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

Item number: 8/3/13

2/13 Infantry Battalion

August 1943, Exercise "Postern",
part 2 of 2

SUBJECT: Air Support.

SIA/30.

MOST SECRET. 20 Aust Inf Bde. 8 Aug 43. Ref: I.

- 1. In ops an air sp party will be att to 9 Aust Div. The air sp party's duties will be :-
 - (a) To advise the div could on air sp.
 - (b) With the GIII (Air) to collate all requests from fwd units and to submit the div comd's priorities to Adv NGF.
 - (c) To provide two offrs.to In ops # air sp offr# will be att to 20 Aust Inf Bde to advise the fwd bde comds on suitable targets and to assist in the framing of requests for air sp.
 - (d) To sup air sp photos.
 - (e) To advise in air sp trg.
- 2. In order that requests for air sp may be clearly interpreted and immediate action taken the following information will be incl in requests in the order listed:-
 - (a) Whether the mission is coord with movement of friendly tps.
 - (b) Description of target and its exact location ref specifically to map or photo used.
 - (c) Disposn of friendly tps in relation to target and designation of bombline.
 - (d) Time limits of requested sp (if time of attack is immaterial state: "time immaterial")
 - (e) Direction and rate of movement of target (if this is not mentioned in message target will be assumed to be stationary).
 - (f) Description and location of secondary target (if adequate secondary target is not immediately apparent do not incl this element in message as HQ will have a target in mind).
 - (g) If a late int summary of target and sitn is to follow, request should be concluded ,"X" follows. with the words: X follows
- 3. If at any time between origin of request and the air attack the sitn is changed in any degree whatsoever, the air sp party should be immediately notified.
- 4. A reply can be expected to requests indicating approval or disapproval and if approved the estimated time over target, and number and type of planes.
- 5. In a case where close, direct air sp is to be given to an adv, and a time limit has been set, it must be remembered that weather can prevent the A/C getting in to the target at the last min, and this must be provided for in any plan. In this type of sp under no circumstances will air action be taken after the time laid down for the completion of the strike.

DISTRIBUTION:

2/13 Aust Inf Bn.

2/15 Aust Inf Bn.

2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

9 Aust Div Carr Coy.

BM, 20 Aust Inf Bde.

Australian Military Forces Please quote this number when replying. Address Date Misst: Information Bhemy. THE places 200 enemy troops comprising part of 21 IND hospital and possibly some naval troops in vicinity of HopoI and BUKAUA. Her places I'm at LAE. In neither case is the insormation recent. Latest photographs show considerable activity in the area but there are no indications that the activity is of a military nature. 2. There is no further evidence of AFVs in LAE. Any that may be there are mulmerable to .55 Tk A rifle fire. 3. There is no further evidence that 10 Div is complete in WAR-SALAWAUA area. The latest placing is BOGARIDE-YUARA two regiments, MADANG one regiment. The fourth regiment has had one battalion identified at S ALALADA and there is some evidence to suggest that part of this regiment as in the SAIDOR area. SAIDOR is a barge staging point for smuthern movement to LAN-SALAMAUA. 4. No further identicing ion of 41 Div at SALAMAUA. There is good Evidence that part of this div was at ULIMAN on 10 Aug en route to MANADO. The main force is placed at WEWE. 5 It is not thought that the enemy will make any attempt to withdraw from SALAMAUA. Some for Col. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025515

MOST SECRET

9 Aust Div
15 Aug 43

9 AUST DIV SPECIAL POSTERN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO I COPY No...

Based on information received up to 0900 hrs 14 Aug 43 Ref maps 1/63,360 - Sheets NADZAB - LAE - MONGI RIVER

PART I - ENEMY

ESTIMATED ENEMY STRENGTH

Table setting out estimate of enemy strengths and firepower by units is attached as Appx "A". This will be amended as further information is received.

2. ENEMY INTENTIONS

Owing to the interference to the supply of the forward troops in the LAT - SALAMAUA area by our constant attacks on his coastal barge traffic from the main NEW GUINEA bases at MADANG and WEWAK, it is considered that the enemy cannot undertake a large scale offensive in the present area of operations until he has established a secure line of supply.

This line of supply will be gained on the completion of the MARKHAM VALLEY road from BOGADJIM linking MADANG and LAE. At the present rate of progress it is considered that this route can be available for motor transport up to DUMPU by the end of Aug or early Sep and from DUMPU there should be little difficulty in traversing the remainder of the distance to LAE.

It is therefore appreciated that his present intention is to hold LAE and SALAMAUA areas at all costs. This is borne out by his continuance to supply and reinforce these areas by barges and submarine traffic despite the difficulties and losses occasioned by our attacks.

Based on the present estimate of the enemy strength in these areas it is further appreciated that the enemy's reaction to pressure on LAE will be of a defensive nature with limited counter attacks.

3. BEACH DEFENCES

There is no information of static beach defences in the immediate area of the landing but it is presumed that there is at least a detachment at HOPOI SO9 41 and BUKAUA S10 39, as our PT boats have been fired on from this area. There is also evidence of dumping in the vicinity. It is likely that the enemy maintains a coastal patrol or coast watching posts based on the coastal native villages. As there are few beaches between HOPOI and LAE on which it is impossible to effect a landing the task of adequate beach defence is a difficult one.

4. LAE DEFENCES -

(a) Infantry

In keeping with the general Japanese practice the ground defences of LAE are arranged as a series of strong points, covering the approaches to the town and air strips at LAE and MALAHANG.

(b) Artillery

Available information is set out in Appx "A". It is also possible that there are naval guns of 6" calibre capable of ranges up to 19,000 yards.

(c) AFVs
None so far reported.

(d) A defences overprint will be issued at a later date.

5. POSSIBILITY OF REINFORCEMENT AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION

Locations and estimated strengths

NEW GUINEA (i)

500 HOLLANDIA 500 VANIMO 200 AITAPE 300 BUT

-20000 41 Div Main Force WEWAK 41 Tpt Regt (part) - 5000 HANSA BAY

37 Indep Engr Regt (part) -13/16000 Adv 18 Army MADANG

20 Div - less elements at LAE and SALAMAUA

2 Base

- 500 SAIDOR 100 SIO - 1000 FINSCHHAFEN

20 Div (part) 8820 SALAMAUA Area

51 Div (part) One bn 21 Inf Regt

2 and 5 SNLPs

(ii) NEW BRITAIN

8 Army Gp -35000 RABAUL 65 Bde Inf Regt 20 Div(Four Regt Div) 38 Recce Regt One Bn 8 Tk Regt One bn paratps (?)

100 JACQUINOT 500 GALMATA 100 ARAWE 500 CAPE BUSHING 500 CAPE GLOUCESTER -300 TALASEA 100 UBILI

Routes and Times (b)

(i) MADANG

By barge 4 days staging SAIDOR - SIO - FINSCHHAFEN - LAF. Overland using MARKHAM VALLEY route 9/11 days based of the use of MT as far as DUMPU, thence by foot with native carriers. Lightly equipped tps may make slightly better time. If moving from WEWAK tps would take 2 further days.

By air - 2 hours.

(ii) FINSCHHAFEN

By barge - 12/14 hours

By overland route on track that is known to exist on the crest of the range and descending to GAWAN R715 556 thence down the bank of the SANKWEP and BUSU RIVERS to LAE - 31/4 days for lightly equipped tps. Would require an extra day if native carriers were used to bring supplies at the same time.

5. POSSIBILITY OF REINFORCEMENT AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION (Ctd)

(b) Routes and Times (Ctd)

(111) RABAUL

Dependent upon shipping or transport aircraft available:

To LAE direct - sea - minimum using Destroyers 15 hrs.
maximum using barges 4/5 days

air - 3 hrs

To MADANG - sea - minimum using Destroyers 16 hrs.
maximum using ships 2 days

- air - 3 hrs

-

To FINSCHHAFEN - sea - minimum using Destroyers 12 hrs. maximum using ships 12 days.

air - $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

These estimations are based on the assumption that troops are organized and ready for an instant move. This would hold possibly for MADANG - WEWAK area and FINSCHHAFEN but is unlikely to hold for RABAUL.

(c) Considerations

- Airborne The Japanese have planes capable of transporting 15/30 troops per load but as at 8 Aug there were insufficient available in the SW Pacific area to make any serious attempt at moving a large body of troops.
- Paratroops There is no further information of the Japanese parachute bn which was reported to be at RABAUL as late as Feb of this year. The area of operations is within their normal range. It is not known if they are equipped to operate in their proper role.

(iii) Conclusions

Our pressure from the south should contain the maximum troops in the SALAMAUA area and it is not considered any could be spared to reinforce LAE. 3/N Any troop movement direct to LAE by sea would be a difficult and risky operation but the enemy may be prepared to take this risk to effect speedy reinforcement using destroyers for the purpose. Reinforcement by air is dependent upon number of transport aircraft that can be made available from other areas. Again a direct route to LAE would be inviting heavy casualties unless night flights with their attabaght difficulties were inderinken. The most likely course for immediate reinforcement is the overland route from MADANG - WEWAK area with resupply by sea from RABAUL to MADANG - WEWAK or FINSCHHAFEN. The possibility of reinforcement by destroyers from NEW BRITAIN must, however, not be overlooked.

6. SUPPLY

Hitherto the LAE - SALAMAUA area has been largely supplied by coastal barge traffic from MADANG and NEW BRITAIN. The use of this route during the operation would be rather hazardous and unless the enemy is prepared to run this risk he is forced to use the long and difficult overland route from MADANG, the shorter but equally difficult overland route from FINSCHHAFEN or supply by air. No accurate estimate can be made of his reserves of supplies already dumped in the LAE - SALAMAUA area but it is not considered to be large.

7. AIR BASES AND STRENGTHS

- (a) The main enemy air bases likely to affect the operation are situated at :-
 - (1) NEW GUINEA

| | HOLLANDIA | mbell and t | x |
|---|-------------|---|---|
| | BUT | | |
| | DAGUA | | 0 |
| V | WEWAK | | 0 |
| | BORAM | | 0 |
| | NUBIA | | |
| | ALEXISHAFEN | I | x |
| 1 | ALEXISHAFEN | II | X |
| / | MADANG | 3 | |
| 1 | MALAHANG | The Market | x |
| 1 | LAE | AL TONE TOWN | |
| 1 | SALAMAUA | CR STATE | |

(ii) ADMIRALTY ISLANDS

LORENGAU

(111) NEW BRITAIN

CAPE GLOUCESTER I
CAPE GLOUCESTER II X
GASMATA X
KERAVAT X
LAKUNAI 0
RAPOPO 0
VUNAKANAU 0
TOBERA X

(1v) NEW IRELAND

BORPOP X
KAVIENG O
PANAPAI

o = major base x = not in use at present

The determination of important bases is rendered difficult by the enemy's practice of holding his planes in rear areas and bringing them forward when needed.

(b) Estimate of Enemy Land Based Aircraft as at 8 Aug 43

| Areas | | T/E SSF | L/B& M/B | S/EB | F/B | F/P | TPT | & OBSN | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|-----|------------|-------------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-------|
| NEW GUINEA DUTCH NG | 86 | 9 | 63 | | | 5 | 8 | | 171 |
| NEW BRITAIN NEW IRELAND | 91 | 21 | 144 | 13 | 4 | 12 | 13 | | 285 |
| SOLOMONS | 49 | | 12 | 9 | 2 | 25 | | | 97 |
| Totals | 232 | 30 | 237 | 22 | 6 | 51 | 21 | | 599 |

8. E

MORALE

- (a) The critical position at SALAMAUA is probably causing apprehension among the troops.
- (b) It is likely, however, that they may have been informed of the intention to relieve them by moving a large force over-land from MADANG.
- (c) The exhortation to hold out until this force arrives will no doubt be fulfilled with characteristic stubbornness.
- (d) The psychology of the Japanese makes the assessment of morale extremely dangerous. They should never be judge on the reactions of German or Italian troops faced with similar circumstances.

Ston. Epinny colls

PART II - TOPOGRAPHICAL

9. AREA OF OPERATIONS

The area of operations extends from LAE eastward to include HOPOI SO9 38 and northwards from the coast of the HUON GULF between these two points to the RAWLINSON RANGE some 15 miles inland.

10. TERRAIN

(a) Configuration

LAE is situated on the flat ground at the mouth of the MARKHAM RIVER but is dominated from the west by MOUNT LUNAMUN R69 39 and ATZERA RANGE, commencing approx 3 miles NW of LAE and running in a NW direction, and from the north by spurs in general areas R66 52 and R78 48. The country to the east is flat coastal plain varying in width from 5 miles at the R98 easting to 300 yards on the S14 easting where the foothills first approach the coast. This coastal plain is under 50 feet altitude and is overlooked by MOUNT LUNAMUN and ATZERA RANGE at LAE itself. In clear weather observation as far as HANISCH HARBOUR is obtainable from these two features.

(b) Ground Condition

The soil of the coastal plain is black loam to a depth of up to 3 feet with a gravelly subsoil. The surface is affected by rain and is reported to cut up and become very boggy under wheeled traffic.

The coastal strip for distances up to 6/800 yards from the beach is often low lying and swampy. This swampy strip is reported to be penetrable on foot in almost all areas. There are, however, patches of dense mangroves which are virtually impenetrable. The ground surface becomes firmer as the foothills are approached.

(c) Vegetation

- (i) Coastal strip. Dense low to medium height scrub with scattered patches of mangrove and isolated groups of sago palms. Normal vegetation found in swampy areas.
- (ii) Hinterland. Rain forest interspersed with patches of Kunai grass (often covering up to two square miles) and in the village areas coconut plantations and overgrown native gardens..
- (111) Foothills. Dense rain forest.

(d) Streams

The streams have characteristic broad gravelly beds containing several water channels which change position frequently. All streams are subject to flooding though this tendency is found more often in the NW or dry season of sudden torrential storms.

(i) BUSU RIVER

Near the mouth it is usually easy to cross on foot (average maximum depth 3 feet in normal weather). In flood (maximum depth 5½ feet) it is extremely swift and cannot be forded by loaded men. Bridging is necessary/for the passage of vehicles. Possible fords, squares R 71 45 and R 71 46. Possible bridging sites: Squares R 70 47, R 70 48, R 70 49.

/ at all times

10. TERRAIN

(d) Streams (ctd)

(ii) BULU

BUSO

BUIEM

BUNGA

BUREP

Fordable on foot except during floods.

(iii) Other streams fordable on foot at all times.

(e) Tracks.

- (i) Coastal track runs from LAE to FINSCHHAFEN at times on the beach itself, on the raised mound backing the beach or slightly inland to skirt patches of swamp. This track was largely used for traffic between Missions situated between LAE and FINSCHHAFEN and between LAE and FINSCHHAFEN themselves. The track is reported to be 1-5 feet wide and could be improved to take Jeeps.
- Inland track A foot track now probably overgrown is reported to exist from HOPOI via BUSO R943 455 ALUKI R889 460 APO R853 442 MUSOM R838 465 to village at R809 462. From there, there is a possible route around the foothills to the SANKWEP R thence to GAWAN R715 556 and MUSOM R68 55. There are connections from SINGAUA and BULU PLANTATIONS to this route.
- (iii) Foot track From the mouth of the BUSU R NW along the east bank to the SANKWEP thence up the west bank of this stream to GAWAN.
- (iv) Foot track From MALAHANG strip R72 42 along west bank of BUSU R to MUSOM R68 55 crossing the BUSU by a kunda bridge R687 544. This bridge was known to exist in Jan 43 and is probably maintained by the Japanese.
- (v) GAWAN and MUSOM R838 465 are connected to the mountain track LAE FINSCHHAFEN by separate tracks running northwards. This LAE FINSCHHAFEN inland track is a precipitous foot track which can be traversed by lightly equipped troops in 3½ to 4 days.
- (vi) There is also reported to be a track running north from HOPOI to the inland LaE FINSCHHAFEN route.

 No additional information on its exact location is at present obtainable. It can be no more than a steep foot track due to the nature of the country.

11. METEOROLOGICAL

(a) Seasons

The two main seasons are the NW from Dec - Mar and the SE from May - Oct.

- (i) NW Prevailing wind westerly with generally fine weather. Sudden heavy rain storms are not unusual producing flood conditions in the rivers.
- (ii) SE Prevailing wind from SE strongest from Jul to Aug. Wind usually rises approx 1100 hrs and blows until dusk or a little after. This season brings heavy rain and the mountains are usually clouded. Frequently the clouds are as low as 1000 feet. Rain is is usually for several days at a time.

11. METEOROLOGICAL (Ctd)

(b) Tides and Sea Conditions

- (i) Tides are irregular and largely unpredictable. Rise is about 3 feet at springs. Highest springs are in Dec, and lowest in Jun, when levels are approx 6 inches above and below normal. Frequently the water rises and falls quickly, then remains at the same level for a considerable time.
- Heavy seas are experienced along the coast during the SE season with a maximum height of 6 feet between crest and trough. Seas decline when the wind falls in the evening and by dawn there is usually only a gentle swell. In the NW season seas are generally moderate.

12. WATER SUPPLIES

Besides water obtainable from the streams, wells will yield water at depths from 2 to 6 feet almost anywhere in the coastal plain.

13. | BEACHES

(a) General

Beaches between LAE and FINSCHHAFEN are composed of black sand and pebbles, the latter most frequently to the west of the river mouths.

The breadth of beach between high and low water is narrow, usually from 6 to 30 feet. In places the beach is backed by a low sandy or gravel terrace which in the majority of cases causes swampy conditions immediately inland.

(b) YELLOW BEACH

- (i) Location ... R9862 3979 R9766 3980 bounded on the east and west by streams.
- (ii) Nature black sand, backed on the western end for approx 250 yards by low scrub-covered sandy terrace and cut at approx . R 9779 3990 by a small stream.
- (iii) Length 1000 yards
- (iv) Width Average 20/30 feet along entire length.
- (v) Hinterland -

From western boundary to including intermediate stream low dense scrub with patches of low lying swampy ground extending inland approx 250 yards to the commencement of the rain forest area.

From the stream to plantation the scrub is still dense though the ground appears to be drier. There is, however, a suspected patch of swamp in the centre of this section, some 420 yards long by 250 yards wide, running parallel to the beach and approx 120 yards from it.

inland

The plantation of coconuts 600 yards by 200 yards is similar to plantation area RED BEACH.

Behind the coastal fringe there is dense rain forest, with again overgrown native gardens and clearings mostly inter-connected by foot tracks.

As at RED BEACH the whole coastal plain is flat for approx 5 miles to the foothills.

(vi) Egress

Existing foot track running northwards through plantation.

13. BEACHES (Ctd)

- (c) RED BEACH See Appx "A" to 9 Aust Div 00 No. 1.
 - (1) Location R9255 3955 to R9350 3955 bounded on the west by a small stream and on the east by a foot track running north from beach to native village The beach is cut by two streams at approx R9339 3955 and R9303 3960 which form small lagoons behind the beach.
 - (ii) Nature black sand and shingle backed by low terrace of scrub covered sand. Much of the beach is over-hung by trees.
 - (iii) Length 1100 yards.
 - (iv) Width Varies from approx 60 feet for 400 yards astride the plantation to approximately 18 feet for the remainder of the beach.
 - (v) Hinterland

From western extremity to plantation the beach is backed by dense low scrub extending inland for some 250 yards. The ground close to the stream which forms the western boundary is likely to be swampy but conditions east of small lagoon at 9303 3960 appear to improve and should also become progressively firmer as one moves inland. The plantation area, 100 yards by 200 yards, consists of coconut palms spaced approx 30 feet apart with a strong secondary growth between the palms. should be firm - dependent on the weather. From plantation to eastern extremity the vegetation is fairly dense scrub with patches of swampy ground in the vicinity of the streams at R9339 3955 and R9303 3960. The swampy area is not considerable and is not considered an obstacle to movement on foot. The scrub which is interspersed with high timber extends inland for approximately 500 yards. Along the entire beach, after crossing the coastal fringe of scrub, the country opens out into overgrown native gardens and on the western end, grass and light/Kunai grass. The overgrown gardens provide a well drained surface but the secondary growth which covers the old gardens is very dense and from 8 to 20 feet high. Surrounding the native gardens the vegetation is rain forest similar to that en cuntered in the NQ TABLELANDS area. The whole area is flat

/light scrubbed clearing leading into a large area of

(vi) Egress

foothills.

Existing foot tracks running north from beach. one through the plantation and the other from the eastern extremity of the beach.

plain extending for approx 5 miles inland to the

ACKNOWLEDGE

Down Fir Col GS

Appx "A" to 9 Aust Div Special POSTERN Intelligence Summary No. 1

| 1 | | | EST | TAMIT | E OF I | ENEMY S | STRE | ENGTH E | BY UN | IITS & | FIRE | POWE | R - L | AE 1 Aug | 43 | Jemanerty 100 I |
|--|---|---|----------------|-------|---------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Ser | UNIT S | TRENGTH | _ II | NF WE | APONS | | | ARTY | | ARTY | | AA | | AA | TOTAL | |
| No | | | LMG | MMG | GREN DISCH | MOR- TARS | 371 mm | 70 75 mm mm | 105 mm | TOTAL | 13 mm | 25/40 mm | 75 min | TOTAL . | ALL GUNS | |
| 1 2 3 4 | FIELD TROOPS 20 DIV (part) 'IKEDA' Arty Unit 1 Bn 14 Fd Arty 14 Pnr Unit | 2500 500 390 130 | 1.08 4 6 | 24 | 103 | | 6 | 6 4 12 12 | 4 | 16 12 16 | 8 | | | 8 | 16 20 16 | |
| | TOTAL | 3520 | 118 | 24 | 108 | | 6 | 6 28 | 4 | 44 | 8 | | | 8 | 52 | |
| 56789 | AA UNITS 29 Fd Pom Pom Coy 22 AA Unit Aerodrome Bn 2 Air Def Unit 'YOSHIMOTO' Unit | 130 100 200 330 100 | 5 | 8 10 | 2 | | | | | | | 4 12 | 22 4 | 4 2 6 12 4 | 4 2 6 12 4 | |
| | TOTAL | 860 | 5 | 18 | 2 | | | | | | | 20 | 8 | 28 | 28 | |
| 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | BASE - L of C UNITS 7 Base HQ 81 Guard Unit 82 " " 3 Coy 51 Tpt Regt 2 Fd Hosp 3 Tele Regt (pl) Water Purif Unit 40 Sea Duty (pl) 105 Sea Duty (pl) 3 Deb Unit (part) 85 Naval Sigs | 100 150 150 250 140 40 40 40 40 40 40 | 4 4 4 6 | | 2 | | | | | | | | 4 2 | 4 2 | 4 2 | |
| | TOTAL | 1090 | 18 | | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| | GRAND TOTALS | 5470 | 141 | 42 | 112 | | 6 | 6 28 | 4 | 44 | 8 | 50 | 14 | 42 | 86 | |
| WEAF | ONS BY PHOTO INTERP | RETATIO | N | | | | | 119 | | 19 | 10 | 18 | 13 | 41 | 60 | |
| | NOTE : SERIAL NO. | 1 - Tem | porary | r est | imate | only. | | SERTAL | No. | 2 - Du | e to | ease | of co | ncealment | there are prob | v Idea |

SERIAL No.1 - Temporary estimate only.

Due to ease of concealment there are probably more Fd guns than those shown by photographic interpretation.

| RANGES | OF | GUNS | :- ; | 37 mm | 1 | | 5450 | yds | 3 | HORIZONTAL | RANGES | OF | AA | GUNS | : 1: | 3 mm | 7085 yıls |
|--------|----|------|------|-------|---|-----|--------------|-----|---|------------|--------|----|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | | | | 70 mm | | min | 3000 7000 | | | | | | | | 25 | mm | ?7000 " |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 19/6 | | | mm | Not known |
| | | | |)5 mm | | Rmi | 10000 | ** | | | | | | | 75 | mm | 15200 yds |

| DISTRIBUTION: 20 Aust Inf Bde 24 Aust Inf Bde 26 Aust Inf Bde 2/4 Aust Infep Coy RAA 9 Aust Div, RAE 9 Aust Div Sigs 9 Aust Div 2/2 Aust MG Bn 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn 1 Aust Tk Bn 532 Sh Bn 2 ESB Amph Force Comd G AQ | Copy Fos 1 - 4 5 - 8 9 - 12 13 14 - 16 17 - 20 21 22 23 24 25 - 26 27 - 29 30 31 | |
|---|---|--|
| Rear HQ 9 Aust Div AASC 9 Aust Div Medical File Wan Diary Spares | 33 - 34 35 - 37 38 - 42 44 - 45 46 - 51 | |

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1025515

Subject: Requests for Air Support POSTERN Operation.

2/13 Aust Inf Bn. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde.

Ref: I 1/1/2020
25 Aug 43.

Herewith proforma to be used in requesting air support. It is suggested that they be made available down to forward companies. They should be used in ref to 9 Aust Div GP 35/7/- of

13 Aug 43. When requesting air support through signal channels the letter (A, B, C, etc only need be given. An example of a request for air support received by telephone might read :-

"A strafing B 500 troops in bivouac area C 1 ASP ref
A 5971 native village C2 EAST of MT TAMBU D1 from NW D2 no D3 yes.
E1 0900 hrs 25 Aug E3 yes E4 NOT before 1500 hrs 25 Aug NOT after 1630 hrs
25 Aug F nil G own troops West of line A 12 & 5 C1362 H overcast at 1000ft J more observed".

BM20 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Subject: Interservice Recognition
Procedure, Recognition
Signals for Aircraft.

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
Ref: 53/1/72
5 Aug 43.

2/13 Aust Inf Bnc / 2/15 Aust Inf Bnc 2/17 Aust Inf Bnc

Attached is list of current and reserve columns of aircraft recognition signals for period 0000 hrs GMT on day 9 to 2400 hrs on day 18.

Current columns become effective as from 0000 hrs GMT 5 Aug 43 (1000 hrs 5 Aug 43 Local Standard Time).

Aircraft will initiate the procedure by flashing the appropriate letter from column 3, surface craft or ground station will answer by flashing the appropriate letter from column 4, followed by the letter R sent 3 times. Surface craft or ground station will initiate the procedure by flashing the appropriate letter from column 4, the aircraft will then acknowledge by flashing same letter from column 4, the aircraft will then acknowledge by flashing same letter from column 4 followed by the letter R sent 3 times.

All letters will be flashed by a single white light.

5. Acknowledge.

BM 20 Aust Inf Bac.

SAR/36

Interservice Recognition Procedure, Recognition Signals for Aircraft. MOST SECRET.
HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde.
12 Aug 43.

Ref: I 3/11/197

2/13 Aust Inf Bn.
2/15 Aust Inf Bn.
2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

- 1. Att is list of current and res columns of A/C Recognition sigs for period coco hrs GMT on day 19 to 2400 hrs on day 31.
- 2. Current columns become effective as from 0000 hrs GMT 15 Aug 43 (1000 hrs 15 Aug 43 Local Standard Time).
- 3. A/C will initiate the procedure by flashing the appropriate letter from coln 3, surface craft or ground sta will answer by flashing the appropriate letter from coln 4, followed by the letter R sent 3 times. Surface craft or ground sta will initiate the procedure by flashing the appropriate letter from coln 4, the A/C will then ack by flashing same letter from coln 4 followed by the letter R sent 3 times.
- 4. All letters will be flashed by a single white light.

5. Ack.

Amelon Maj.

BM, 20 Aust Inf Bde.

MANUAL PROPERTY.

| 101 | | | The Party of the P | | | | |
|--|--------|------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| | E | | CURRENT CO | | RES | COLNS | |
| - | DAY. | Time (GWT) | A/C Recognition | Surface Craft | A/C Recognition | Surface Craft or Ground Sta | 7-44 |
| 1 | 735 | | Letter. | Sta Letter. | Letter. | or Ground Sca | retter. |
| | 77 | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | |
| | 19.00 | 00-0600. | . G | X | В | V | |
| | 06 | 00-1200 | . c | H | M | W | |
| | 18 | 00-2400. | . Z | F | X | D | |
| | 20.00 | 00-0600. | H D | N | C | В | |
| | 12 | 00-1800. | V | ĉ | 0 | W | |
| | | 00-2400. | Charles and the Control of the Contr | P | P | S | |
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SUBJECT: MOST SECRET.
HQ 20 Aust inf Bde.
Ref: G1/4/862. 9 AUST DIV "POSTERN" INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 1. 18 Aug 43. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. 1. Att is copy of the above Intelligence Summary. 2. This document will remain graded MOST SECRET until further notice. 20 Aust Inf Bae.

MOST SECTION

9 AUST DIV GENERAL STAFF INSTRUCTION No 9 16 Aug 43
SHIP TO SHORE RECOGNITION PROCEDURE - SMALL VESSELS Copy No

GENERAL

- 1. The system of identification signals for use by small vessel is set out hereunder.
- 2. This procedure will be used in SWPA north of latitude 18° south between vessels of the Allied Army Water Tot Gp and Allied warships, aircraft, shore signal stations, and beach defence posts.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

3. The Challenge

This will be flashed by a single white light at a speed of not more than eight words per minute, and will consist of -

(a) From shore stations, the letters INT flashed as one signal (....)

(b) From warships or aircraft, the letters OE flashed as one signal (---.)

4. The Identification

This will consist of a three letter group which must be flashed hrough twice immediately in reply to the challenge. The three letter groups for use by day (sunrise to sunset) and by night (sunset to sunrise) are set out in the attached list. The three letter groups change daily at 0001 hrs GMT (1001 hrs in time mone 'K').

5. The Acknowledgment

The challenging station will acknowledge the correct identification by flashing the letter "R" three times.

DISTRIBUTION

6. HQ 9 Aust Div will issue to formations etc lists of identification signals to cover a period of 7 days. As far as possible these lists will be promulgated several days in advance. Formations etc will ensure that all units manning shore stations or beach defence posts have a copy of the current list.

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DENTIFICATION SIGNALS - SHIP TO SHORE RECOGNITION - SMALL VESSELS

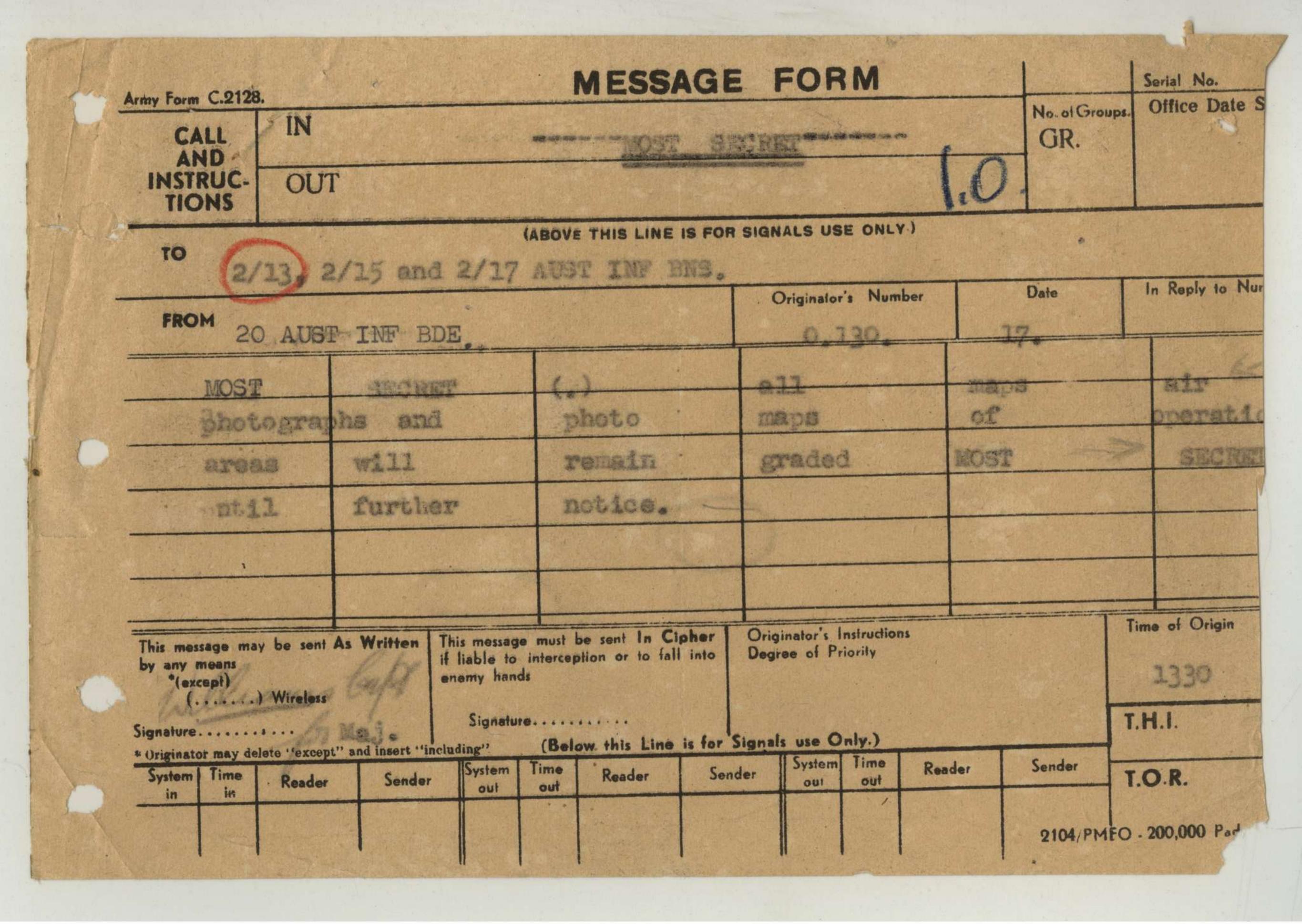
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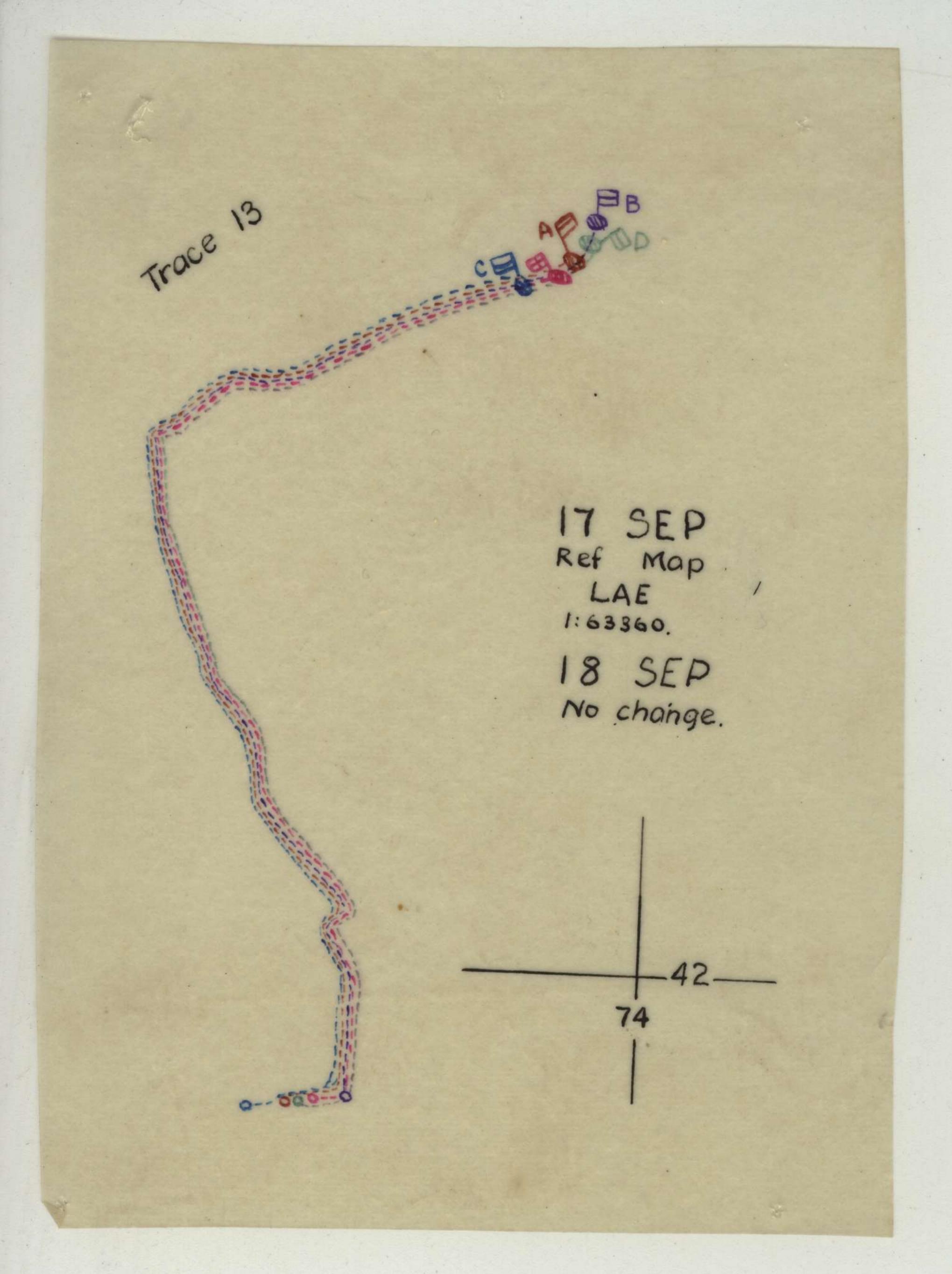
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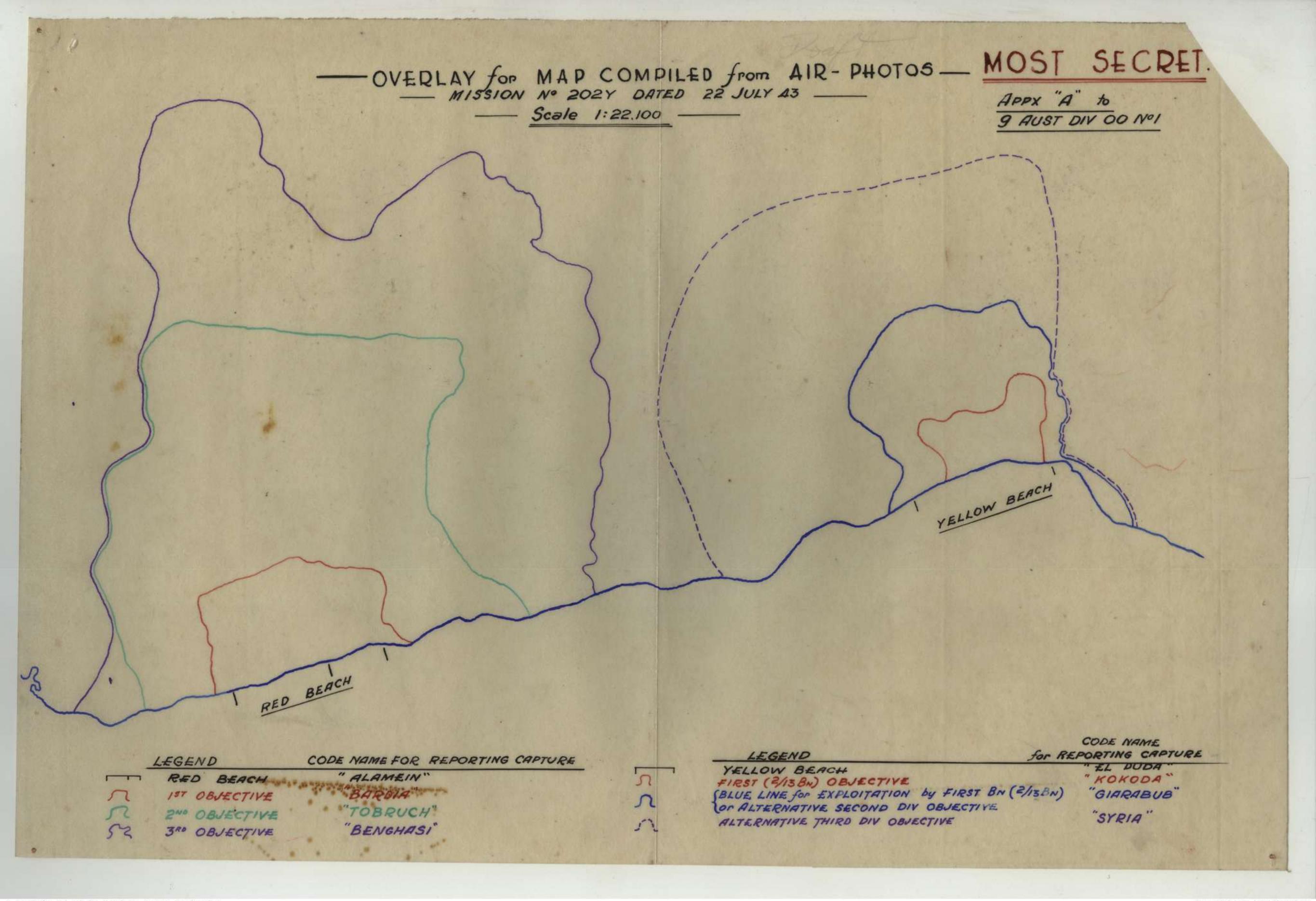
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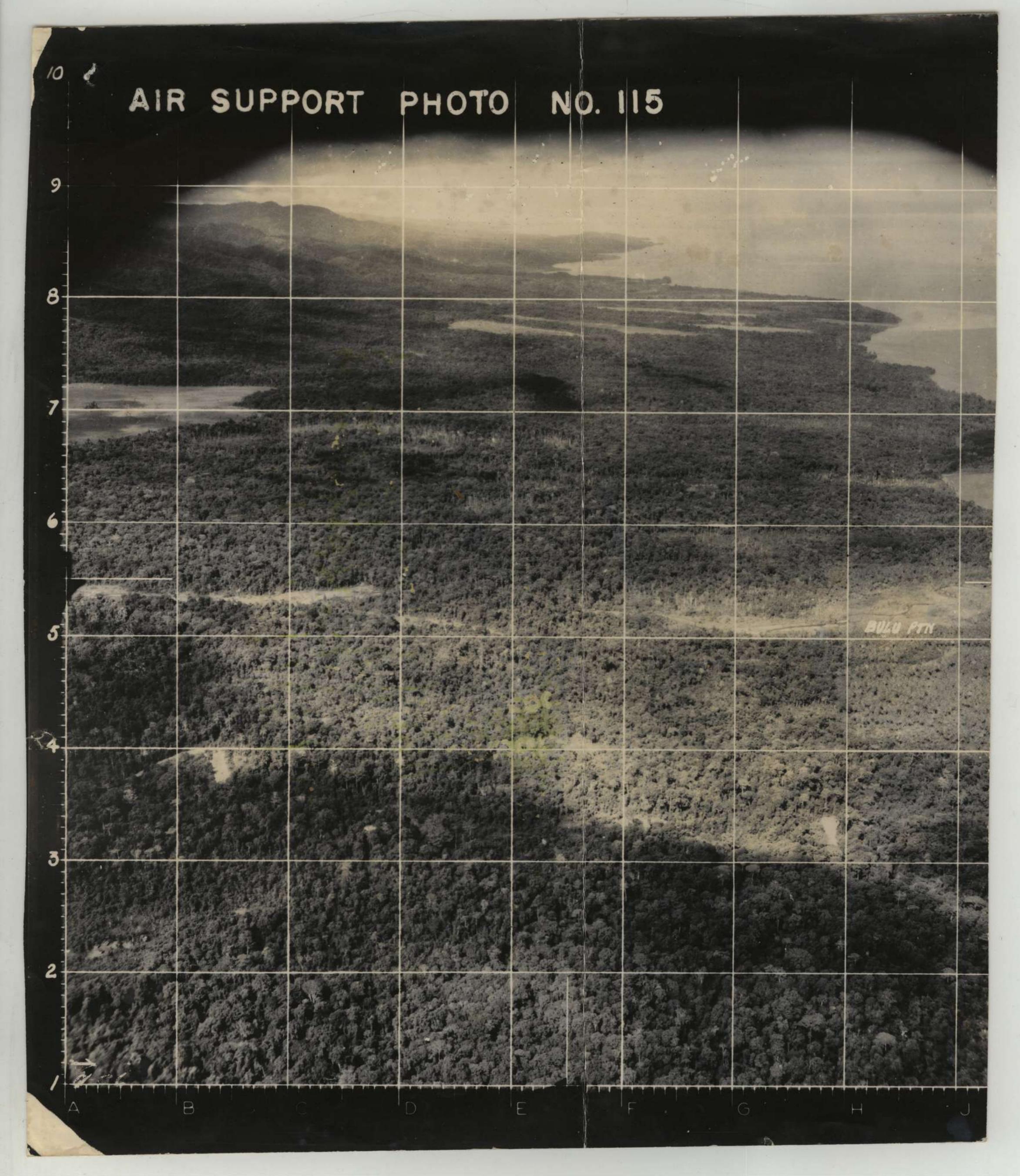
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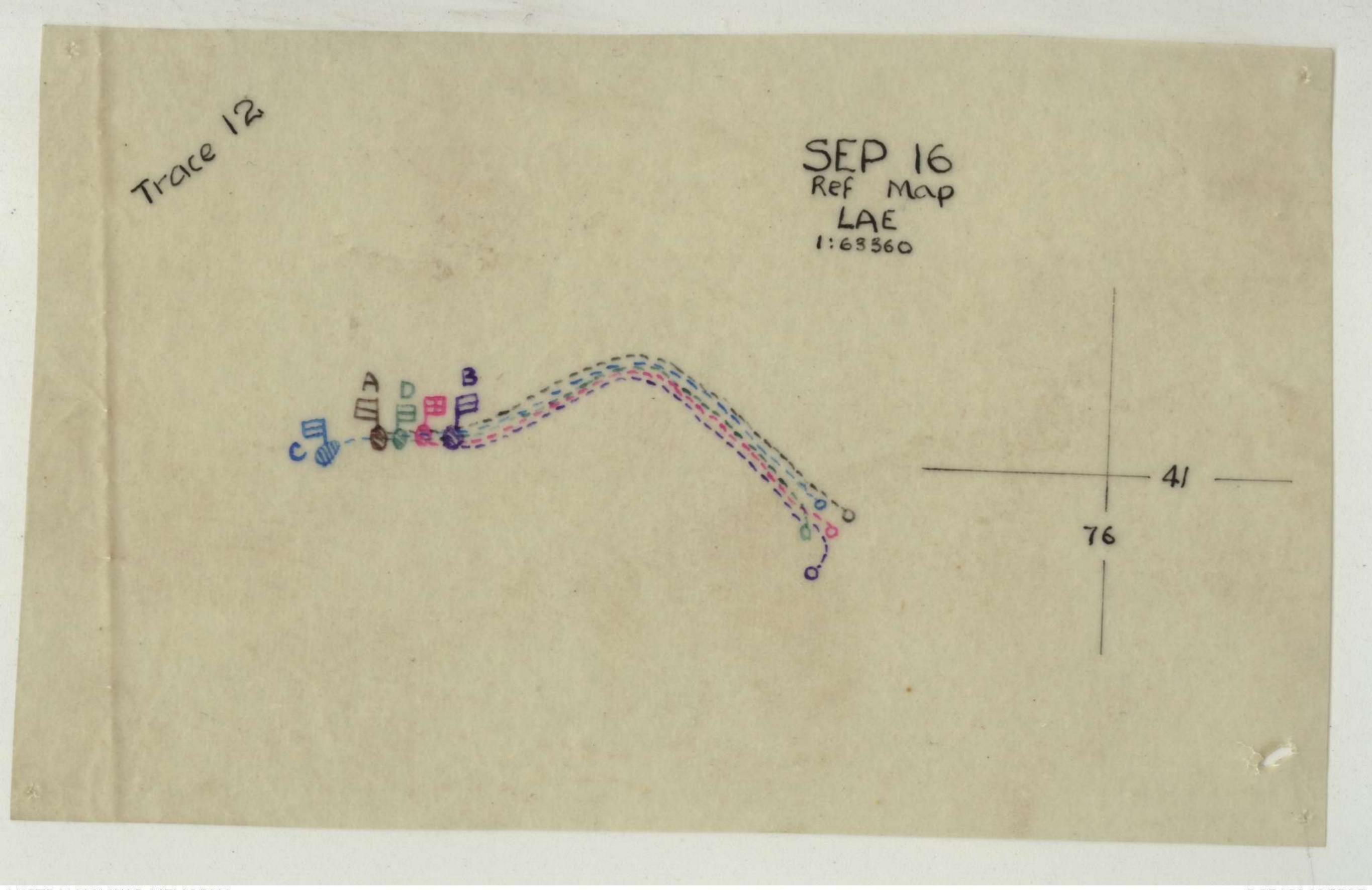
HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde. Ref: I. 9/11/200 20 AUST INF BDE- INFELLIGENCE INSTR NO 1. SITREPS. 1. Sitreps to 0530,1200 and 1730 hrs respectively will be submitted by units to this HQ daily, and will be lodged for transmission not later than 0600, 1230 and 1800 hrs respectively, and will be despatched by IMMEDIATE priority. 2. Additional Sitreps will be sent at the discretion of units as often as circumstances warrant to keep this HQ fully informed. 3. Each Sitrep will be given a serial number. 4. Sitreps will form a continuing series, each Sitrep carrying on from the time of the previous one. However events should be dealt with by areas # sub-units where they lend themselves to such subdivision rather than in strict chronological sequences. 5. Times of events detailed will be clearly stated. 6. Sitreps should from time to time outline the FDL of the unit concerned, particularly after an engagement or when disposus have been changed. 7. The following matters will be included in Sitreps where they arise:-Condition of air-strips. Condition of trs and crossings. Number of enemy dead by counting corpses. Number of fresh enemy graves. (d) Estimates of enemy casualties based on actual observation. (e) Met infm (where unit is det). 8. The intention or outline plan for future ops will not be disclosed in Sitreps. This will be done by separate sig or despatch. 9. Sitreps are not required from units while they are not in an operational area, except to report movements of units or sub-units. BM. 20 Aust Inf DISTRIBUTION: 2/13 Aust Inf Bn. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1025515

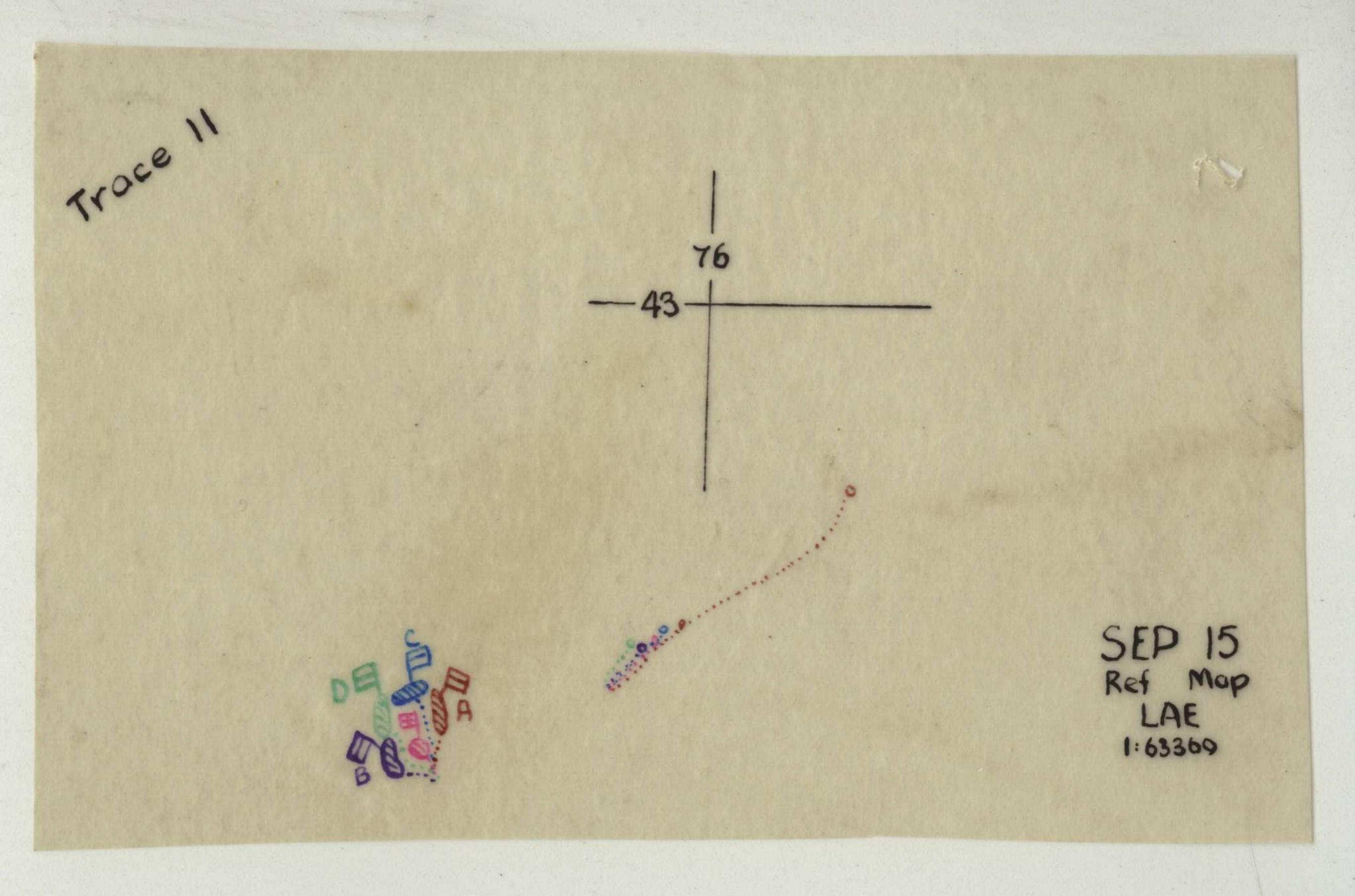


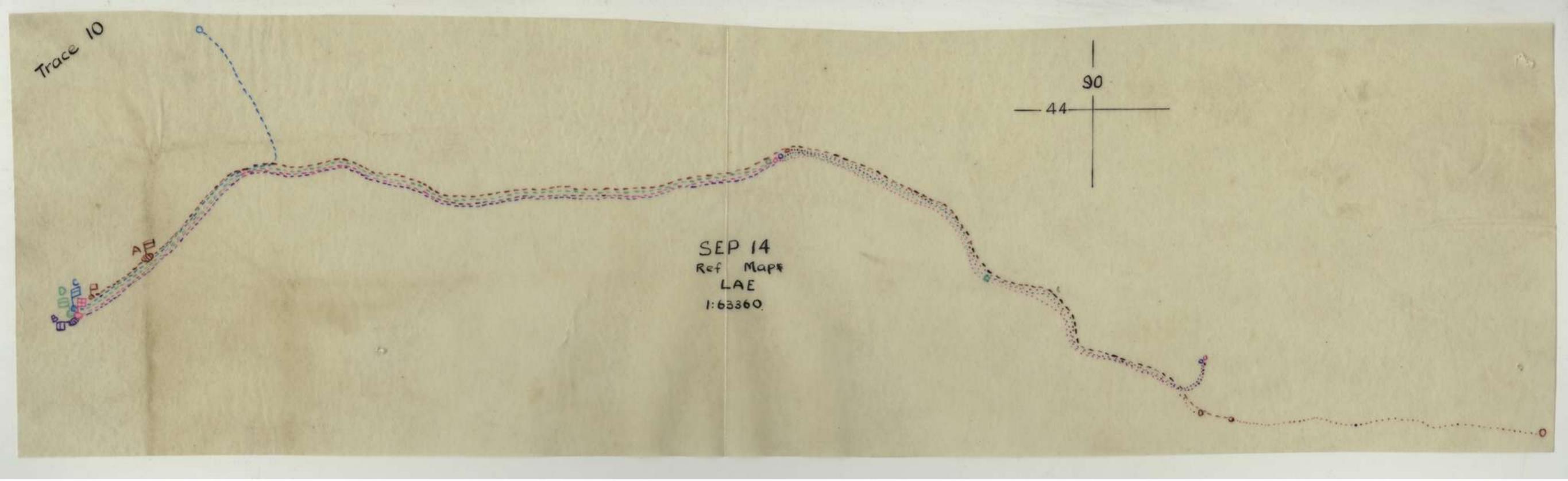


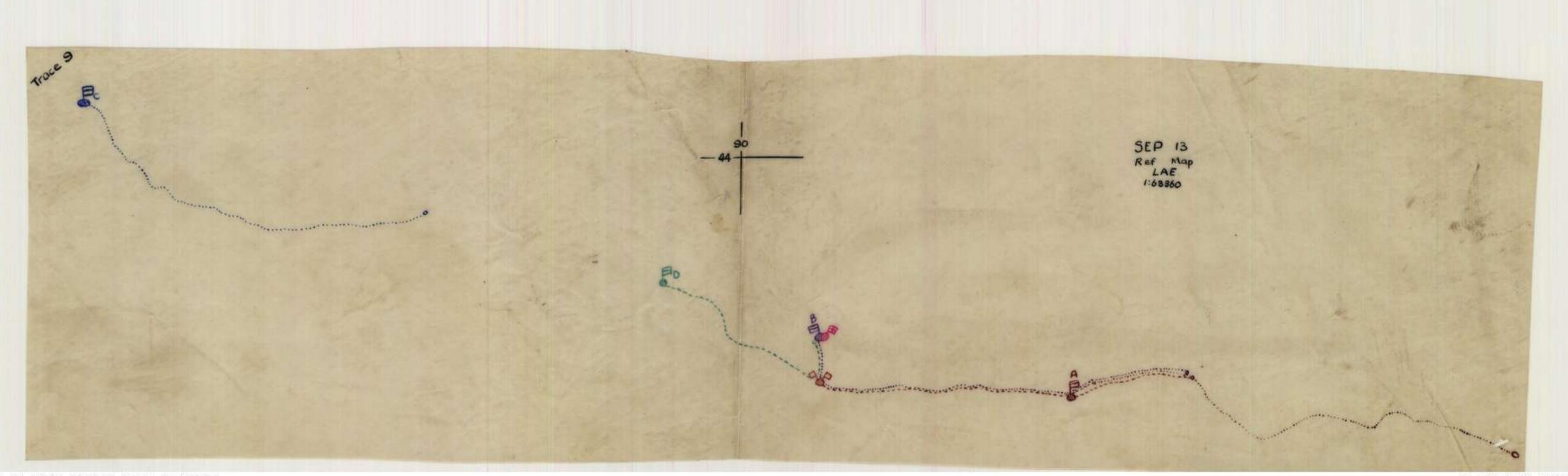


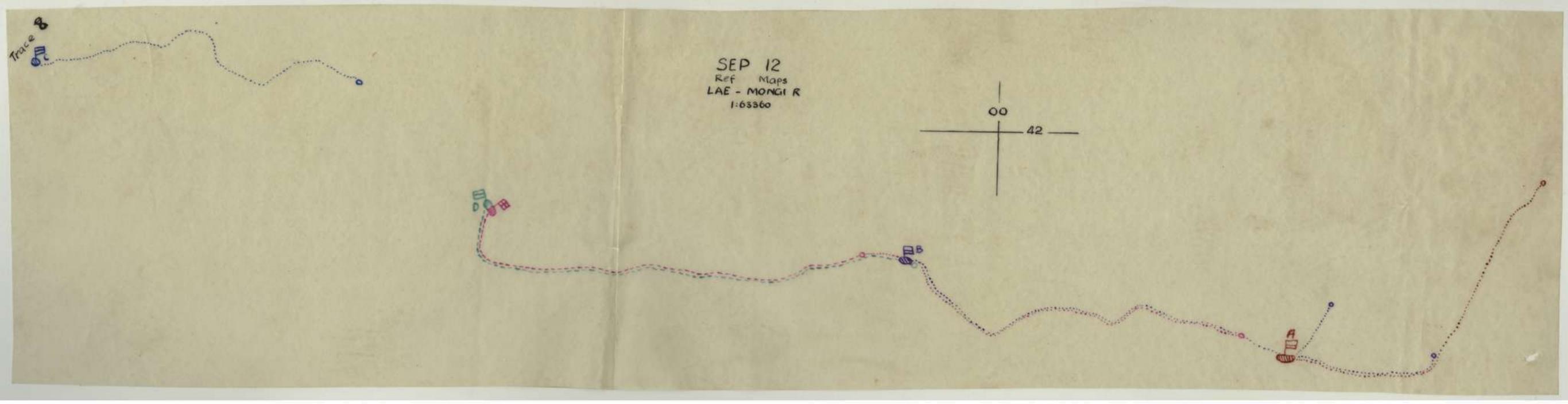




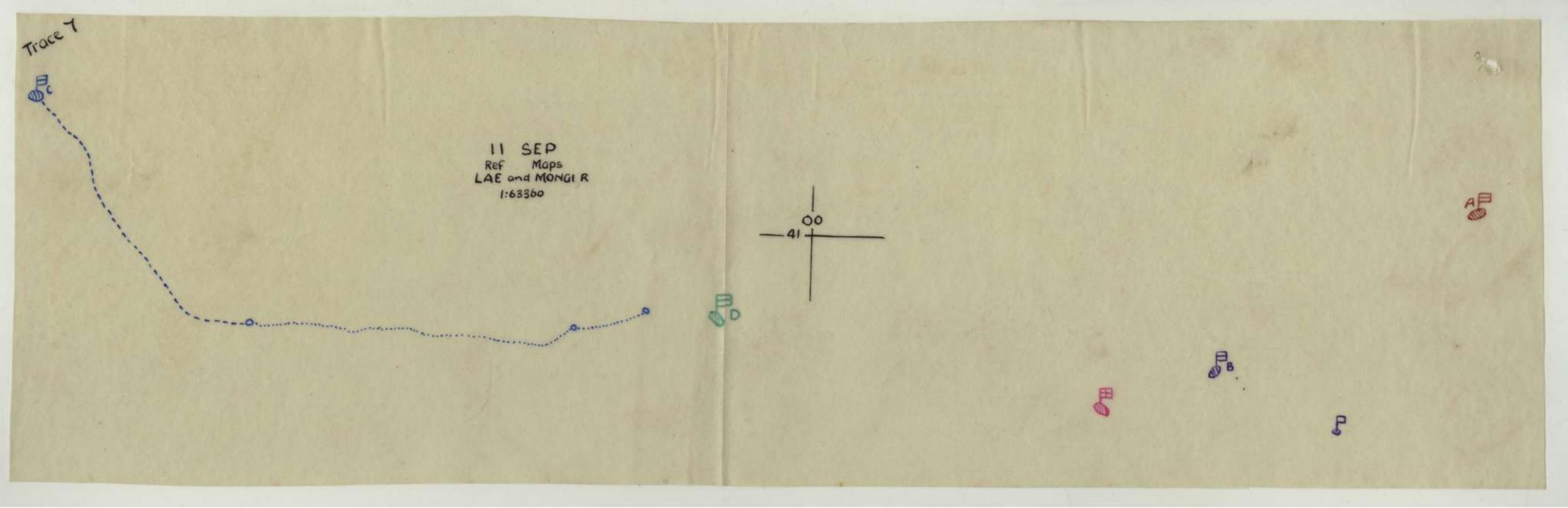


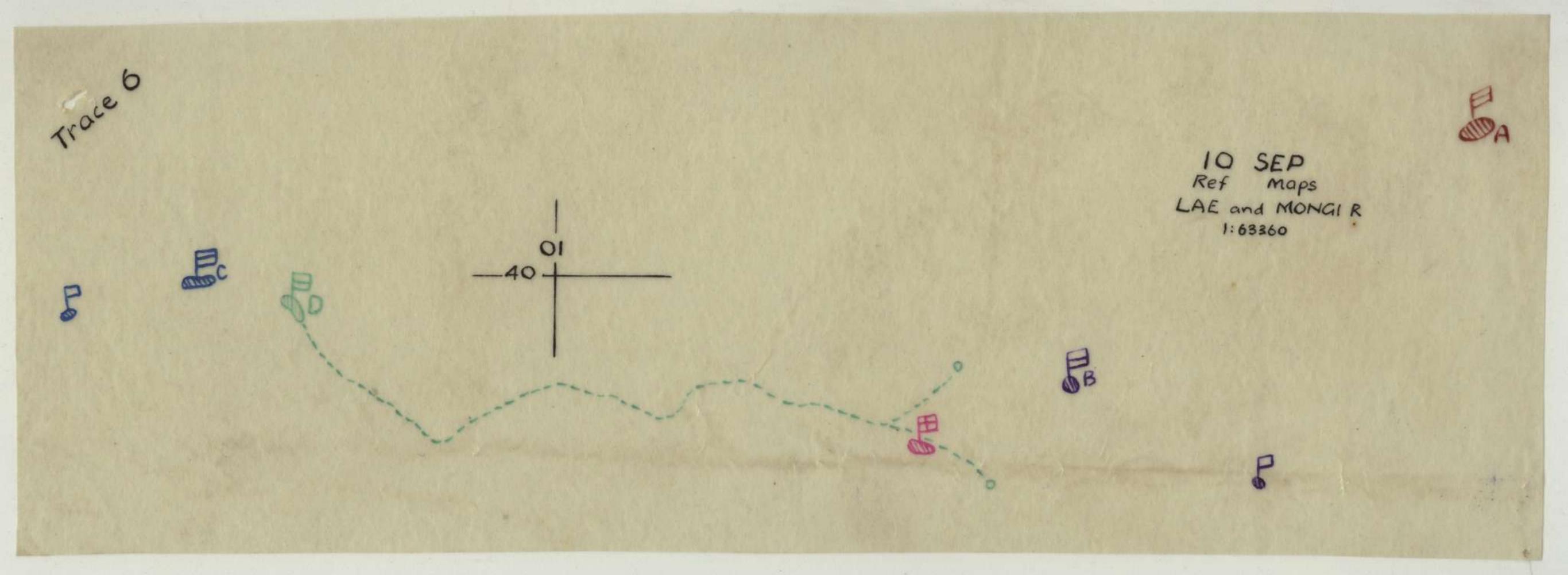


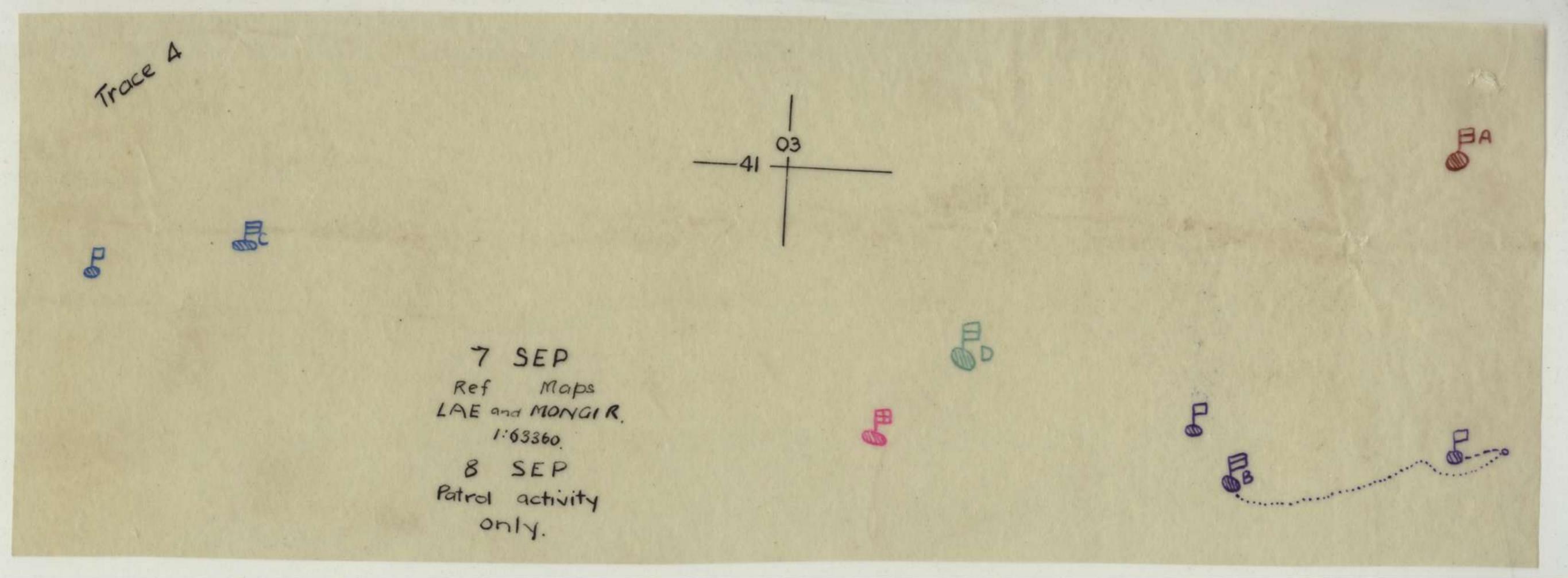




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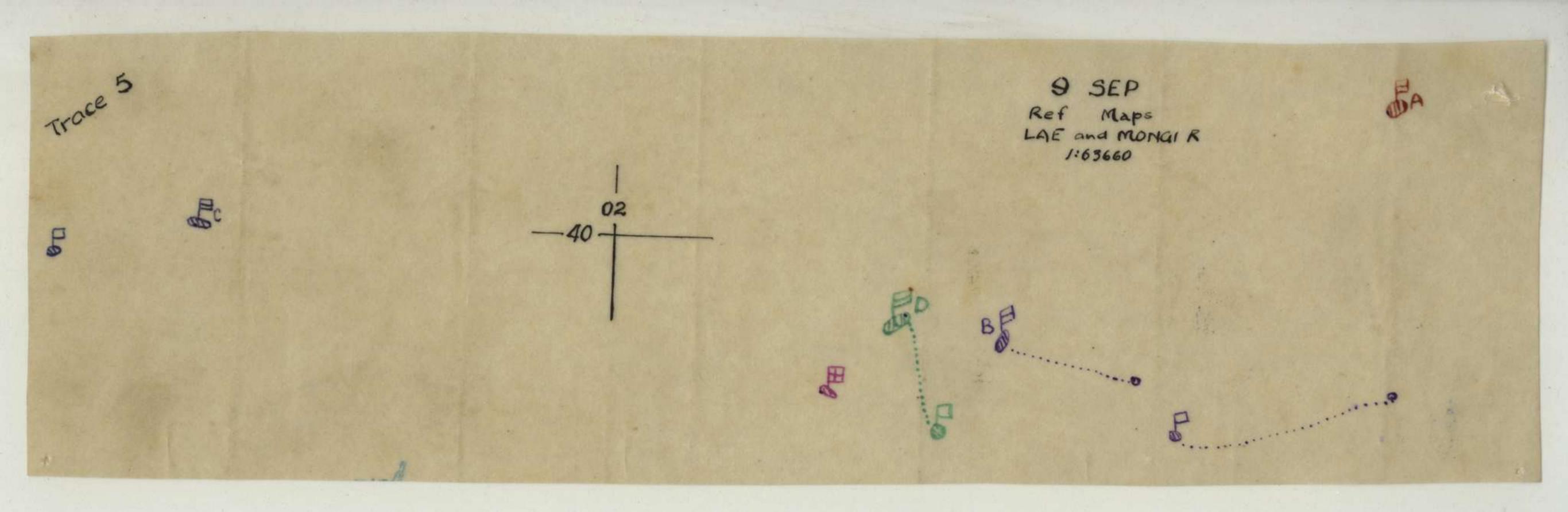


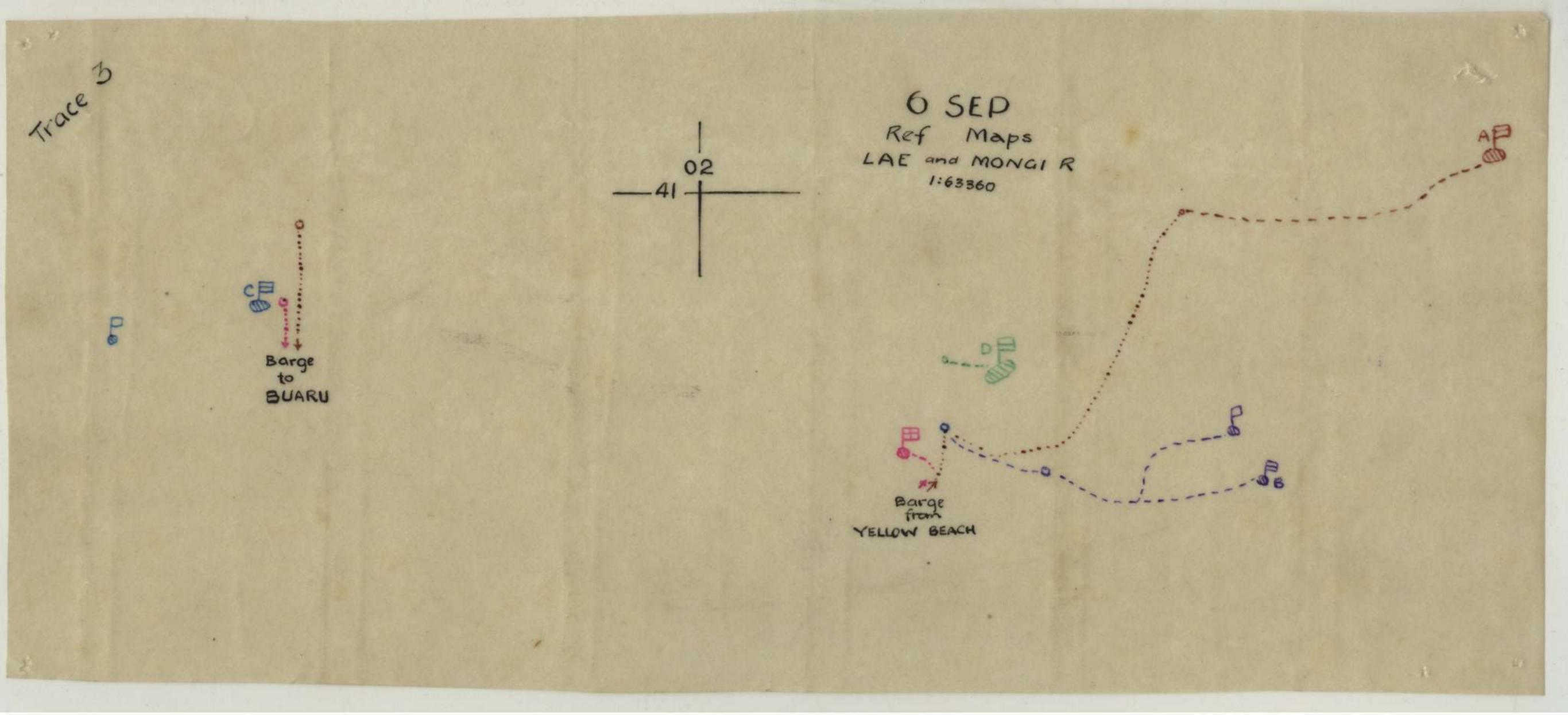




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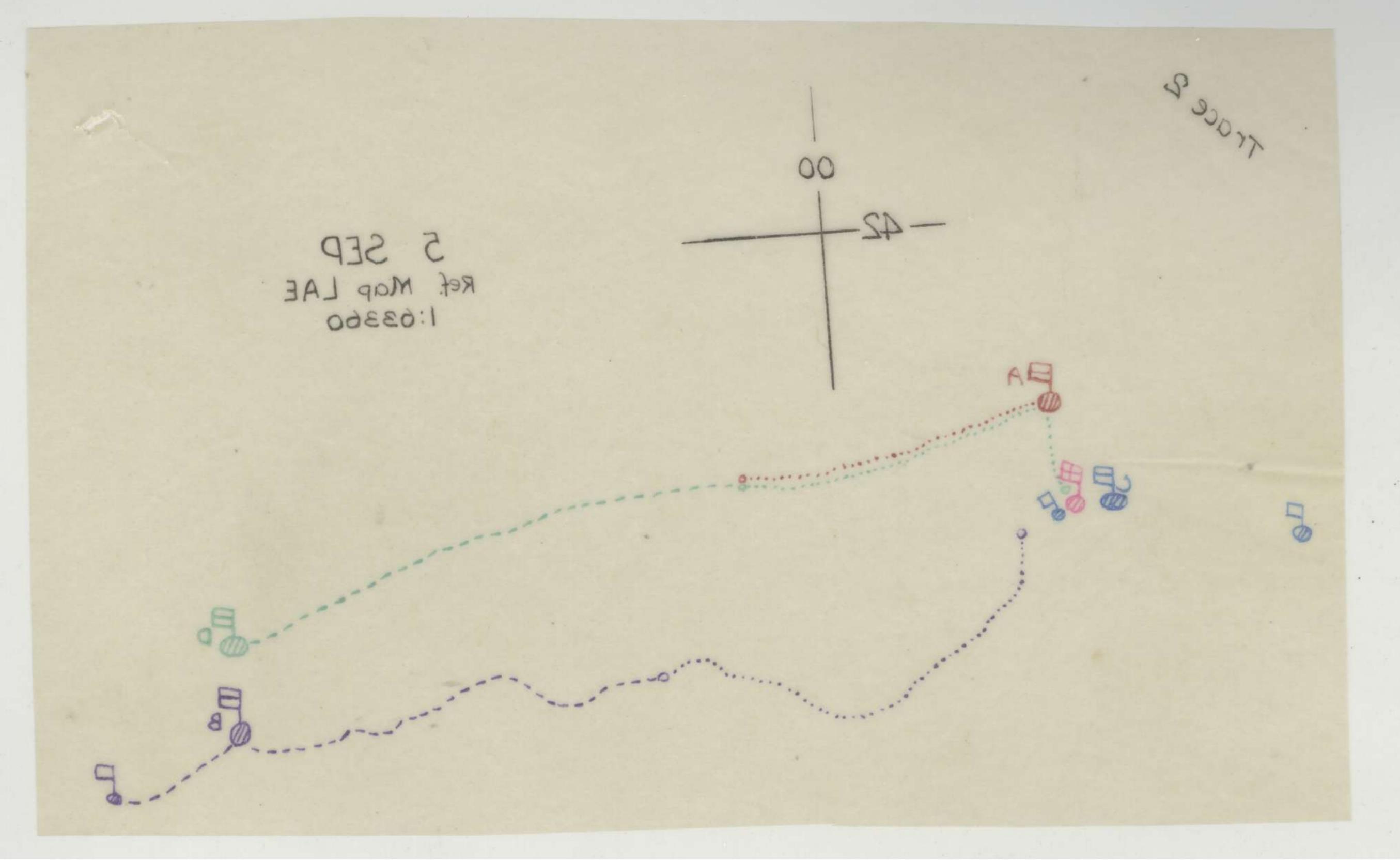
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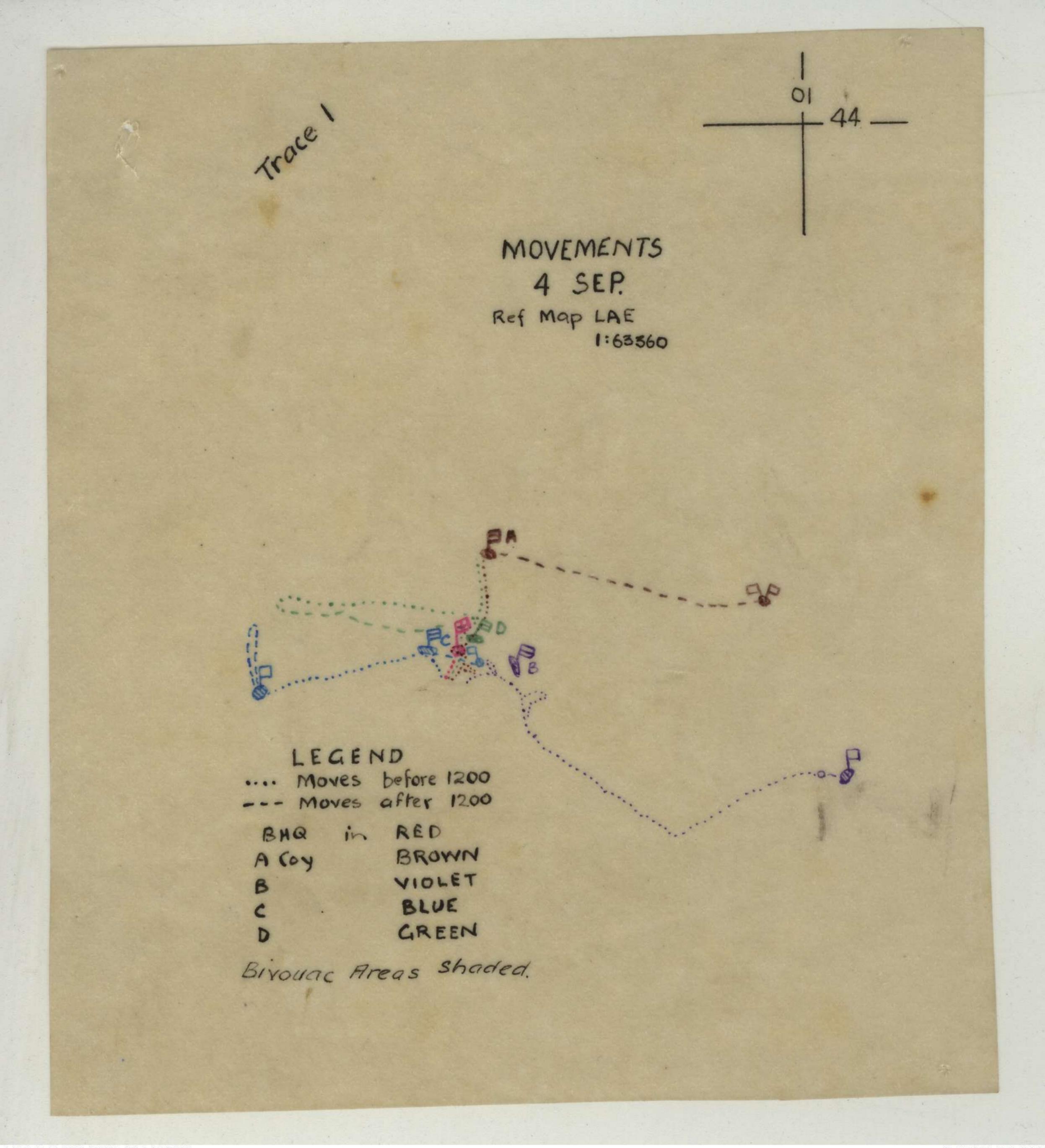


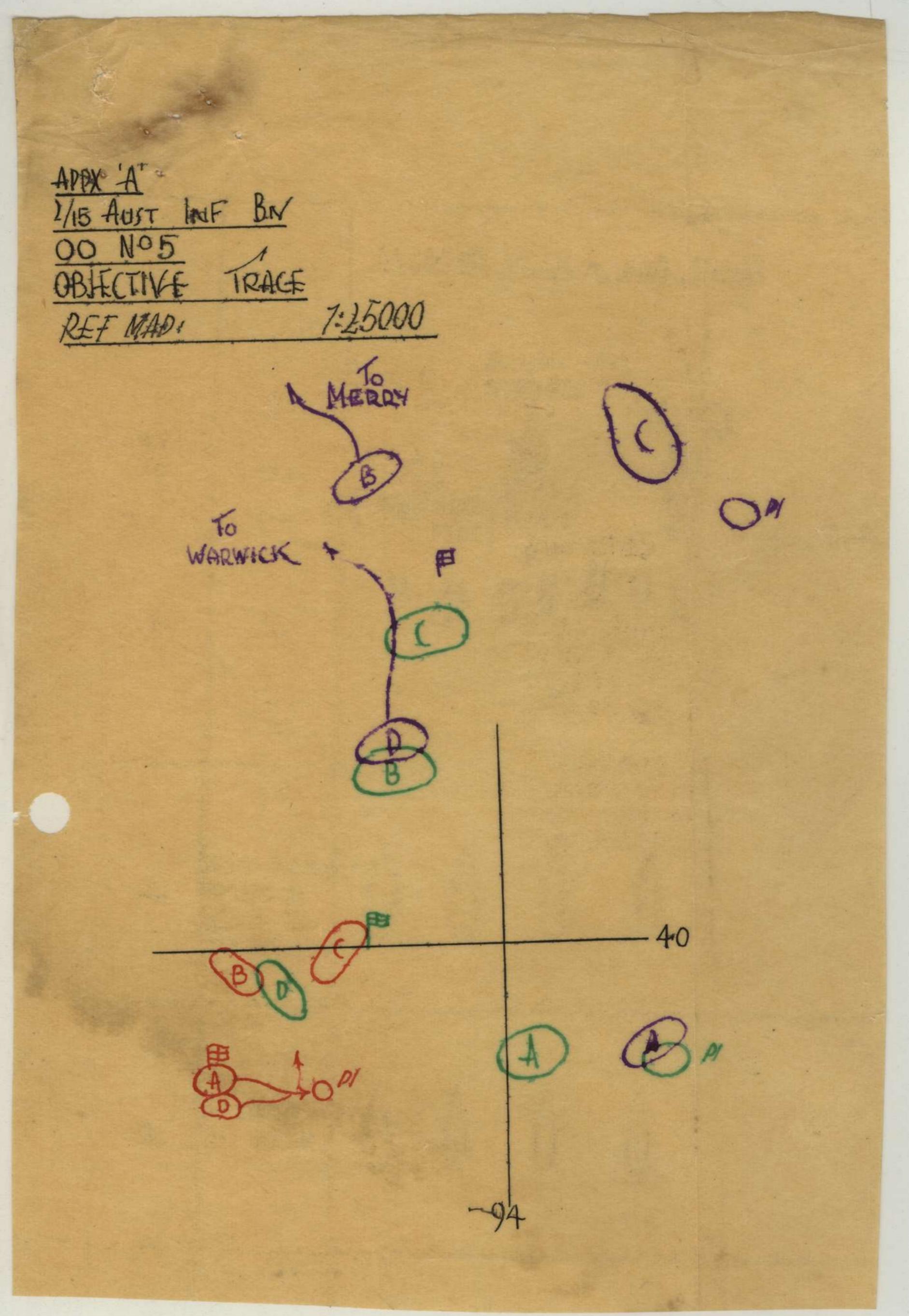


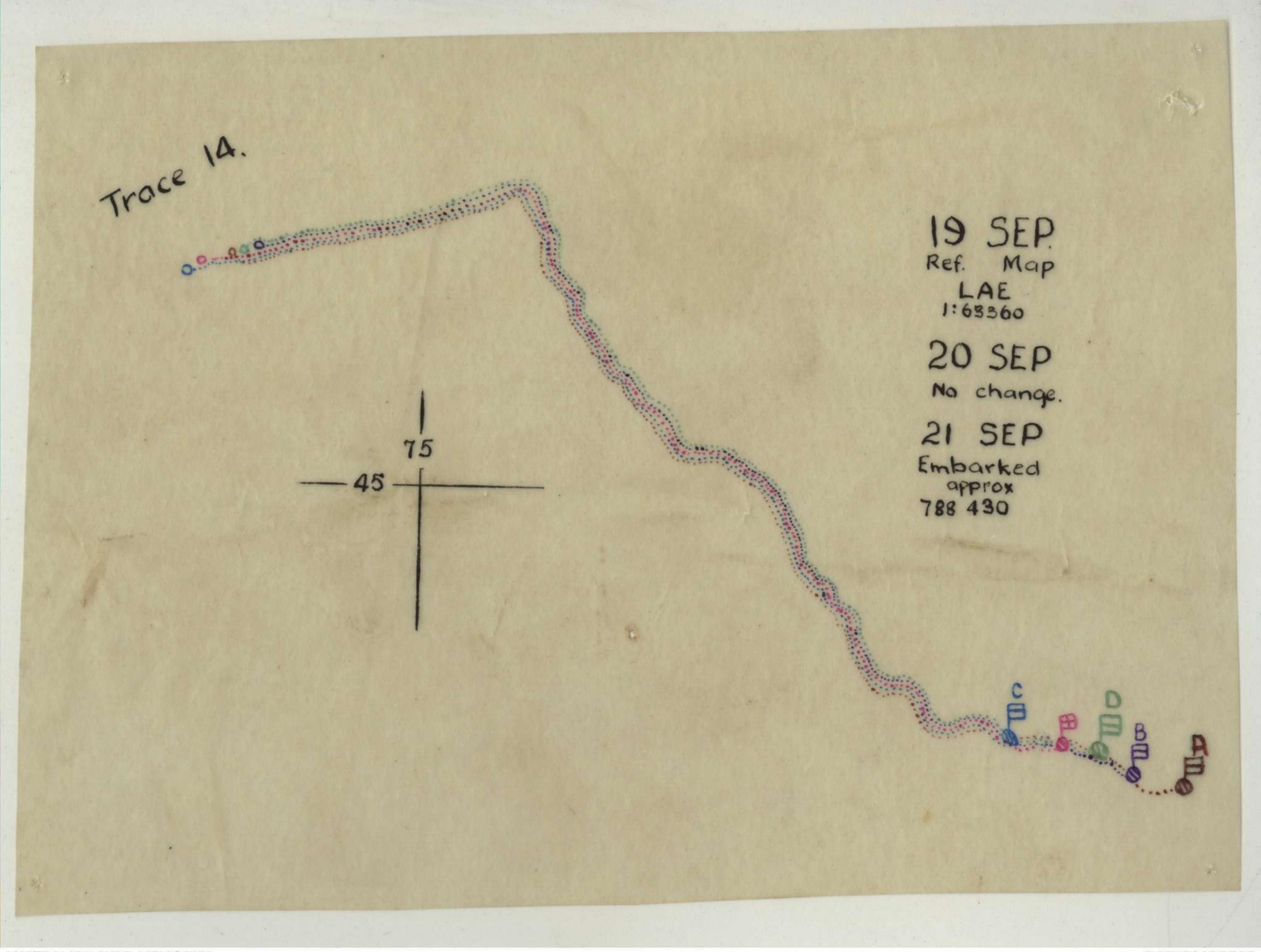
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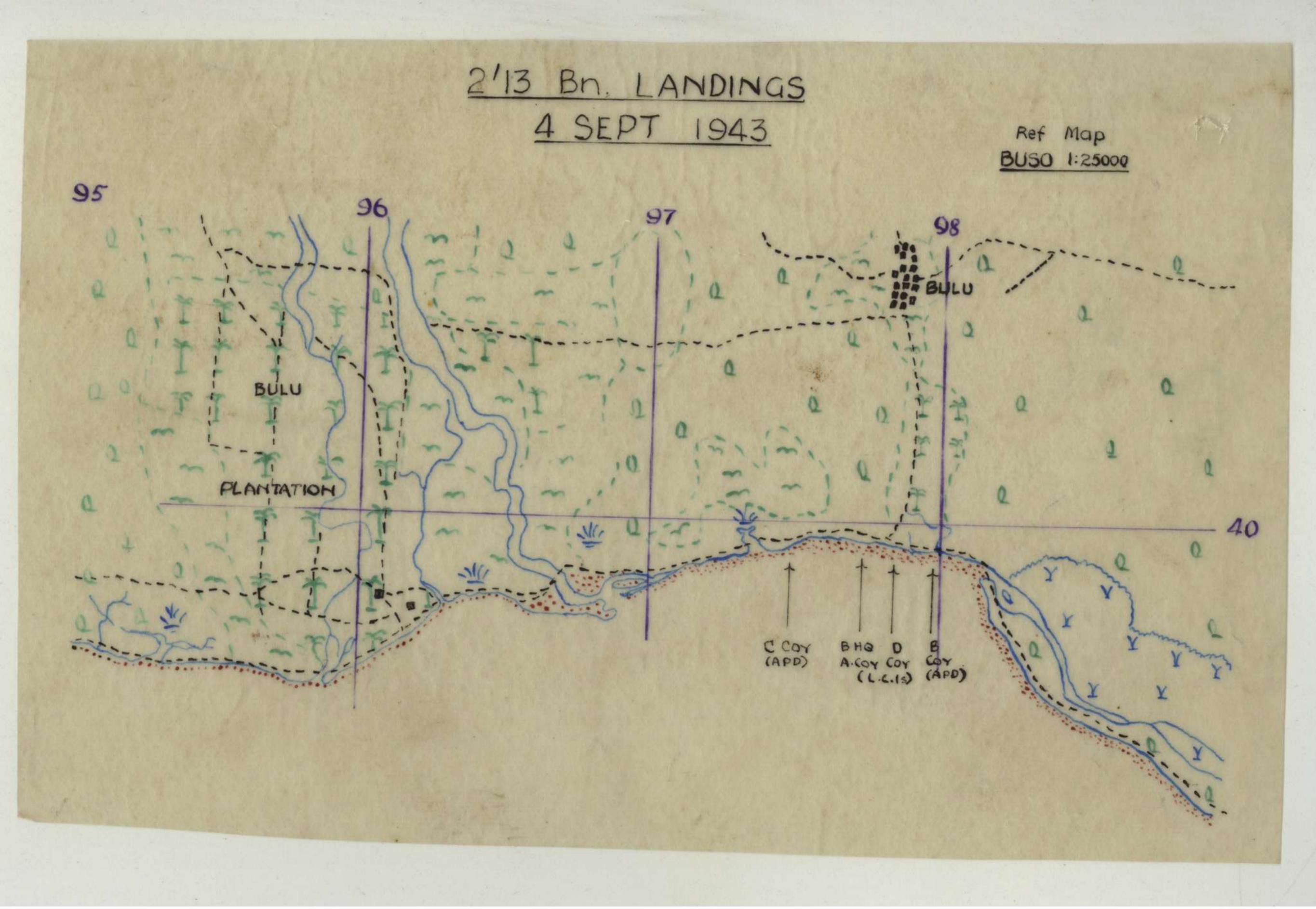
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"A" Intelligence Summary No. 82 Headquarters Allied Air Forces 4/FEB./43 JACOBSEN'S 176 yds. TRACKS SLIT TRENCH M/G A/A GARDENS -BUNKER REVET/MENT BOMB SHELTER DUMP AREA BLDG. DAMAGED TERRACE DUMP AREA COCOA

