.

There is a curious air of unreality about this country. The news from Europe could not very well be blacker but the British Army here is still on a peace footing. The rifles issued to us in Australia were of poor quality manufacture, but before we can get any broken parts replaced, Ordnance requires a Board of Enquiry on each rifle.

The troops, as far as one can ascertain, are taking the news stoically. We have just got a wireless set from the Comforts Fund for the men and they can now hear the news instead of having to buy a paper each morning. There are two papers - the "Egyptian Mail" and the "Palestine Post" - 10 mils each. I have not made up my mind yet as to which is the worse value for the money.

Shank

to G.O.
2 June 1940

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion A.I.F.

Date and Time.—From 1 June To 4 June 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Palestine	1. 6.40			
Kilo 89	2. 6.40	0900	Church parade. Troops bathe Gaza Beach morning & afternoon. Junior Leaders Course for N.C.O.'s — Course A commences under 2/c. Officers' Hockey team defeats 2/2 Bn at Julis.	
	3. 6.40		Training for week — rifle, bayonet, field works route marching, night exercises & specialist training. Camp area defensive scheme commenced. A Coy march to Gaza Beach & do night exercise — approach & surround tactical feature.	
		1530	G.O.C. B.F.P. & T.-J. inspect Bn at work.	
	4. 6.40		Permanent 'Black out' hours darkness commences. Leave to Jerusalem for 225. Administration day. Hot water showers for troops tried out.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion A.I.F.

Date and Time.—From 5 June To 10 June 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Kilo 89	5. 6. 40		B Coy march to Gaza beach & do night exercise.	
	6. 6. 40		Blankets used for blackout in canteen & offices. O.C. D Coy reports to Div I.O. re suspected spy-journalism. C Coy to Gaza beach & night exercise. Black paint procured for windows re blackout. Pay day. Pay day.	
	7. 6. 40		D Coy to Gaza beach & night exercise. Guard Comd's raid on native shops—"international coup" abortive.	
	8. 6. 40		H.Q. Coy to Gaza Beach. 1 Sec (B Coy) & 2 signals leave for duty at listening post Rafah.	
	9. 6. 40		Church parade. Swimming Gaza beach.	
			H.Q. Coy night exercise. 10 off 8 O.R. P.R.T.D.	
			6 th Cadre Course (to 22 June) plus 3 O.R. (8 th O.R. Course) leave.	
	10. 6. 40		Junior leaders course B commences. C in C Middle East addresses personnel of 2nd Convoy.	
			A Coy take over guard of Gaza Ridge Camp for week	
			Dispersal of tents over L4 & L5 commences. Transport supply Bde guard for week. Italy declares war.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion A.I.F. Date and Time.—From 11 June To 16 June 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Kilo 89	11.6.40	0400	A.A. Pl man posts. ¹⁴³⁰ Bn occupies emergency assembly areas vicinity Trig 83 - Gaza 1/100000.	
	12.6.40		Dispersal tents, digging & camouflage continue. LT Micholich leaves for M.E. Weapon course (to 29 th June) Bde Comd. arrives. Administration & leave day. Jerusalem 220. Working party digging Gaza Ridge Camp 8 Off 200 O.R.s.	
	13.6.40		Working party 3 Off 150 O.R.s Gaza Ridge Camp until 16 th . Use passwords commences.	
	14.6.40		Bn adopts new organisation - Carriers reduced to 1 Pl, mortars reduced, rifle secs increased 2 men, officer 1/c Pioneers, Bde Liaison Officer etc.	
	15.6.40		Bde Comd. dines in mess. Bn O.O. on duty at orderly Room all night now.	
	16.6.40		Dispersal, digging, camouflage tents continues. Church parades - 73 bathe Gaza Beach.	
		2000	Bn occupies posts in defensive night exercise. Camp area	Appendix IV

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion

Date and Time.—From 17 June To 21 June 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Kilo 89	17. 6. 40	0345	Bn defensive occupation exercise - stand to	
		0500	exercise concludes. Preparations for Bivouac.	
	18. 6. 40		Bivouac preparations, talk by C.O., hot showers, quinine ration. France compelled to ask for truce - message C-in-C M.E. urging all to "stand firm" - we can do nothing else until we receive transport and ^{our} stockings failing boot repairs. Bn band awakens us to strains of "we gonna hang out washing on the Siegfried Line."	
Buseir	19. 6. 40	0900	Bn exercises & Bivouac commences - A & B Coys half HQ move out - advance guard exercises between Beit Hannun and Buseir. 1315 remainder Bn, less reinforcements (camp guard) move out and repeat exercises. Bivouac west of Buseir. Search parties for missing I.O. LT Howard attached from Bde as L.O. for exercises.	Appendix <u>VI</u>
Karatiya	20. 6. 40		Route march Buseir to Karatiya - bivouac and night attack on Buseir - al Falyja road. Bde Comdr, B.M. and B.I.O. attend.	
Qastina	21. 6. 40		Withdrawal exercise line Hatta - Juseir NORTH via Jaladiya to Qastina - bivouac. C.O. succumbs to R.M.O.'s machinations.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion

Date and Time.—From 22 June To 30 June 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Jaffa Ranges	22.6.40		Bn embus QASTINA for JAFFA Ranges - firing practices - Bren gun. Swimming	
" "	23.6.40		Firing practices continue - Bren gun. D Coy returns Camp - Reinforcements move to Ranges. Swimming	
" "	24.6.40		Firing practices - Bren, rifle, A.A. and mortars	
" "	25.6.40		Firing practices - Bren, rifle. 1600 Bn embuses and returns to Kilo 89	
Kilo 89	26.6.40		Administration day - leave Jerusalem 125. Bus overturns on return - no serious injury.	
	27.6.40		Weapon and gas training.	
	28.6.40		Weapon and gas training - LT Royce, Cpl Ganned report to HQ Gas course. 2000 Bn less D Coy & HQ details hasty occupation defensive position vicinity Trig 79 dig in and wire.	
	29.6.40	0500	Dismantle defensive position, move back to camp. Church Paddles - Swimming Gaza Beach. Jerusalem leave 57.	
	30.6.40		Reorganisation involving wiping out 9th Reinforcements -	

Appendix I notes on time of equipment
 II notes on training
 III CO's notes for night
 IV orders night exercise 18/17 June
 V Bivouac programme. (only copy)
 VI Exercise 19 June. (only copy)
 VII Letter to 19 Bde re stores
 VIII Issued by Eastern Command (only copy)
 Bn tactical exercise 28/29 June (only copy)

58 transfers to Div Sigs & 5 to A.S.C. from Bn.
 P.R.T.D. 2 off 3 NCOs report no 2 course, 3 NCOs to no 3 course.
 B Coy take over Gaza Ridge Camp guard for week
 C Coy - 1 Pl + 4 signals - Coast watching Rafah 1 week. Bde guard supplied.

June 1946
Appendix 1 - Stores etc

1. Position regarding stores both as regards
loan equipment & training remained
acute. During the month a readjustment
within the newly formed 19th des Luft Bde
gave this unit 22 Bren guns. Whilst
this permits a great deal of useful
training it is not possible to make
permanent issues to sub units. This
is a situation fraught with danger
which has to be watched most carefully
2. An issue of projects long & short &
coils of wire sufficient for 200 yards of
double apron fence permits of refresher
training in wiring. This is a variation
in a pyllabus handicapped by lack of
material but its value is doubtful.
What is really wanted is Permanent wire
for coil construction but none is available
3. Temporary issues of ⁴Fowlers thines
whilst on trek add greatly to foot values
& afford good opportunities for training
coils
4. The unit is still immobilised by lack of
transport but allocations from Bde pool
and loans from other units whilst on
trek enable us to do much useful work
5. The position re regard to SAA is obscure,
ammunition fired at Gaffer has been debited
against our W.E. allocation which is absent.
⁴The matter is under investigation.

June 1940

Appendix 2. Training

1. Cadre Courses

During first two weeks two cadre courses of 30 hours for NCOs were held. Lyllabus is attached hereto. General standard is high although some corps might seek advantage use more discrimination in selection.

2. Firing of annual courses

June 23 to 25 were occupied in firing annual courses (British Army) on Juffa ranges. The latter fired were Bren, Rifle (part only) whilst mortar ranging practices also were fired. On return to Kalo 89 it was learned that the latter had been amended & therefore from the skeletal point much time had been wasted - but training value had been obtained.

3. Tactical Training

The ~~present~~ tactical training carried out comprised the following exercises which were carried out by all corps.

(a) night march and attack on hill on GAZA ridge 1 mile SW of 2 A.C.H.

(b) preparation of line section in defence including construction of field works (other than wire) about camp site facing EAST

(c) night occupation of line section & practices in line routine & administration in defence. All phases of line routine & procedure were practised.

(d) between GAZA RIDGE - BEIT HANUN - BUREIR - KARATIYE

- QASTINA involving the following exercises

(i) advance guard exercise (one Coy with HQ Coy details) including attack & attack & leapfrogging of all 4d (GAZA to BUREIR)

(ii) route march & practice in control of carriers & mortars in all 4d

(BUREIR to KARATIYE)

(iii) withdrawal on parallel roads

JUGRA : HATTA to QASTINA

All exercises were completed but it is difficult for a unit to produce from within itself sufficient officers adequately to umpire more than a very exercise. It is even more difficult to provide transport for umpires. The liquidation of reinforcements & the ~~partial~~ release of a number of officers temporarily by the liquidation will create a potential pool of umpires. Advantage will be taken of this

4. General Training

General training, individual & collective, was severely hampered by lack of equipment. Syllabus of training for recruits of 1914 are attached hereto

This has been an exasperating month. We came to Palestine expecting to find equipment, and the situation appears infinitely worse than it was in Australia. Now such equipment as is available is being redistributed so that everyone has something, but this is a sorry compromise.

The position regarding the issue of ammunition and the safeguarding of arms is almost farcical. Bren guns, rifles, bolts and S.A.A. have to be stored separately for fear of theft and yet a unit is supposed to be ready at all times to dash after enemy parachutists. A/A L.M.G. posts are set up all over the place to deal with enemy aircraft, but if any of our own planes are about the ammunition has to be withdrawn so that the A/A gunners will not fire at them by mistake.

The Bn. transport still consists of one hired car and one hired truck, though we did have three glorious days out of camp with 24 vehicles from the Brigade pool. We did a lot of work, got tired, went without a wash, had no canteen or comforts and generally lived hard during the period - but the sick fell to less than one per day and the men were really happy - feeling that they weren't wasting their time.

Now that we are back in Camp again the sick parades number over 50 a day, and C.O.'s orderly room sometimes lasts for hours.

This enforced idleness when Western European civilisation is crumbling everywhere is very trying to the nerves.

The men will dig or march or do anything that requires physical effort cheerfully, but they hate Camp life with its endless guards, fatigues and messing about.

The "liquidation" of the Carrier Group and the transfer out of nearly 70 men to A.S.C. and Sigs. has also had a disturbing effect - men imagine that the whole organisation is in the melting pot and feel that they would like to try anything else for a change.

The nervous reaction is also most noticeable. People with unblemished records have suddenly gone off without leave or got very drunk to relieve their feelings.

The black-out at night adds to all these troubles and the fact that there has been no surface mail from Australia has had a very depressing effect.

Our fourth (or it may even be the fifth - I can't remember) re-organisation was carried out during the month. We now have a Carrier platoon only - but no carriers - and half as many 3" mortar personnel as we had, but no mortars. However we are to get one mortar shortly.

These notes sound very depressed - but that is honest writing - we are depressed. I don't think there is a man in the Bn. who wouldn't cheer if we were suddenly ordered to do the most improbable military operation with the equipment now available.

However we try to be cheerful - and in between times we play cricket and hockey and swim, and sing "South of the border, Down Mexico Way". This is the only song the troops ever seem to sing now - they have even given up the 179 verses (all except the first two unprintable) of "O Gawd blimey how ashamed I was!"

J. Howard
 W.S.
 1/7/40.

Appendix IV

2/11 BN.
NIGHT EXERCISE 14/15 JUNE 40.

1. The night exercise set down on the syllabus for the coming week will take place on the night 14/15 June from 2000 hrs. to 0500 hrs. Coys. etc. will move out independently and occupy the positions they have already dug viz. "D" & "C" Coys. forward - and Reinforcements (replacing "A" Coy. on GAZA RIDGE Guard) and "B" Coy. in reserve. Bn. H.Q. in broken ground 200 yards S.W. of Trig. 83.
2. The story is that 2/11 Bn. is part of a force occupying a defensive position protecting the Railway with F.D.L's on WADI HALIB. There are other Bns. on right and left. The main force of the enemy is at HUI (8 miles to the East) but patrols come forward to the vicinity of our lines at night and an early attack is expected.
3. The 2/11 Bn. area is roughly that of its own and the 2/1 M.G. Bn. lines.

Special Instructions.

Bn. H.Q. (1) I Sec. will provide a detail to keep a War Diary and another party to proceed into no-man's-land and report on the activities of patrols. (sep. instructions to I.O.)

(2) S.B's. will work under R.M.O. R.A.F. and decontamination centre will be established near Bn. H.Q. Pioneer platoon will construct necessary light proof cover by 1900 hrs. 14. Jun. R.M.O. will provide Coys. with a number of labels describing injuries and symptoms etc. of wounds and S.B's. will be exercised in first aid and stretcher work. Padre will be at R.A.F.

(3) Bn. H.Q. will be established with full equipment, type-writer etc. for transacting normal business. Pioneer Pl. will provide necessary shelter and light proof cover. Gas alarm signalling apparatus will be improvised by Pioneers and placed at Bn. and all Coy. H.Q.'s and in forward posts.

(4) Regtl. Police will control and regulate traffic in vicinity of Bn. H.Q.

(5) Layout of Bn. H.Q. will be planned by C.C. H.Q. Coy. in collaboration with R.S.M.

(6) Postal Orderly will provide a token mail to be sent forward with rations for supper.

H.Q. Coy. (1) H.Q. of H.Q. Coy. will be in vicinity of Bn. H.Q.

(2) Sigs. will function with telephone equipment (if available) and runners. All sig. personnel will familiarise themselves with positions of Bn. & Coy. H.Q. prior to exercise.

(3) A.A.L.M.G. Pl. will occupy A.A. positions already dug and be responsible for local protection of Bn. H.Q.

(4) Mortars (if available) will be sited on GAZA Ridge - One for counter-attack tasks and one on fixed line to be selected by C.C. H.Q. Coy.

(5) Carrier Group. One Pl. forward on fixed lines covering front of Bn. on our right. One Pl. supporting guns or penetration tasks. C.C. Carrier Group will submit proposals for tasks to Bn. H.Q.

(6) Pioneers. Tasks prior to beginning of exercise - see above under heading Bn. H.Q. Personnel will be exercised in gas decontamination duties and will also assist in preparation of cooking places, trench latrine, and perform any carpentry tasks allotted during exercise.

(7) Admin. Pl. Q.M's storemen and details normally stationed back at Transport lines will not take part in the exercise. One cook per Coy. will function during the night at the cooking places selected by Coys. for purposes of the defensive exercise. Q.M. will arrange to issue materials for light supper to C.Q.M.S's at 2200 hrs. on GAZA Rd. Supper will be prepared by the cooks participating in the exercise and carried to positions and posts and distributed under Coy. arrangements during the night. Men in forward area will not leave their posts or congregate for supper. The remainder of the cooks will stay in Camp cookhouses and prepare breakfast which will be served on Saturday morning at 0600 hrs.

Transport personnel not on Bde. H.Q. guard will be utilised on special tasks under Major Anderson.

(please turn over)

Rifle Coys. (1) Forward Coys. will carry out normal trench routine (I.S.L. para 79) and patrol the front. "D" & "C" Coys. will confer and submit patrolling programme to Bn. H.Q.

(2) Reserve Coys. ("B" & Reinfsts.) will furnish working parties to dig a communication trench as ordered. Q.M. will arrange tool dump in dip forward of Bn. H.Q.

General.

- (1) Prior to commencement of exercise all coys. must improvise light proof H.Q. so that messages can be read and written during the night. Pl. Commanders should have torches and practise reading and writing messages under cover of a greatcoat or W.-p. sheet.
- (2) All officers will study Chapter XII of I.T. 1937 and rules for drafting messages - M.T. Pam. 7 page 30.
- (3) Coys. participating in the exercise will submit detailed sketches of their dispositions to Bn. H.Q. by 1200 hrs. 11. Jun. 40.
- (4) Provision will be made for trench latrines in Platoon areas of forward Coys. and Coy. areas of reserve Coys.
- (5) Bn. Gass Officer (Lt. Royce) will confer with Major Anderson to submit proposals for introducing gas training into the exercise. O.C. GAZA Ridge Guard will arrange to release Lt. Royce for short period during exercise.
- (6) All ranks will stand to from 0645 hrs. to 0445 hrs. on ¹⁷ 13. Jun. 40.
- (7) Password for the exercise will be "~~JOSEPH~~ BURDEKIN"
- (8) At 0500 hrs. exercise will conclude and Coys. etc. will return independently to Camp lines. A careful search will be made to ensure that no articles of equipment tools etc. are left behind in the trenches.

[Signature]
 Lt.Col.
 Commanding 2/11 Bn. A.I.F.

KILO 89
 9. Jun. 40.

Amended Training Program for week ending 22. Jun. 40.

	<u>WORK.</u>	<u>PLACE.</u>
Sunday 16 Jun. 2000 hrs. to Monday 17. Jun. 0500 hrs.	<u>Whole Bn.</u> (less "A" Coy. on Guard Gaza Ridge) <u>Day.</u> - Brigade duties - working parties A. C. H. <u>Night.</u> Occupation of defensive position - patrols - field works, communications etc. (postponed from 14. Jun.)	Kilo 89 Camp 2/11 Bn. and 2/1 H.C. Bn. lines.
<u>Monday 17. Jun.</u>	<u>Whole Bn.</u> (less "A" Coy.) Weapon Training 3 hrs. Drill & Rifle exercises 1/2 hr. Gas Training 1/2 hr.	In Camp
<u>Tuesday 18. Jun.</u>	<u>Whole Bn.</u> <u>Morning.</u> Weapon Training 3 hrs. Drill 1/2 " <u>Afternoon.</u> Talk by C.O. on work to be carried out during next 3 days. Administrative preparations for leaving camp for one week - Hot Baths - storing kits, etc.	In Camp. do.
<u>Wed. 19. Jun.</u>	<u>Morning.</u> 2 Rifle Coys. with attached details from H.C. Coy. do Adv. Gd. exercise one coy. passing through the other midway. <u>Afternoon.</u> do.	Between Camp and BURBIR. Route. Road HEIT HANUN - HAJD - SUMSUM - BURBIR.
<u>Thurs. 20. Jun.</u>	<u>Morning.</u> Route March <u>Afternoon.</u> Rest <u>Evening.</u> Night attack (Bn. (less C Coy.) Bivouac on AL FAHJA - KARATIYA rd. at luncheon site. "C" Coy. to provide fighting outposts.	BURBIR to a spot on road AL FAHJA - KARATIYA about midway between two villages. West of AL FAHJA over ground passed over during the morning.
<u>Fri. 21. Jun.</u>	<u>Morning.</u> Bn. exercise. withdrawal by day from general line HATTA - JURBIR on GASTINA Camp. <u>Afternoon.</u> Bath and rest. Bivouac vicinity GASTINA Camp. - "D" Coy. to provide picket.	Vicinity JURBIR
<u>Sat. 22. Jun.</u>	Move by bus to JEFFA Hedges and carry out weapon training there.	RISHON - LE + SIYON.

Mohammed Ali
Lt. Col.
Commanding 2/11 Bn. A.I.F.

KILO 89, 14.
14. Jun. 40.

Appendix V

2/11 Bn. EXERCISE 20. JUN. 40.

1. Owing to enemy 5th column activities Southern Palestine is in a state of sporadic revolt. 2/11 Bn. has moved to a position of readiness approx 1 kilometre South of KARATIYA preparatory to cutting the BURJIR - AL FALUJA Road which is used extensively at nights by enemy ranging between GAZA - AL FALUJA - and HEBRON.

Reports from unreliable agents state that the road is patrolled and that there are posts here and there dug in for protection. One such position is established near the RUINS 3 kilos. S.W. of AL FALUJA and another overlooking the re-entrant 1½ kilos nearer AL FALUJA.

2. PLAN. To attack up the spur running North towards KARATIYA with 3 Rifle Coys. and seize the road between the 2 enemy posts. One Rifle Coy. in reserve at position of readiness.

3. METHOD. Night March. The 3 attacking Coys. will be led by O.C. Carrier Pl. to point 1240 1150 (assembly position) leaving position of readiness at 2030 hrs. Order of march A - B - D - R.I.O. & medical personnel.

Night Advance. From assembly position at 2115 hrs., D Coy. will move up gully on right B Coy. by the centre gully and A by the left gully to F.U.P. which is the track to the North roughly parallel and varying in distance 6 to 9 hundred yards from the objective.

Night Attack. Coys. will attack on a frontage of 200 yards each. Frontages will be marked by Adj. and Pioneer Pl. Mortar Pl. will provide covering party. I. sec. will provide 2 guides for each Coy. to lead it from the head of the gully to its position on F.U.P.

Attacking Coys. will move from F.U.P. at 2200 hrs. on reaching objective D Coy. will establish a post facing BURJIR, A Coy. a post facing AL FALUJA. B Coy. will mop up the road between these posts, reorganise and withdraw into reserve at its position on F.U.P. Pioneer Pl. will establish token road blocks at posts established by "D" & "A" Coys.

4. INTERCOMMUNICATION.

Bn. H.Q. will be established at the head of the gully up which B Coy. moves from assembly position.


5. R.A.P. will be at head of gully up which D Coy. moves from Assembly position. 6 S/B's. will be allotted to each attacking Coy. reporting at 2000 hrs.

6. Covering party, Pioneer Pl., and I sec. will move under Adj. 's. orders independent ...y.

7. Termination of exercise will be signalled by bugle call "No parade today" repeated if necessary. All troops will then close on the bugler in vicinity of F.U.P.

I.O. will lead Bn. back to bivouac area.

19. Jun. 40.
DIST : List A.


Lt. Col.
Commanding 2/11 Bn. A.I.F.

Appendix V

Ref. Sheet
GAZA 1/100,000

2/11 BN. Order No. X

SECRET Copy No.
21. Jun. 40.

1. Information. Enemy of approx. strength 1000 men armed with rifles and some light automatics, poorly organised, but pertinacious is attacking our forces in front of HATTA and JUSEIR.
2. Intention. 2/11 Bn. will withdraw on QASTINA.
3. Method. Following lines will be held:
 - (a) Present line in front of HATTA - JUSEIR by A and C Coys. until 1015 hrs.
 - (b) East and West line just North of 120000 GR.D line covering HATTA-JALADIYA and JUSEIR-QASTINA roads by D & B Coys. until 1130 hrs.
 - (c) Line 600 yds North of JALADIYA to Trig. 95 by C Coy. until 1215 hrs.
 - (d) Line along East and West track 2 miles South of QASTINA across JALADIYA - QASTINA Rd. by A Coy. until 1310 hrs.
 - (e) Creek in front of QASTINA from BEIT DARAS - QASTINA rd. to Main GAZA rd. (incl. to D Coy.) to TALL AT TURAIUS (excl.) by D & B Coys. until further orders.

Timings given are for final abandonment.
Thinning-out may commence 15 minutes earlier in each case.
4. Routes. A & D Coys., & H.Q. Coy. (less detachments) HATTA - JALADIYA-QASTINA. B & C Coys. JUSEIR - QASTINA.
5. Inter-Coy. boundaries are lines A & B, a line midway between two roads allotted for withdrawal. Coys. will maintain lateral touch.
6.
 - 1 Sec. Carriers & 1 Mortars detachment under orders "C" Coy.
 - 1 Mortar detachment under orders A Coy.
7. Transport. other than fighting vehicles will be clear of Line (d) by 1015 hrs.
8. R.A.P. Junction of two allotted routes 1 mile North of JALADIYA until 1145 hrs. moving to QASTINA.
9. Bn. H.Q. at Trig. 95 until 1200 hrs. moving to QASTINA.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Time of signature: 0745 hrs.
Distributed by runner.
List. A.

S. J. ... Lieut.
Adj. 2/11 Bn. A.I.F.

Memorandum.

Allocation of Bren guns for exercise :	A & C Coys.	6 each
	B & D Coys.	4 each
	Carriers	1

Transport for exercise.

Each Rifle Coy.	3 15 cwt.
Umpires	1 30 cwt. & 1 Pick-up.
Sigs.	1 15 cwt.
Bn. H.Q.	1 30 cwt.
R.M.O.	1 30 cwt.
A.I.	Balance for cooks etc. and to send to Camp for packs, blankets and band instruments.

Appendix VI

2/11 BN. EXERCISE 19. JUN. 40.

1. Troops taking part 2 Rifle Coys.
 3 Bren Carriers
 Det. Sigs.
 Det. Mortars
2. Umpiring. Director - C.O.
 Umpires - Majors Anderson and Sandover.
3. Enemy. O.C. Lt. H.H. Scott
 det. A.A.L.M.G. Pl.
4. Representation of fire. By word picture only.
5. Story. 2/11 Bn. is marching on AL FALUJA via BEIT HANUN and BUREIR.
 Enemy with small dets. motorised troops is delaying advance.
 On 18. Jun. Bn. bivouaced MILE 89.

March will be resumed on 19. Jun. Head of Main Body will pass Bde.
H.Q. at 0905 hrs. Order of march :--

Advance Gd. Commander : Major E.S. Heagney
 A Coy.
 1 Sec. Carriers
 1 Mortar det.
 det. sigs.

Main Body. Bn. H.Q. (represented by det. Sigs.)
 B Coy.
 X X X X
 Details H.Q. Coy.
 M.T. not allotted to Coys.

When A Coy. has reached TALL MGT GHAZZA ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of NAJI) it will
be replaced as Adv. Gd. Coy. by B Coy. who will pass through. A Coy.
will then reorganise and become leading Coy. of Main Body. Mortar
Det. and sec. Carriers will remain with Adv. Gd. Coy.

6. In the afternoon the exercise will be repeated with C & D Coys.
 and det. H.Q. Coy. C Coy. will start as Adv. Gd. Coy. and D Coy.
 will go through.

Head of Main Body will pass Bde. H.Q. at 1315 hrs.

MILE 89, L4.
18. Jun. 40. LIST : all officers.

Appendix VII

19 Aus. Inf. Bde.

Statement of Stores issued 2/11 Bn.
by Eastern Command.

1. A.A. Forms F.19 (Certificates of Stocktaking) forwarded to this headquarters with 6 Aus. Div. Q 22/4 of 2/6/40 has been closely examined with a view to taking required action. It is desired to say that the discrepancies shown do not remotely represent the true state of accounts between Ordnance and this Unit in Australia and at the present moment, for reasons which will be stated hereunder, it is not possible to furnish a statement which will serve as a basis for the adjustment of discrepancies.

2. The Battalion was formed in Western Command in October/November 1939 and moved to Eastern Command during the period 1/15 December 1939. It remained in Eastern Command until the middle of March 1940 when it returned to Western Command by combined rail and sea movement. It embarked for overseas on 20th April 1940. Issues were made by Ordnance in both commands and in the case of first issues of uniform consignments were actually received whilst the unit was on the ships conveying it from Western Australia to New South Wales.

Moreover in each case of a sojourn in a command the unit was receiving stores from Ordnance and making issues to personnel up to the last day before embarkation on entrainment. Hence the striking of a balance in many items as on the day on which the unit actually left a Command was a matter of virtual impossibility.

3. Three factors also prevent this unit at the present moment making a comprehensive statement. All connote a lack of essential information.

Firstly it will be noted vide the second para of Eastern Command 21878 of 19. Apr. 40. that clothing issued in Western Command was written off as issues in Eastern Command. This was the inevitable result of late receipts in Western Command which necessitated personal issues after the movement to Eastern Command was completed. Such surpluses in Eastern Command will appear as corresponding deficiencies in Western Command. Similarly stores received in Eastern Command were issued in Western Command after the unit had returned thereto and certain deficiencies in Eastern Command accounts will be balanced by corresponding surpluses in Western Command accounts. It can therefore be stated that a reconciliation of Eastern and Western Command accounts will cause a large proportion of the present alleged discrepancies to disappear. Since the Western Command statement of discrepancies has not yet been received no such reconciliation can at present be attempted.

Secondly unit ledgers and vouchers were handed over by the Unit to the Ordnance Auditor, Western Command prior to the embarkation of the unit for overseas. It was represented by the Auditor that such action would facilitate reconciliation of unit transactions in the two commands and that the taking of ledgers and vouchers overseas could serve no useful purpose. The force of such representations was appreciated and the unit ledgers and vouchers are now in the custody of C.O.O., Western Command.

It was understood that a reconciliation of Eastern and Western Command accounts would be completed prior to any statement of discrepancies and as matters now stand the unit lacks information essential to a full statement on the stores position.

(please turn over)

Thirdly the Q.M. is now in hospital and his return is indefinite whilst the then R.Q.M.S. is in Australia undergoing training at Western Command training depot. The absence of these two members who were primarily concerned in the transactions under review enhances unit difficulties at the present juncture.

4. The peculiar circumstances under which the move from New South Wales to Western Australia was made enhanced the difficulties of accounting for stores with Eastern Command both from the unit and the ordnance aspect. Arrangements made for the move of the unit by three trains and one ship to W.A. for pre-embarkation leave took no cognizance of unit organisation but personnel were drafted west purely on residential considerations.

From the unit aspect a difficult situation was created. The Q.M. staff was abnormally split. The Q.M. was required to travel on the boat which left first; the R.Q.M.S. travelled on the last train. This warrant officer is still in Australia and his advice as to the final hand in camp stores is not at present available.

From the Ordnance aspect certain difficulties were apparent. Return of camp equipment was necessarily broken up into parts and much of the handing back was done in the small hours of the morning. Ordnance difficulties can be appreciated by the fact that the unit holds receipts for ~~some~~ a number of important items such as five bicycles shown on A.A.F. F.19 as deficiencies.

5. For the reasons already mentioned it will be appreciated that any attempt on the part of the unit to make a comprehensive statement will be abortive at the present juncture.

It can be stated with certainty that the great majority of the alleged discrepancies will disappear when Ordnance accounts of Eastern and Western Commands are compared and that the total of the remainder will be further reduced when credit is given for articles listed on receipts held by the unit. The true discrepancies should not then be disproportion to the quantities of stores drawn and used.

6. Under the circumstances it is requested that this be regarded as a progress report and that the unit be given permission to hold the A.A.F. F.19's pending the arrival of information which will enable it to forward a final report.

Lt.Col.
Commanding 2/11 Bn. A.I.F.

Secondly unit ledgers and vouchers were handed over by the Unit to the Ordnance Auditor, Western Command prior to the embarkation of the unit for overseas. It was represented by the Auditor that such action would facilitate reconciliation of unit transactions in the two commands and that the taking of ledgers and vouchers overseas could serve no useful purpose. The force of such representations was appreciated and the unit ledgers and vouchers are now in the custody of C.O.C., Western Command.

It was understood that a reconciliation of Eastern and Western Command accounts would be completed prior to any statement of discrepancies and as matters now stand the unit lacks information essential to a full statement on the stores position.

(please turn over)

2/11 BN. TACTICAL EXERCISE WITH TROOPS.

Occupation, organisation, & digging of a battalion defensive sector by night.

1. Scope of exercise.

- (a) Recce. of sector by R & O Troops by day and issue of battalion orders,
- (b) Bn. marches 2 miles, arrives assembly area at dusk, sub units take up allotted dispositions & tasks, dig in and wire positions (4 hours work) & thereafter maintain normal protective activities till dawn when exercise ends,
- (c) Restore ground, dismantle obstacles and return to camp for breakfast.

2. Date & time.

Night 28/29 Jun. 40. Leaving camp 1900 hours 28. Jun. & returning (about) 0630 hours 29. Jun.

3. Location. Vicinity trig. 79 three miles EAST of Gaza.

4. Troops participating. 2/11 Bn. less - "D" Coy. (duty coy.)
Transport Pl.

5. Opening Situation. A state of extreme tension exists throughout PALESTINE. "Fifth Column" agents have been active. It is believed that considerable quantities of rifles, L.M.G.'s, & ammunition have been smuggled into the country and that some light armoured vehicles and aeroplanes will be available to the revolutionaries at an early stage should hostilities break out.

6. Narrative. At 1200 hrs. G.O. 2/11 Bn. assembled his Coy. Comdrs. at Bn. H.Q. in Kilo 39 Camp lines and said - Tonight GAZA Force is to occupy a defensive position on the ridge two miles EAST of here. Our sector may be defined as under:
FDL's on line of creek EAST of trig. 79. Inter Bn. boundary on our right is the line of the track running EAST & WEST immediately NORTH of Trig. 72 which is exclusive to us. Inter Bn. boundary on our left is the EAST-WEST edge of crop approximately 1000 yds. NORTH of SOUTH FORT also exclusive to us. The occupation of the sector is to commence at dusk this evening. This is all the information I have at the moment. At 1400 hours this afternoon R & O Troops will assemble at Bn. H.Q. & we will proceed by truck to our defensive area for the purpose of recce. & issue of orders for the occupation.

7. Phase A. Commencing at 1400 hours 28. Jun. - see para 1 (a)

8. Phase B. Commencing at 1900 hours 28. Jun. - see para 1 (b). To be in accordance with battalion orders issued during Phase A.

9. Phase C. Commencing at 0500 hours 29. Jun. - see para 1 (c). Coys. will dismantle obstacles, fill in trenches, return stores and march to camp under coy. arrangements.

10. Administrative.

(a) Transport. Q.M. will arrange.

- (i) 1 15 cwt. truck report Bn. H.Q. 1400 hrs. 28. Jun. transport recce. party to trig. 79 returning camp 1600 hours.
- (ii) 2 30 cwt. trucks report Q.M. store 1830 hours for purpose of loading shovels, picks, wire etc. for delivery to rendezvous. These trucks will return to camp after delivery and will be required at rendezvous at 0600 hrs. 29. Jun. for return of stores to camp.
- (iii) 1 30 cwt. truck (time of reporting as necessary) to deliver hot drinks to rendezvous at 2330 hrs. and to return utensils to Q.M. store after distribution.

(b) Stores.

- (i) Taken Bren Guns & A.T. Rifles will be carried.
- (ii) The following tools will be required.

viz. A Coy.	Shovels	30	Picks	20	Hammers	1
B "		30		20		1
C "		30		20		1
Carriers		4		4		-
Pioneers		6		1		1
	Totals	<u>100</u>		<u>65</u>		<u>4</u>

(iii) Wiring Equipment.

The following wiring equipment will be required.

Subunit	Coils wire	Pickets long.	Pickets short
A	13	20	40
B	13	20	40
C	13	20	40
H.Q.	<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>40</u>
	Totals	<u>52</u>	<u>160</u>

28. Jun. 40.

(iv) R.S.M. will accompany transport vide para 10 (ii) and supervise the issue and return of tools and wiring equipment.

(c) Messing.

The only messing involved is the provision of a hot drink to troops undergoing exercise at 2359 hours 28. Jun. Transport will be provided in accordance with para 10 (iii). Coys. will arrange direct with Q.M. for collection and transport of food.

(d) Dress.

Marching order (working dress)
Greatcoat will be carried in pack.
W.P. sheet and mug will be carried in haversack.
Waterbottles will be filled.
No blankets will be carried.

11. Enemy. 1st Reinforcements will carry out role of enemy under instructions to be issued separately.

12. Conferences.

Since exercise has been set primarily with a view to studying company problems, discussions subsequent to exercise will be arranged and conducted by Coy. Commanders.

KILO 89, L4.
28. Jun. 40.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11th Battalion A.I.F.

Date and Time.—From 1 July To 8 July 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Kilo 89	1. 7. 40		Administration day - leave Jerusalem 50 - C.O. & Maj Sandover report to Comdant Depot on leave.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2nd. -5. AUG. 1940 RECEIVED </div>
	2. 7. 40		Individual, section & Platoon training for week. Transfer of Reinforcements to Coys - platoons renumbered. Lecture to officers on air cooperation by Sqd Ldr Wells.	
	3. 7. 40		Leave Tel-Aviv 126.	
	4. 7. 40	0115	Adjut receives message 19 Bde - 1 Pl to be ready 0200 move to Coast watching post Rafah - no communications some hours. 0150 2/11 C delivers verbal instructions to I.O. and Lt Webster for recce & report. Escort ready to move at 0200 - message Bde cancelling 0205. Among lessons learnt - no 1st Aid huts, putting together W.E. in black out.	Appendix IV Bn's 1 st operation order & message.
	5. 7. 40	0200		
	6. 7. 40	0900	Coy Comdors' recce next week's training & bivouac area - Gaza 1:100000 - ref 0985 0939. Capt Egan leaves for M.E. T.S. Liaison Wing (till 31 Aug).	
	7. 7. 40	0700	Church parades: B Coy return from Gaza Ridge guard. Pl of C Coy & signals return from Rafah coast watching water duties course & Pioneer course Sarafand - 2 OR depart. (ends 29 July). C.O. & Maj Sandover return from tour of Palestine. Bn boxing contest starts.	
	8. 7. 40	0900	Individual, sec & Pl training for week. Bde demonstration officers & NCO's - section formations. Leave Tel Aviv 127 & picnic 25. C.O. dines G.O.C. 6 Div.	Appendix I C.O. Notes " notes on training " Equipment " Operation order " Bivouac 2 3 4 5

D.3435/5.39.—C.4788.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Battalion AIF

Date and Time.—From 9 July To July 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Kilo 89	9.7.40	0900	Bde demonstration Sec reconnaissance & withdrawal for Offs & NCOs. 2nd lecture air cooperation Sq Ldr Wells.	
			Preparations for bivouac. M.E.W. J Schools - No 5 Rifle & LMG	
	10.7.40	0900	2 NCOs, No 5 mounted & made 3 NCO's deposit. Bde demonstration - section in defence. Bn (less portwin HQ Coy - Camp guard) moves to Bivouac area - map ref. Gaza 0985 0939. Platoon & section training. Visit by Div Comdt.	
	11.7.40		Platoon & section training & night exercises. Visit by B. M.	
	12.7.40		Platoon & Sec training; talk on Kh Mansura ridge by C.O. & 2 I/C on Palestine campaign & 1st battle Gaza 1917. Bn returns to Camp. Senior officers attend conference G.O.C. Corps.	
	13.7.40		Bathing Gaza. Duty Bn. Bde & A.G.H. Guard	
	14.7.40		also one pl Rafah coast watching. Lt Mackland leaves for I.O.'s school Cairo.	
	15.7.40		B. Coy shoot at miniature range. HQ Coy & C Coy do night exercise - Defence.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11 Bn

Date and Time.—From 16-7-40 To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Gaza	16.7.40		C. Coy & H. Q Coy return after night exercise - Defence C. Coy go to miniature range with Brens. Remainder carry out training in camp area.	
	17.7.40		Leave party 2/11 - arw. small party leave camp to visit coast watches at Rafah.	
	18.7.40		A Coy Gaza beach march & swim. Camp.	
	19.7.40		C, D & Refts busy moving tents to make room for H. Q. 10 vermin Base who join us early next week.	
	20.7.40		Bn. inspected by Sir Thomas Blamey.	
	21.7.40		Sunday. 2/11 th lost their first cricket match.	
	22.7.40		Brigade demo. Pl in attack. 4 officers leave for "tactical school" in Cairo.	
	23.7.40	-26.7.40	Bn out on bivouac. Pl exercises. Brig Rowell visited the camp & ^{attended} our community concert.	
	27.7.40		Camp. the hockey team defeated the sp ^{and} has yet to be beaten.	
	28.7.40		Camp. 2/11 th Cricket team had another win.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/11th Bn

Date and Time.—From 29th July To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Hilo 89	29/7/40		Leave party 100 men left for 2 days leave in Jerusalem. Remainder camp. Talk to all troops in Palestine, over wireless, by Maj. Gen. Godwin Austen	
	30/7/40		Pl training in camp area.	
	31/7/40		Admen day. Leave party 100. Two day leave party returned almost complete. Only 7 missed bus & they reported that night.	

Appendix T

2/11 BN. WAR DIARY.

C. O'S NOTES FOR JULY 1940.

We are gradually becoming enured to the prospect of enforced inactivity for some time, and have settled down into more or less steady training. We do a week in Camp on Guards and duties and such training as can be fitted in - and then we do a week of uninterrupted training - bivouacing out for three or four days.

We have now got 3 Bren carriers and a fair amount of M.T. which has eased the position a lot. We also have a 3" mortar.

The new pattern web equipment has also arrived and we are returning the old '08 pattern to Ordnance.

The G.O.C. Aus. Corps inspected the 19 Bde. on 20. Jul. and addressed the troops. Previously he had addressed the senior officers in Palestine. The troops were very disappointed with the address as they hoped he would say that we would shortly be going into action, whereas he indicated a long period of training and waiting for equipment.

We are still without any "surface" mail which is very hard on the men whose relations cannot afford the air-mail charge. The position as regards the man's own letters has been eased a little by A.C.F. who provide stamped envelopes for men who have allotted the maximum amount of their pay to dependants. Curiously enough few avail themselves of the privilege.

The A.C.F. are doing good work here. Amongst other things they run a tea-shop at Gaza Beach where men who have gone there to bathe may get a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a cigarette free of charge. The whole Bn. visited the beach one day recently and Capt. Gorman (who runs A.C.F.) went out of his way to tell the Brigadier how well they behaved. Curiously enough a similar report reached the Brigadier the following day from Mrs. Moriarty who runs the Soldiers Club at Tel-Aviv where 400 had been on leave a few days before

In point of fact the men do behave themselves very well - the Military Police in both Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem have told me so. There are always some who get drunk on leave but they don't make public exhibitions of themselves as is unfortunately the case in some other units. Recently out of a large leave party of 400 to Tel-Aviv only 7 missed the buses home; five of these reported to the Police that night and were back next day - and the other two turned up the following morning.

Our representatives did very well in the Div. Boxing Contests. WX 383 Pte. E.J.C. HULL (Transport) had a whirlwind victory in the middle-weight division, and WX 1048 Pte. A.I. TURNBULL won a close finish in the finals of the welter division. WX 449 Pte. G.R. PARKER our heavy-weight finalist might easily have won also if he hadn't broken a rib in the semi-final which prevented him from fighting.

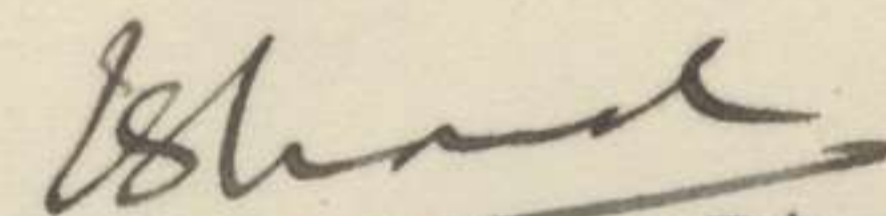
We are at present organising Platoon Boxing matches (10 a side) and a Platoon Soccer Competition. The Bn. hockey team holds its own, and so does the cricket team.

We had a Bn. concert one night when we were out on bivouac which was quite a success. Brig. S.F. Rowell (B.G.S. Aus. Corps.) dined with the H.Q. mess and came on to the concert. In the course of a few remarks he said that he had mentioned to the Div. Commander only that morning that if he wanted a Bn. to move at five minutes notice he couldn't do better than pick the 2/11 Bn. This was taken by the men to indicate the possibility of an early fight and there was a spontaneous roar of applause - but I am afraid it was really only a reference to our habit of moving about the world from one camp to another at frequent intervals.

See

Senior officers should make more of a practice of visiting troops informally when they are "off duty" - it does a lot of good both to them and the men. Unfortunately not everyone has the "common touch" which is so necessary if there is to be complete understanding.

The G.O.C., B.F.P. & T-J. delivered a radio speech to the troops on 29. Jul. Apart from the fact that it took place in the middle of the afternoon - thus interfering with training - it was very successful. The men were amused at his blood-thirstiness, and were able to ~~laugh~~ laugh good-humouredly, which they couldn't have done on parade;-consequently they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Lt.Col.
Commanding 2/11 Bn. A.I.F.

JULY 1940

Appendix 2

APPENDIX 2 - TRAINING

Platoon and section training was carried out during the month and was arranged in the following manner.

(a) Demonstrations.

Demonstrations were arranged by Bde. H.Q. covering most phases of pl. and sec. training and were witnessed by all Officers & N.C.O's not elsewhere employed on essential duties.

(b) Bivouacs.

The following bivouacs were held during the month:

- (i) Bn. (less H.Q. Coy.) WADI NAKHABIR from 10th to 13th July
- (ii) H.Q. Coy. vicinity TEL AMAR as in (i)
- (iii) Bn. at WADI NAKHABIR 23/26 Jul. 40.

(c) Training in lines.

For week ending 7 Jul. training was confined to individual training.

For week ending 21 Jul. same programme was followed.

A series of pl. exercises were set for week ending 3 Aug 40.
Copy of series is attached hereto.

Appendix III - Stores for Month.

This month we have got our '37 equipment, which is a step in the right direction, also a number of vehicles. We are now in a position to train the transport and there has been a marked difference in their outlook if not as yet in their driving.

Three carriers have also arrived and whilst they were in a shocking condition and deficient of all or nearly all their equipment, the platoon's enthusiasim has increased greatly.

Finally we have received 49 Balloons - these will be used by the A.A. platoon for practice.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

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

TO *2/11*

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

FROM *19th Inf Bn*

Originator's Number *3* Date *3* In Reply to Number

<i>one</i>	<i>Plt</i>	<i>2/11</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>prepared</i>
<i>to</i>	<i>move</i>	<i>0200</i>	<i>hrs</i>	<i>DAQ</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>apt</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>arranged</i>	<i>Brg.</i>	<i>BM</i>
<i>coming</i>	<i>now</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>see</i>	<i>60. at</i>	<i>Bn HQ.</i>

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

0015

SIGNED

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

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

T.O.R.

0115 hr
SFWood.

Intelligence Officer

1. Communication with Tel Rafa has been interrupted since 2130 hrs. 4 Jul. Reports have been received that red and green lights have been observed about Tel Rafa about the same time.
2. You will proceed to Rafa with a view to making contact with c.w. Platoon at Tel Rafa and ascertaining what has transpired.
3. Escort - 18 Pl. "D" Coy.
4. Route - GAZA - KHAN YNIS - RAFA as reconnoitred on 4 Jul.
5. Starting place and time. Bn.H.Q. at 0200 hours 5 Jul; you will endeavour to reach vicinity of Tel Rafa at first light.
6. Your task is to obtain accurate information as to the local situation at Tel Rafa and to report same to 6 Aus. Div. by quickest available means.
7. Every precaution must be exercised during move. Vehicles will move in depth particularly when approaching and passing through a village. Breakaway vehicles with suitable escorts will move well in rear. On arrival Rafa, vehicles will be parked clear of village and suitably guarded.
8. The following administrative arrangements have been made -
 - Trucks for transport personnel will be provided by 19 Bde. and will report in front Bn. H.Q. 0200 hours.
 - Two 15 cwt. trucks will be furnished by T.O., for use as a means of communication with H.Q. 6 Aus. Div.
 - Dry rations for one meal have been provided by Q.M.
 - Each man of escort will carry 100 rds. in two bandoliers.
 - One box filled magazines has been provided with each Bren Gun.

(Sgd) R. K. ANDERSON, Major.

1025 hrs.
4 Jul 40.

Verbal Instruction to I.O.

- (a) You are undertaking a recce. which may require the exercise of considerable force.
- (b) You must not however so commit your escort that its safe withdrawal is jeopardised.
- (c) In the event of your finding the situation normal you will return with escort to unit lines reporting 6 Aus. Div. on route.
- (d) In the event of meeting strong opposition you will, subject to (b) endeavour to maintain contact with a view to collecting as much information as possible prior to arrival of other units.